

TO:

'Draft Direction LAP',
Administrative Officer,
Planning Section,
Wicklow County Council,
Station Road,
Wicklow Town,
A67 FW96

CC:

Minister James Browne TD (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)

Date: 14 July 2025

RE: Formal objection to the proposed rezoning of Employment (E) zoned land at Murrough North to OS2-Natural Areas under the Draft Ministerial Direction on the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.

Dear Sir/Madam,

As an elected member of Wicklow County Council, I confirm my full support for retaining Employment (E) zoning, under Material Amendment 41, on 1.0 hectare at Murrough North. Material Amendment 41 was approved by Council Members on 10 February 2025 and 12 May 2025, and adopted on 23 June 2025 as part of the 'Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031'.

This submission opposes the undemocratic Draft Ministerial Direction's proposal to rezone this land to OS2-Natural Areas.

The council members' democratic decision to approve Material Amendment 41 reflects the site's vital and strategic role in national housing delivery, its significant contribution to the local and national economy, and its crucial role in supporting Wicklow Port. The site's flood-free history, low-impact use without adverse ecological effects, and the 1.8-hectare OS2-Natural Areas buffer zone (which the landowner has already provided as part of the LAP process) negate any proposed rezoning argument. Suffocating this facility and its ability to meet the needs of the market will result in delays to new home construction and increased procurement costs for timber products nationally.

Moreover, it is completely irrational to terminate 2.8 hectares of employment zoned land in a town which has extremely limited employment zoned land available. Rezoning this 1.0-hectare site is highly unjust, particularly given the 1.8-hectare sacrifice already made.

I formally request that Wicklow County Council appropriately records my support for retention of Employment (E) zoning in the Section 31(8) Chief Executive Report. I also request that the Chief Executive Report, which should represent the opinion of democratically elected members, recommends that the Minister retains this vital employment zoning.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor John Snell

Wicklow County Council

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I request the minutes of the full Wicklow County Council meeting of the 10th February 2025 and 12th May 2025 which pertains to this (Material Amendment 41) be extracted and submitted by the officials where I along with other democratically elected members spoke at length on our reasons to support this zoning on employment lands.

I must remind the Minister that we have a housing crisis and having the availability of a small parcel of land of 1 hectares to help in the storage of bales of timber sourced from EU Countries through Wicklow port is assisting our objectives to building more homes. I have in a the past life worked with the timber that has passed through Wicklow port in the construction of timber frame houses and I know the importance of the continuous need for this product to our Country and particularly arriving to the east coast.

The obvious and reasonable way to conduct the flood risk is through the planning application stage where a comprehensive flood risk assessment would be site specific and appropriate to the area in question with the highest sensitivity taken on board, this area has not shown any flooding to date.

I will continue to Support the family-run business, which has provided employment for generations because it aligns with the wishes of democratically elected representatives who seek to retain the zoned land. In this instance, the Minister is mistaken in his draft Ministerial guidelines.

The conservation of the area is supported by the owners and the vast majority of the elected members by retaining a significant area of land as a buffer zone which measures up to 1.8 hectares of OS2- Natural areas.

I urge you and your officials to appreciate the effort elected members put into this Wicklow Town/Rathnew LAP and read the minutes of the Meetings of 10th February 2025 and the 12th May 2025 Which clearly outline our objectives.

*Please take my concerns seriously as could be interpreted as highly **undemocratic and unjust** development by the Minister as there appears to be a genuine absence of objectivity and impartiality in respect of these lands. Council Members have already approved the retention of 1.0 hectares of employment land on two separate occasions, and this zoning has already been adopted as part of the LAP. We now find ourselves at the end of a long process facing a Ministerial Direction being put forward in direct opposition to our approval of Material Amendment 41. The justifications for this centre around flood risks (for a site which has never flooded) and hypothetical ecological risks, none of which are supported by expert, detailed, site-specific evidence.*

Regards

Cllr John Snell

0872210222.

Jsnull@wicklowcoco.ie

TO:

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Administrative Officer,
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A67 FW96*

CC:

*Minister James Browne TD (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage)
Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR)*

Date: 14 July 2025

RE: Formal objection to the proposed dezoning of (Residential) zoned land at Charvey Lane to Open space under the Draft Ministerial Direction on the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.

Material Amendment 38.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I request the minutes of the full Wicklow County Council meeting of the 10th February 2025 and 12th May 2025 which pertains to this (Material Amendment 38) be extracted and submitted by the officials where I along with other democratically elected members spoke at length on our reasons to support this zoning on RN-1 lands.

I must remind the Minister that we have a housing crisis and having the availability of a small parcel of land in a current housing estate will assist our objectives to building more homes and remove an unsightly area that could be the subject of anti social behaviour.

I have never in all my 54 years living in the Village of Rathnew Witnessed any flooding in this area and neither have any residents but I have been called to a house beside council owned land further up the road to Ashford which has experienced flooding but neither the planners or your good offices raised any concerns in that particular case of keeping Residential on Authority owned land. Please read the transcript of the Meetings for further explanation.

The obvious and reasonable way to conduct the flood risk to this small infill site is through the planning application stage where a comprehensive flood risk assessment would be site specific and appropriate to the area in question with the highest sensitivity taken on board, this area has not shown any flooding ever.

I along with my colleagues will continue to Support the family-run business, which has provided a home for the other residents in the local Charvey Court Estate and employment at the time of construction, it has been demonstrated by the democratically elected representatives who seek to retain the zoned land think the same.

In this instance, the Minister is mistaken in his draft Ministerial guidelines.

The Village of Rathnew should not be subject to a vacant site when voluntary groups work hard to maintain and upkeep our landscape. Our strategic policy committee on housing have in the past been requested by your predecessor Minister Darragh O'Brien to explore all local authority owned lands for the possibility of infill sites such as and similar to Charvey Court.

*Since the making of this plan we in County Wicklow and more specifically in this Wicklow Town- Rathnew LAP have had **"two material Contraventions"** passed on major developments which combined will provide One hundred and fifty 150 units.... MA.38 would net a maximum return of three 3 units, I cannot see the logic in any of this time and effort put into creating a simple solution to assist in the housing crisis when ultimately our hands are tied behind our backs by red tape.*

I urge you and your officials to appreciate the effort elected members put into this Wicklow Town/Rathnew LAP and read the minutes of the Meetings of 10th February 2025 and the 12th May 2025 Which clearly outline our objectives.

*Please take my concerns seriously as it could be interpreted as highly **undemocratic and unjust** development by the Minister as there appears to be a genuine absence of objectivity and impartiality in respect of these lands. Council Members have already approved the retention RN-1 residential land on two separate occasions, and this zoning has already been adopted as part of the LAP. We now find ourselves at the end of a long process facing a Ministerial Direction being put forward in direct opposition to our approval of Material Amendment 38. The justifications for this centre around flood risks (for a site which has never flooded) and hypothetical ecological risks, none of which are supported by expert, detailed, site-specific evidence.*

Regards

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FW96*

CC:

*Minister James Browne TD (Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage) Office
of the Planning Regulator (OPR)*

Date: 14 July 2025

RE: Formal objection to the proposed dezoning of (Residential RN-2) zoned land at Glenealy Road to Open space under the Draft Ministerial Direction on the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.

Material Amendment 20B.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I request the minutes of the full Wicklow County Council meeting of the 10th February 2025 and 12th May 2025 which pertains to this (Material Amendment 38) be extracted and submitted by the officials where I along with other democratically elected members we spoke at length on our reasons to support this zoning on RN-2 lands.

I have no doubt that I need not remind the Minister that we have a housing crisis and we the elected local and County wide public representatives have determined that the availability of a parcel of land fully serviced in a current housing crisis will assist our objectives to building more homes.

The opportunity to remove a dangerous and unsightly road frontage that has been the subject of very many accidents and a number of fatalities is in keeping with good planning and achieves our commitment to a safer road network for pedestrian, cyclists and motorists alike.

I have a major concern that I as a local born and reared citizen of the Village of Rathnew find myself with the Minister ordering a Ministerial Direction on land that concurs with the 25m set back from streams as per the current County Wicklow Development County, these lands display more in the region of 35m set back.

This land is also subject to the 100m buffer zone set back from the main N.11 motorway which restricts development further but in Wicklow County Council strategy for a new link Road from Rathnew North to the Glenealy Road is to pass through this land and with it will be the expectation of delivering this by the landowner.

Please read the transcript of the Meetings for further explanation.

The obvious and reasonable way to conduct the flood risk to this site is through the planning application stage where a comprehensive flood risk assessment would be site specific and appropriate to the area in question with the highest sensitivity taken on board, this area has not shown any flooding ever. The conservation of wildlife will and can be demonstrated in the regular planning application stage as is normal.

I along with my colleagues will continue to Support our local community and constituents to meet our obligations to develop and grow our communities in a sensible and strategic way bearing in mind the environmental impact, it has been demonstrated by the democratically elected representatives who seek to retain the zoned land think the same.

In this instance, I believe the Minister is mistaken in his draft Ministerial guidelines.

*Since the making of this plan we in County Wicklow and more specifically in this Wicklow Town- Rathnew LAP have had “**two material Contraventions**” passed on major developments which combined will provide One hundred and fifty 150 units.... one of the Material Contraventions that passed from RN-2 to RN-1 plus industrial only two weeks ago is within a couple of hundred yards away from MA 20B.*

I cannot see the logic in any of this time and effort put into creating a simple solution to assist in the housing crisis when ultimately our hands are tied behind our backs by red tape.

I urge you and your officials to appreciate the effort elected members put into this Wicklow Town/Rathnew LAP and read the minutes of the Meetings of 10th February 2025 and the 12th May 2025 Which clearly outline our objectives.

*Please take my concerns seriously as it could be interpreted as highly **undemocratic and unjust** development by the Minister as there appears to be a genuine absence of objectivity and impartiality in respect of these lands. Council Members have already approved the retention RN-1 residential land on two separate occasions, and this zoning has already been adopted as part of the LAP. We now find ourselves at the end of a long process facing a Ministerial Direction being put forward in direct opposition to our approval of Material Amendment 20B. The justifications for this centre around the removal of vegetation and flood risks (for a site which has never flooded) and hypothetical ecological risks, none of which are supported by expert, detailed, site-specific evidence.*

Regards Cllr

John Snell

0872210222.

Jsnell@wicklowcoco.ie

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 2025, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND
VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS P. O'BRIEN CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND C. WINSTANLEY (31)

APOLOGIES

CLLR. L. FENELON GASKIN (1)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. M. NICHOLSON, DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. T. O'BRIEN, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. DEVEREUX, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. H. PURCELL, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. M. HALVEY, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. C. FOX, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. L. HEALY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MS. E. BIRMINGHAM, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MS. B. HARVEY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MS. P. RYAN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MR. L. ROE, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MS. E. O'DONOVAN, HEAD OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS
MR. G. CULLEN, EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MR. M. WOODS O'ROURKE, ASSISTANT PLANNER
MR. S. CLARKE, TOWN REGENERATION OFFICER
MS. K. BOYLE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

MS. G. FRANEY, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
MS. C. CANTERBURY, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MS. A. HUBBARD, SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR
MS. V. KILLEEN, STAFF OFFICER
MS. S. LANG, STAFF OFFICER
MR. S. DOYLE, IS PROJECT LEADER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
DR. P. BYRNE, CHAIR WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE
MS. E. MCKERNAN, WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE
MR. M. SARGANT, WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL AUDIT COMMITTEE

SENATOR P. CASEY
DEPUTY B. BRENNAN T.D.

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr. Noel Gaskin, Mr. Kevin Barry, Mr. Graham Blanchfield, Patrick Hannigan, Ms. Yvonne Snell, Mr. Ronan O' Dwyer, Ms. Pauline Allen, Ms. Ann Halloran and Ms. Ann Quinn. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Congratulations were extended to the following:

- Mason Melia on his signing to Tottenham Hotspurs Football Club.
- Billy Corrigan on his achievement in the under 20s representing Ireland in the Six Nations.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 25th November 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Stapleton, seconded by Cllr. P. Kennedy and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 25th November 2024.

ITEM NO. 2

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13th January 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 13th January 2025.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the vacancy on the Planning & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the election of Cllr. E. Timmins to Dáil Éireann.

Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy proposed Cllr. P. Mahon to fill the vacancy to the Planning & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the election of Cllr. E. Timmins to Dáil Éireann, this was seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all. Cllr. Mahon agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the vacancy of Chair of the Planning & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the election of Cllr. E. Timmins to Dáil Éireann.

Cllr. A. Cronin proposed Cllr. P. Glennon to fill the vacancy of Chair to the Planning & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the election of Cllr. E. Timmins to Dáil Éireann, this was seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by all. Cllr. Glennon agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the vacancy on the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee arising from the election of Cllr. E. Timmins to Dáil Éireann.

Cllr. S. Langrell proposed Cllr. P. Stapleton to fill the vacancy on the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee arising from the election of Cllr. E. Timmins to Dáil Éireann, this was seconded by Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy and agreed by all. Cllr. Stapleton agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 6

To receive a presentation: Wicklow County Council Audit Committee.

Dr. P. Byrne, Chair, Wicklow County Council Audit committee gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Audit Committees – statutory functions S59 2014 Local Government Reform Act.

- Audit Committee membership 2019 – 2024; and 2024 – 2029.
- Meetings held in 2024 and planned meeting in 2025.
- Internal audit assignments for 2024.
- Internal audit assignment so far for 2025.
- Key areas annually for Audit Committee.
- 2023 Statutory Audit Report S60 Report.
-

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Deputy Chief Executive joined with the Cathaoirleach in thanking the Audit Committee for the work that they carry out for the council describing their work as extremely important and thorough.

The Elected Members raised a number of questions relating to:

- Rent collection.
- Development levies.
- GDPR audit.
- Value for money.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the Chief Executive’s Report on submissions to the draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 and to consider whether to make or amend the plan otherwise than as recommended in the CE report, or not make the plan in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended.

The Cathaoirleach commenced with the Chief Executive’s report on submissions on the draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.

Section 2.1

Chapter 3 Residential Development

No.	Section	Proposed Amendment			
1	Table 3.1 New Residential Zoning				
		Location	Area (ha)	Status (Q3 2024)	Zoning /Priority
		Hawkstown Road	5.5ha	Permission granted on part of the site.	RN1
		Marlton (N of Marlton Stream/ Marlton Link Road)	4.6ha	Permission granted on part of the site.	RN1
		Marlton (S of Marlton Stream)	5.9ha	Current planning application on site.	RN1
		West of Hawkstown Park	1.6ha	Local Authority Scheme	RN1
		Hillview	0.9ha	Local Authority Scheme	RN1
		Greenhills Road	1.2ha	Local Authority Scheme	RN1
		Rathnew village	0.1ha	Local Authority Scheme	RN1
		Rosanna Lower (Hunters Road)	2.5ha	Permission granted	RN1
		Tinakilly Park	11ha	Linked to essential infrastructure	RN1

Amendment No. 1 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

2	Residential Objectives	Insert new Objective: WTR – XX: <i>To promote and facilitate the development of a range of residential development types, tenures and sizes, including affordable and cost-rental properties, in order to cater for the varying housing needs and economic circumstances of the town's population. In particular, Wicklow County Council shall work with the Land Development Agency, and other relevant stakeholders, to deliver a range of residential tenures to meet the requirements of the population including (but not limited to) affordable and cost-rental housing types on appropriate lands, subject to compliance with the policies and objectives of the LAP, the Development Plan and other relevant national and regional policies and guidelines.</i>

Amendment No. 2 proposed by Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

Section 2.2

Chapter 4 Economic Development

3	Employment Objectives	Add new objective as follows: WTR-X: <i>To facilitate and support Wicklow Town Centre and Rathnew Village Centre as the priority locations for new employment, particularly 'people'-based employment development.</i>

Amendment No. 3 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

Section 2.3

Chapter 5 Key Regeneration Areas

4	Wicklow Town Centre Strategy objectives	Add new objective as follows: WTR-X: <i>To promote Wicklow Town Centre (and Rathnew Village Centre) in the first instance as the priority locations within the settlement for new residential, retail</i>

		<i>/ retail services, community and employment use through the development of vacant or underutilised sites and via the reconfiguration / redevelopment of existing low density development, while at all times respecting the character and heritage of the town / village centres. In particular, to support the development of opportunity sites in accordance with the specific criteria set out for each identified area within this Local Area Plan.</i>

Amendment No. 4 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

5	Rathnew Village Centre Strategy objectives	Add new objective as follows: <i>WTR-X:</i> <i>To promote Rathnew Village Centre (and Wicklow Town Centre) in the first instance as the priority locations within the settlement for new residential, retail / retail services, community and employment use through the development of vacant or underutilised sites and via the reconfiguration / redevelopment of existing low density development, while at all times respecting the character and heritage of the town / village centres. In particular, to support the development of opportunity sites in accordance with the specific criteria set out for each identified area within this Local Area Plan.</i>

Amendment No. 5 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

6	Rathnew Village Centre Strategy objectives	Add new objective as follows: <i>WTR-X:</i> <i>To support and reinforce the unique identity and the key service role of Rathnew village centre as the priority location within the northern sector of the settlement of Wicklow Town – Rathnew for investment and new development through:</i> <i>▪ enhancing the urban realm in the village centre and creating new urban spaces, in order to provide for a welcoming, safe and vibrant place for the community to meet and interact;</i> <i>▪ investment in pedestrian and cyclist accessibility and safety, in order to ensure excellent linkages between the village and Wicklow County Campus, the surrounding existing residential areas and Wicklow Town;</i> <i>▪ Protecting function of Rathnew as a service centre with its own level of retail, retail services, employment and community services appropriate to a village of its size and catchment, and not allowing it be absorbed as a 'suburb' of Wicklow town. In particular to resist the development of any new retail or commercial facilities outside of the village centre zone or within 1km of</i>

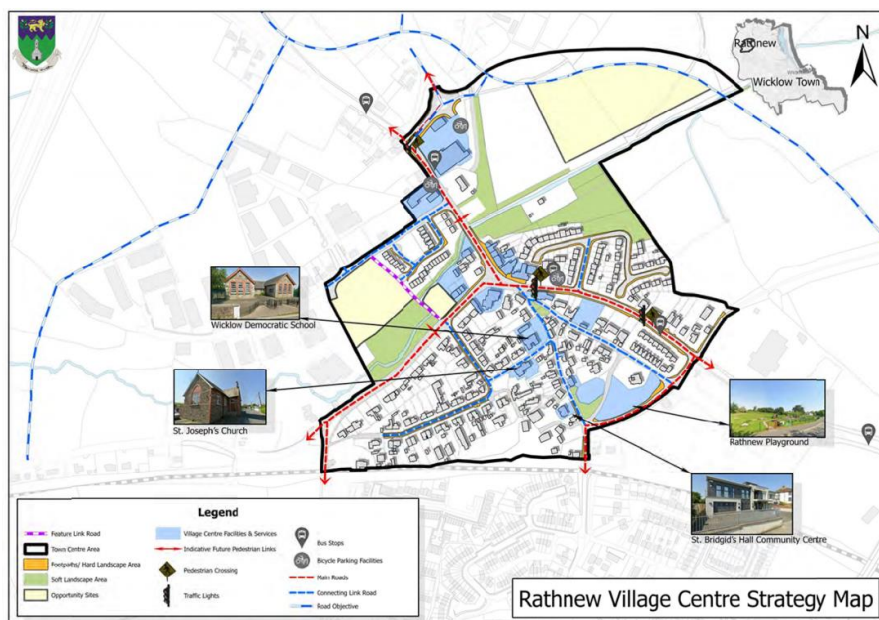
		<i>Rathnew core retail area;</i> ▪ <i>the re-development / regeneration of vacant or underutilised sites in the core of the village in particular Opportunity Site 5</i>

Amendment No. 6 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all present.

7	Rathnew Village Centre Strategy - Wicklow County Campus to Tinakilly	Delete the following text from this section: <i>This area is also part of the historical development of Rathnew with the c.18th century estate houses of Clermont House to the northwest and Tinakilly House to the east, with the Rathnew Stream dividing the two estate grounds. In the central area (i.e. around the roundabout) the village centre has developed with strong 2-storey streetscape of retail and commercial developments that provide for some of the everyday retail and services needs of the residents of the village. The linkages between this area and the rest of the village are important given the services available here. Rathnew village centre has been extended to the north with the development of Aldi and Costa Coffee, on lands that historically formed part of Clermont House. The development of these lands has enhanced connection and linkages between the village centre and Clermont / Wicklow County Campus. ~~This connection with Wicklow County Campus will be further enhanced with the development of the Village Centre lands to the east of Clermont Grove.~~</i> <i>A new junction has also been created here facilitating pedestrian crossings between Wicklow County Campus and the area to the north of the Glenealy Road / Charvey Lane. The area along both sides of the Rathnew stream has been zoned appropriately to facilitate the development of a riverine public park with links down to the Murrough to the east. The development of the Clermont Grove housing estate includes the western element of this new park, fronting onto the bridge and R772. Some lands along the south bank of the stream have also been identified in the Flood Risk Assessment as being in the high flood risk zone and therefore an 'open space' zoning is the most appropriate for this area.</i> <i>There are good footpaths in the area of the village but no cycleways. The pedestrian experience has been enhanced in parts with crossings available towards the old village and at Aldi. The pedestrian and cyclist experience is somewhat diminished by the existence of on-street parking in front of the shops, but until an alternative off street car parking can be developed, it is considered essential that this car parking remain for the convenience of shoppers and vitality of the village centre. The public realm at the existing bus stop / car park has been improved with the addition of bicycle parking, bus shelters and information signs.</i>

Amendment No. 7 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

Draft Map



Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025

Map No. 6 Rathnew Village Centre Strategy Map

GILL MOUNTAIN PLANNING LTD.

Legend

- Bicycle Parking Facilities
- Bus Stops
- Pedestrian Crossing
- Traffic Lights
- Indicative Future Pedestrian and Cycling Links
- Main Roads
- Connecting Link Road
- New Road Objective
- Irish Rail Route
- Opportunity Sites
- Village Centre Facilities & Services
- Village Centre Area
- Footpath/Hard Landscape Area
- Soft Landscape Area

WICKLOW COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

Wicklow County Council Planning Department

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Scale 1:75%

Larger scale map is appended to this report.

Amendment No. 8 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

9	Key Regeneration Areas	Improve legibility of the following maps including clearer identification of Opportunity Sites and clearer numbering / labelling upon adoption of plan: Map 5.1 Wicklow Town Centre Strategy Map Map 5.2 Rathnew Village Centre Strategy Map Map 5.3 Wicklow Town Waterfront Strategy boundary map Map 5.4 Wicklow Town Waterfront Strategy zoning map Map 5.5 Wicklow Town Waterfront Strategy Map

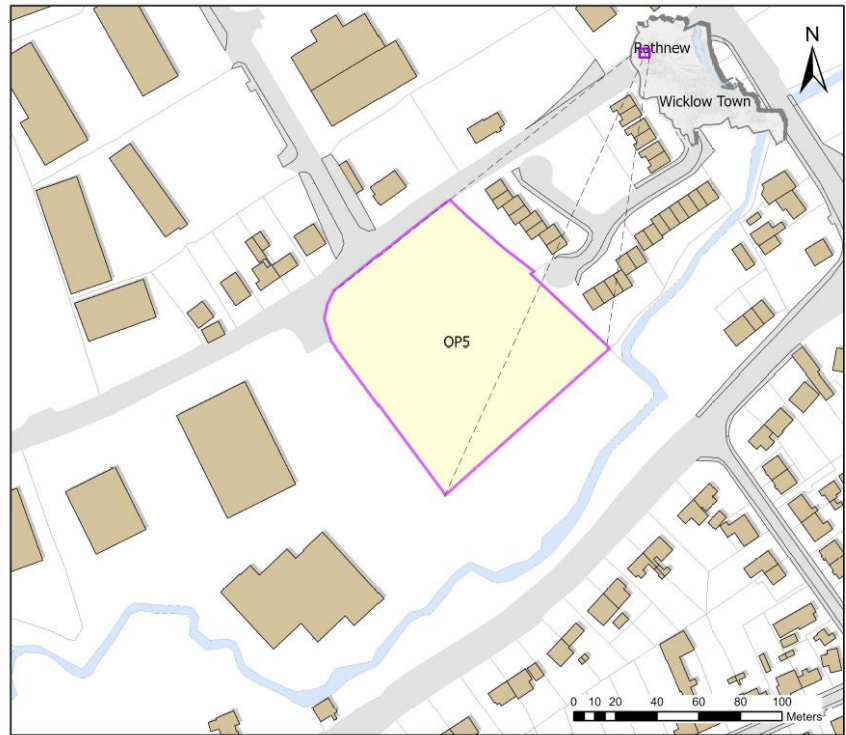
Amendment No. 9 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

Section 2.4

Chapter 6 Centres and Retail, including Opportunity Sites

10	Opportunity Sites	Insert new Opportunity Site as follows: OP5 – Charvey Lane <i>These 'village centre' and 'open space' zoned lands measure c.1ha and have road frontage onto Charvey Lane and the R772. These lands are located in the heart of Rathnew Village and the development of same would provide an opportunity to make best use of serviced land, densify the centre of the village and to provide for additional community and commercial uses, and also to provide for a new amenity and biodiversity enhancement area along the natural corridor of the Rathnew River.</i> Objectives OP5 ▪ <i>To provide for a high density mixed use development on lands zoned VC which may include commercial, retail, retail services, residential, community and cultural uses;</i> ▪ <i>Buildings shall be designed to the highest quality that provides for a strong street frontage along Charvey Lane, and maximum supervision of the OS lands along the Rathnew River.</i> ▪ <i>Vehicular access shall be via Charvey Lane, with high quality pedestrian and cyclist access across the site linking Charvey Lane to the R772</i> ▪ <i>Lands zoned OS to the south of the river and for a distance of not less than 10m to the north of the river shall be retained in as natural condition with maximum tree / vegetation retention as possible subject to any essential clearance to provide for new pedestrian / cyclist routes. Any river crossings shall be via a clean span bridges that maintain its natural character. Any remaining OS shall be laid out for amenity use.</i>

Proposed OP5 Site Charvey Lane



Proposed Indicative Concept Plan OP5 Charvey Lane



Amendment No. 10 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

Section 2.5
Chapter 9 Infrastructure

11	Transportation Objectives	Include new objective WTR – XX <i>In collaboration and with the support of the relevant transport agencies to prepare a Local Transport Plan for Wicklow Town – Rathnew. The preparation of the plan would be subject to screening for both SEA and AA and, as relevant, subsequent stages of assessment.</i> Change Objective Number of all follow objectives thereafter.

Amendment No. 11 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all present.

12	Transportation Objectives	Add new objective WTR-XX: <i>To promote the delivery of improved and new bus services and infrastructure within the plan area and connecting the plan area to the wider region by:</i> ▪ <i>supporting the development and delivery of bus service enhancement projects, under the Connecting Ireland programme and measures to improve bus priority such as additional bus lanes and priority signalling etc as may be deemed appropriate;</i> ▪ <i>facilitating the needs of existing or new bus providers with regard to bus stops and garaging facilities (although unnecessary duplication of bus stops on the same routes / roads will not be permitted);</i> ▪ <i>supporting the development of enhanced bus shelters, of secure covered bicycle parking facilities at key locations along bus routes,</i> ▪ <i>to promote and support the improvement of M11 / N11 in a manner capable of facilitating greater free flow of public transport,</i> ▪ <i>to support and facilitate the existing service providers and encourage the further development of the Local Link Rural Transport Programme (and any other or subsequent rural transport programmes).</i>

Amendment No. 12 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

13	Transportation Objectives	Add new objective WTR – XX <i>To support and facilitate the delivery of Transit-Oriented Development at locations that may be identified in the plan area as appropriate for such and continue to work with state agencies to identify TOD sites served by existing or</i>

		<i>planned public transport which are appropriate for high density development supporting a mix of uses.</i>

Amendment No. 13 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all present.

14	Flooding and Coastal Erosion	Add the following text with respect to the Wicklow County Campus zoning: <i>Some parts of the Wicklow County Campus zone are identified as being at risk of flooding. The zoning objective does not proscribe exactly where in the zone development should occur and the zone is sufficiently large to provide for the development of desired uses while avoiding development in any area at risk of flooding. Any proposals for new development are required to be accompanied by an appropriately detailed FRA, undertaken in accordance with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2009), as well as the relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan and Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan. In particular, the sequential approach shall be applied in the site planning, to ensure no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain, or that only water compatible development such as Open Space will be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within the site.</i>

Amendment No. 14 proposed by Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

Section 2.6

Chapter 11 Zoning & Land Use

15	Section 11.1 Zoning Objectives	Insert text as follows: <i>Uses generally appropriate for residential (RN / RE) zoned areas include houses, apartments, residential open space, education, community facilities, retirement homes, nursing homes, childcare/crèche, health centres, guest house, bed and breakfast, places of public worship, home based economic activity, utility installations and ancillary development and other residential uses in accordance with the County Development Plan (CDP) and Local Area Plan (LAP).</i> <i>Uses generally appropriate for town and village centres (TC / VC) include residential development, <i>childcare/crèche</i>, commercial, education retail, retail services, health, restaurants, public house, public buildings, hotels, guest houses, nursing / care homes, parking, office, tourism and recreational uses, community, including provision for religious use, utility installations and ancillary developments for town centre uses in accordance with the CDP and LAP.</i> <i>Uses generally appropriate for neighbourhood centre (NC) include retail, retail</i>

	services, health, restaurants, public house, public buildings, hotels, guest houses, nursing / care homes, parking, residential development, childcare/crèche, commercial, education, office, tourism and recreational uses, community, including provision for religious use, utility installations and ancillary developments for neighbourhood centre uses in accordance with the with the CDP and LAP. Uses generally appropriate for local shops and services (LSS) include retail, retail services, health, public house, guest houses, parking, residential development, childcare/crèche, commercial, office, tourism and recreational uses, community, including provision for religious use, utility installations and ancillary developments for local shops and services uses in accordance with the with the CDP and LAP. Uses generally appropriate for Wicklow County Campus (CC) zoned land include Car Park, Community Facility, childcare / crèche, Education, Enterprise Centre, Industry (Light), Laboratory, Office-Based Employment, Open Space, Playground, Public Services, Recreational Building, Recreational Facility/Sports Club, Residential, Restaurant/ public house, Skate Park, Film sector, Food sector, Renewable energy sector and ancillary developments for Wicklow County Campus uses in accordance with the CDP and LAP. Uses generally appropriate for employment (E) zoned land include general and light industry, office uses, enterprise units, education, appropriate warehousing, petrol filling stations (as deemed appropriate), public transport depots, open space, including sports grounds, childcare/crèche, community facilities including community and sports centres, utility installations and ancillary developments for employment and industry uses in accordance with the CDP and LAP. Uses generally appropriate for waterfront (WZ) zoned land include aquaculture / fishing, residential, childcare/crèche, civic / cultural uses, community facilities, education, employment / office uses, general and light industry, harbour uses, health related service / uses, hotels, maritime uses, recreational and leisure uses, retail, restaurants, parking, public house, tourism uses, utility installations and ancillary development in accordance with the CDP and LAP. Uses generally appropriate for community and educational (CE) zoned land include community, childcare/crèche, educational and institutional uses include burial grounds, places of worship, schools, training facilities, community hall, nursing homes, health related developments, sports and recreational facilities, utility installations and ancillary developments for community, educational and institutional uses in accordance with the CDP and LAP. Uses appropriate for open space (OS1) zoned land are recreational uses such as formal / informal landscaped parks with off-road walking / cycling paths, as well as playgrounds, skate parks, Mixed Use Games Areas and outdoor gyms and allotments.

Amendment No. 15 was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

16	Section 11.1 Zoning Objectives	Insert new sentence at end: <i>Essential infrastructure, including roads / footpaths / cycleways and utilities that are necessary to support development lands, are generally permissible in all zones. Where such infrastructure would be required in OS1 or OS2 zones, and no other routes are viable, such infrastructure shall only be considered where it is shown it will not undermine the purpose of this zoning or give rise to significant adverse environmental impacts.</i>

Amendment No. 16 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

17	Section 11.1 Zoning Objectives	Amend uses generally permitted on OS1 lands as follows: <i>Uses appropriate for open space (OS1) zoned land are recreational uses such as formal / informal landscaped parks with off-road walking / cycling paths, as well as playgrounds, skate parks, Mixed Use Games Areas ~~and~~ outdoor gyms ~~and~~ allotments.</i>

Amendment No. 17 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

18	11.2 Waterfront Zone (WZ) Zoning Objectives	Amend WZ Zoning Objectives Area 3 text and map as follows: <i>Within Area 3 (Mixed Use Regeneration Area) the following uses are deemed 'priority uses' and will be permitted in principle</i> ▪ <i>High intensity and high quality tourist accommodation, such as hotels, holiday apartments etc. Low density tourism accommodation such as holiday homes, glamping etc will not be considered;</i> ▪ <i>High intensity and high quality employment uses such as offices, enterprise hubs, education / training centres;</i> ▪ <i>High quality community, civic / cultural and recreation uses;</i> ▪ <i>High quality retail, retail services, restaurants, public house, café;</i> ▪ <i>High density residential use, where developed in conjunction with at least one and ideally a number of other priority uses described above.</i> <i>Wherever possible, new developments in Area 3 shall include active street frontage. Developments that entail the removal / relocation of existing low intensity uses (such as single storey buildings, warehouses etc) with higher value</i>

		<i>uses will be particularly supported in this area. "</i> Map amendment Change from 'unzoned':  Change to 'regeneration area': 

Amendment No. 18 proposed by Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present. Relates to proposed Amendment CE 31.

19	SLO2	Amend SLO2 map and text as follows: <i>This SLO is located in the townlands of Tinakelly and Newrath. The SLO comprises New Residential (RN1), Natural Areas (OS2) and Open Space (OS1) zonings. Any</i>

		development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: - Provision of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (RIRR) to facilitate access to new developments from the existing road network, to prevent congestion in Rathnew village centre due to the development of the Clermont and Tinakilly area and to achieve good traffic circulation in the area. ~~The RIRR shall be constructed in full by the developer from Clermont Grove to Tinakilly Park. The delivery of the RIRR may be on a phased basis, but no dwelling within the SLO may be occupied until the full completion and operation of the road, be~~ developed in accordance with the delivery programme set out in the future Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Transport Plan; - Provision of a childcare facility at an appropriate location on the RN1 zoned lands in line with the relevant Guidelines for Planning Authorities and - Retain the 'fairy tree' at its current location (shown with green tree symbol on map SLO 2).

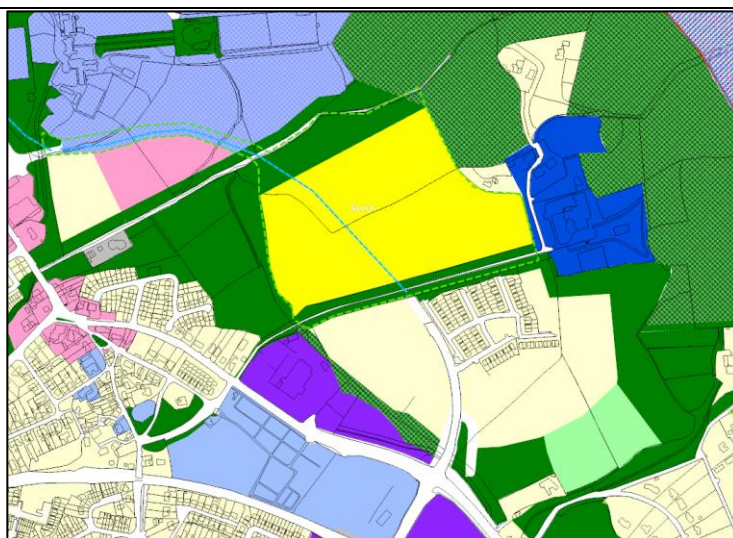
Amendment No. 19 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

The Cathaoirleach moved to the Elected Members Proposed Amendments on the draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031.

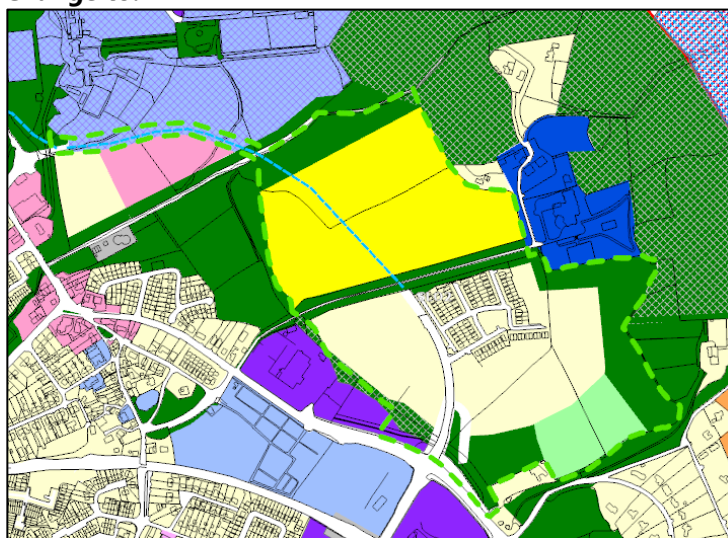
COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-1A	PROPOSED	Cllr Shane Langrell
		SECONDED	Cllr. P. O'Brien

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	Various
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Amend boundary of SLO2 as follows (green dotted line):
	Change from:



Change to:



Amend text of plan as follows:

SLO 2 - Tinakilly / Newrath

This SLO is located in the townlands of Tinakelly and Newrath. The SLO comprises New Residential (RN1), **Existing Residential (RE)**, **Active Open Space (AOS)**, Natural Areas (OS2) and Open Space (OS1) zonings. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

- Provision of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (RIRR) to facilitate access to new developments from the existing road network, to prevent congestion in Rathnew village centre due to the development of the Clermont and Tinakilly area and to achieve good traffic circulation in the area. The RIRR shall be constructed in full by the developer from Clermont Grove to Tinakilly Park. The delivery of the RIRR may be on a phased basis, but no dwelling within the SLO may be occupied until the full completion and operation of the road;
- Provision of a childcare facility at an appropriate location on the RN1 zoned lands in

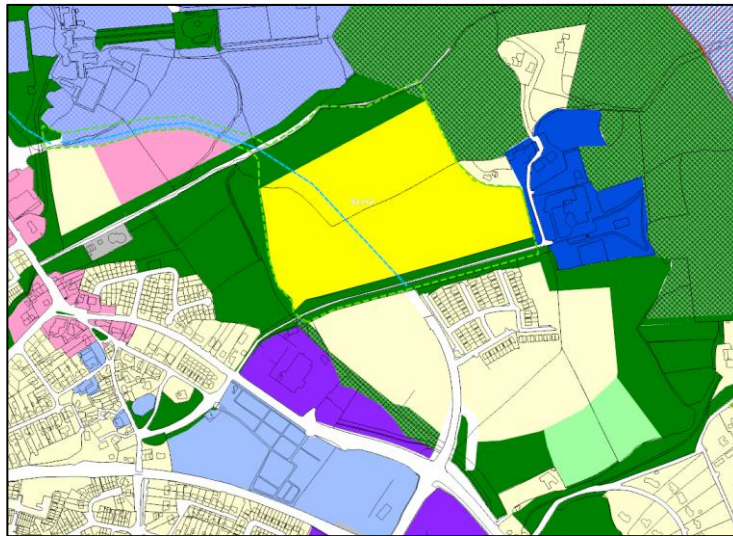
	line with the relevant Guidelines for Planning Authorities; - Retain the 'fairy tree' at its current location (shown with green tree symbol on map SLO 2). - Provision of a mixed use games area of not less than 0.75ha on lands zoned RN1 or OS1 comprising at a minimum: an equipped playground of not less than 2,000sqm; one tennis court; one basketball court; and a '7-a-side' size astro mixed use pitch. No dwelling may be occupied in on the lands zoned RN1 until this facility is complete and available for use. - Provision of a fully drained, levelled and seeded full size playing pitch (at least 145mx90m) on the AOS lands in this SLO along with the completion of the associated vehicular access and car parking prior to the commencement of any residential development on the RN1 lands in this SLO. Please note that the Chief Executive has also recommended changes to the text for SLO2 under Amendment CE19.
REASON	Having regard to the significant growth in population in the area, and the planned future growth that would be supported by this plan in accordance with the Core Strategy, it is essential that additional open space, particularly laid out spaces of sport and recreation grounds, are provided as part of this large scale development area. In particular, it is deemed that in addition to the normal residential open space requirement that a development of this size would require in accordance with the County Development Plan 'Development & Design' standards, an additional area of 0.75ha should be laid out with a minimum of a '7-a-side' size astro turf sport pitch, a playground, basketball court, a tennis court or other suitable layout for sports as agreed with Wicklow County Council) and that previously zoned Active Open Space at Tinakilly (Phase 1) be developed into playable field sport pitches with adequate drainage.

Amendment No. EM-1A proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

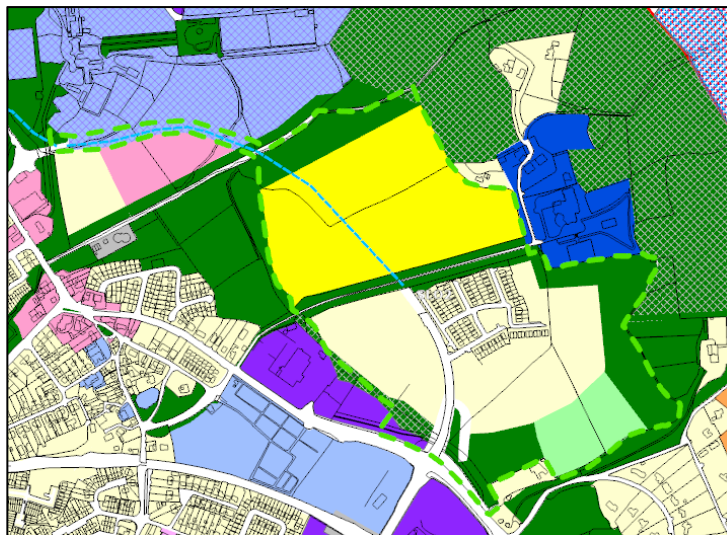
COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-1B	PROPOSED	Cllr John Snell
		SECONDED	

Proposed Amendment Relates to:		
Submission Number		Various
Chief Executive Recommendation Number		
Chapter		Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix		
Map		Map 1 Land Use Zoning
PROPOSAL	Amend boundary of SLO2 as follows (green dotted line):	

Change from:



Change to:



Amend text of plan as follows:

SLO 2 - Tinakilly / Newrath

This SLO is located in the townlands of Tinakilly and Newrath. The SLO comprises New Residential (RN1), **Existing Residential (RE)**, **Active Open Space (AOS)**, Natural Areas (OS2) and Open Space (OS1) zonings. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

- Provision of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (RIRR) to facilitate access to new

	developments from the existing road network, to prevent congestion in Rathnew village centre due to the development of the Clermont and Tinakilly area and to achieve good traffic circulation in the area. The RIRR shall be constructed in full by the developer from Clermont Grove to Tinakilly Park. The delivery of the RIRR may be on a phased basis, but no dwelling within the SLO may be occupied until the full completion and operation of the road; - Provision of a childcare facility at an appropriate location on the RN1 zoned lands in line with the relevant Guidelines for Planning Authorities; - Retain the 'fairy tree' at its current location (shown with green tree symbol on map SLO 2). - Provision of a mixed use games area of not less than 1.5ha on lands zoned RN1 or OS1 comprising at a minimum: an equipped playground of not less than 2,000sqm; one tennis court; one basketball court; and a full size mixed use astro pitch of not less than 7,200sqm. No dwelling may be occupied in on the lands zoned RN1 until this facility is complete and available for use. - Provision of a fully drained, levelled and seeded full size playing pitch (at least 145mx90m) on the AOS lands in this SLO along with the completion of the associated vehicular access and car parking prior to the commencement of any residential development on the RN1 lands in this SLO. Please note that the Chief Executive has also made recommended changes to the text for SLO2 under Amendment CE19.
REASON	▪ Having regard to the development of a significant number of new housing estates in the area (Tinakilly Park, Clermont Grove etc), the population increase associated with same and plans for further growth in accordance with the Core Strategy, there is an urgent need for additional sports facilities in the area, in particular a full size Astro turf pitch. ▪ Insufficient sports facilities have been provided in Phase of Tinakilly Park, and therefore recreational needs of residents of the development and the wider area are not being met. ▪ It is imperative that facilities are provided in tandem with new development for the current and future population of the area. ▪ For this reason it is proposed that 1.5 hectares be developed at Tinakilly - SLO2 (Phase 2) as a multi-use games area (with a minimum of one full-size Astro turf sport pitch, a playground, basketball court, a tennis court or other suitable layout for sports as agreed with Wicklow County Council) and that previously zoned Active Open Space at Tinakilly (Phase 1) be developed into playable field sport pitches with adequate drainage.

Amendment No. EM-1B proposed by Cllr. J. Snell was withdrawn by Cllr. J. Snell.

20	SLO3	Amend SLO3 map and text as follows: <i>This SLO is located in the townlands of Milltown North and Ballybeg. The SLO</i>

comprises Employment (E), New Residential (RN – Priority 2) and Natural Areas (OS2) zonings. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

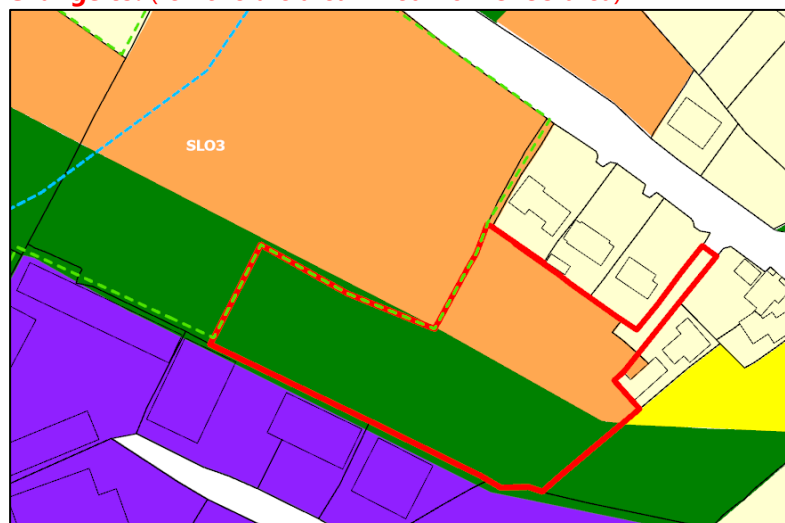
- A new link road is to be provided that connects Tighe's Avenue to the R752, *to be developed in accordance with the delivery programme set out in the future Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Transport Plan;*
- No development may occur in this area until an overall final design has been determined for the road network in the area, including but not limited to (a) the final northern section of the RIRR connecting same to the R772 and (b) a route from the R772 to the R752
- Any development on these lands shall take into account the N11 set back distances as specified for different development types in the County Development Plan.

Amend SLO3 zoning map as follows:

Change from:



Change to: (remove the area in red from SLO3 area)



		Change consequent: Amend SLO3 'Concept Plan'

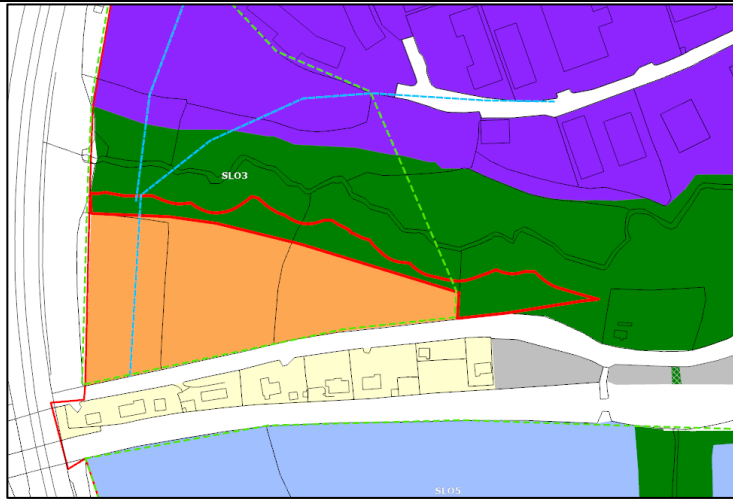
Amendment No. 20 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 31 votes for and 1 against viz:-

FOR (31)	CLLRs. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, AND C. WINSTANLEY
AGAINST (0)	
NOT PRESENT (1)	CLLR. L. FENELON GASKIN

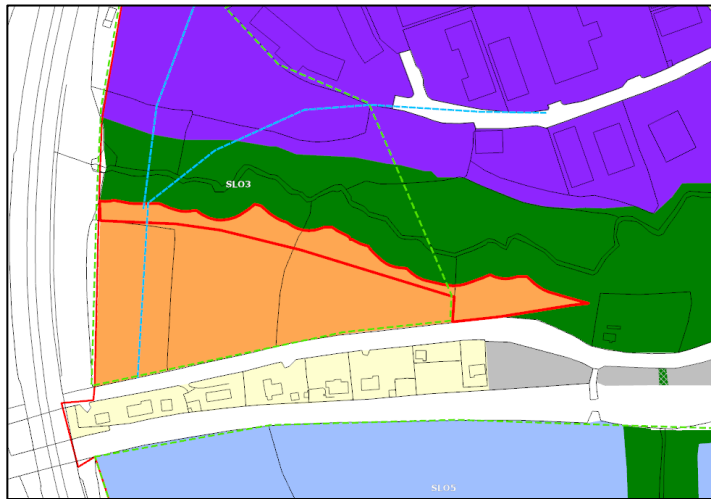
COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-2	PROPOSED	Cllr John Snell
		SECONDED	Cllr. S. Langrell

Proposed Amendment Relates to:		
Submission Number		38
Chief Executive Recommendation Number		
Chapter		Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix		
Map		Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Amend SLO3 map and text as follows: 1. Amend zoning of land measuring c. 0.6ha from OS2 to RN2 Change map from:



Change map to:



2. Amend text as follows:

This SLO is located in the townlands of Milltown North and Ballybeg. The SLO comprises Employment (E), New Residential (RN – Priority 2) and Natural Areas (OS2) zonings. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

- A new link road is to be provided that connects Tighe's Avenue to the R752
- No development may occur in this area until an overall final design has been determined for the road network in the area, including but not limited to (a) the final northern section of the RIRR connecting same to the R772 and (b) a route from the R772 to the R752 **unless it can be demonstrated in an application that sufficient land will be left undeveloped to enable a satisfactory route to be designed;**
- Any development on these lands shall take into account the N11 set back distances as specified for different development types in the County Development Plan.

REASON

- This site is currently zoned RN2 it is proposed to keep this zoning and to include the small area 'new residential' zoning on lands that are outside of the 25m buffer from the stream to address and reflect the proper use of the lands.
- This land is also subject to a 100m buffer from the M11 as is standard which also a

	factor in the above request.

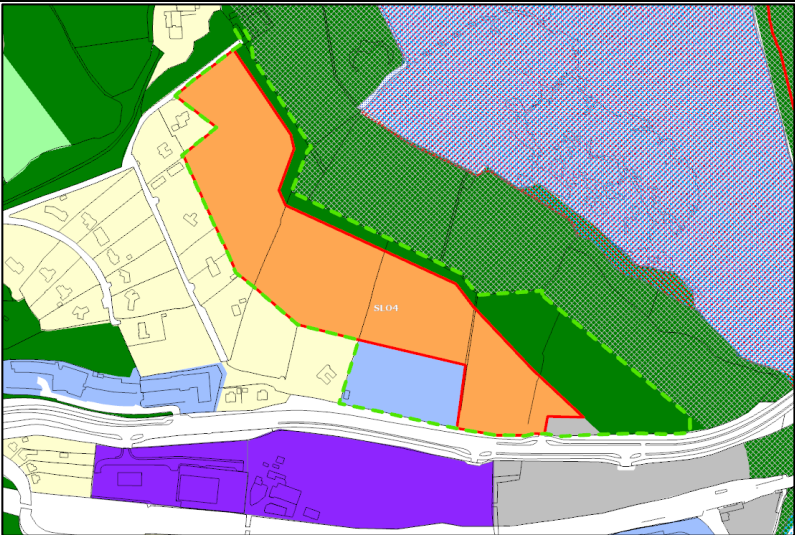
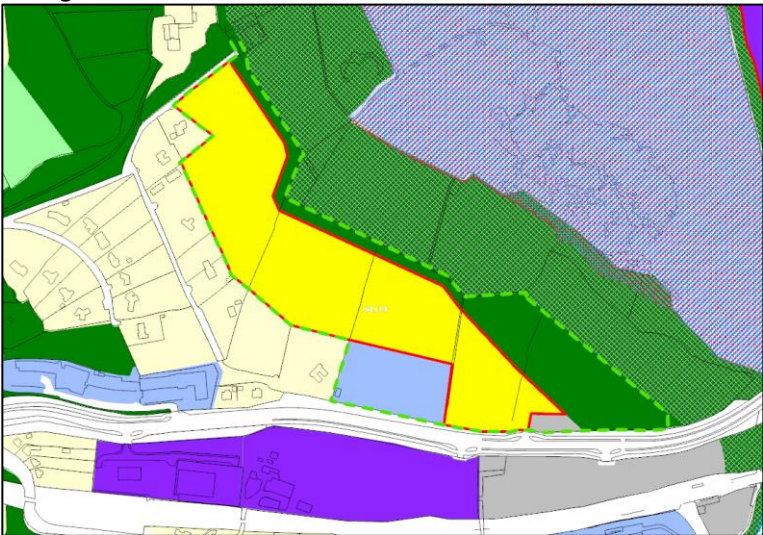
The amendment to the text reading *‘unless it can be demonstrated in an application that sufficient land will be left undeveloped to enable a satisfactory route to be designed’* was withdrawn by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by Cllr. S. Langrell.

Amendment No. EM-2 was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 24 votes for, 7 against and 1 not present viz:-

FOR (24)	CLLRS. J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD A. FLYNN KENNEDY, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON AND S. STOKES
AGAINST (7)	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, P. LEONARD, J. MULHALL, L. SCOTT AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT (1)	CLLR. L. FENELON GASKIN

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-3	PROPOSED	Cllr Paul O'Brien
		SECONDED	Cllr Gail Dunne

Proposed Amendment Relates to:		
Submission Number		10, 91
Chief Executive Recommendation Number		
Chapter		Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix		
Map		Map 1 Land Use Zoning
PROPOSAL	Amend zoning of land measuring c. 6.9ha at SLO4 (Bollarney North) from RN2 to RN1	
	Change from:	

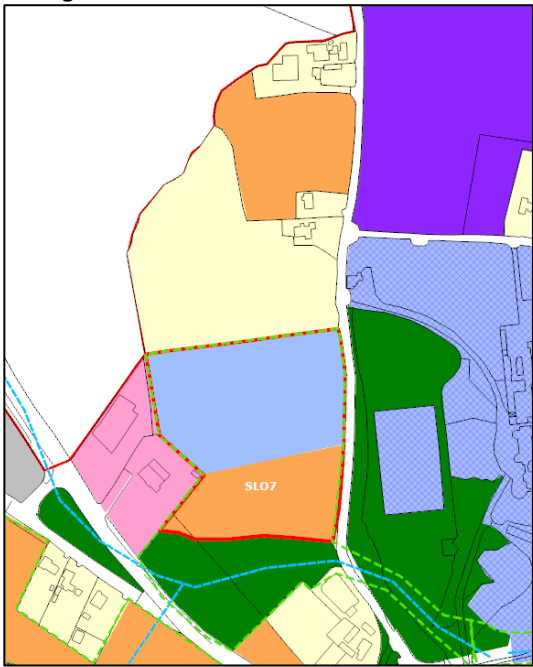
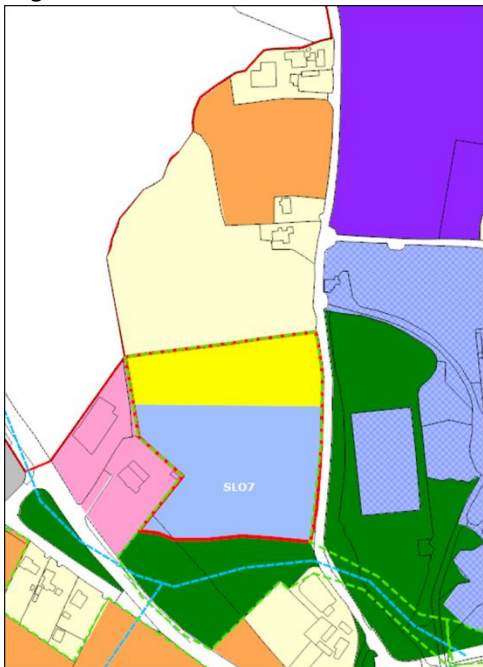
	 Change to:  Please note that the Chief Executive has also recommended changes to the text for SLO4 under Amendment CE21
REASON	Considering the current national housing crisis and the high local demand for private and social housing in the settlement the Councillors are proposing to amend this residential zoning from RN2 to RN1. This zoning is also accompanied by a corresponding piece of Open Space and additional lands for community benefit, that will be delivered alongside any housing in this area and will stand to benefit the wider local population where there is currently a shortage of such sport and recreational infrastructure.

Amendment No. EM-3 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne was agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-4	PROPOSED	Cllr Gail Dunne

	SECONDED	Cllr John Snell

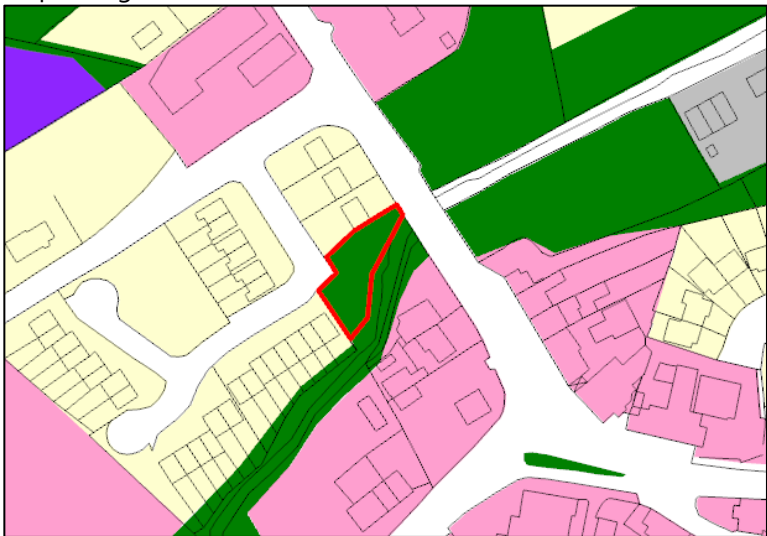
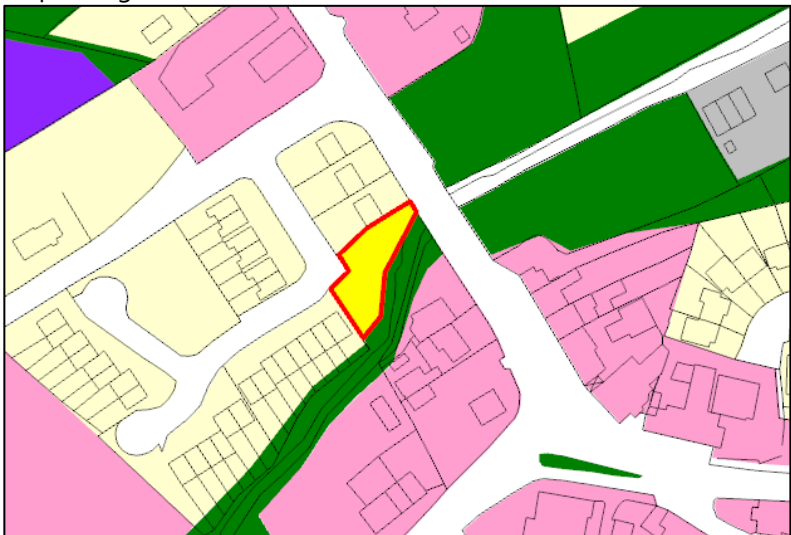
Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	141
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	24
Chapter	11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Amend zoning in SLO7 as follows - Change RN2 to RN1 - Swap position of RN and CE (no change to areas) (no text change) Change from: 
	Change to: 
REASON	This is a small technical change which would facilitate a better layout for residential development in this area, as all residentially zoned sites would be contiguous to each other.

Amendment No. EM-4 proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell was agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-5	PROPOSED	Cllr John Snell
		SECONDED	Cllr Joe Behan

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	55
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Amend zoning of land measuring c. 0.06ha from OS2 to RN1 at Charvey Court, Rathnew Map change from:  Map change to: 
	REASON ▪ To utilise small infill site on existing residential fully serviced site. ▪ Vacant sites in existing residential areas tend to be more likely to create antisocial behaviour such as dumping etc. ▪ This is Village Centre which is imperative for all residents to be presentable and as neighbourly friendly as possible.

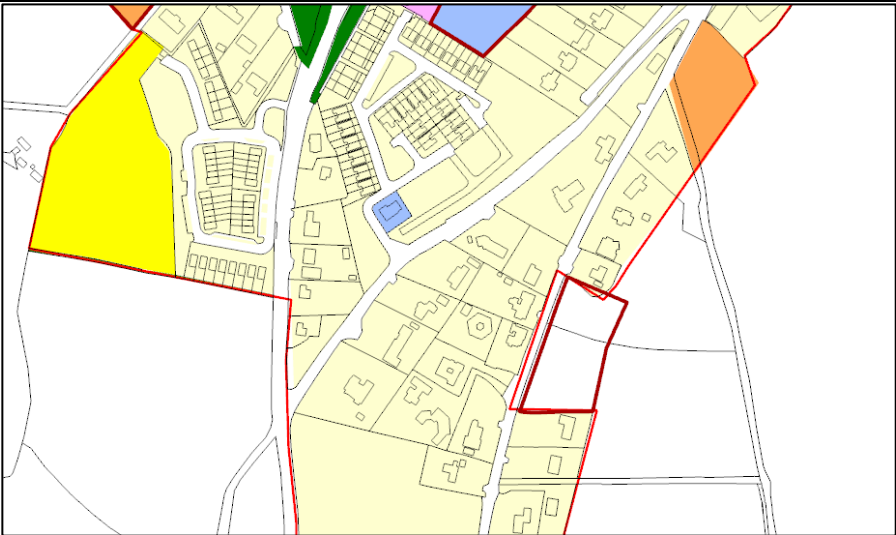
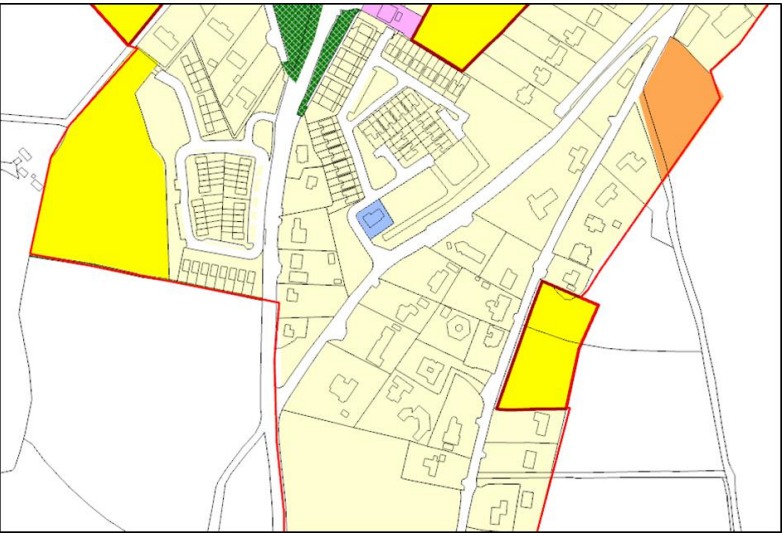
Amendment No. EM-5 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. J. Behan was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 23 votes for, 5 against, 2 not present and 2 abstained viz:-

FOR (23)	CLLRs. J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON AND S. STOKES
AGAINST (5)	CLLRs. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, L. SCOTT AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT (2)	CLLRs. L. FENELON GASKIN AND T. FORTUNE
ABSTAINED (2)	CLLRs. M. MURPHY AND P. O'BRIEN

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-6	PROPOSED	Cllr Paul O'Brien
		SECONDED	Cllr Gail Dunne

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	120
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

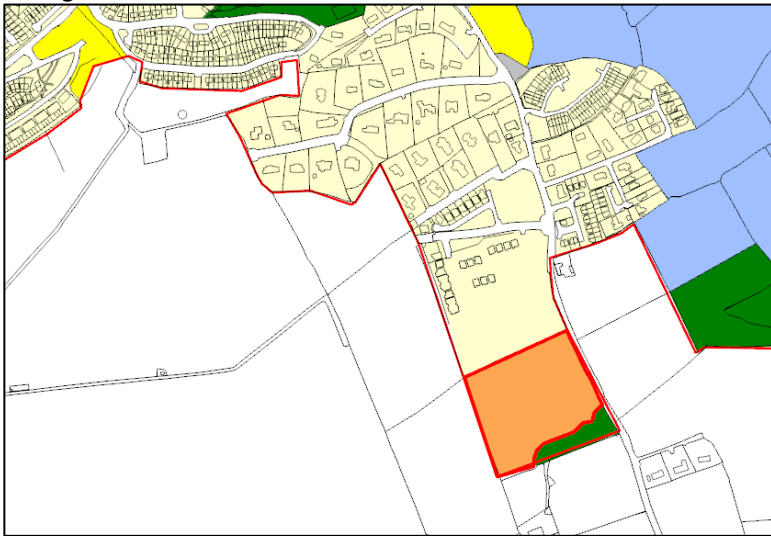
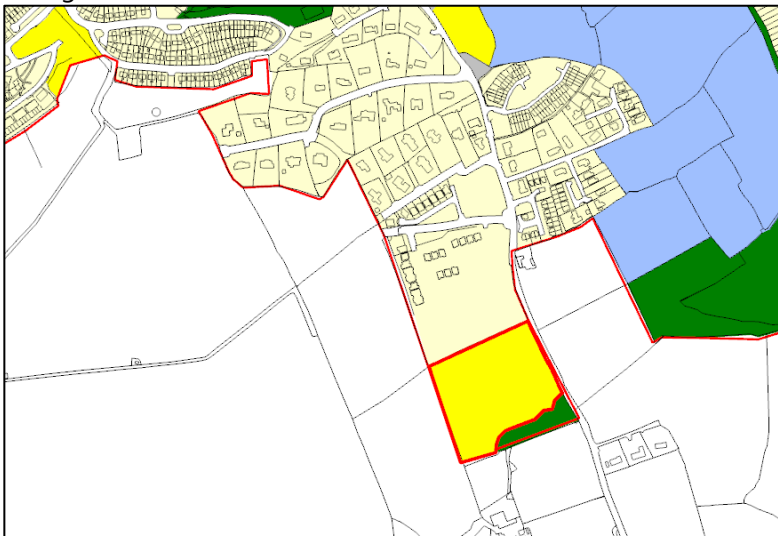
PROPOSAL	Change c. 0.673ha at Ballyguile Beg from 'Unzoned' to 'RN1 – New Residential (Priority 1)'
	Change from:

	 Change to: 
REASON	▪ Make efficient use of the serviceable land / infill site ▪ Community gain, agreement has been reached with Neville Developments to allow a footpath on the lands, which is badly needed on a busy and dangerous road ▪ Already one off builds in the area, this site would complement the area ▪ Draft LAP plan promotes infill sites ▪ Offering small amount of detached bungalow style homes

Amendment No. EM-6 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Dunne and agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-7	PROPOSED	Cllr Gail Dunne
		SECONDED	Cllr Shane Langrell

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	107
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Amend zoning of land measuring c. 3ha at Ballyguile More (south of Mariner's Point) from RN2 to RN1 Change from:  Change to: 
REASON	Part of the Mariners Point Housing Scheme: The lands form part of the overall

	masterplan for the Mariners Point development. Should construction which is well underway be stopped at the end of Phase 1 then the permitted Phase 1 development will result in a number of cul-de-sacs on site and will not present the desired or optimal planning solution or a fair outcome for the residents who have bought homes in the scheme on the basis of the development being completed in a timely manner. This is an ongoing development site that will be stopped in its tracks if designated RN2, with the immediate knock on impact on over 25 site staff and local tradesmen. ▪ Fully Served: There are no barriers to development at these lands as this is a site that is 'fully serviced' and 'immediately available' for development in the short term. Infrastructure has already been front loaded to accommodate the development of the lands. ▪ Planning Application Ongoing: Phase 2 will have a live planning application imminently and has a recent planning history which has allowed real engagement between developer and Council on the optimum design and layout for the scheme and the Council supports the main elements of the proposed development on the lands. ▪ Balanced Development: A review of the draft plan shows an undersupply of RN1 zoned lands in the south-eastern part of the town despite its proximity to the Main Street, bus services and essential social and community infrastructure. The lands are positioned within the Town boundary and are contiguous to existing developed lands following the sequential approach to development. With the de-zoning of the convent lands, the amendment of the lands to RN1 is required to ensure a balanced delivery of new homes across the town. This will ensure that amenities such as the new pitches being developed by St Pats on the Greenhills Road will be within walking distance to young families who research shows are the biggest users of these amenities. ▪ Housing Crisis: Ireland is in the midst of an exponential housing crisis. The Irish housing market is in urgent need of an increased supply and the planning system must provide for the unobstructed delivery of housing units on the ground and within the lifetime of Wicklow-Rathnew LAP. It can be expected that that these lands would be developed early in the lifetime of the plan as the builder is already on site.

Amendment No. EM-7 proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-8	PROPOSED	Cllr Gail Dunne
		SECONDED	Cllr Graham Richmond

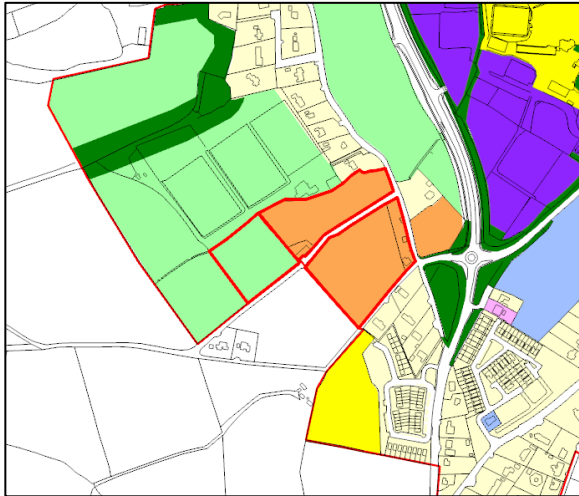
Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	156
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	1. Create new SLO area – 'Specific Local Objectives' at Hawkestown Lower – Ashtown Lane including land zoned RN and AOS (1ha)

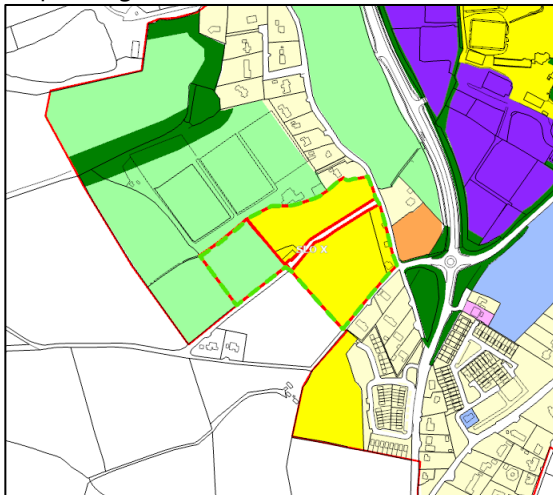
2. Amend zoning of land measuring c. 3.5ha from RN2 to RN1

New text and maps

Map change from:



Map change to:



New text:

SLO-X Ashtown Lane

This SLO is located in the townland of Hawkestown Lower on Ashtown Lane and measures c. 4.5ha. The SLO comprises lands zoned 'New Residential' (RN1 – Priority 1), and 'Active Open Space' (AOS).

Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

- Any residential development proposals for the RN1 lands shall be accompanied by proposals for the concurrent development of playing pitches on lands zoned AOS measuring not less than 1ha;
- No dwelling units that may be permitted on foot of the RN1 zoning may be occupied until these AOS lands are fully developed suitable for sports use (including appropriate

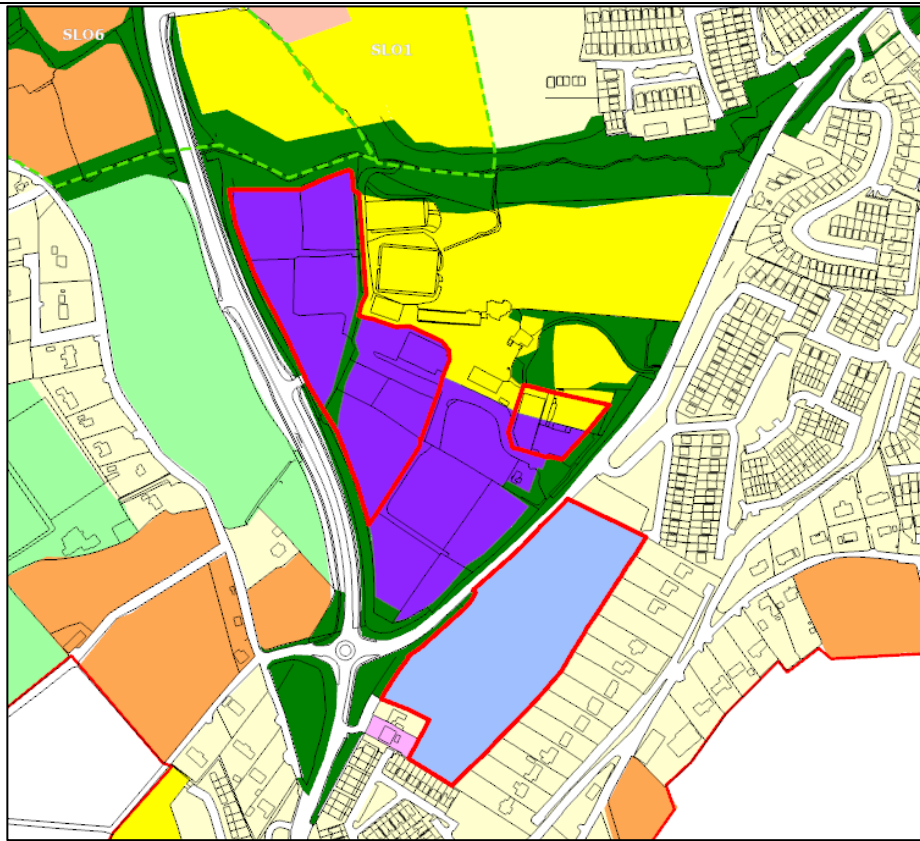
	layout, drainage, lighting, access, and car parking) and are available for community use;
REASON	Considering the current national housing crisis and the high local demand for private and social housing in the settlement the Councillors are proposing to amend this residential zoning from RN2 to RN1. This zoning is also accompanied by a corresponding piece of Active Open Space, or other lands of community benefit, that will be delivered alongside any housing in this area and will stand to benefit the wider local population where there is currently a shortage of such sport and recreational infrastructure.

Amendment No. EM-8 proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

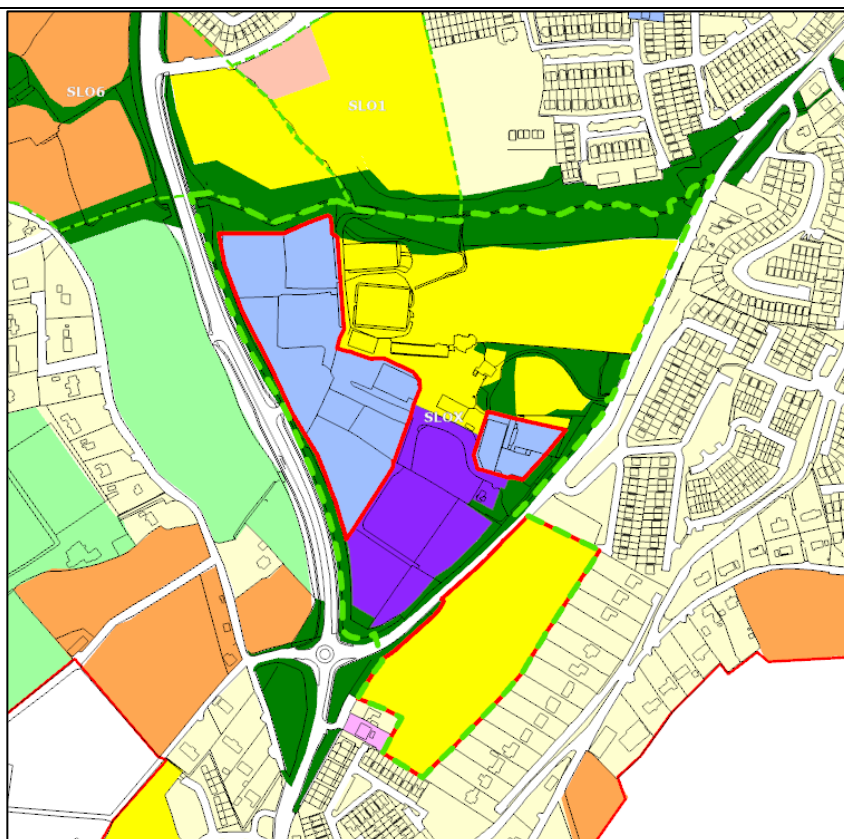
COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-9	PROPOSED	Cllr Graham Richmond
		SECONDED	Cllr Paul O'Brien

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	147
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	3. Create new SLO area – Specific Local Objectives' at Marlton - Ballynerrin Lower 4. Change zoning of lands measuring 3.6ha from CE to RN1 5. Change zoning of lands measuring 3.82ha from E / OS1 to CE 6. Change zoning of lands measuring 0.5 Ha from E / RN1 to CE New text and maps Map change from:



Map change to:



New text:

SLO-X Marltan

This SLO is located in the townland of Ballynerrin Lower on the Marltan Road and measures c. 20.8ha. The SLO comprises lands zoned 'New Residential' (RN1 – Priority 1), 'Community / Education' (CE), 'Natural Areas' (OS2) and 'Employment' (E).

Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

- Any residential development proposals for the RN1 lands shall be accompanied by proposals for the concurrent development of an indoor community / sport facility utilising the structure and curtilage of the existing 'grain store' on lands measuring not less than 0.5ha (zoned CE);
- No dwelling units that may be permitted on foot of the RN1 zoning may be occupied until this indoor community / sport facility is fully developed suitable for sports use (including appropriate structures, access and car parking) and are available for community use;
- Lands measuring not less than 3.82ha shall be reserved for possible future secondary school development;
- Lands identified as OS2 shall be retained and maintained in a natural condition; the OS2 lands along the Marltan Stream shall include the development of a low impact, well-surveyed pedestrian trail from the eastern boundary of the SLO where the watercourse meets the Marltan Road as far as the Hawkestown Road.

REASON

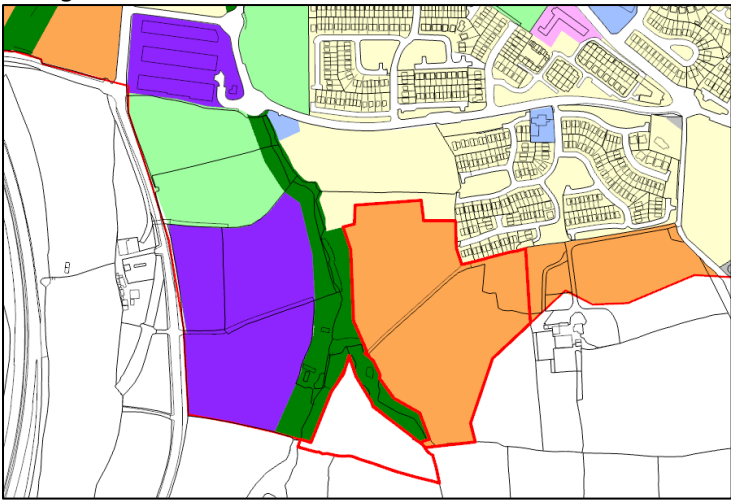
- Better use of the land on Marltan Road, i.e. residential; natural progression of housing in the town

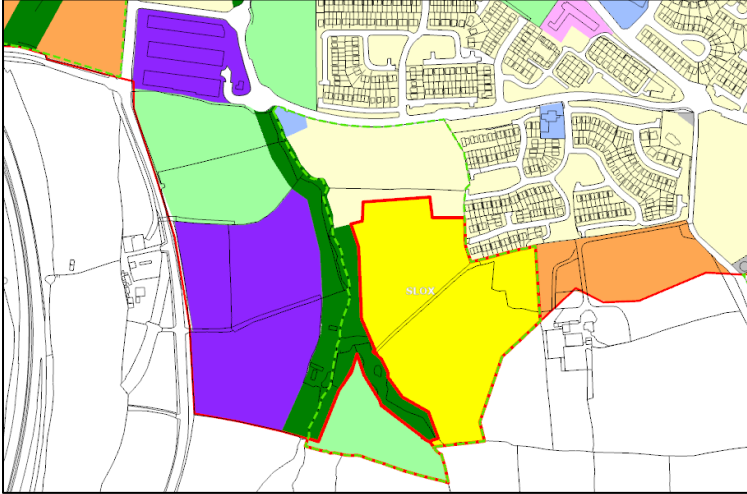
	- Proposed education site now larger and in better location - Hawkstown Road better designed for school access

Amendment No. 9 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-10	PROPOSED	Cllr John Snell
		SECONDED	Cllr Paul O'Brien

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	115
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

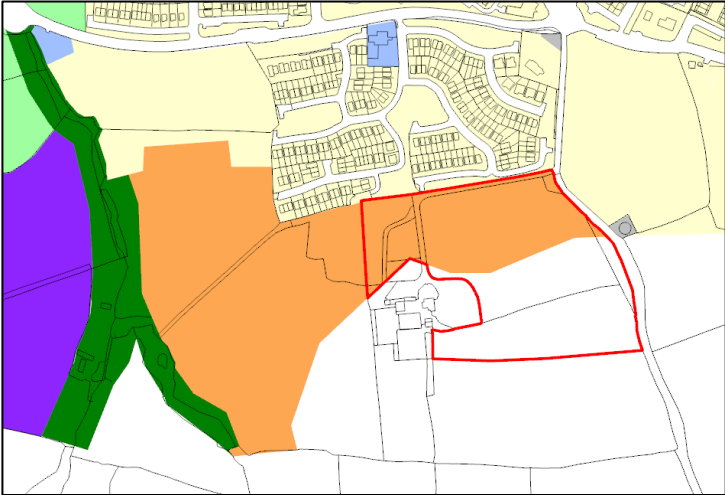
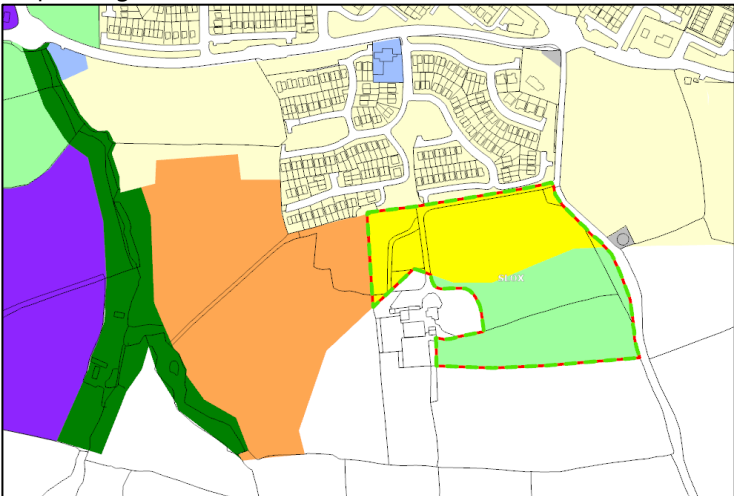
PROPOS L	- Create new SLO area – Specific Local Objectives' at Broomhall - Amend zoning of land measuring c. 7.35ha from RN2 to RN1 - Amend zoning of land measuring 1.7ha from 'unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space) New text and maps Change from:  Change to:

		
	New text: SLO-X Broomhall This SLO is located in the townland of Broomhall and measures c. XXha. The SLO comprises lands zoned 'Existing Residential' (RE), 'New Residential' (RN1 – Priority 1), 'Community / Education' (CE), 'Natural Areas' (OS2) and 'Active Open Space' (AOS). Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: - Any residential development proposals for the RN1 lands shall be accompanied by proposals for the concurrent development of playing pitches on lands zoned AOS measuring not less than 1.7ha; - No dwelling units that may be permitted on foot of the RN1 zoning may be occupied until these AOS lands are fully developed suitable for sports use (including appropriate layout, drainage, lighting, access, and car parking) and are available for community use; - Any development on these lands shall make provision for possible future pedestrian / cycling connectivity between Friarshill and Rocky Road; - Lands identified as OS2 shall be retained and maintained in a natural condition; no development proposed on foot of this plan shall interfere with river / stream beds, banks and channels and shall maintain a core riparian buffer zone of at least 25m; the only development that will be considered across this area is that which provides access to the AOS area. No piping of water courses will be permitted – crossing shall be clear span, and designed and built in accordance with Inland Fisheries Ireland guidance.	
REASON	Considering the current national housing crisis and the high local demand for private and social housing in the settlement the Councillors are proposing to amend this residential zoning from RN2 to RN1. This zoning is also accompanied by a corresponding piece of Active Open Space, or other lands of community benefit, that will be delivered alongside any housing in this area and will stand to benefit the wider local population where there is currently a shortage of such sport and recreational infrastructure.	

Amendment No. EM-10 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien was agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-11	PROPOSED	Cllr John Snell
		SECONDED	Cllr Paul O'Brien

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	4. Create new SLO area – Specific Local Objectives' at Broomhall – Hawks Bay 5. Amend zoning of land measuring c. 2.7ha from RN2 to RN1 6. Amend zoning of land measuring c. 2.8ha from 'unzoned (outside plan boundary) to AOS (Active Open Space) Map change from:  Map change to: 

	New text: SLO-X Hawks Bay This SLO is located in the townland of Broomhall, south of the Kirvin Hill and Hawks Bay developments and measures c. 5.5ha. The SLO comprises lands zoned 'New Residential' (RN1 – Priority 1) and 'Active Open Space' (AOS). Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: - Any residential development proposals for the RN1 lands shall be accompanied by proposals for the concurrent development of playing pitches on lands zoned AOS measuring not less than 2.8ha; - No dwelling units that may be permitted on foot of the RN1 zoning may be occupied until these AOS lands are fully developed suitable for sports use (including appropriate layout, drainage, lighting, access, and car parking) and are available for community use; - Any development on these lands shall make provision for possible future pedestrian / cycling connectivity between Friarshill and Rocky Road;
REASON	▪ The current Hawks Bay site is under construction and a large portion of the houses are occupied by the new residents, the development of RN1 is in keeping with the continuity of good planning for joined up residential estates on fully serviceable lands. ▪ These lands are zoned for residential development in the current 2013-2019 Development Plan and as such need to be included in RN1 to assist in making the availability of a healthy competitive marketplace for first time buyers to get on the property ladder. ▪ The AOS is necessary to meet the objectives of the core strategy on recreational sports pitches and walkways for a local area plan of this size. ▪ The full audit of sports and recreation future land use has identified the urgency in providing AOS on a scale to address the needs of the LAP population into the future of this plan.

Amendment No. EM-11 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

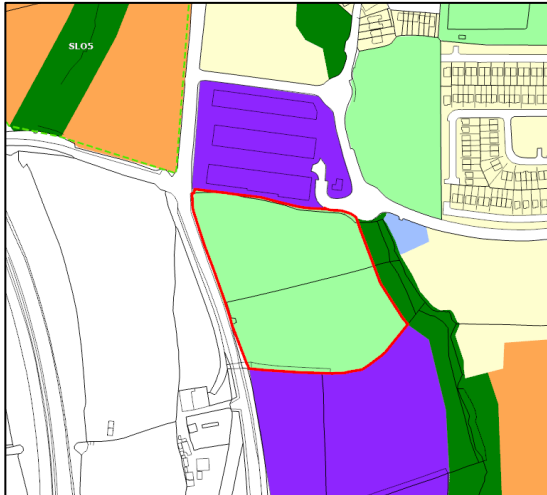
COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-12	PROPOSED	Cllr John Snell
		SECONDED	Cllr Paul O'Brien

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	40
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	Section 11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

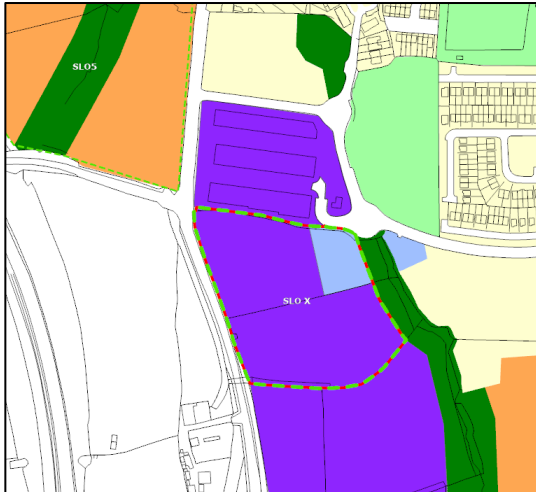
PROPOSAL	7. Create new SLO area – 'Specific Local Objectives' at Ballynabarny 8. Amend zoning of land measuring c. 3.3ha from AOS to E 'Employment'

9. Amend zoning of land measuring c. 0.4ha from AOS to CE 'Community / Education'

Map change from:



Map change to:



New text:

SLO-X Ballynabarny

This SLO is located in the townland of Ballynabarny and measures c. 3.7ha. The SLO comprises lands zoned 'Employment' (E), 'Community / Education' (CE) and 'Natural Areas' (OS2).

Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:

- Any employment development proposals for the E lands shall be accompanied by proposals for the concurrent development of an indoor community / sport facility on lands zoned CE measuring not less than 0.4ha;
- No employment units that may be permitted on foot of the E zoning may be occupied until this indoor community / sport facility is fully developed suitable for sports use (including appropriate structures, access and car parking) and are available for

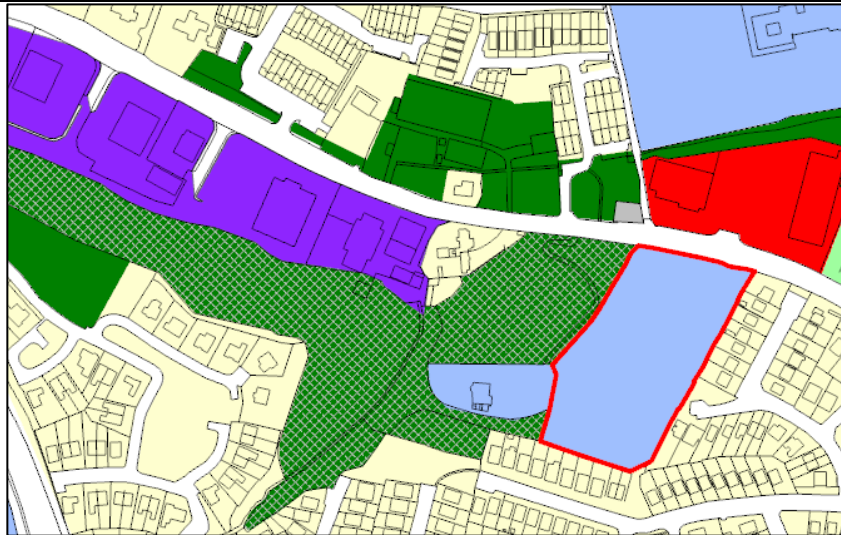
	community use; - Lands identified as OS2 shall be retained and maintained in a natural condition; no development proposed on foot of this plan shall interfere with river / stream beds, banks and channels and shall maintain a core riparian buffer zone of at least 25m.
REASON	▪ To retain employment zoning as per the Wicklow Town – Rathnew Development Plan 2013-2019 ▪ To maximise the opportunity for employment in this local area ▪ The proposed removal of Employment lands on the Marlton Road would need to be rebalanced to meet the core strategy objectives ▪ The inclusion of an indoor sports facility is imperative at this location to meet the growing population within walking distance to the residential properties, close proximity to outdoor recreation amenities. The surrounding cycle lanes and footpaths make accessibility to this site/location accessible to a sizable amount of the community.

Amendment No. EM-12 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

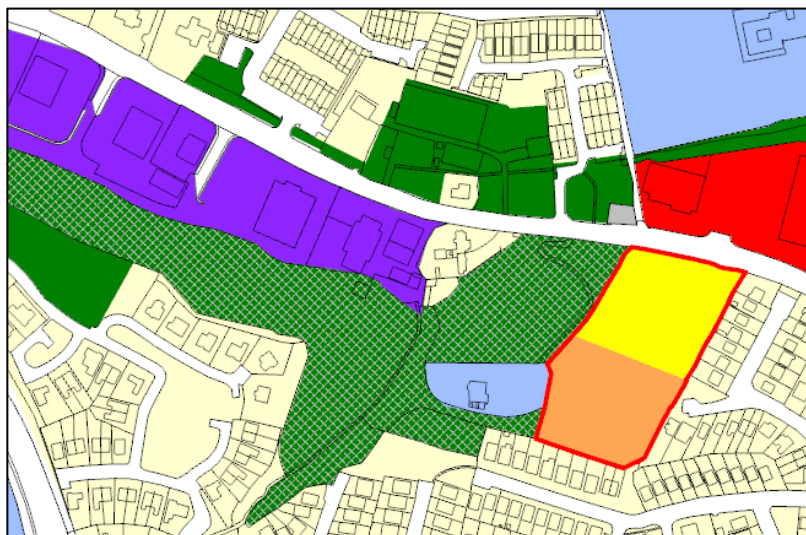
COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-13	PROPOSED	Cllr Graham Richmond
		SECONDED	Cllr Paul O'Brien

Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	142
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	11.5 Specific Local Objectives
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Change c. 1.4ha at Glebe – Fernhill House from 'CE Community/Education' to 'RN1 New Residential' (Priority 1) (0.7ha) and 'RN2 New Residential' (Priority 2) (0.7ha)
	Change from:



Change to:



Identify a new **SLO** area as follows:

SLO-9 Glebe

This SLO is located in the townland of Glebe and measures c. 3.15ha. The SLO comprises lands zoned 'New Residential' RN1 (Priority 1), 'New Residential' RN2 (Priority 2), Natural

	Areas' (OS2) and 'Community / Education' (CE). Fernhill House, which was formerly occupied by the Girl Guides, is located on the lands and is currently in poor condition. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following: - Any residential development proposals for the RN1 lands shall be accompanied by proposals to regenerate Fernhill House and surrounding CE zoned lands and bring them into a use that accords with the CE zoning. No dwelling units that may be permitted on foot of the RN1 zoning may be occupied until the CE lands and building are brought into active community / education use. - Any development on these lands shall make provision for possible future pedestrian / cycling connectivity between Friarshill and the R750 - Lands identified as OS2, which are the subject of a TPO, shall be retained and maintained in a natural condition. Any development of these lands for recreational uses will only be considered where such use is shown to not undermine the purpose of this zoning.
REASON	The proposed amendment and the development that would result therefrom would bring about the following benefits to the community: ▪ The refurbishment of Fernhill House, bringing back a local facility; ▪ The provision of a community / education facility, which will provide a service to all the local primary and secondary schools. ▪ As only half of the area is RN1 this will mean that the remainder of the site cannot be brought forward until there is a community / educational facility in situ. ▪ 61 units can only enhance the area and provide much needed housing. ▪ Provide a potential pedestrian access to Friars Hill.

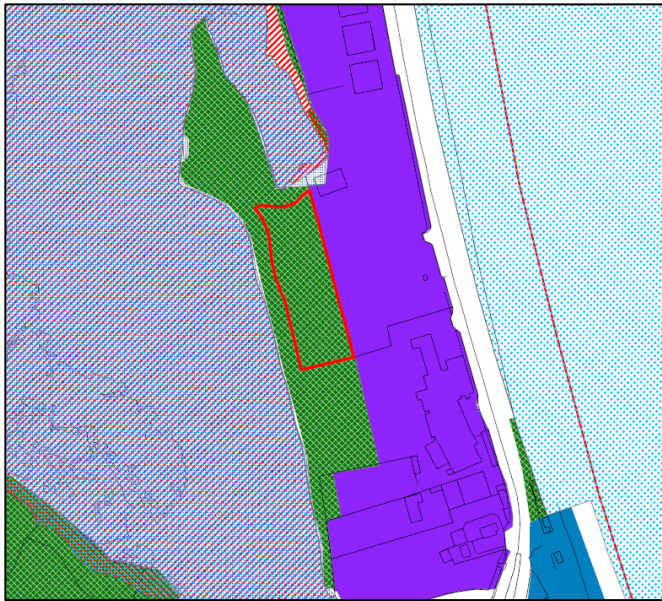
Amendment No. 13 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

COUNCILLOR AMENDMENT No.	EM-14	PROPOSED	Cllr Gail Dunne
		SECONDED	Cllr Shane Langrell

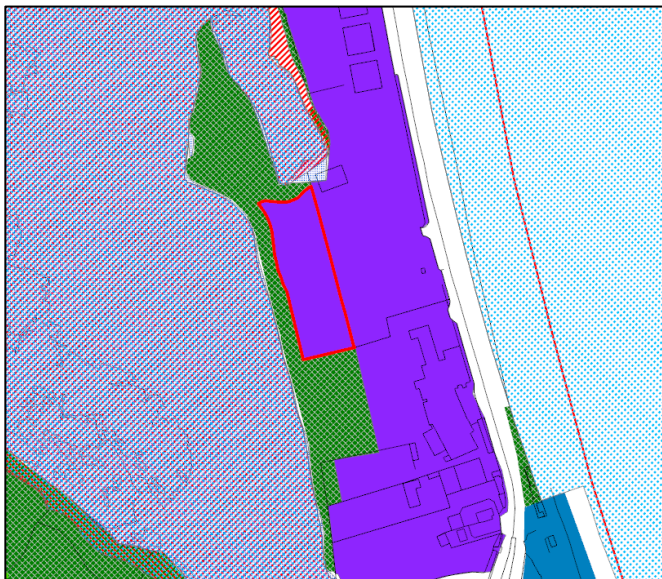
Proposed Amendment Relates to:	
Submission Number	67
Chief Executive Recommendation Number	
Chapter	
Appendix	
Map	Map 1 Land Use Zoning

PROPOSAL	Change c. 1ha at The Murrough from 'OS2- Natural Areas' to 'E – Employment'

Change from:



Change to:



REASON

- The site is currently zoned as employment lands but is designated 'OS2 – Natural Areas' in the draft LAP. It is crucial to retain the existing employment zoning for this area to support the continued economic development of Wicklow Port and the surrounding region.
- Rezoning this site would jeopardise the operations of an established, long-standing, multi-generational shipping and logistics business that has been integral to the local economy.
- Additionally, removing the employment zoning could negatively impact current and future investments in Wicklow Port and beyond. The established activities on site are

essential for the supply of construction timber nationally and are supportive of the Programme for Government declared objectives.

- As illustrated in the photo, the existing use of the site is low impact above ground storage of timber bales. Retaining employment zoning is absolutely compatible with the area and valuable employment uses can be achieved with simple, effective mitigation measures.
- Such measures could include establishing a buffer zone between the surrounding Special Area of Conservation SAC, ensuring compliance with ecological policy objectives and separating commercial activities from environmentally sensitive areas.
- It is imperative that the Draft LAP be amended to retain employment zoning for this 1 hectare site.

Photo:



Amendment No. EM-14 proposed by Cllr. G. Dunne, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 21 votes for, 6 against, 3 not present and 2 abstained viz:-

FOR (21)	CLLRS. J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, G. DUNNE, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON AND S. STOKES
AGAINST (6)	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, L. SCOTT AND C. WINSTANLEY

NOT PRESENT (3)	CLLRS. L. FENELON GASKIN P. FITZGERALD AND T. FORTUNE
ABSTAINED (2)	CLLRS. O. FINN AND J. MULHALL

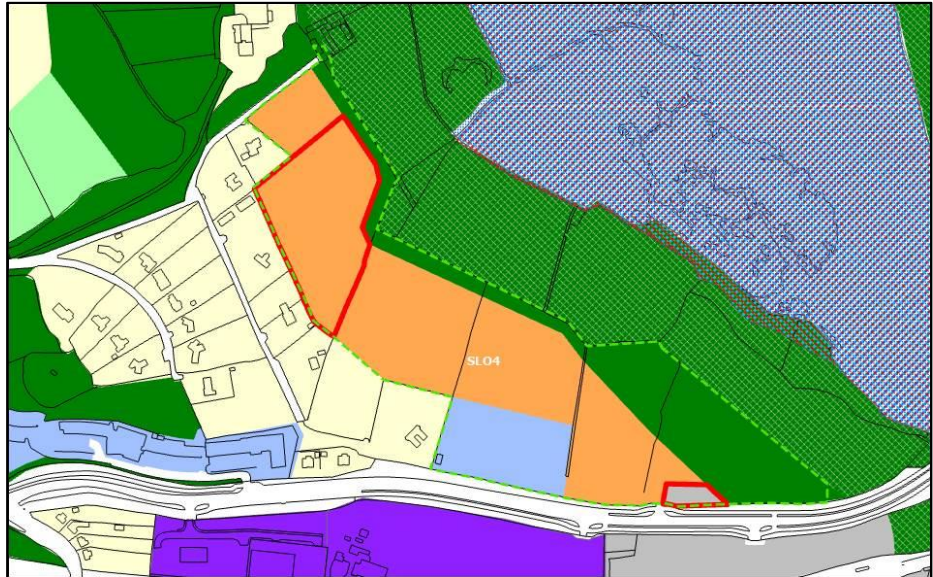
Time Extension: It was proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to extend the meeting to 5.30 p.m.

21	SLO4	Amend SLO4 map and text as follows: <i>This SLO is located in the townland of Bollarney North. The SLO comprises New Residential (RN – Priority 2), Open Space (OS1), Public Utility (PU) and Community/ Education (CE). Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</i> ~~<i>— To provide a new car park with access onto the Port Access Road for a minimum of 50 cars, with cycle parking facilities on lands zoned PU.</i>~~ - <i>A minimum of 1.2ha on lands zoned CE shall be provided for community uses. Generally, this shall comprise a community / sports/ recreation type development of the highest architectural quality and layout. No more than 30% of the residential lands may be developed in advance of the CE zoned lands being been developed and devoted to the use of the general public and not reserved for a single club or activity, in a format and with such facilities to be determined following consultation with the Directorate of the Council responsible for sports and recreation and agreement with the Planning Authority.</i> - <i>The design and height of any development shall pay particular regard to the height of immediately adjoining (mostly 1 - 2-storey) residences and the visual impact of the proposed development on the Murrough Wetlands / coastline.</i> - <i>To provide a linear green route for walking and cycling, with a minimum width of 8 metres, on the lands zoned OS1 with pedestrian / cycling access onto the Port Access Road. This route should connect to the residential development in Tinakilly Park, providing a pedestrian/cycling connection to the train station from Tinakilly (indicative route shown with purple arrow.)</i> - <i>To provide a recreational open space park on the lands zoned OS1, to the east (lands closet to the Murrough Bridge) of a minimum of 2 hectares contiguous to the linear green route.</i> - <i>The overall site layout design shall locate the main public open space element/s of the residential development adjoining the OS1 green route/park (on the lands closed to the Murrough).</i> - <i>All proposed projects within zoning area SLO4 – Bollarney North shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant: be informed by appropriately targeted ecological surveys of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA; and give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation, including</i>

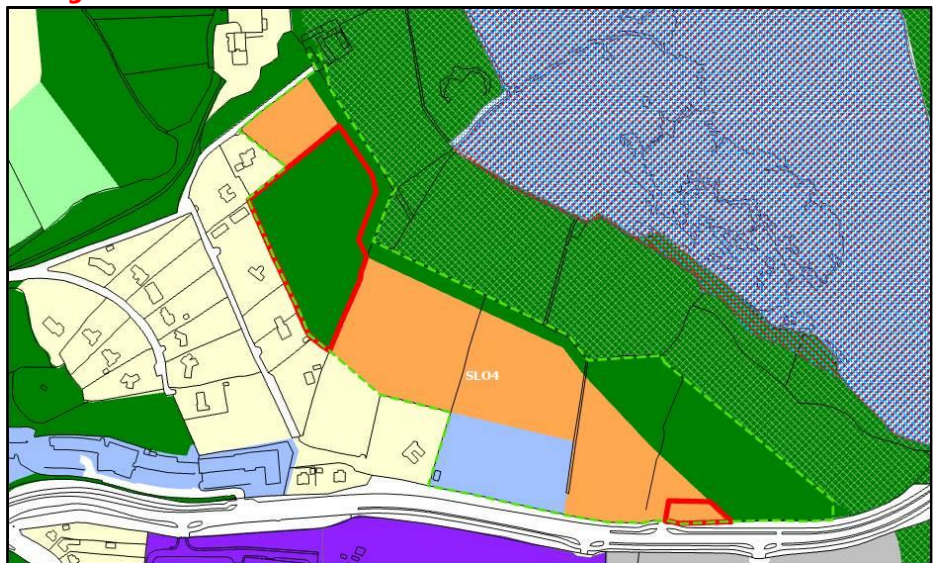
additional visitor management plans.

Amend SLO4 zoning map as follows:

Change from:



Change to:



Change consequent: Amend SLO4 'Concept Plan'

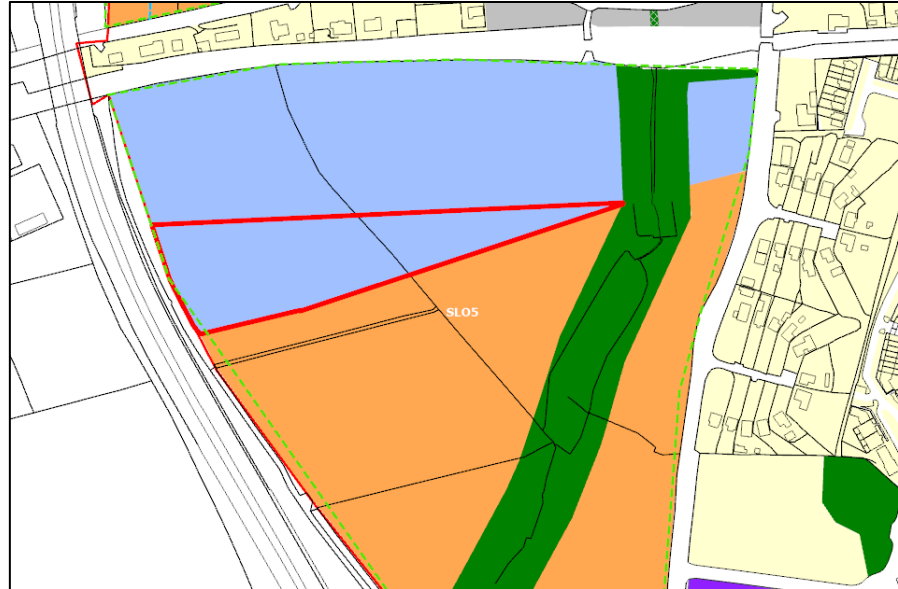
Amendment No. 21 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. P. Glennon and agreed by all present.

22

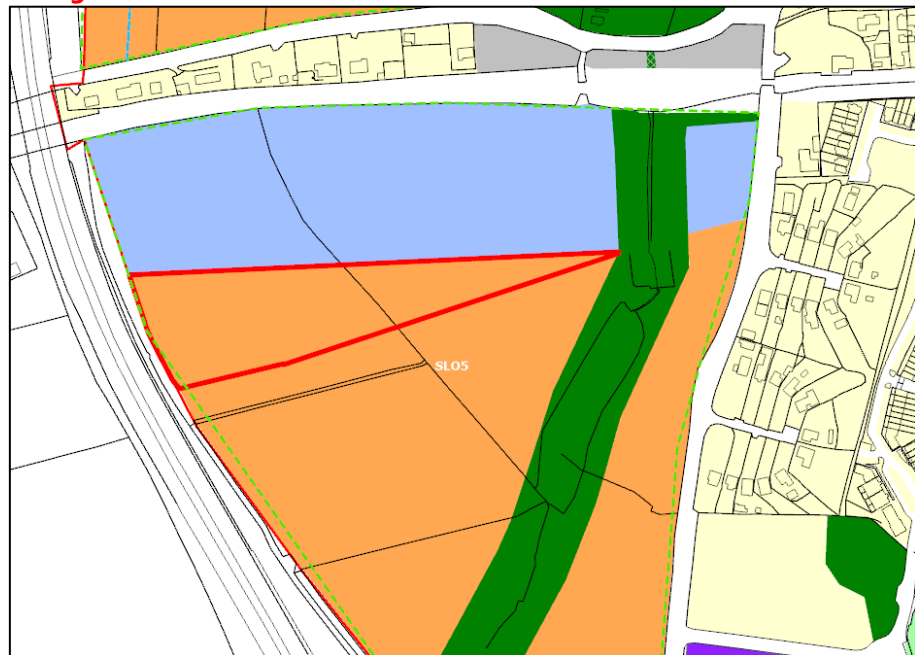
SLO5

Amend SLO5 map as follows:

Change from:



Change to:



Change consequent: Amend SLO5 'Concept Plan'

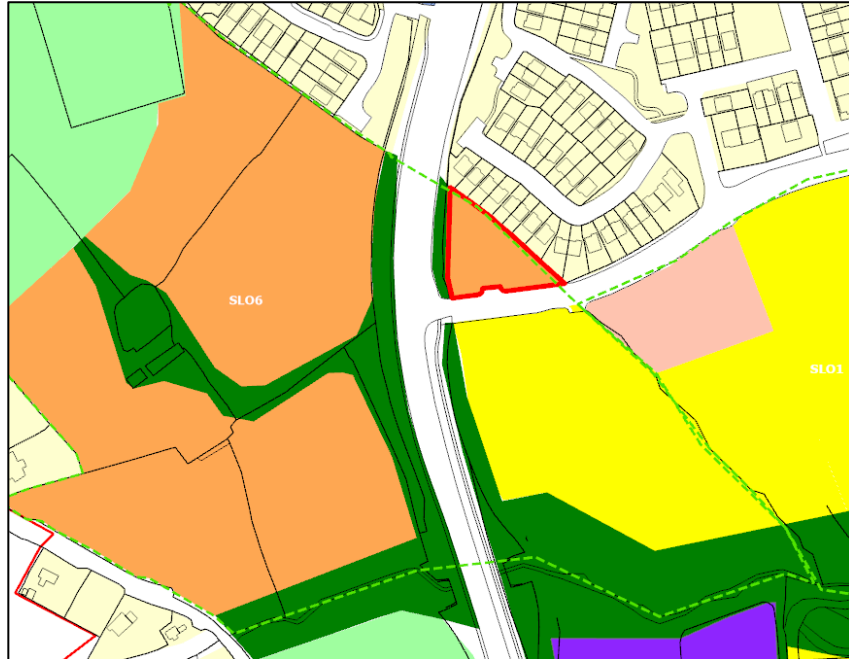
Amendment No. 22 falls and is not agreed.

23

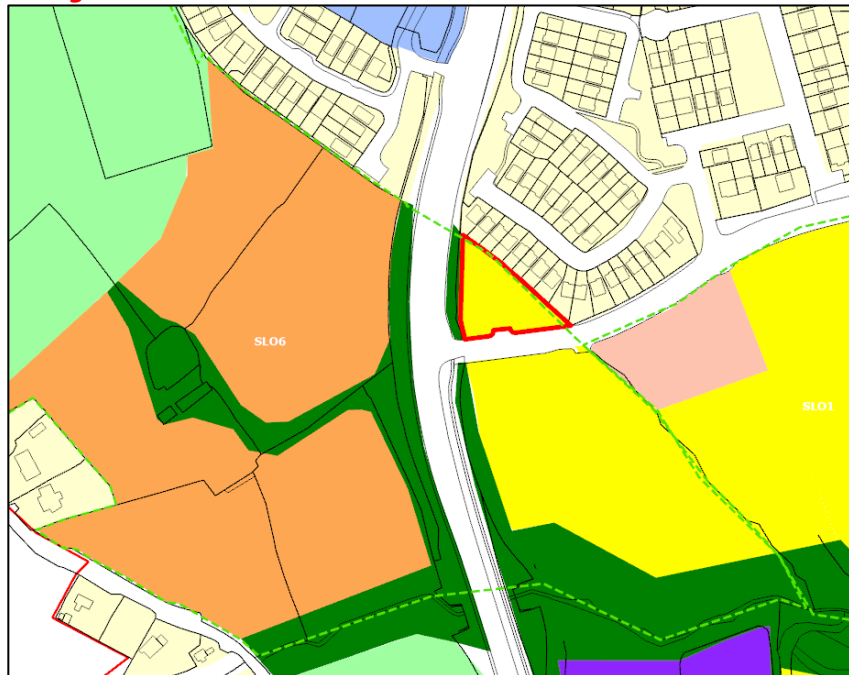
SLO6

Amend SLO6 map as follows:

Change from:



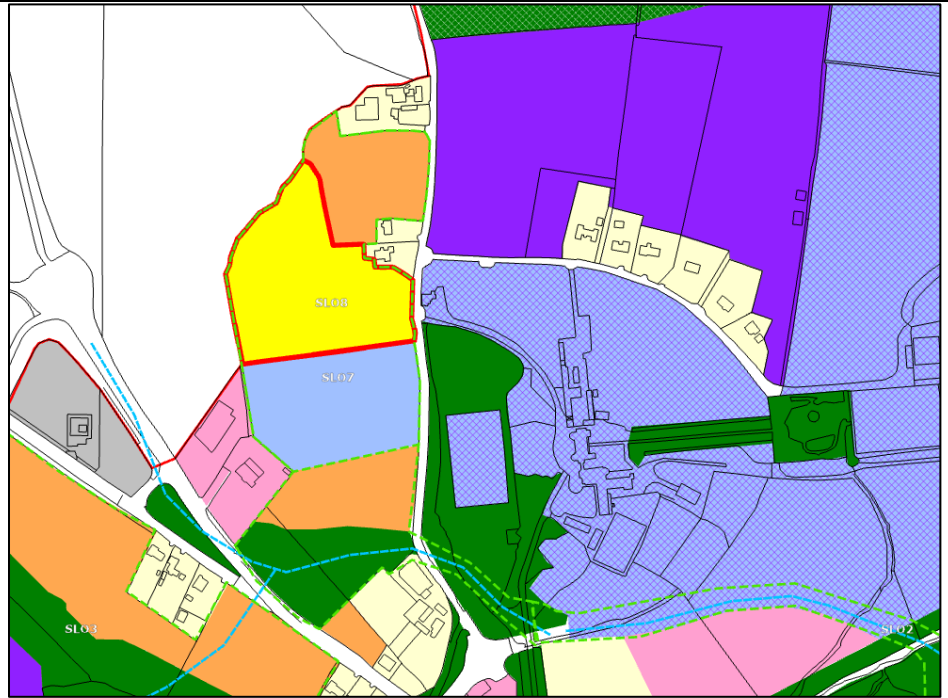
Change to:



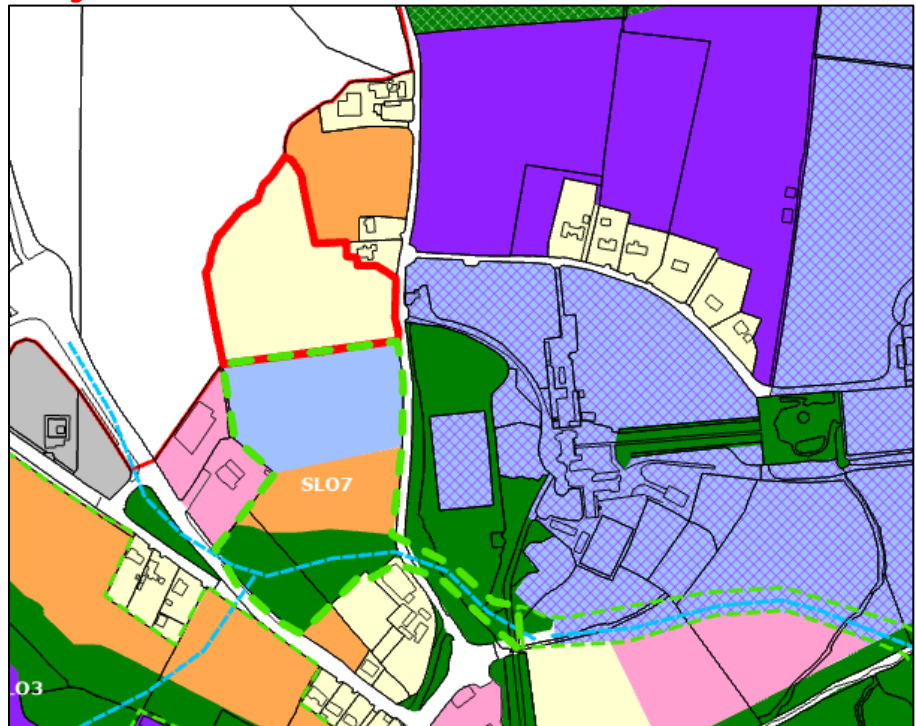
Change consequent: Amend SLO5 'Concept Plan'

Amendment No. 3 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

24	SLO7	Amend SLO7 map and text as follows: <i>This SLO is located in the townland of Rosanna Lower. The SLO comprises New Residential (RN2), Community & Education (CE) and Open Space (OS1) zonings. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:</i> - <i>Lands zoned CE shall be reserved for future school use and shall not be developed for any other CE use during the lifetime of this plan.</i> - <i>~~Provision of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (RIRR). The RIRR shall be constructed in full by the developer~~ Any design shall make provision for the completion of the RIRR from Clermont Grove to the R750 at the Maxol Garage. ~~The delivery of the RIRR may be on a phased basis, but no dwelling within the SLO may be occupied until the full completion and operation of the road.~~ The RIRR shall be developed in accordance with the delivery programme set out in the future Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Transport Plan;</i> - <i>No development may occur in this area until an overall final design has been determined for the road network in the area, including but not limited to (a) the final northern section of the RIRR connecting same to the R772 and (b) a route from the R772 to the R752 as set out in the future Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Transport Plan;</i> Amend maps of SLO7 and SLO 8 as follows: ▪ Omit SLO8. Change RN1 is SLO8 to RE (permitted development under construction) and retain RN2 to north of same. ▪ Integrated CE site from former SLO8 into SLO7 and expand boundary of SLO7. Change from:



Change to:



Red outline – zoning change from RN1 to RE
Green line – boundary of SLO area.

Change consequent: Amend SLO7 'Concept Plan'

Amendment No. 24 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all present.

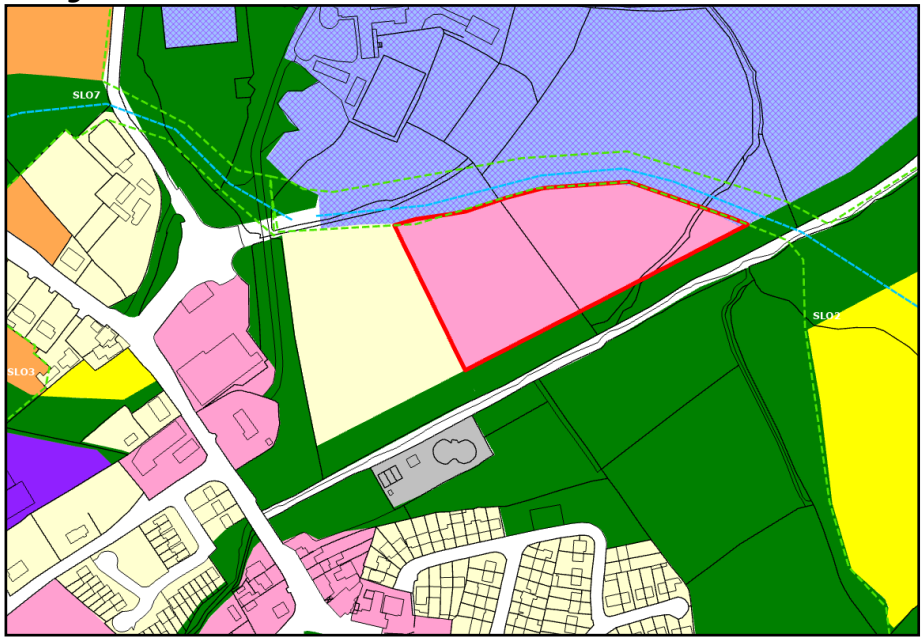
25	SLO8	Delete SLO8 map and text <i>~~This SLO is located in the townland of Rosanna Lower. The SLO comprises New Residential (RN1), New Residential (RN2) and Community & Education (CE) zonings. Any development proposal shall comply with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan and the following:~~</i> <i>~~— Lands zoned CE shall be reserved for future educational use and shall not be developed for any other CE use during the lifetime of this plan.~~</i>

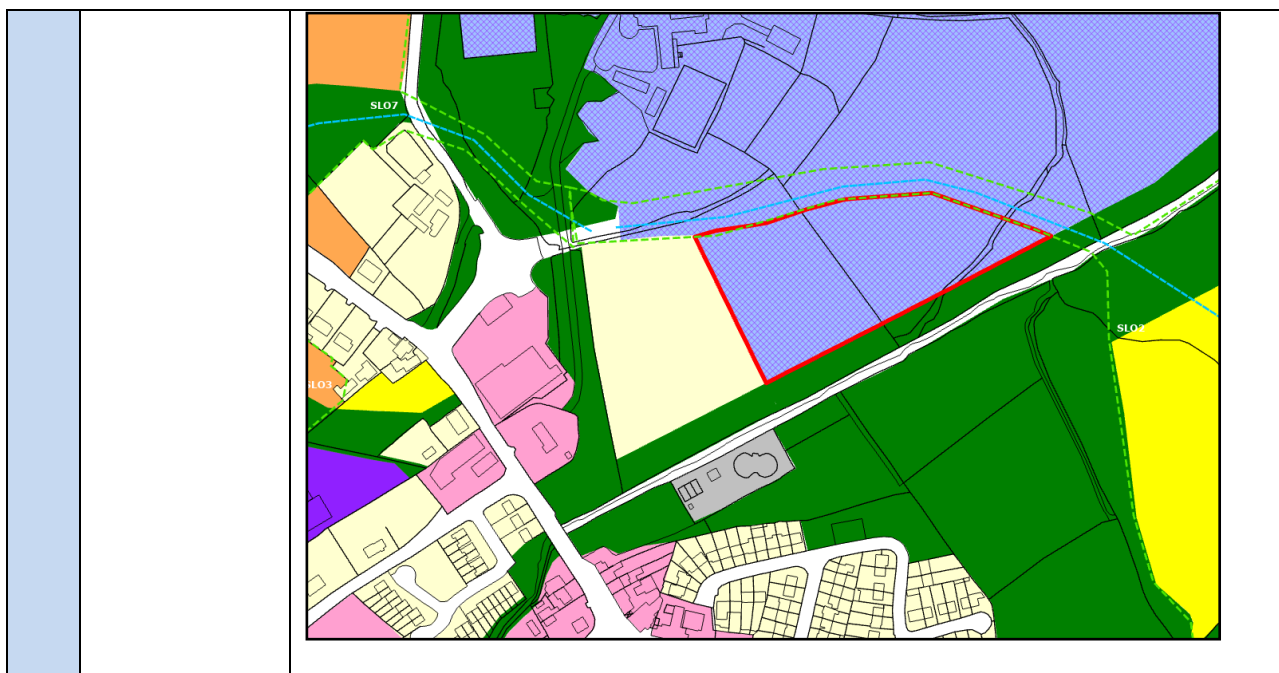
Amendment No. 25 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

Section 2.7

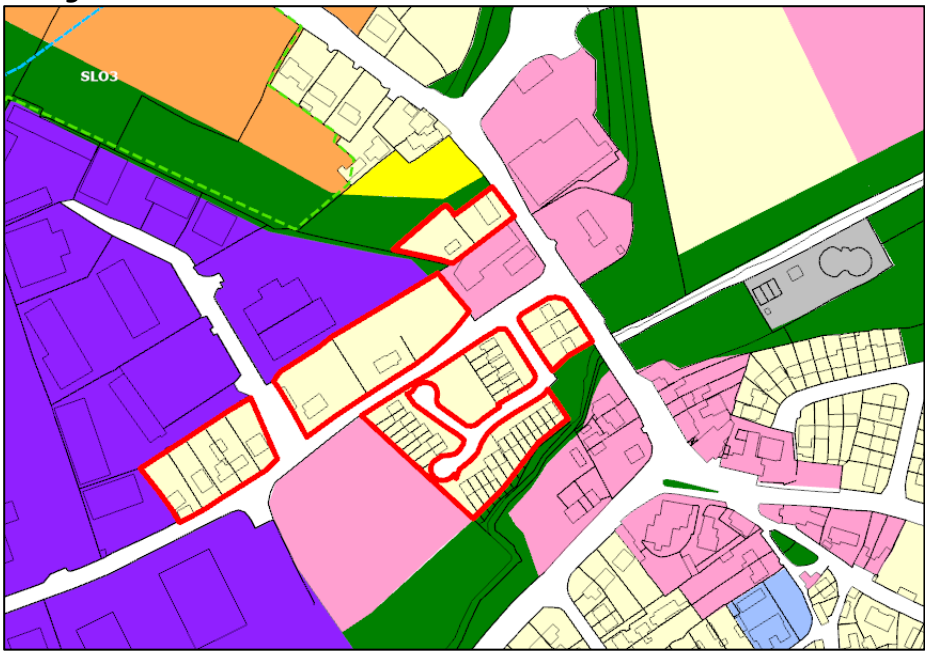
Map Amendments

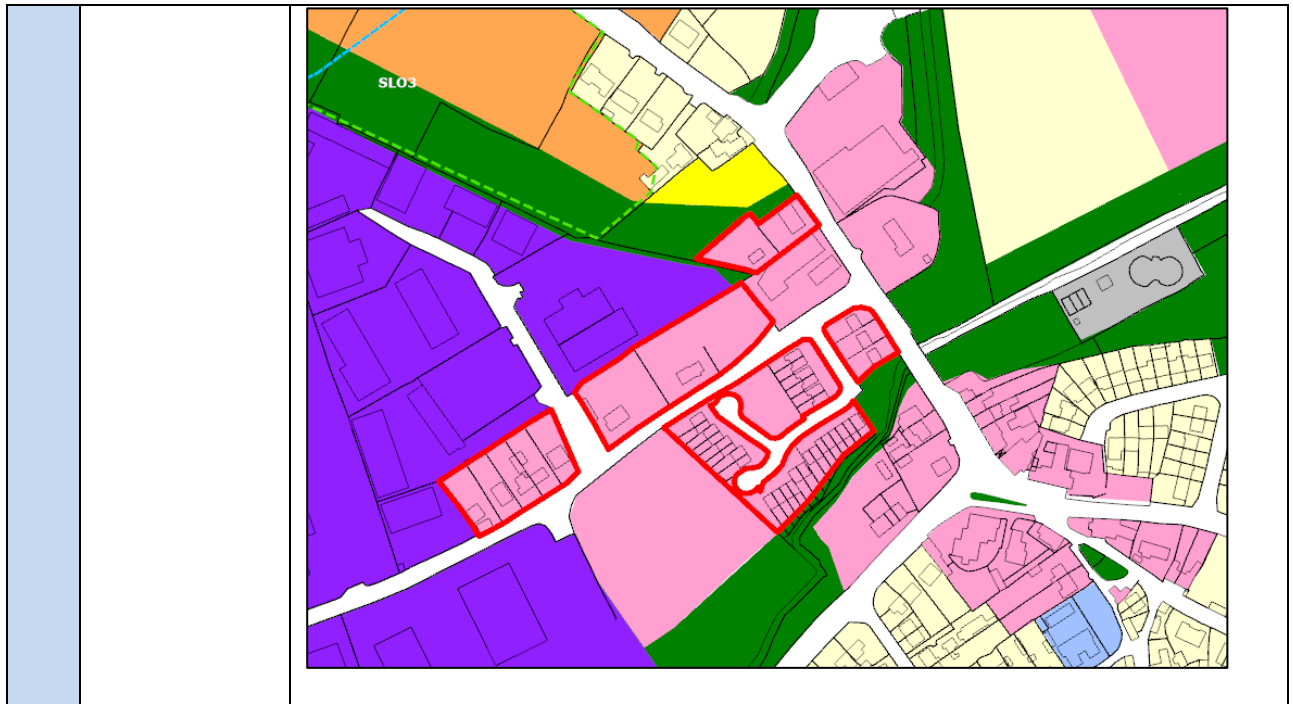
Map No. 1 Land Use Zoning Map

26	Rathnew Village Centre	Amend zoning of lands from 'VC Village Centre' to 'WCC-Wicklow County Campus' as illustrated below: Change from:  Change to:

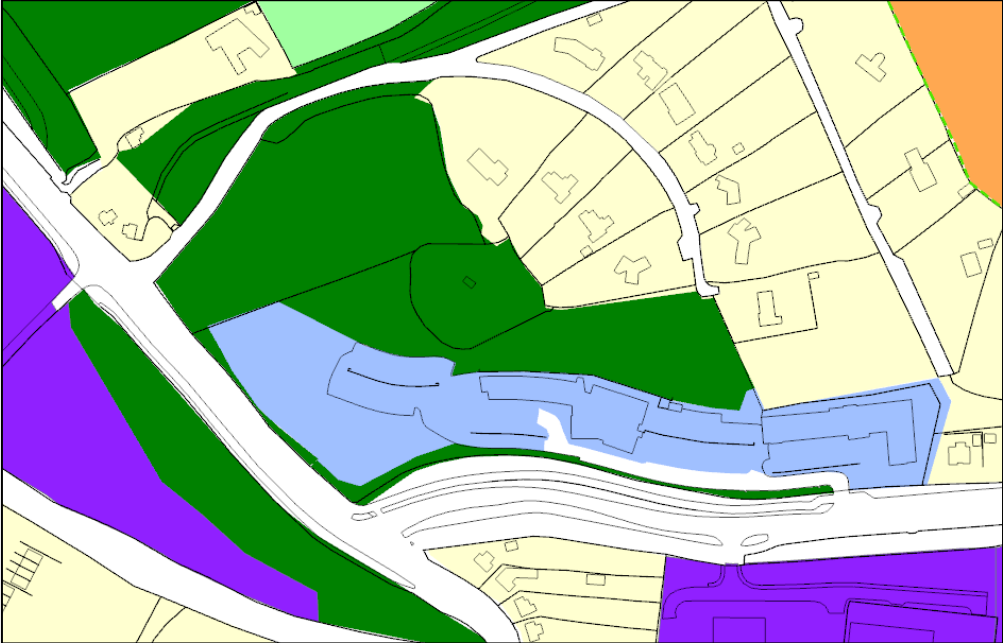


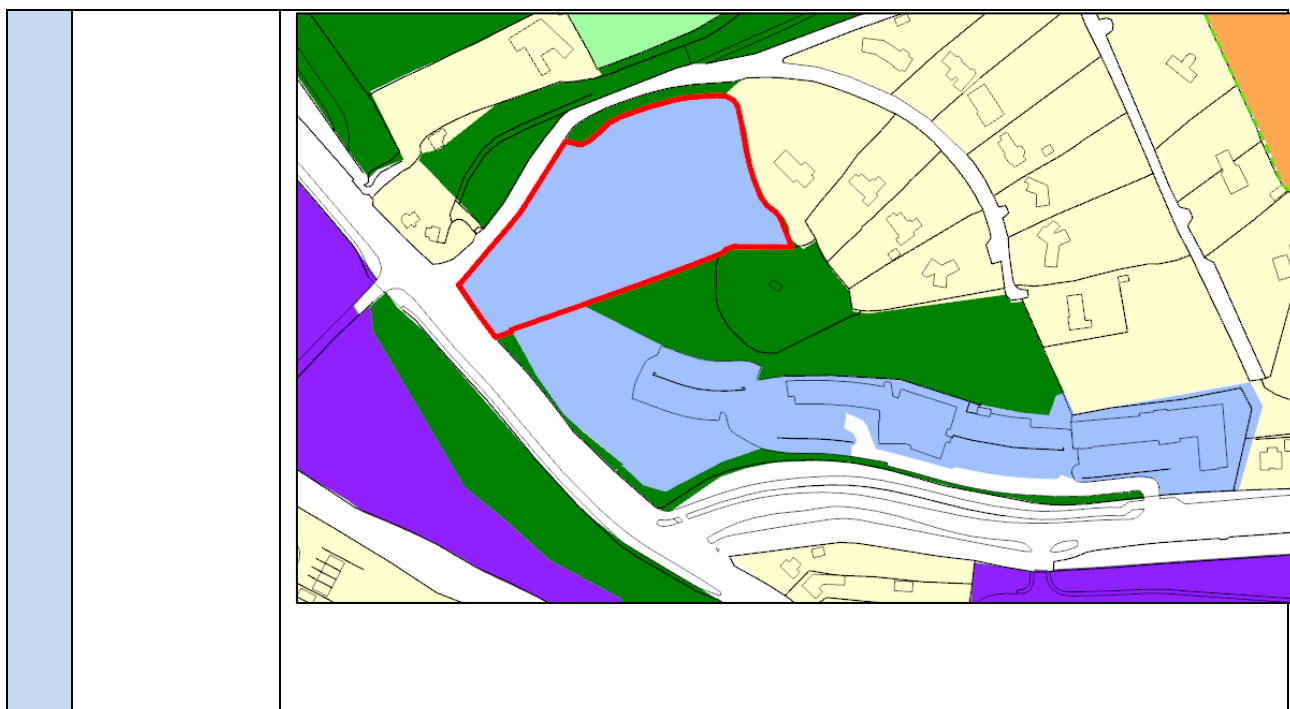
Amendment No. 26 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

27	Rathnew Village Centre	Amend zoning of lands from 'RE – Existing Residential' to 'VC Village Centre' as illustrated below:
		Change from:  Change to:

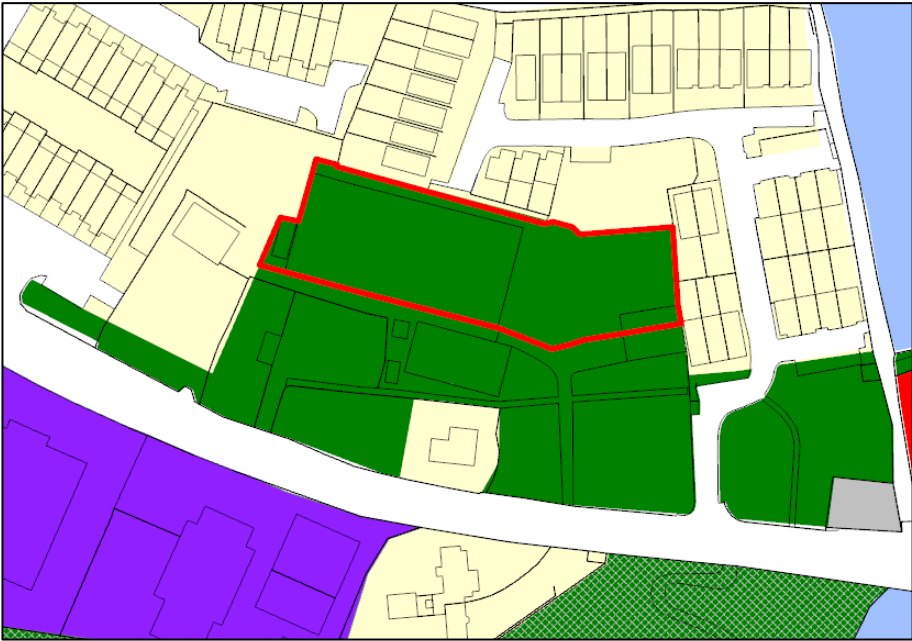


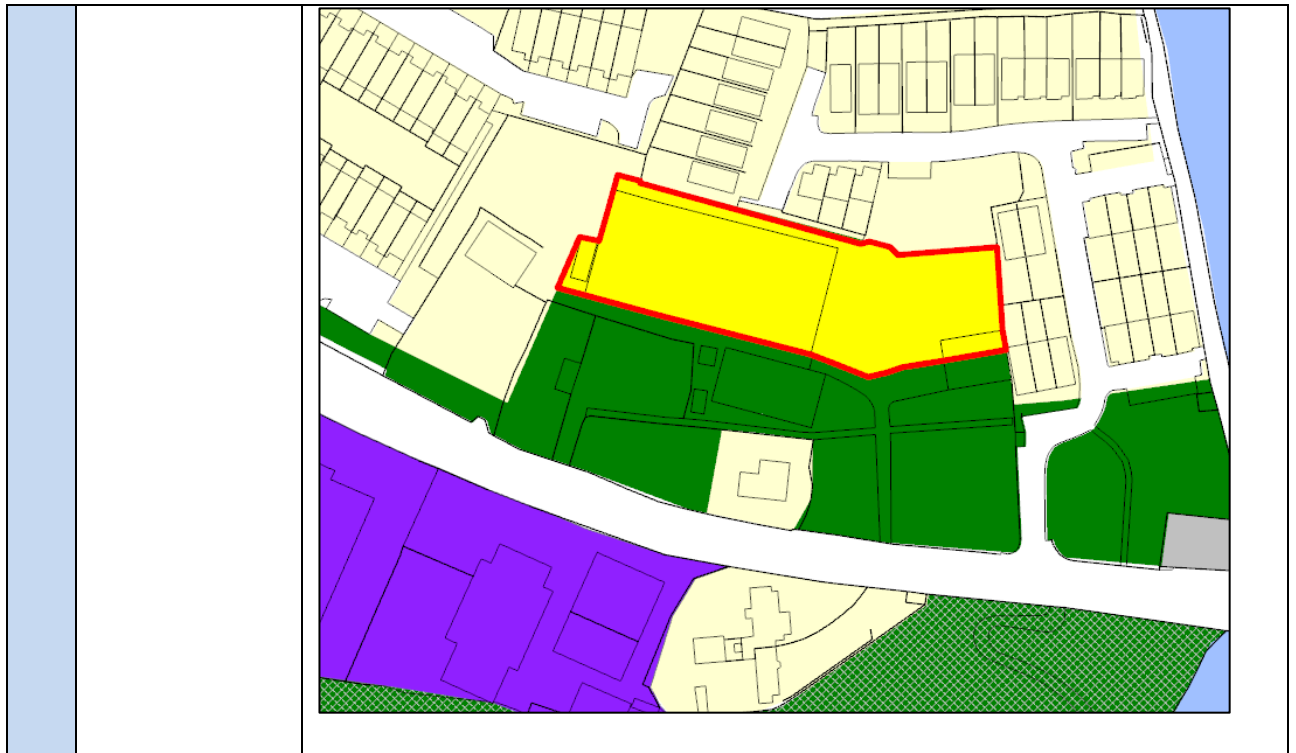
Amendment No.27 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

28	Knockrobin	Amend zoning of lands from 'OS1 – Open Space' to 'CE – Community & Education' as illustrated below:
		Change from:  Change to:

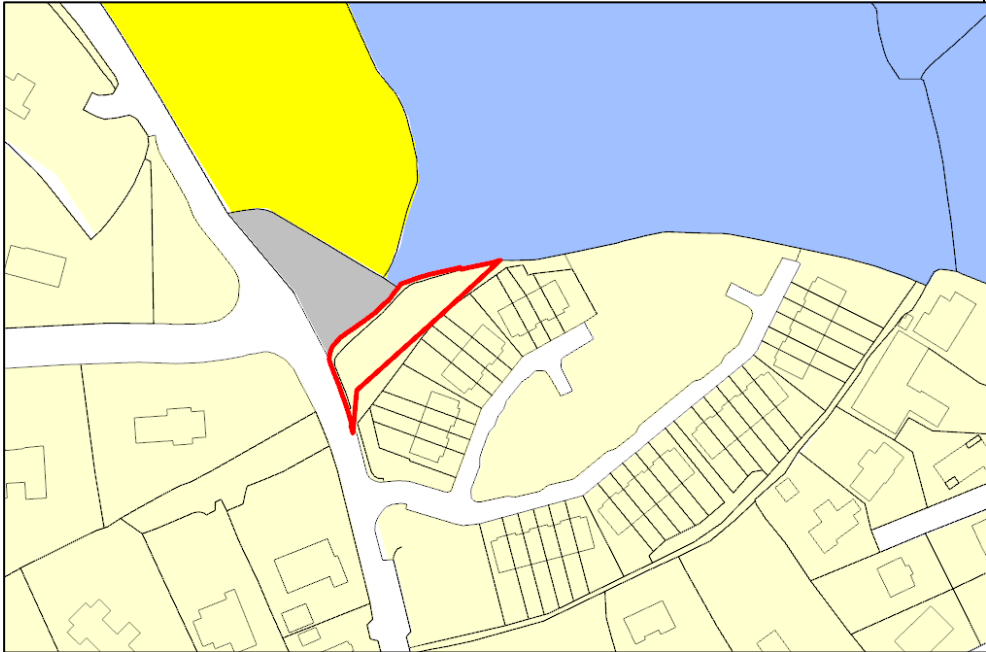
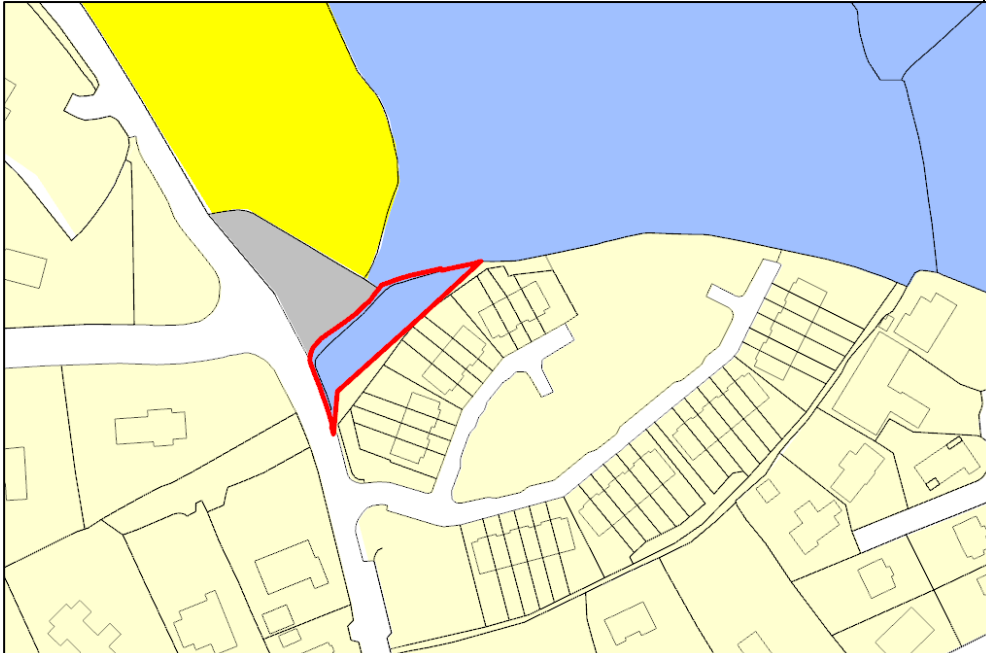


Amendment No. 28 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all present.

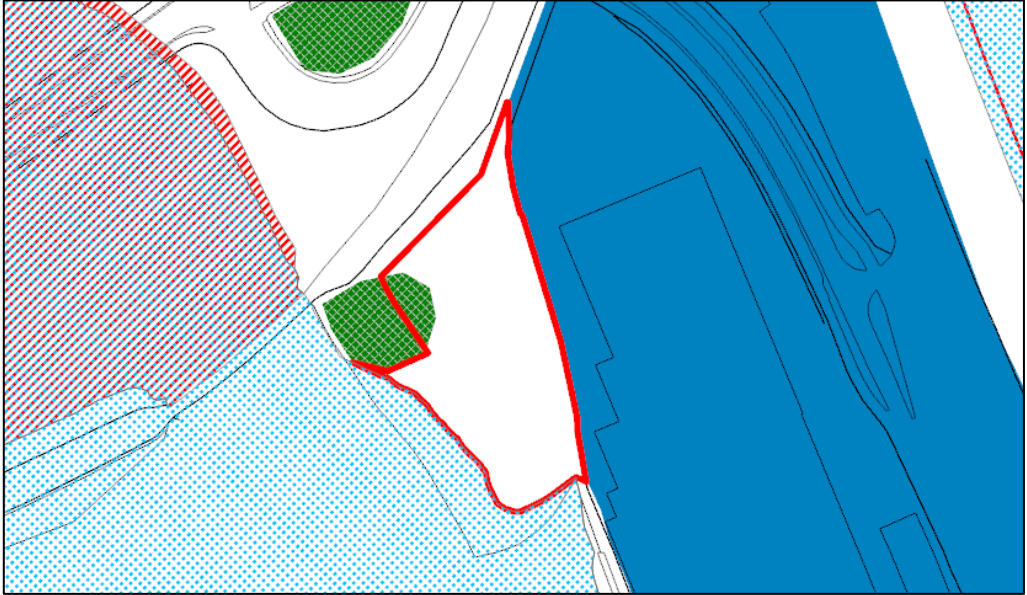
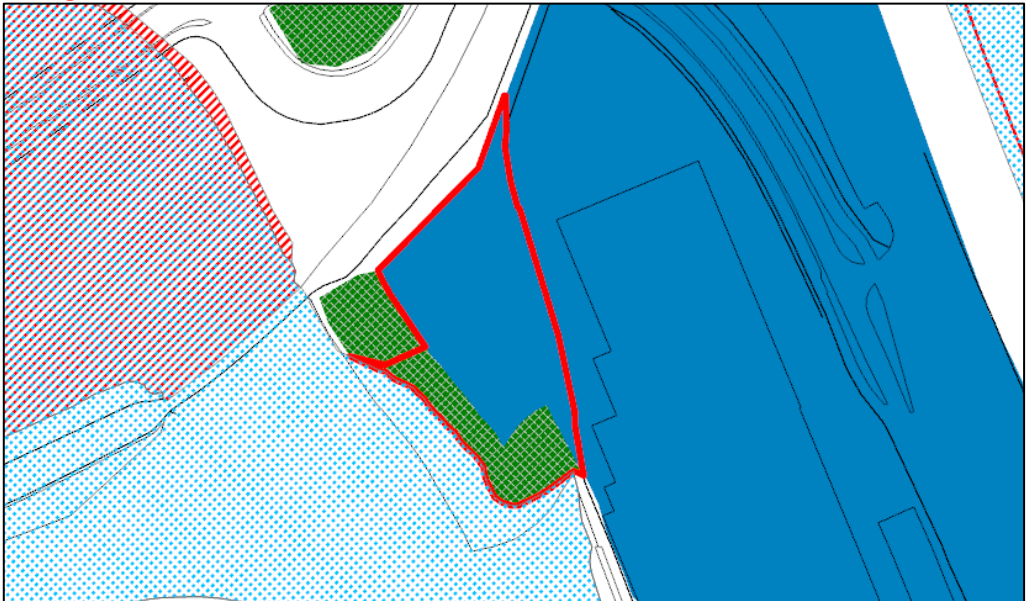
29	Bollarney North	Amend zoning of lands from 'OS1 – Open Space' to 'RN1 – New Residential' as illustrated below: Change from:  Change to:



Amendment No. 29 proposed by Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all present.

30	Corporation Lands	Amend zoning of lands from 'RE – Existing Residential' to CE – Community & Education' as illustrated below: Change from:  Change to: 

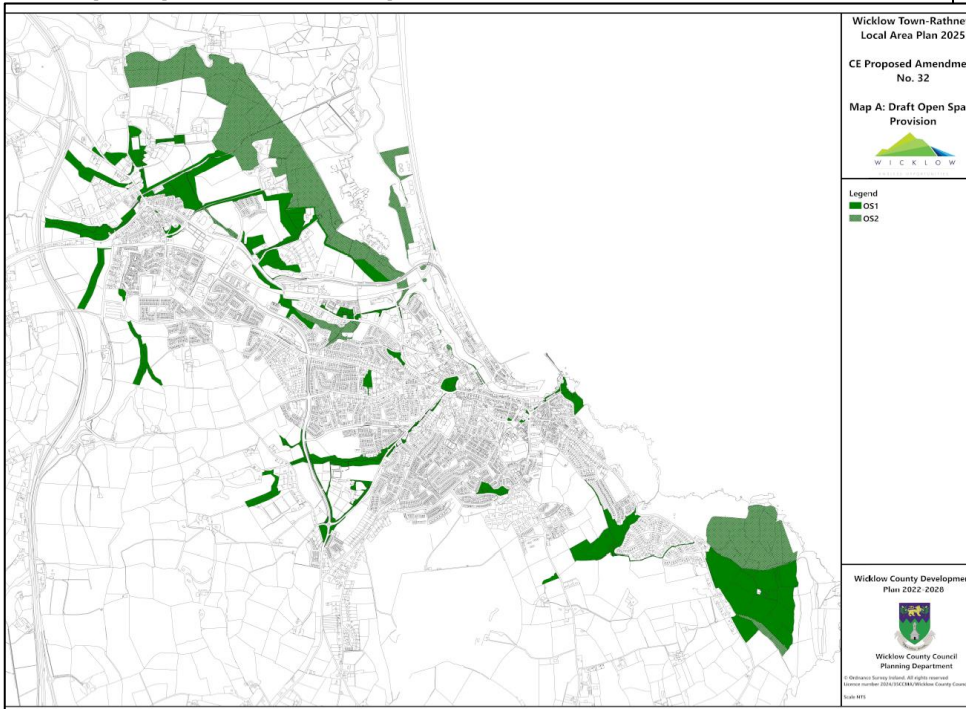
Amendment No. 30 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

31	Waterfront Zone	Amend zoning of lands from Unzoned and 'OS2 – Natural Areas' to 'WZ Waterfront Zone' and OS2 as illustrated below: Change from:  Change to: 

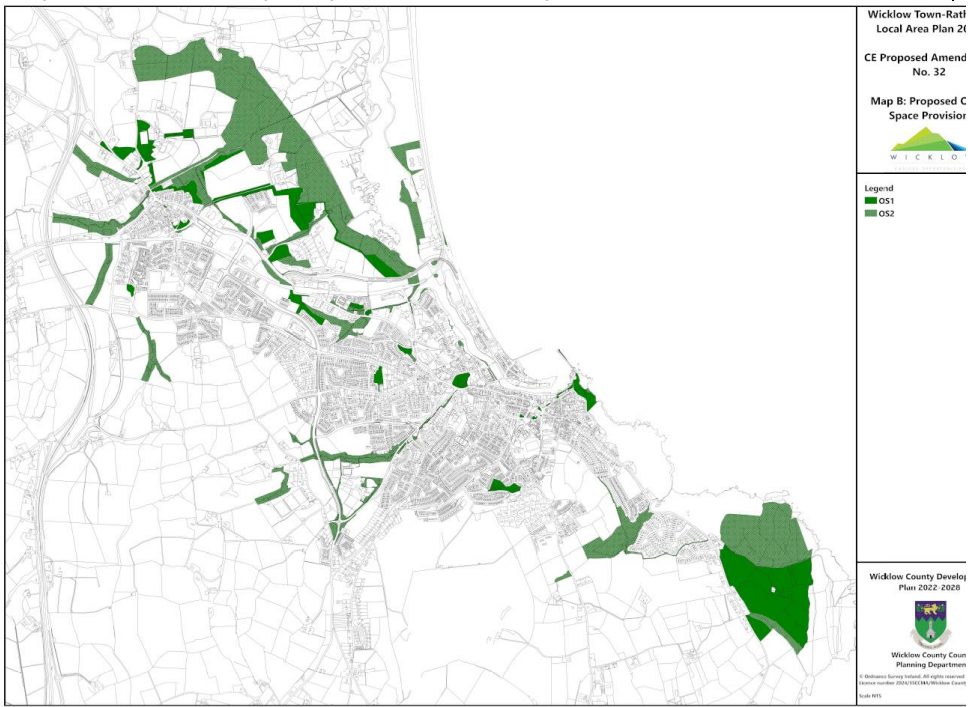
Amendment No. 31 relates to Amendment No. 18.

32	OS1 and OS2	Amend OS1 zones to OS2 as follows: ▪ All lands where undeveloped in Flood Zones A or B shall be OS2 ▪ All lands within 25m of a watercourse where undeveloped and feasible shall be OS2 ▪ All lands that are host to natural habitats shall be OS2

Draft Open Space Provision Map



Proposed Amended Open Space Provision Map



		Larger scale map is appended to this report.

Amendment No. 32 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

Section 2.8 Appendices

2.8.1 Appendix 1: Transport Strategy

Proposed Amendment No. 33

Amendment No. 33 proposed by Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all present.

2.8.2. Appendix 3: Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, Phasing and Implementation

Proposed Amendment No. 34

Residential Objectives		Implementation	Timeframe
WTR1	All new housing developments shall be required to accord with the housing objectives and standards set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR2	Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. <u>'Leapfrogging' to peripheral areas shall be strongly resisted.</u>	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR3	In accordance with the County Development Plan, there shall be no quantitative restriction inferred from this plan on the number of units that may be delivered on town centre and village centre zoned lands, or on brownfield regeneration sites, or on infill sites located within the following zones – 'Town Centre', 'Village Centre' and 'Existing Residential'.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

WTR4	Notwithstanding the zoning / designation of land for new residential development (RN), permission will not be considered for RN2 Priority 2 lands unless the following conditions are satisfied: - 75% of Priority 1 new residential lands (RN1) lands have been activated (i.e. consent obtained and development initiated); - It can be shown that the housing / population generated by the proposed development would not result in the prevailing Core Strategy targets at the time of the application being significantly breached.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR5	In order to make best use of land resources and services, unless there are cogent reasons to the contrary, new residential development shall be expected to aim for the highest density appropriate given the site's location and access to services. The Council reserves the right to refuse permission for any development that is not consistent with this principle.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR6	Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure and in particular, community infrastructure, is provided to match the need of new residents. Where specified by the Planning Authority, new significant residential or mixed use development proposals, may be required to provide a social and community facility/facilities as part of the proposed development or the developer may be required to carry out a social infrastructure audit, to determine if social and community facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

WTR7	To encourage in-fill housing developments, the use of under-utilised and vacant sites and vacant upper floors for accommodation purposes and facilitate higher residential densities at appropriate locations, subject to a high standard of design, layout and finish.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis through the application of the Derelict Sites Act, Housing Act, Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, and Residential Zoned Land Tax, together with the delivery of projects and programmes under the Town Centre First Policy, TRO, Croí Cónaithe and Vacant Homes Officer.	Ongoing
Employment Objectives		Implementation	Timeframe
WTF	To facilitate and support all forms of employment creation on appropriately zoned land in Wicklow Town-Rathnew and to promote the intensification of activities on existing employment sites and to take advantage of the existing economic assets in order to stimulate further employment within the area.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit and LEO.	Ongoing
WTF	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the settlement and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit and LEO.	Ongoing
WTF	To support and facilitate existing and future commercial port activities, in line with the Waterfront Strategy (chapter 5), and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial potential of the port area.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development Unit, LEO, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Ongoing
WTF	To support and facilitate all forms of employment development in Wicklow Town Centre and Rathnew Village Centre, particularly retail and retail services uses.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit and TRO.	Ongoing
WTF	To support the continued operation of Rathnew Business Park as a manufacturing and warehousing area.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit and LEO.	Ongoing
WTF	To support the development of Wicklow County Campus; to support the development of adjacent employment zoned lands for higher order employment types such as film / food / renewable energy.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's	Ongoing

		Economic Development Unit, LEO and Clermont Campus project team.	
WTF	On lands zoned for employment on the 'Murrough North', it is the objective of the Council to: ▪ To facilitate the continued operation of established / permitted existing business / commercial activities subject to ensuring they operate in a manner which is respectful of the local environment, use environmentally friendly / innovative technologies and improve the visual amenity of the area; ▪ To resist further expansion / intensification of the existing industries / businesses and consideration will only be given to development that enhances nature conservation; ▪ To ensure that no development is permitted which would give rise to significant adverse impacts upon the conservation objectives of European sites. ▪ To encourage site operators to improve the overall visual amenity of the area including the provision of additional landscaping using native species appropriate to this natural coastal setting. While the Council acknowledges that these industries are established, permitted and operating businesses / commercial activities, it is important to have regard to (a) the need to ensure no significant adverse impacts on the European Sites arise from the intensification or change of use of this area for industry / employment and (b) the nature restoration goals of the Council and (c) the available of significant areas of zoned employment land within the settlement away from the coast and other environmentally sensitive locations.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and Environmental Protection Unit.	Ongoing
Public Realm Objectives			
WTR	To protect and enhance the streetscape of Wicklow's Main Street through the appropriate control of alterations to existing buildings and the development of new structures; in particular - building lines and heights which diverge from the established form will require to be justified; - shopfront and building frontages will require to be of an appropriate design and	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing

	appearance; - frontages with no goods on display to the street or that are opaque will not be considered.		
WTR	To strive to improve the appearance of junctions and gateway areas into the Main Street of the Town centre, particularly the Marlton Road – Abbey Street junction.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Short Term
WTR	New or extended / refurbished units shall, at all times that the unit is not in active use, provide an attractive temporary display or professionally designed artwork affixed to the glass frontage. The temporary use of the space during such times for creative, cultural or community purposes will be encouraged; however, such change of use may require planning permission, and advice will be provided by the Council on a case by case basis in this regard.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and projects and programmes of the TRO.	Ongoing
WTR	To support opportunities to create better linkages between the Main Street and the South Quay, in particular access routes and views between the two.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Short Term
WTR	To maintain and further enhance Fitzwilliam Square and Market Square and support other possibilities for the development of new urban spaces, including The Mall, with hard and soft landscaping and high quality street furniture	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Short Term
WTR	To improve hard and soft landscaped areas, lighting, seating and other street 'furniture' as funding allows, and require private developments providing such features to meet the highest standards of design and siting.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing

Dereliction and Vacant Sites Objectives			
WTR	To facilitate appropriate infill development and substantial redevelopment of under-utilised or vacant properties and vacant backlands within the town centre. Any redevelopment proposal that has frontage onto more than one road should be designed to address all roads appropriate. Where the site connects the Main Street to the South Quay or the Main Street to Fitzwilliam Road/High Street, the proposed development should include a pedestrian link where feasible.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	To positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures within the town centre so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to retention of any special features with use of suitable design, materials and construction methods.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	Proposals to significantly alter or demolish Protected Structures, or special features which contribute to the character of an ACA, only will be allowed in exceptional circumstances.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
Mix of Uses Core Area Objectives			
WTR	To support and facilitate activities and developments that will improve the vitality and vibrancy of the Main Street area.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the TRO.	Ongoing
WTR	Redevelopment proposals in the town centre shall generally be required to provide commercial use at ground floor / street level.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	All non-residential floors will be required to be designed to be suitable to a range of users.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	To control and restrict where necessary uses at ground / street level to prevent an excessive concentration of single outlet types / formats e.g. bookmakers, off-licences (including off-licences in convenience stores), charity shops, fast-food takeaways, amusement centres and financial institutions.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	Active 1 st floor uses will be required in all new developments and particular encouragement will be given to 'living over the shop'.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

Retail Role Core Area Objectives			
WTR	To support the function of the Main Street / Fitzwilliam Square / The Mall and Market Street and associated side streets as the principal retail area in Wicklow.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development, as well as the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the TRO.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate and support suitable proposals to merge or assemble multiple buildings / sites in order to develop modern retailing formats, including department stores or malls, having due regard to the protection of architectural heritage within the Town Centre.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	To promote and facilitate the conversion of non-retail premises to retail/retail service use and to strongly resist the conversion of existing retail/retail service premises to alternative, less active uses that would diminish vibrancy and daytime activity in the area.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
Vehicular, Pedestrian and Cyclist Movement Objectives			
WTR	To maintain the Main Street as a principal vehicular route through the town centre and to exploit any opportunities that arise to improve safety for both vehicles and pedestrians / cyclists.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To improve the pedestrian and cyclist environment and to promote ease of movement throughout the town centre and avail of any opportunities to improve footpaths, pedestrian routes, road crossings and the quality of service for cyclists including the provision of safe and secure cycle parking at key locations throughout Wicklow town centre.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the improvement of existing and the development of new linkages from the town centre to car/bike parks, amenity areas, to South Quay and to the port / Murrough areas and to the town's environs.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing

Car Parking Objectives			
WTR	To provide new car parking options as funding allows, in proximity to the town centre including new ‘park n stride’ car parks on the edge of the town centre.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council’s Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To improve public car parking operations and management.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council’s Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
Enhancing access to public transport objectives			
WTR	To continue to facilitate the improvement of public transport user facilities including, inter alia, shelters, covered bicycle parking, information points with maps, routes, timetables, real-time information and designated taxi ranks.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council’s Roads and Transportation Department.	Short Term
WTR	To facilitate improved access to bus stops particularly crossing points for passengers.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council’s Roads and Transportation Department.	Short Term
Rathnew Village Centre Strategy Objectives			
WTR	To facilitate the regeneration of Rathnew Village centre, by improving the public realm, facilitating road, footpath and cycling improvement works, creating urban spaces with hard and soft landscaped areas within the centre of the village. The regeneration of the centre will be further enhanced following the construction of the RIRR, and the new link road to the Glenealy Road, which will bring about a significant reduction in vehicular traffic travelling through the centre.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council’s Roads and Transportation Department.	Medium Term
WTR	To facilitate improved signage and interpretation of local heritage assets.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO, and the Council’s Heritage and	Ongoing

		Tourism function.	
WTR	To encourage and facilitate improvements to the existing retail / services area along the Main Street, including the provision of new / expanded retail and retail services developments, including the provision of a new supermarket, and improved shops fronts	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	To enhance the amenity value of the Rathnew Stream and to facilitate improved access, subject to the protection of its environmental and ecological value.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and projects and programmes of IFI, LAWPRO and the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, Heritage and Biodiversity Officers.	Ongoing
WTR	To improve pedestrian movement around the centre by facilitating the provision of pedestrian crossings at appropriate locations, including across the Glenealy Road to the 'Old Village' and across the Rathnew Inner Relief Road (from the VC zoning) to the Wicklow County Campus.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Short Term
WTR	To encourage the development of a transport hub around the existing bus stops, including improved accessibility, car-parking, bus stop facilities, shelters and covered bicycle parking	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the delivery of the remainder of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road.	The delivery of the RIRR shall be actively progressed during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through its delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites.	Medium Term
WTR	To enhance and protect the built and natural heritage of Rathnew and to facilitate improved access to these amenities.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, and the Council's Heritage and Biodiversity Officers.	Ongoing

WTR	To require the vacant lands between the R752 and Charvey Lane to be developed as a single comprehensive development, with a masterplan, that provides for new frontage on the R752 and Charvey Lane, and which addresses all traffic movement issues arising from any development.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

Wicklow Waterfront Regeneration Objectives			
WTR	To support and facilitate existing and future commercial port activities on the north quay and to resist developments that would undermine the commercial potential of the area.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the regeneration of the port, harbour, quays and Murrough, to intensify the potential of the area as a high density mixed use area, well connected to the existing town centre and the train station that will support the compact and sustainable growth of the town.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the development of a broad mix of uses in the Waterfront Zone in accordance with the zoning objectives set out in this plan, with an emphasis on higher density residential, small scale enterprise, retail, recreation, cultural, civic facilities and maritime related activities and tourism accommodation and facilities. Large scale storage / warehousing, even where associated with maritime operations, will not be considered suitable in the WZ zone due to its high land take compared to the small area of the WZ zone; adequate alternative areas of zoned land are available within the settlement that would be suitable for such use.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	To encourage water based leisure activity / recreational use of the harbour, waterside or landside, where appropriate, which does not compromise the commercial operation of the port and the environmental quality of the surrounding area.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Ongoing

WTR	To ensure that all proposals for development have cognisance of European sites in the area and that no development is allowed which would have a significant adverse effect on the conservation interests of these sites.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
WTR	To require any new developments in the waterfront zone to meet a high standard of design that respects the unique historical, maritime, environmental, visual and recreational amenities of the area. To ensure there are active ground floor uses in all buildings fronting public spaces, walkways and streets.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	Seek the provision of a central civic space at the Murrough mixed use regeneration area; surrounded by retail, small enterprise and cultural or civic uses, with clear and legible connections to the surrounding development, the river edge and coast/linear public park.	To be proactively implemented and pursued during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Medium Term
WTR	To facilitate the development of a landscaped linear public park along the coastal edge of the Murrough recreational and amenity area, complete with formal and informal landscaped parks with off-road walking / cycling paths, as well as playgrounds, skate parks, 'Mixed Use Games Areas' and outdoor gyms, tourist / visitor infrastructure including car parking, Aires sites ¹ , information signage / booths, toilets, buildings / infrastructure associated with safety, rescue, utilities etc, Seasonal markets / fairs / events.	To be proactively implemented and pursued during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Short Term
WTR	To facilitate the development of pedestrian and cycling links throughout the waterfront zone and to the town centre and train station. To consider the feasibility of a new pedestrian / cycling bridge connecting the Port to the town centre.	To be proactively implemented and pursued during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, TRO, the Council's Harbours team and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Medium Term
WTR	To support and facilitate the development of new infrastructure, including infrastructure that supports the O&M sector, necessary for the continued operation and development of the port.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO	Ongoing

¹ Free or low-cost stopping places for motorhomes and caravans; offering just parking or basic facilities such as water, waste disposal and electricity.

		and Harbours team.	
WTR	To facilitate the continued operation of the RNLI from Wicklow Harbour and to facilitate any redevelopment of the RNLI station to reinforce its identity as the permanent base for the RNLI.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Ongoing
WTR	To consider the feasibility of the preparation of a Wicklow Waterfront Masterplan, to facilitate the continued development of the Port, Quays and Harbour, to be prepared by Wicklow County Council. Any approved Masterplan must adhere to the overall zonings, policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and this Local Area Plan.	To be proactively implemented and pursued during the lifetime of the plan via the projects and programmes of Council's Economic Development Unit, Municipal District team, TRO and Harbours team.	Short Term
WTR	To facilitate the enhancement of the public realm around the Murrough and the harbour area and to facilitate the provision of appropriate information signage in the waterfront zone.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, TRO, Harbours team and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the improvement of pedestrian/cyclist/transport movement and access to the Waterfront zone, by facilitating the provision of appropriate directional and information signage that increases access to and the legibility of the routes between attractions and facilities in the Waterfront zone. In the Waterfront area, no development will be considered that would reduce or remove existing public amenity access to the coast, river banks or port/harbour quays. Any development proposals will be required to show how existing access is to be maintained, improved or new access is to be provided.	To be proactively pursued during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, TRO, the Council's Harbours team and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate appropriate cultural, tourism, recreational and leisure development in the harbour and Murrough recreational and amenity areas including the provision of new clubhouses, pontoons / marinas, shops, cafes and other cultural, leisure and tourism related developments subject to a higher quality of design, as well as the existing environmental, visual and residential amenities in the area.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team, TRO and the Council's Harbours, Heritage and Tourism function.	Ongoing
WTR	To protect the unique historical character and recreational value of the harbour.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes	Ongoing

		of the Council's Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team, TRO, the Council's Harbours, Heritage and Tourism function.	
General Retail Objectives			
WTR	To promote Wicklow town centre as the primary retailing and commercial sector location in the settlement. Retailing will be promoted as the core function of the town centre.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team and TRO	Ongoing
WTR	To support Rathnew Village's role as a Level 4 local retail centre.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team and TRO	Ongoing
WTR	To allow for only one further (small scale) neighbourhood centre in the plan area, at Ballynerrin, on the Marlton Link Road, on the grounds that this will allow all existing / planned residential areas to be within 10 minutes' walk of either a core retail area or a neighbourhood centre.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
Community Development Objectives			
WTR	The Planning Authority will resist developments that entail the loss of existing community, education and open space/recreation lands or buildings unless it can be demonstrated that (a) adequate community, education and open space/recreation lands and buildings would be retained in the settlement having regard to the planned future population of the settlement or (b) the particular lands or buildings are not suitable or needed for current or future educational, community or open space / recreational usage. In particular, developments that would unduly constrain the ability of existing schools to expand will not be permitted.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
Education Objectives			

WTR	To facilitate the provision of schools on lands zoned Community and Education (CE) and to consider the provision of schools on any land use zoning, excluding OS1 and OS2 zones, where it is in line with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan, relevant planning guidelines (including the Department of Education guidelines) and proper planning.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
WTR	To reserve Community and Education (CE) zoned land for the provision of schools at the Marlton Road, Ballybeg (SLO5) and Rosanna (SLO8).	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
Tourism Objectives			
WTR	To support opportunities to improve the tourism product in Wicklow Town – Rathnew and to facilitate appropriate tourism development within the settlement.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council’s Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team, TRO, and the Council’s Tourism function.	Ongoing
WTR	To positively consider the development of a) new hotels in Wicklow Town – Rathnew; b) the development of touring caravan (Aires park) and camping sites (not static mobile home parks) having due regard to surrounding land uses and proper planning and development of the area; c) the development of hostels along established walking routes and adjacent to existing tourism facilities; d) the improvement of, and extension to, existing tourist accommodation related developments, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
WTR	To encourage and facilitate tourism and leisure related uses in the Mixed Use Regeneration Area of the Waterfront zone including hotel / accommodation facilities and leisure uses to complement the marina and associated boating uses and activities.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council’s Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team, TRO, and the Council’s Tourism function.	Ongoing

WTR	To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of coastline, rivers and lakes for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team, TRO, and the Council's Heritage and Tourism function.	Ongoing
WTR	To support the development of linkages to connect Wicklow Town-Rathnew with adjoining towns / villages via cycle and walking trails.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit, the Municipal District team, the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit, TRO and the Council's Heritage and Tourism function.	Ongoing

Transportation Objectives		
WTR	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of new regional/distributor roads and road improvements², including (a) The completion of the Rathnew Inner Relief Road including reconfiguration of road network between Junction 16 and Rathnew Village to re-direct Wicklow Town-bound flows away from the Aldi-Tinakilly traffic lights and the village centre; (b) A new link road between Tighe's Avenue and the R752 (for Glenealy – Rathdrum bound traffic); (c) The improvement of the road connections between the Wicklow Town – Rathnew and M11 Junctions 17 and 18, namely the L-1099 and R751, and;	The delivery of these road improvement projects and programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites. (a) Medium Term (b) Long Term (c) Short Term (d) Short Term

² The detail associated with new transport or green/blue infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and accompanying Transport Assessment, including locations and associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements.

	(d) To facilitate and support the improvement of the operational efficiency of the regional / local road network to ensure that the M11 is not utilised as a 'local' route for trips internal to the settlement.		
WTR	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of road improvements, including pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, to the existing road network, including (a) Upgrading the Rocky Road (b) Upgrading access roads to schools and public transport services.	The delivery of these road improvement projects and programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites.	(a) Short Term (b) Ongoing
WTR	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to active travel and public transport measures, including (a) Major public realm improvements in Wicklow Town and Rathnew village centres; (b) Active Travel Bridge Wicklow Train Station to Port Access Route; (c) Ballyguilemore footpath; and (d) providing improved, safer sustainable transport linkages (including permeability linkages in existing areas) to schools, public transport facilities, shops and services.	The delivery of these road improvement projects and programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites.	(a) Ongoing (b) Short Term (c) Short term (d) Ongoing

WTR	To continue to work with Iarnród Éireann and the NTA on the improvement of mainline train services to Wicklow Town station and to extend the DART services to Wicklow Town station and to provide for the significant enhancement of facilities and infrastructure at Wicklow train station, including but not limited to enhanced pedestrian and cycling connectivity and enhanced car / bike / bus parking.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan by Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
WTR	To 'future proof' the development of rail services to reserve land at (a) Rathnew (in the area west of the former Rathnew station) and (b) Merrymount for possible future halts / stations.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the upgrading of the Rocky Road, from Junction 17 of the M11 to Wicklow town centre.	To be proactively pursued during the lifetime of the plan by Council's Roads and Transportation Department and Municipal District team.	Short Term
Coastal Erosion and Flood Management Objectives			
WTR	To ensure the natural coastal defences are protected and to ensure that their flood defence/management function is not put at risk by inappropriate works or development.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system, and through the projects and programmes of the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate and other state / semi-state agencies such as the OPW and Irish Rail.	Ongoing
WTR	To continue to work with the OPW and other agencies to deliver Flood Defence Schemes and Coastal Erosion Schemes.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate.	Ongoing

WTR	Where flood zone mapping does not indicate a risk of flooding but the Planning Authority is of the opinion that flood risk may arise or new information has come to light that may alter the flood designation of the land, including the latest future scenario flood mapping, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be required to be submitted by an applicant for planning permission and the sequential approach shall be applied as the 'Plan Making Justification Test' will not be satisfied.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing

Heritage, Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Objectives			
WTR	To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that contribute greatly to this character.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO, and the Council's Heritage and Tourism function.	Ongoing
WTR	To protect the listed views and prospects from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
WTR	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to its special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO, and the Council's Heritage Officer.	Ongoing
WTR	To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Wicklow quay side through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and	Ongoing

	of the public realm that are of architectural merit and/or contribute greatly to this character.	programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO, and the Council's Heritage Officer.	
WTR	To reinforce the coastal character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the coast as a recreational and natural asset.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Council's Heritage function.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the development of initiatives to highlight Wicklow's maritime heritage in the public realm.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO, and the Council's Heritage and Tourism function.	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the development and enhancement of green infrastructure resources, including access to, connectivity between areas of interest and linkages between green spaces including the coast, where feasible within the plan settlement boundary.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Council's Heritage and Biodiversity Officers.	Ongoing
WTR	To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways, blueways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links: (a) Wicklow to Greystones coastal greenway. Any development proposal within the route corridor study area/ preferred route option will be assessed for acceptability having regard to the potential effects on the future viability of the proposed greenway; (b) Wicklow to Arklow coastal route; (c) Wicklow Head Lighthouse Walk	To be implemented during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Heritage service, subject to detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	(a) Medium Term (b) Long Term (c) Short Term

WTR	To facilitate the provision of green linkages along and between green / river corridors / Open Space / Active Open Space, to create inter connected routes and develop parks and linkages between existing and proposed green areas, to form 'necklace' effect routes including development of walkways, cycleways, bridleways and wildlife corridors where feasible and ensuring that there is no adverse impact (directly, indirectly or cumulatively) on the conservation objectives of European sites.	To be implemented during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Heritage service, subject to detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the enhancement of existing, and development of new recreational facilities along the coastal area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.	To be implemented during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate Action, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Heritage service, subject to detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	Ongoing
WTR	To facilitate the protection of the coastline from erosion through the maintenance of existing and development of new measures of protection from erosion, subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system, and through the projects and programmes of the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate and other state / semi-state agencies such as the OPW and Irish Rail.	Ongoing
WTR	Where relevant, applications for development must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not, individually or cumulatively, affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

Infrastructure assessment and requirements for key development areas (identified as SLOs)

	Current servicing status				Additional infrastructure needs to support full development of site
Site ID	Water Supply	Wastewater Infrastructure	Surface Water Infrastructure	Roads & Transportation	
SLO1 Ballynerrin	1	1	1	1	Community facilities – developer delivered Retail facilities – developer delivered Amenity walkways along river – developer delivered
SLO2 Tinakilly / Newrath	1	2	2	2	Development to provide for portion of the RIRR – Developer + State + WCC Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure Community facilities (childcare) – developer delivered
SLO3 Milltown North	1	2	2	2	Development to provide for new link road from Tighe's Avenue to Glenealy Road – Developer + State + WCC Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure
SLO4 Bollarney North	1	2	2	1	Community facilities – developer delivered Amenity areas including walkways and amenity car parking – developer delivered Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure
SLO5 Ballybeg	1	2	1	1	Community facilities (school site) – land reservation Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure
SLO6 Ballynerrin	1	2	1	2	Upgraded Rocky Road – Developer + State + WCC Community facilities (AOS) – Developer Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure
SLO7 Rosanna Lower	1	1	2	2	Development to provide for portion of the RIRR – Developer + State + WCC Community facilities (childcare) – developer

					delivered Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure
SLO8 Rosanna Lower	1	2	2	2	Community facilities (school site) – land reservation Development to provide for on-site water infrastructure

Amendment no. 34 proposed by Cllr. D. Alvey, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all present.

2.8.3 Appendix 4: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Proposed Amendment No. 35

Amendment No. 35 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey and agreed by all present.

Proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. J. Snell that *'That the Elected Members resolve to alter the Draft Local Area Plan in accordance with the alterations approved at this meeting and given that said proposed alterations constitute material alterations to the Draft Plan resolve to publish notice of the proposed material alterations and any changes consequent to said material alterations for public consultation'*

was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 28 votes for, and 4 not present viz:-

FOR (28)	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN E. DOYLE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, O. FINN A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND C. WINSTANLEY
AGAINST (0)	
NOT PRESENT (4)	CLLRS. M. BARRY, L. FENELON GASKIN P. FITZGERALD AND T. FORTUNE

ITEM NO. 8

To consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 and to consider whether to make or amend the variation with or without further modification or refuse to make the variation in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. D. Alvey *'That Members resolve to alter the proposed variation in accordance with the alterations approved at this meeting and given that said proposed alterations constitute material alterations to the proposed variation resolve to publish notice of the proposed material alterations and any changes consequent to the said material alterations for public consultation'*

was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 26 votes for and 6 not present viz:-

FOR (26)	CLLRs. D. ALVEY, J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, M. DUDDY, O. FINN, A. FLYNN KENNEDY, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND C. WINSTANLEY
AGAINST (0)	
NOT PRESENT (6)	CLLRs. M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD AND T. FORTUNE

ITEM NO. 9

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, January 2025.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report January 2025. The Deputy Chief Executive advised the Elected Members that Wicklow County Council have been shortlisted for seven projects under the LAMA Local Authority Members Award. He also paid tribute to all the staff, indoor and outdoor, particularly the Civil Defence, and Fire Service during Storm Éowyn.

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Dunnes Stores Centre, Blessington.
- Public lighting Donard Village, Stratford and Blessington.
- Update on the Local Link Service – extending routes to include Donard, Hollywood and Stratford.
- Issue with installation of broadband cables in Bray/Enniskerry area.
- Circle K Garage, North Bound, Kilmacanogue.

- New BusConnect Service.
- Dog attacks on sheep.
- Public lighting, Bray.
- N11/M11 plan, closure of Herbert Road.
- Red Lane, Kilmacanogue.
- Cliff Walk task force.
- Communications.
- Hedge cutting.
- Dog control.
- More dog wardens needed.
- Charlesland dog park maintenance.
- Cois Droichid, Greystones.
- Public lighting, Grattan Park, Greystones.
- NTA travel allocation.
- Lack of bus shelter, Blacklion.
- Bridge between Wicklow and Kildare.
- Recommendation that updates of notice of motion to be included in the Chief Executive's monthly management report.
- Request that the Fire Service give a presentation to the Elected Members.
- HAP properties.
- List of public lighting faults.
- Prohibition notices.
- Urban regeneration development fund.
- HSE site, Arklow.

Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services.

ITEM NO. 10

Correspondence

Ms. H. Purcell advised the Elected Members of the following:

- To note the circulation of Circular LG 02/2025 Domestic subsistence rates for Elected Members of Local Authorities.
- Reminder that ethics forms are due back by the end of this month, February.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

CLLR. PAUL O'BRIEN
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

MS. HELEN PURCELL
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 3rd March 2025

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

ON MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

Transcript provided by
D. O'Malley Stenography Ltd.

www.domalley.ie ~ (086 398 0287) ~ info@domalley.ie

1 Proceedings commenced on Monday, 10 February 2025 at 2:00 pm, as follows:

2

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members. Just getting to start here so I will
4 ask Helen to do a roll call, thank you.

5 MS PURCELL: I'd like to welcome everybody to the meeting; to those who are
6 joining us online and in the chamber, particularly the transition year students who are
7 with us today to see how democracy works in action.

8

9 I would ask the councillors to keep their cameras on, please, and members of the
10 public to keep their cameras off, and if you could all go on mute as well, that would
11 be appreciated. Any issues, just contact us. Thank you very much. I will now do
12 the roll call.

13

14 Councillor Danny Alvey?

15 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.

16 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?

17 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Present.

18 MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?

19 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Present.

20 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

21 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.

22 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

23 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.

24 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?

25 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.

26 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Erika Doyle?

27 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Here.

28 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Malacháí Duddy?

29 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Anseo.

30 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gail Dunne?

31 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Present.

32 MS PURCELL: Apologies from Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

33 Councillor Orla Finn?

34 COUNCILLOR FINN: Present.

- 1 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
2 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.
3 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
4 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Present.
5 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Tom Fortune?
6 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
7 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
8 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
9 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
10 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
11 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell?
12 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
13 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peir Leonard?
14 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
15 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Mahon?
16 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Present.
17 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
18 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
19 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy? (No audible response.)
20 Councillor Ian Neary?
21 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
22 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
23 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Anseo.
24 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present.
26 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
27 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Present.
28 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
29 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Anseo.
30 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Graham Richmond?
31 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present.
32 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Lourda Scott?
33 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here.
34 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor John Snell?

1 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.

2 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

3 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Here.

4 MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Stephen Stokes? (No audible response.)

5 And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

6 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.

7 MS PURCELL: Present. Thank you.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. I know it will be a particularly difficult
9 one for two of our members who lost their father, so I am not going to do them but I
10 think if you want to put on your lights for condolences. Councillor Melanie
11 Corrigan.

12 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just want to express our
13 sympathy to our colleague and friend Louise Fenelon Gaskin on the death of her
14 father Noel Gaskin from Greystones. Noel was well-known in the area particularly
15 as a driving instructor and would have taught an awful lot of the young people in
16 Greystones. So our condolences to Louise, her sister Lorraine, six grandchildren and
17 his sons-in-law Frank and Dougie, and brothers Kieran and Colm. Thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Caroline Winstanley.

19 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Myself, Danny and Jennifer would like to wish
20 Mark our deepest condolences on the passing of his father Kevin. Kevin was a
21 family man who was deeply involved in his community. He ran the family farm
22 from a young age, was a parish councillor and was very involved in the local GAA
23 and athletics. Kevin's strong values will live in his family and especially Mark who
24 is clearly a chip off the old block. Our thoughts are with you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

26 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to
27 propose a vote of sympathy to the family of Graham Blanchfield. Graham was
28 actually laid to rest today. A character from Bray. Everybody would know him
29 extremely well. And lost his partner not that long ago.

30

31 Also condolences for the family of Patrick Hannigan. Patrick lived in Hollywood in
32 West Wicklow for a period of time. He is also the father of John Hannigan who
33 would have been the CEO of services here in Bray and would had an impact locally
34 in the county.

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Condolences. Thank you.

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

COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks. Cathaoirleach. I would like to offer my condolences to my colleague here John on the death of his sister-in-law Yvonne, and to Yvonne's husband James, and young Jamie and Chelsea. Yvonne died a young lady a couple of weeks ago, the 18th January. So I'd like to offer John and the entire Snell family my deepest sympathy.

Could I also offer my condolences to the terrible news in Lackan yesterday morning with the untimely death of Ronan Dwyer, a young man with a young family. Again I would like to offer my condolences to the Dwyer family. Go raibh maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Avril Cronin.

COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach. I would like to offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Pauline Allen who passed away suddenly last week in Dunlavin. Pauline was very well-known in the community in Dunlavin. She was very highly respected. And I think the great send-off that she got last week just showed the love that was there for her within the community. And I would like to offer our sympathies to her family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I might ask everyone to stand, unless --

MS PURCELL: Can I just add, sorry, Ann Halloran, mother of our colleague Jamie Halloran and grandmother of Ray Halloran; and Anne Quinn, sister of colleague Kay Coughlan. Thanks.

(Moment of silence.)

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

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I open up the meeting, as we all know our Chief Executive is not here today so I am sure you will join me in wishing her a speedy recovery, and I know she sent out an email. On behalf of all the members I wish our Chief Executive well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Councillor Shane Langrell.

1 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. A bit of good news I
2 suppose. I want to congratulate Mason Melia of Newtownmountkennedy on his
3 recent signing from St Pat's Athletic to Tottenham Hotspur in England. I suppose
4 Mason is an incredible young man who as a child played football with
5 Newtownmountkennedy and moved on to Bray Wanderers, and then in 2022 he
6 signed for St Patrick's Athletic Academy. In '23 he signed a contract for St Patrick's,
7 and wonderful news last week, he has Tottenham Hotspur for an Irish record fee of
8 1.5 million that could raise to 2 million, which is incredible. So I would like to
9 congratulate the Clarke family and the Melia family his achievement. It just goes to
10 show when you put in the work you get a good return. And again, congratulations to
11 Newtownmountkennedy.

12
13 And just secondly there before we move on, she won't like me saying this, down to
14 my left, I would like to congratulate Billy Corrigan, obviously the son of my
15 colleague here Melanie on his amazement achievement over the last few weeks in the
16 Under 20s representing Ireland in the Six Nations.

17
18 So congratulations to both. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am not sure everyone will be pleased he is
20 joining Spurs, but anyway...

21
22 Okay. What we will do is go onto the agenda proper here now.

23
24 So, item number 1: To confirm and sign minutes of annual budget meeting held on
25 Monday, 25th November 2024 (copy attached).

26
27 Just before I look for a proposer and a seconder I just have a brief few words I want
28 to say.

29
30 Obviously on foot of a balanced budget that we all contributed to, and a progressive
31 budget, a new footpath renewal scheme was established by Wicklow County Council
32 in March 2024. As we all know, each municipal district received an initial allocation
33 of €100,000 in 2024 to commence work on the provision of new footpaths or the
34 enhancement and renewal of existing footpaths in the county, and a further

1 commitment was provided at the time that additional funding may be agreed for
2 comment years subject to the Council's overall financial position. Due to the strong
3 financial position of Wicklow County Council at present the Executive and Elected
4 Members agreed on an additional allocation of 1 million under the scheme at 2025
5 budget meeting with each district receiving 200,000. So I just want to acknowledge
6 and thank all the members, that it is as a collective, not an individual, and that it is
7 the way we should be going forward, as a collective.

8
9 Councillor Pat Kennedy.

10 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thanks for acknowledging
11 that as well. I think it is important that we acknowledge when we do receive funding
12 for schemes like the footpath scheme. I think that scheme, if memory serves me
13 correctly min 2024, in the end of the last Council term, and we had 500,000. So I
14 want to acknowledge, like yourself, acknowledge and thank the Chief Executive and
15 the Executive of the Council for increasing that to 1 million whereby each municipal
16 district gets 200,000, if I am correct in saying that, for footpath reinstatement and
17 improvement works. And as you said earlier on, that was on foot of passing a
18 balanced budget. So that's a shared collective then among all the members here, so I
19 want to acknowledge that. Thank you for mentioning that.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I am looking for a proposer?
21 Councillor Peter Stapleton is proposing. And seconded? Councillor Pat Kennedy.
22 Thank you very much.

23
24 Item number 2: To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow
25 County Council held on Monday, 13th January 2025 (copy attached). Proposer?
26 Councillor John Snell. Seconded by Councillor Avril Cronin. Okay.

27
28 We have no disposal notices, so item number 3: To consider the vacancy on the
29 Planning & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the election
30 of Councillor Edward Timmins to Dáil Éireann. So I am looking for a proposer
31 here? Councillor Flynn Kennedy.

32 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: It is propose that Councillor Pat Mahon take
33 that position.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Do I have a councillor for that?

1 COUNCILLOR SNELL: I'll second it.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell.

3 MS PURCELL: Councillor Mahon, can I just confirm that you are happy to accept
4 that nomination, please? (No audible response.) We will come back to you, thanks.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: I presume he's happy.

6 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Hello?

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: We can hear you if you want to accept that.

8 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Yes, thank you very much.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Okay.

10

11 Item number 4: To consider the vacancy of Chair of the Planning & Rural
12 Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the election of Councillor
13 Edward Timmins to Dáil Éireann. Councillor Avril Cronin.

14 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: I would like to propose Councillor Patsy Glennon.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. And Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.

16 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Yeah, I would also propose -- I am seconding the
17 proposal.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Glennon, are you happy enough to accept?

19 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I am.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other nominations? No. Congratulations Councillor
21 Glennon on your selection as chair of the SPC.

22 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you. And I would like to acknowledge --

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to put on the microphone there?

24 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and I would like to
25 acknowledge Silvester Bourke who is also on the SPC with me and has agreed with
26 this position of me taking the chair. Thank you.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're more than welcome. You can switch off your
28 microphone there, please.

29

30 Item number 5: To consider the vacancy on the Wicklow County Council Audit
31 Committee arising from the election of Councillor Edward Timmins to Dáil Éireann.
32 Councillor Shane Langrell.

33 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yes, Cathaoirleach, I would like to propose
34 Councillor Stapleton, please.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seonder for that? Councillor Aoife Flynn
2 Kennedy.

3 MS PURCELL: Councillor Stapleton, are you happy to accept? Great. And
4 everybody agreed? (Agreed.) Thanks.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Item number 6: To receive a
6 presentation: Wicklow County Council Audit Committee end of year report 2024
7 (copy attached).

8

9 We invite Dr Philip Byrne up.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Seamus.

11 DR BYRNE: The presentation has gone dead.

12

13 (Short pause.)

14

15 DR BYRNE: The first one, Teresa. Okay, good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. I
16 want to thank you for the opportunity to do a short presentation to the elected
17 Council about the Audit Committee.

18

19 So I am going to talk about a number of things for about ten minutes, folks, and I'd
20 be delighted to take any questions or comments after that. The first thing I want to
21 talk about is the functions of the Audit Committee as set out in the 2014 Local
22 Government Reform Act, then just give you a quick view of who the members are
23 and the meetings that take place. So there's about four to five meetings every year.
24 And then, to focus in on the number of internal audit assignments that were carried
25 out in 2024 and the proposed ones for 2025. And to finish off by talking about a
26 number of key areas that the Audit Committee deals with on a meeting-by-meeting
27 basis and on an annual basis. And to finish by talking about the external auditors'
28 Statutory Audit Report and the role of the Audit Committee from an oversight
29 perspective in keeping a close eye on the recommendations in that report.

30

31 So ten minutes max for this. So, Teresa.

32

33 So, in relation to the role of the Audit Committee, it is set out in law, and the law is
34 the 2014 Local Government Reform Act. Audit committees came into play in local

1 government following the 2001 Local Government Reform Act. They were
2 amended a number of times since then: In 2005, in 2009, and the current legislation
3 pertaining to all the committees is the 2014 Reform Act. Section 59 and section 60
4 to be precise. There's also a statutory instrument in relation to audit committees,
5 that's 234 /2014. And by the way, it is the only set of regulations for audit
6 committees in the wider public sector.

7
8 So it states about six major functions that we have. And not in any order of
9 importance but just as I see them here. The first one is to review the internal audit
10 function of a local authority, and the review and develop the internal audit function.
11 So what we do in relation to that, folks, is a number of things. So as an audit
12 committee, first of all, we sign off the internal audit plan on an annual basis. We
13 sign off and agree their internal audit charter. And the internal audit plan will
14 identify key areas that the internal audit unit is going to look at in the coming year,
15 mainly areas that are associated with some of the major corporate risks that would be
16 impacting, potentially impacting on Wicklow County Council. Like, for example,
17 cyber security risks or risks associated with GDPR. They're the sort of internal audit
18 assignments that the internal audit section carry out. So one of the key roles we have
19 is to foster the development of best practice. So that includes also looking at, you
20 know, trying to recommend strengthening the role of the internal audit function. And
21 if certain internal audit tasks require other expertise to be used we recommend that.

22
23 So, for example, the internal audit section here use external people to carry out some
24 of their tasks. So there's a private company here that does work on behalf of
25 Wicklow County Council, and particularly difficult ones where you need technical
26 expertise, like, for example, in cyber security. So that's one big area. And at each of
27 the meetings then that we have internal audit will present their assignments and talk
28 about their recommendations and we keep a track on that. So that is a big area of the
29 work that we look at.

30
31 Another area that we look at is to review the annual financial statement, and in
32 particular to review the auditor's report and the recommendations. So that's our
33 relationship with the external auditor. And, as you know, the external auditor is
34 called the Local Government Audit Service as part of the Custom House, and they

1 carry out an external audit on the 31 local authorities. Their primary function, as you
2 know, is to deal with the audited -- or to audit the AFS, the income and expenditure
3 account, the balance sheet and the cash flow statement.

4
5 So in relation to that we would have a meeting when the audit has been completed
6 and signed off, and when they give their opinion we would have a meeting with the
7 external auditor every year, at least once a year, and in particular look at some of the
8 major issues that have been identified in his - and it is a him - in his Statutory Audit
9 Report. I want to talk about a few of those. That's my last slide later on. What we
10 do in particular in relation to that. And one of the things we are required to do by
11 law is to do a report to yourselves, the final governing body, in relation to some of
12 the key issues raised in that Statutory Audit Report. And that report is known as A
13 Section 60 Report. That's section 60 of the 2014 Local Government Reform Act. So
14 we have a relationship with internal audit and a relationship with external audit, as
15 does every audit committee private or public.

16
17 We also have a role in the area of risk management. So we review systems that are
18 operated by the local authority for the management of risks. In relation to that, we
19 would get presentations done for us at each of the meetings by senior staff within the
20 local authority, Director of Service and analogous staff, and we would look at each
21 of the individual risk registers of the business units in Wicklow County Council. We
22 also would give our opinion as a financial oversight group of the corporate risk
23 register in particular. So that's a major part we play. We very much have an input
24 into the risk management policy of each local authority. And all local authorities
25 now are well advanced in the area of risk management and have produced risk
26 management policies.

27
28 Also we have a major role to play in relation to reviewing financial and budgetary
29 reporting practices and procedures within the local authority. So at each of our
30 meetings, Brian, the Director of Finance, comes to all the meetings, he does a
31 presentation on the financial position at each of the meetings, like the difference
32 between income and expenditure. We focus in on the assets of the local authority,
33 the liabilities of the local authority as well. We comment on bad debts and so on,
34 and we give a view on that. And we have presentations on how debts are managed.

1 And we also keep a close eye on financial policies and procedures, and also
2 budgetary control reporting systems within the local authority.

3
4 And the financial area there is to promote efficiency and value for money with
5 respect to the local authority's performance of its function. So you have risk
6 management, value for money, the external audit, internal audit and financial
7 procedures. And the area of value for money, the big area that we look at here is the
8 role of NOAC, that is the National Oversight Audit Commission. That was set up
9 after the 2014 Local Government Reform Act. And they produce reports on value
10 for money annually and they do scrutiny reports as well. They did a report on
11 Wicklow County Council. They do a report on 45 performance indicators that every
12 local authority has to perform annually. They also collate the Public Spending Code
13 Report for each local authority. So we use those reports in relation to areas that we
14 could discover that value for money might be achieved within Wicklow County
15 Council.

16
17 Secondly, you have the Local Government Audit Service. One is to audit the local
18 authorities, the AFS, the annual financial statement, and the second they have a value
19 for money unit. They were set up in 1997 and they produce single-topic value for
20 money reports that we also use in the strive of VFM, and also internal audit as part of
21 their role will carry out exercises that will derive value for money.

22
23 So they're the functions of a local authority: Internal audit, external audit, risk
24 management, value for money and financial procedures. And that of course is the
25 case for audit committees in the public and private sector. It is part of good effective
26 corporate governance.

27
28 Just to let you know that there is a new code of governance launched in July of last
29 year for the local governance system, and it mentions the whole internal and external
30 audit risk management as key cornerstones of effective corporate governance.

31
32 Very quickly, "The Members," Teresa. In relation to audit committees as set out in
33 the 2014 Local Government Reform Act, there's either a seven-person audit
34 committee or a five-person audit committee. And that is based on the budget of the

1 local authority. This is a five-person committee, and in a five-person committee
2 three persons have to be external to the local authority - in other words, not be from
3 the local authority - and two members have to be councillors. So I am delighted we
4 are now after getting, is it Councillor Stapleton? Thank you very much. I just found
5 that out a couple of minutes ago, because we had a vacancy in that area. And
6 Dr Louise Fenelon Gaskin, I am very sorry to hear about her father, is also a
7 member. They're the two councillors. We have Michael Sargant, we have Emma
8 McKernan, who is here at my left, as members, and myself. Okay.

9
10 So again, just in relation to who sits on audit committees. Normally people that
11 would have some financial expertise; you know, either accountants or, you know,
12 knowledge of finance, et cetera. So all of us are accountants and all of us have
13 experience of it. I have had the good fortune of chairing audit committees since
14 2001. So I am currently chairing Wicklow and Cork County Council's Audit
15 Committee this year.

16
17 The Audit Committee spans the term of the Council. So after the elections every five
18 years, after the 7th June elections last year, the audit committee would be set up and
19 will span the next five years and then there will be a new audit committee. And good
20 practice is that it should change on a regular basis. Okay, they're the members of the
21 last Audit Committee: Tom Gregan, Noel Savage, Mary Walsh and Councillor
22 Edward Timmins, who I am delighted is now a TD.

23
24 So okay, Teresa. Thank you. And in the regulations it sets out that the audit
25 committees have to meet a minimum of four times a year. Every quarter basically.
26 Now, we have planned about five to six meetings this year, and the first meeting was
27 in January. We have four formal more meetings but we probably might have more.
28 So on average, we are going to have six, please God, each time.

29
30 Teresa, thank you. So just to give you an example of how busy in 2024 - so I wasn't
31 on the Audit Committee in 2024 - that the internal audit section was. They carried
32 out all of those audits. And in relation to each of those audits there would be key
33 recommendations from the audits of grant payments to waste impairments, right
34 down to motor tax, cash count in the Motor Tax Office, prompt payment interest,

1 refundable deposits. Now, I will talk about the other three audits now in one second,
2 but in relation to that, the Audit Committee then will keep a close eye using an audit
3 tracker system of the recommendations, ones that are live, ones that have been put
4 into place, implemented, and ones that are due to be implemented, and if they are not
5 implemented we will ask why. So we see that at every meeting with the
6 recommendations and we have a very effective audit recommendation tracker.

7
8 Now, you can see there's three other audits there. In one sense they're not really
9 audits. It is a kind of checking exercise. Each local authority has to audit the
10 SICAP. That is the social inclusion activation programme. These are programmes
11 that are implemented by local development companies, like Bray Partnership and so
12 on, and the Department of Community, Rural, whatever they are called, require local
13 authorities to carry out an audit of that. Also the local authority has to audit the
14 public spending code. Again it is not your classical audit; it is a rudimentary-type of
15 exercise. But they require a good bit of work as well. And each local authority does.
16 So there will be two SICAPs every year and one public spending code.

17
18 The other audits then will be based on, you know, the internal audit plan and some of
19 the key areas that senior management would consider areas that could be of risk to
20 the local authority, for the internal audit to focus in on.

21
22 So, Teresa, thank you. So this year we have -- at our first meeting we had three
23 audits. So we had, the previous one was the 2022 SICAP programmes for Bray Area
24 Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership. And this year we have already seen
25 the 2023 one. And also an audit on GDPR. And we have a whole range of other
26 audits ready to go throughout the year. And, as I said, we have a Head of Internal
27 Audit and the Head of Internal Audit has access also to private company to carry out
28 these audits. And also the Head of Internal Audit has unrestricted access to senior
29 management and to all the areas that she should have access to in order to efficiently
30 carry out her audit.

31
32 So, Teresa, thank you. So just to conclude then, second last slide. These are the kind
33 of key areas that we focus in on at each of our Audit Committee meetings. So
34 obviously we have to keep a track on the internal audit assignments, you know,

1 because they're so important; they relate to major risk areas that if they materialise
2 could have huge reputational damage and financial damage to the local authority. So
3 we're constantly looking at, you know, what has been implemented, what hasn't been
4 implemented. We're also very aware of NOAC and again these guys are going to be
5 strengthened by the way, and they carry out, they've done about 60-odd reports since
6 2015 when they were set up. And one of them is they scrutinise the performance of a
7 local authority. That means they come in, they actually interview the senior
8 management team, they look at the KPIs, the key performance indicators of which
9 there's 45, they compare and contrast and their new role now, they act like a mini
10 public accounts committee. It's going to be done in camera; you're going to see it
11 live as well. They have no sanctioning power, but their reports are quite important
12 reports. So we keep a close eye on them, particularly from a value for money point
13 of view.

14
15 Obviously a big area we have is on the audit plan. So we make sure that all the key
16 audits are done by the end of the year and with the audit tracker. Another, and the
17 final slide I am going to come in on, is we look at the external auditor's report.
18 Because this is a statutory audit and the external auditor will identify areas of
19 concern. Now, even though the auditor signs off the accounts, gives an opinion that
20 they are true and fair, et cetera, there's always going to be areas that they draw
21 concern to, and I want to finish on that, and we keep a close eye on that. We also are
22 required by law in the regulations to carry out a review of our own effectiveness. So,
23 in other words, we have a review done every year. Normally we will get an external
24 person in to see are we doing it right and what can be improved as well. As I said,
25 on top of that then, we have the area of risk management and also, and I think that's
26 really well imbedded here, and also the area of financial management. And Brian is
27 at all the meetings and goes through at each of the meetings the financial position,
28 and the state of the assets, the state of the liabilities and the debtors and creditors and
29 so on.

30
31 So my final slide, folks, thanks Teresa, is these are some of the typical issues that are
32 in the Statutory Audit Report. And this is the section 60 report that we do. So
33 section 60 of the 2014 Act is the Audit Committee considering what the external
34 auditor has said and keeping a close eye from a governance point of view on some of

1 these issues. So there's some positives and there's some areas that need to be taken
2 into consideration.

3

4 So one of the big issues here, and a very positive issue is, and over the last number of
5 years, that the auditor is very happy with the financial strength of this organisation.
6 So it is very well managed, in a positive financial position last year and the year
7 before as well. But one of the concerns, and it is not just for Wicklow, indeed it is
8 for nearly every local authority that I have ever seen, is the advancement on the fixed
9 asset registers. So since annual financial statements have been produced following
10 the 2001 Local Government Reform Act one of the challenges for local authorities is
11 giving an accurate figure on their assets. So through the financial management
12 systems, the system here, they have developed financial fixed asset registers. And
13 there's always room for improvement. That is what he is basically saying here.

14

15 Also, on a very good thing in each of the statutory audit reports the commentary
16 would be on collection rates. And the three big areas are housing rents, housing
17 loans and commercial rates. And again, a very positive figure to mention here is that
18 there has been an upward trend here. That is the case for most local authorities, but
19 not for all. Some of them are still struggling with housing rents arrears, for example,
20 and commercial rates arrears. But there's been a great job done here and it is a
21 positive outlook here.

22

23 Also the auditor, and this is a concern again for every audit, is concerned about
24 unfunded capital balances. And basically, this is where local authorities will go
25 ahead with a capital project, you know, whether it is a road scheme or a housing
26 scheme, and not be guaranteed 110% the funding of that, even though it is a very
27 important strategic project as set out in the development plan and so on. But it is a
28 concern for the auditors in the sense if something goes wrong and they don't get the
29 money they have to foot the bill themselves. However, there's very few unfunded
30 capital balances for Wicklow.

31

32 Another positive thing in these balance sheets, there's a provision for bad and
33 doubtful debts, the auditor is quite happy with the provision that's there currently in
34 the balance sheet.

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So, folks, that's me done. I have probably outlived ten minutes but I am going to stop talking now and be delighted to take any questions or comments or observations you might have, if any.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Dr Philip Byrne. I want to thank you for the presentation and thank yourself and entire team for the work you do on behalf of Wicklow County Council. I open it up to Councillor Joe Behan.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks, Dr Byrne, and I wish you every success for the next five years. I welcome your appointment and I welcome the clarity with which you have outlined how you plan to go about your work. You talked about collections of rent and so forth.

One area I would ask is it possible for you to consider is the whole area of capital levies, which are payable when somebody gets planning permission and they begin their development. I'd like to get an accurate picture at some point in time of (a) how much money has been collected, (b) how much of it is currently unspent. I think it is possibly in the region of €60 million, maybe more.

DR BYRNE: Yeah.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: And thirdly, how much of the capital levy amounts that's payable has not been collected yet. I am not sure if that's a job you can do or whether it is something I need to ask the finance officer, or the Director of Finance to look at, but I do think it would help us when we are looking at allocating money for various capital projects, when we're designing a new capital levy scheme which I believe we will be doing reasonably soon, we would be interested to know how much money are we holding on to and how much are we still owed for developments throughout the county. Otherwise, thank you for your presentation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: What I will do, doctor, is I normally take it in groups of three.

DR BYRNE: Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: At the moment I only have two. So, Councillor Tom Fortune.

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks for your presentation. My question is very simple: I am just curious what is an audit on GDPR and how is that done? I am just curious.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, I thought I had two, late arrival. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

1 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again thank you for
2 the presentation. Just a couple of -- maybe you could speak to, an audit VFM world.
3 Value for money is all-encompassing but is there any challenges or any reflections
4 on the challenge around the balancing cost and quality,? And maybe perhaps the
5 procurement process, and where that, you know are we smoothly dovetailing those in
6 terms of VFM or is there any tension in that space? Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, doctor.

8 DR BYRNE: Okay. Thank you. Well, first of all, I am only new to here so I won't
9 be able to answer that. Thank you very much for that. It is a very, very valid issue.
10 It is mentioned in detail in the Annual Financial Statement about the development
11 levies, but in other local authorities that I have chaired the audit committees we have
12 had specific audits carried out covering those specific themes. I think they are very
13 valuable themes. And maybe we can look at that, Brian. I know it is mentioned in
14 the AFS. I don't know if there was a previous internal audit examination of them in
15 detail, was there?

16 MR GLEESON: Not on the levies themselves, but, as Philip mentioned, it is in the
17 AFS. In note 10 in the AFS report, which obviously is published, it outlines the
18 development levies for the end of 2023, which was 23.7 million. The outstanding to
19 be collected is under our debtors, which is in Note 5, and that figure is 12.4 million.
20 So that's applied obviously when we finalise our 2024 AFS towards the end of March
21 and that'll be brought to the members probably the May meeting, and we will have
22 updated figures in relation to the contributions at that stage. Thank you.

23 DR BYRNE: Yeah, just in relation to GDPR. It is a massive, big area. Basically
24 Crowley's did the examination of that, and will be checking, doing sample testing of
25 compliance. It is all about compliance. To see that Wicklow County Council are
26 compliant with the GDPR regulations, and the European GDPR, in areas like
27 housing, planning, roads, et cetera. And it is very intricate, the whole compliance
28 aspect. It is a compliance check basically to see that they are not doing something
29 that they shouldn't be doing, that is where it came from. I don't have a break-down
30 of the actual report four, but it is quite technical let me add, you know. That, in other
31 words, they're not giving out people's names that they shouldn't be giving out and so
32 on. That sort of stuff, you know. And they gave a very good, reasonable assurance
33 that Wicklow are compliant with GDPR in all their service areas overall.

34

1 Now, value for money, that is a tough question. The hardest one. It is a grey area.
2 And, you know, what is value for money? It talks about efficient use of resources,
3 effective use of resources, and economic use of resources. It is about inputs and
4 outputs, et cetera. But there are a number of things that we could -- you know, that
5 we can look at going forward. For example, these local government audit services,
6 value for money unit audit services, have areas that could be looked at. One is the
7 whole area of corporate estate management, another is fleet management. You
8 know, there are specific areas and they have come up with best practice on how to do
9 it, you know in various areas. Like, for a certain type of fleet is it for efficient and
10 effective to hire versus to procure, versus to rent and so on. That sort of stuff. And
11 so, that is where we would go to basically to look at, is there specific areas? And
12 yes, there are specific areas that have been looked at by NOAC. Now, the
13 procurement is a big area as you know, right. And the auditor is quite happy of the
14 advancement here in relation to procurement, and overall, the public sector, and
15 particularly in local government. So that is an area where there is value for money
16 happening anyway, you know. But there can be single-topic areas like fuel use, fleet
17 management, lighting, heating and so on, that you can look at as well where you can
18 specifically measure these inputs and outputs. Okay.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

20 DR BYRNE: Thank you very much.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have no more speakers. So I am examining to invite the
22 Deputy Chief Executive in just to say a few words.

23 MR NICHOLSON: I just want to thank Philip and his team, Emma McKernan,
24 Michael Sargant and Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin for all the work they have
25 done over the past six months, and to welcome the new team. Also to welcome
26 Councillor Stapleton as the new member. And I have to mention the outgoing Audit
27 Committee who finished up in June last year at the elections: Tom Gregan (Chair),
28 Noel Geraghty (Vice Chair), Mary Savage, Councillor Gerry Walsh and Councillor
29 Edward Timmins. Thank you again, Philip, for all your work.

30 DR BYRNE: Thank you.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members, we are going to go onto the next item on the
32 agenda, which is: To consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to the
33 Draft Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 and to consider whether to
34 make or amend the plan otherwise than as recommended in the CE report, or not

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

3

4 So you would have all received your copies before you came in. While you are
5 getting ready there, I want to welcome the transition year students from a number of
6 schools. You're more than welcome here today. I am sorry I didn't get to do it
7 before the meeting started. This is a very important meeting now in terms of Local
8 Area Plan, so I am going to get through it but bear with me. It is also my first Local
9 Area Plan. So just work with me, please, when you can. Before I invite the director
10 in, Leonora, I want to acknowledge and thank most sincerely Leonora and SORCHA's
11 team. They have been absolutely invaluable. And that is obviously SORCHA, Bernie,
12 Patrice, Michael, Leesha, Reuben and Christian. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.
13 They have been absolutely fantastic, so they have, over the last number of weeks
14 dealing with us.

15

16 Can I also just acknowledge my colleagues in the Wicklow Municipal District as
17 well, all six of us. You know, most of us come from different political backgrounds
18 but I have to say that the political differences certainly were parked and that we all
19 worked well together in putting this draft plan together. So without further ado I will
20 pass you over to Leonora.

21 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Can I also express the thanks of myself and
22 the team to the members, particularly the Wicklow Municipal District members who
23 really worked well in putting this together.

24

25 The first item on the agenda is to consider the Chief Executive's Report on the
26 Wicklow Town-Rathnew new LAP. In this regard, there are amendments for you to
27 consider. So there are amendments from the Chief Executive and there are
28 amendments by the Elected Members for you to consider here today. I would
29 suggest that we take the amendments in the order that they appear in the plan. And
30 just to note, members, there are some amendments on issues where there is an
31 amendment, proposed amendment by both the Chief Executive and the Elected
32 Members. So we will highlight this to you as we work our way through the plan.
33 Thank you.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just so you know, the first 17 are the Chief

1 Executive's, after the 17 that they will be dual amendments both from the Chief
2 Executive and the members. Just before I start I want to apologise to those online I
3 am going to leave my microphone on for the duration of this, I know they will be
4 stuck with me, looking at me on the screen but we want to keep this meeting flowing.
5 I will be looking for a proposer and a seconder, and obviously we look for it to be
6 agreed upon then. So again, just bear with me. You don't have to hit your mics, if
7 possible, I will take hand in the air for proposed and agreed. I will read out the
8 amendment, as in, what the name is. I am not going into detail, it is in there in front
9 of you, but at any time you want to ask a question or you want to object just hit your
10 microphone then. That's the way it works.

11

12 We will go on to page number 1, and obviously it is a chapter number 3 residential
13 development, and the amendment number CE1, the Chief Executive. So the
14 amendment table: "3.1 New residential zoning." It is there in front of you.

15 MS EARLS: For clarity, members. So you got two documents, Document 1 is the
16 amendments proposed by the Chief Executive and Document 2 the amendments
17 proposed by the Elected Members. So the first number of amendments will be from
18 the Chief Executive's document, which is document number 1.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: And that'll go to the first 17?

20 MS EARLS: Yeah.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: And I will make it clear when we're speaking over to the
22 councillors' amendments too so we're all on the same page. We will start with CE/1:
23 "Amend table 3.1 New Residential Zoning." It is there in front of you. So I am
24 looking for a proposer and seconder. Then if we are agreed. Councillor Snell and
25 Councillor Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.) Okay.

26

27 I know this sounds tedious but let's get through it.

28

29 Amendment CE2, that is just a recommendation, isn't it?

30 MS EARLS: Yeah.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: A proposer and seconder? Still on page number 4 now. I
32 have a slightly different document.

33 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Which way are we?

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Page number 4.

1 MS EARLS: We're on page number 4, and this section 2.2, chapter 4, "Economic
2 Development." Sorry, we're Chief Executive's Amendment No. 2, "Residential
3 Objectives." And this is the insertion of a new objective to promote and facilitate the
4 development for a range of residential development types. It is on page 4 of
5 document number 1.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah. So can I have a proposer and a seconder? Councillor
7 Alvey, Councillor Richmond. Agreed? (Agreed.) Okay.

8

9 The next one then is page 58, am I right?

10 COUNCILLOR SNELL: No. Still on page 4.

11 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: We're page 5.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: There's two on page 4.

13 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah. I'll propose.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're on page 4, section 2.2.

15 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: 2.2.

17 COUNCILLOR SNELL: "To facilitate and support Wicklow Town Centre Rathnew
18 Village Centre as priority locations."

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're on No. 3 now.

20 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: We have Councillor Snell. Secunder, Councillor Langrell.
22 Agreed? (Agreed.)

23

24 Sorry, about this members. No. 4: "Wicklow Town Centre Strategy Objectives." I
25 am happy enough to propose that. Do I have a seconder? Councillor Richmond.
26 Agreed? Yeah? (Agreed.)

27

28 No. 5: "Rathnew Village Centre Strategy Objectives." Councillor Snell.

29 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to second that. Agreed? (Agreed.)

31

32 No. 6: "Rathnew Village Centre Strategy Objectives."

33 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Councillor Alvey. Agreed? (Agreed.)

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No. 7: "Rathnew Village Strategy Centre Strategy." Again, a proposer?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: I'll propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell and Councillor Richmond. Agreed?
(Agreed.)

No. 8, again: "Rathnew Centre Village Strategy. Maps as follow." A proposer?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Go ahead, yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Councillor Richmond. No. 9 -- agreed?
(Agreed.)

No. 9, okay: "Key regeneration areas. Wicklow Rathnew." I propose that. Any
seconders? Councillor Richmond. Agreed? Agreed.)

No. 10: "Opportunity sites." Any proposer?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Seconded? Councillor Richmond.
Agreed? (Agreed.)

Okay. So we are on page 10, and we are on No. 11: "Transport Objectives."
Councillor Langrell is proposing. I am seconding it. Agreed? (Agreed.)

No. 13, again more transport objectives. Proposed? Councillors Richmond.
Seconded? Councillor Alvey. Agreed? (Agreed.)

No. 14: "Flood and coastal erosion." Proposed? Councillor Alvey. And I will
second that. Agreed? (Agreed.) Okay.

No. 15: "Section 11.1 zoning objectives." A proposer?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Seconded? Councillor Richmond.
Agreed? (Agreed.)

Okay. No. 16: "Section 11.1 zoning objectives." Again. Proposed? Councillor

1 Richmond. Seconded? Councillor Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.)

2

3 No. 17: "Section 11.1 zoning objectives." Again. Proposed? Councillor Langrell.
4 Seconded? Councillor Richmond. Agreed? (Agreed.)

5

6 No. 18: "Waterfront zoning objectives." Proposer? Councillor Alvey. Seconded?
7 Councillor Langrell. Thank you. Agreed? (Agreed.)

8

9 No. 18, yeah. This is the start of the other ones, is it? So I am going to ask Sorcha to
10 come in here now so we're all on the same wavelength and page.

11 MS WALSH: Can you hear me? Thank you, Cathaoirleach. This is just to clarify
12 for the members that Proposed Amendment No. 18 is related to Proposed
13 Amendment No. 31. They both essentially relate to the same land but because two
14 changes need to be made to the plan to reflect the change, it is recommended. I just
15 wanted to flag that for you.

16

17 The change essentially is related to zoning an additional piece of land behind the old
18 Veba factory down at the Murrough. Previously the land directly behind the Veba
19 factory was all located within the protected European site and therefore could not be
20 zoned. However, the boundaries of the European site have now been amended so
21 there's a small area of land that is outside of the protected zone. That is the kind of
22 hard surface yard that you probably know, that is in behind the factory. The Chief
23 Executive is recommending that the land can be zoned waterfront zone and it also
24 can be identified as being within the mixed use area within the waterfront zone. So
25 they're essentially the two changes, Cathaoirleach. So Amendment No. 18 relates to
26 the waterfront zone objective and No. 31 then relates to the other aspect, which is the
27 zoning. But if you pass them, if you pass it now essentially you can pass through the
28 other one quickly when we reach No. 31.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I think we have proposer and seconder? Do we? And
30 it is agreed. Agreed? (Agreed.)

31

32 You might just let me know when we come to the dual ones. I am going to use both
33 documents if you don't mind.

34

1 Okay. So we're going on to 19. This is a dual one. So this is the first one for
2 Tinakilly, I think, is it? On page 14 of the document number 1, and we have an
3 amendment in from Councillor Shane Langrell and, I second it, for Tinakilly. So if
4 you want to have a quick look at it there.

5 MS WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will run through it very quickly. So the
6 Chief Executive under Chief Executive Recommendation No. 19 has recommended a
7 change to the wording of this specific local area, this Specific Local Objective No. 2,
8 which relates to Tinakilly. You will see in the text there, the blue text that is struck
9 out is the proposed change and the red text is the new text proposed. In the draft plan
10 it states that the Rathnew Inner Relief Road should be constructed in full by the
11 developer from Clermont Grove to Tinakilly Park, and the development of the road
12 be on the phased basis, and so on. You can see there. But given the amendments
13 that the members have just agreed, that we will develop a Wicklow Town-Rathnew
14 Local Transport Plan, we are recommending that the design, delivery process,
15 funding and so on should be teased out through the Local Transport Plan. That will
16 assess and address all the road objectives that are in the adopted plan. So we are
17 recommending that this change be made to this objective.

18
19 And the other proposal that's from the members relates to SLO2 as well but it relates
20 to a different issue. It relates to the open space delivery within the SLO. So perhaps,
21 Cathaoirleach, if the member who is proposing that wants to outline that, it's in the
22 document in front of you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is very simple. I have seconded it, so unless Councillor
24 Langrell wants to come in. But obviously, and you can contradict me if you want
25 and come in there, when we looked at this we looked at the size of the estate going
26 in, and what was paramount to our own discussions among the collective six is
27 community gain, and we felt that with the size of the estate going in that we wanted
28 to see more facilities going into the estate. So a number of sporting facilities has
29 been agreed to go into this estate. Councillor Langrell, would that be a fair statement
30 to make?

31 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: That's fair, Cathaoirleach, yeah. Absolutely, yeah. I
32 am okay with that.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell?

34 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach, because the next amendment

1 should really be taken with this one as well. The next one is an amendment that I
2 had in myself with Councillor Danny Alvey, and we will be withdrawing that
3 amendment.

4
5 Just to give a bit of background to this. Tinakilly that most of you will pass by on
6 your way home, phase 1 and phase 2; phase 1 is 352 units, phase 2 is roughly in
7 around the same. We felt that there wasn't enough community gain from what's been
8 put in place in Tinakilly in existence and into the future. So if you look at the Chief
9 Executive's Report, the only thing that really is reflective in that is that they will have
10 to have an on-site creche, they will leave the fairy tree in situ. In regards to the land
11 for recreation and sport, really we felt very hard done by within the community.
12 That phase 1. There was pitches, there was courts to be produced in phase 1 which
13 never materialised, and that was the old plan, 2013-2019. If you take 700
14 houses -- and the developers of this have already built the housing estate of almost 50
15 units called Clermont Grove, they're in the process of building a number of units in
16 Wicklow Town at mariner's point. And we all felt as a collective that we need to
17 have community gain. And you will see that reflected in all these amendments that
18 come up here because we only get one chance in this. At the end of the day you will
19 be told it is your plan as councillors, it is your plan so you put your stamp on it and
20 there has to be community gain, and that's what we're looking for in regards to this.

21
22 So, you know, the 0.75 hectares will produce a tennis court, a basketball court, will
23 be removing the text of "a national turf seven-a-side-pitch," there will be a grass
24 pitch, there will be a 2,000 square metre playground, but there is an agreement in
25 place that they will do off-site works in regards to two football fields which are in
26 existence within the community and they will put in Astroturf. That's outside of this
27 plan. And that's a contract that's signed up to and will be signed up to, to deliver for
28 the community, because at the moment the various organisations within our
29 communities cannot -- are full to the brim and cannot accommodate a further 700
30 houses without having the recreation and sporting facilities to accommodate this.

31
32 Astroturf pitches mean that you have 12 months of the year activity as opposed to
33 seven. As Vice-Chairman of the Wicklow Football League I can tell you the biggest
34 torment in regards the fixtures list is the pitches are unplayable because of children

1 or adults playing on pitches, they can't play on them on the weekend because they're
2 mucked up to the eyeballs.

3
4 This is a really good plan throughout the whole lot, Cathaoirleach. The community
5 gain is stamped all over this. And before the Local Elections we sat in a room of an
6 awful lot of very disgruntled organisations who were homeless, who have
7 accommodation, whether it be playing pitches or community centres that are full to
8 the brim and needed more. There's a group organised with assistance from public
9 representatives, and I know Councillor Alvey will speak on it in a minute, where
10 they say they have three and a half thousand people within our Local Area Plan who
11 have a shortage of facilities, and we want to address those facilities. Yes, there's a
12 housing crisis. Yes, there's issues in regards to roads and footpaths and we need all
13 this. But you can't put a community the size of Roundwood or bigger than Glenealy
14 on the side of a village called Rathnew and not put in a playing pitch, not put in a
15 play park, not put in the infrastructure for these kids and yet they're being charged
16 over half a million euro for the luxury of living in a community that can't facilitate
17 them. We are addressing that here today. This is good news story.

18
19 I want to thank the six councillors for the work they put into this. I want to thank the
20 planning staff and the senior officials of Wicklow County Council. As a man who is
21 born and reared in this community there still will be an awful lot of people very
22 disgruntled because they were reared here, having access to the lakes, they now will
23 have to commute across what will be a main road, cutting through what is the most
24 beautiful part of the county which we knew as Halpin's Avenue, Tinakilly Lane.

25
26 Cathaoirleach, I will be withdrawing my next amendment on the basis of what is
27 provided. Some of it is outside the remit of this chambers, some of it is outside the
28 remit of this plan, but it is based on contracts and agreements that's in place with the
29 community, and I hope these people will honour it as I know they will.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell. Just before, because there's a
31 number of speakers looking to come in. I wish to thank Councillor Snell for
32 withdrawing Amendment No. 2. I know that is a difficult decision, because
33 Councillor Snell has a lot invested in the area. He's the chairman of Rathnew FC and
34 I want to compliment Councillor Snell for withdrawing it and working with us as

1 well. Councillor Graham Richmond.

2 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just to follow on
3 Councillor Snell, it is to welcome this plan but it is as much what is managed to be
4 agreed does give back to the community. And I think it is important that for
5 councillors in here we realise that we can grant housings, we have a responsibility
6 when looking at a plan but, look, what is the community benefit? We have all heard,
7 and it doesn't matter in what district we run, about how there's a shortage but there's
8 plenty of houses. If there is houses, and there is a shortage in housing, but when we
9 deliver houses we also have to deliver the facilities that go with that. In particular for
10 younger people, they need facilities, be it passive activity but also sporting activities.
11 Because anyone who has young children or teenagers, even younger adults, that in
12 the past year for the majority of January and the majority of November and part of
13 December, generally if it's two nights a week training, matches at weekends, you get
14 nothing. They're called off due to weather because we don't have the requisite
15 facilities to use. And that's why under this plan when there is extra all-weather
16 Astroturf pitches provided this will only aid the community. Thank you,
17 Cathaoirleach.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just to remind members that not everyone is from
19 Wicklow here so I am trying to keep the meeting flowing as well. Councillor Alvey.

20 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to commend
21 councillors in my district for what has been a long and hard two weeks of discussions
22 and negotiations. We talked at length about our differing views and what we think is
23 best for the settlement but we laid it out very clearly for one another. I know it is
24 difficult at times but I think what we have got in front of us is an excellent plan that
25 the local community is going to welcome at length. I would like to thank Leonora
26 and Sorchá and everybody on their team for bearing with us and our long delays in
27 going back and forth to come to the conclusions that we did.

28
29 Look, I think this plan is an incredible opportunity here to right some of the wrongs
30 of the past because we have zoned previously for active open space that wasn't
31 actually realised in the last plan. The approach all of us councillors have taken with
32 this is looking at every residential zoning and seeing how we can look, get
33 community gain for that as well. And you will see that throughout all of the next
34 amendments that we go through, we won't speak at length on all of them I don't

1 think, but I think that is the approach we have taken with all of them here.

2

3 I also hope that it sets a massive precedent for all of the other local area plans to
4 follow ours and for developers across this county that going forward when there are
5 large residential developments we as councillors are expecting there to be
6 community gain. We can no longer continue to keep building hundreds and
7 hundreds of houses in this county without also looking at the opportunities for
8 playing pitches, indoor buildings, outdoor buildings, et cetera, for community use.

9

10 So in regards to this amendment there was 350 houses in the first phase, there was
11 some active open space that was to be realised which wasn't realised as it had been
12 intended. This amendment is to address that. So those playing pitches are brought
13 up to a level that can be used. And in the second phase we have what are called
14 neighbourhood recreation zones. There will be a 2,000 square metre playground. I
15 think this will be really welcomed by the people living there, the people moving in in
16 the future and indeed the wider community. I would have liked to see more active
17 open space in that phase 2 as all of the other councillors know but that is not to take
18 away from what we have here at the end, which at the end of the day is a really good
19 amendment. I want to thank all the councillors on this. I know it will be welcomed
20 by the community.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Langrell, we do have a slight amendment to the
22 first one that I need to get the okay from you on, because you are the proposer, that
23 we are taking out the astro element of the seven-a-side football pitch.

24 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Fair enough.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Langrell, are you happy enough for that?

26 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: I am.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will second it.

28 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Over the last few weeks we had our discussions and
29 we're all in agreement that building these housing estates with no amenities is a no
30 go, and that's an agreement with myself and the other five members. And when
31 we're in those discussions with Tinakilly it was all about community and the wider
32 community. And I suppose it seems that we're always talking football, football,
33 football. Like, not every child plays soccer or GAA, so to us it was important that
34 we have our tennis court, our basketball court and our playground and green areas

1 where kids can kick about in the evenings and what have you. It's all about making
2 sure no matter what part of the county you're from, it's all about making sure that it's
3 a good place to live and not just another housing estate, Cathaoirleach. So, yes, and
4 once again as Councillor Alvey said, I would like to thank my other five members.
5 And, Leonora, Sorchá and your team, you have been amazing support for only in the
6 door I suppose and this is put up a front because no one told me about this last year.
7 But no, I really appreciate it and I enjoy getting through it. I won't be sorry that it is
8 5 or 6 o'clock this evening.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am conscious of time.

10 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're grand. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

12 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Why is this chap from Bray coming in to
13 speak on this issue? I want to make an observation, Cathaoirleach, and it is very
14 much this councillor from Bray. It is very inspiring and enlightening to see the
15 councillors of Wicklow, who it is very clear to me have put in extra hours and have
16 tapped into their extra and unique insight that they have in their areas. And to me it
17 just points out the flaw of me sitting here and having an equal vote on this. So the
18 Wicklow MD are a minority in the room today for their own LAP. And I just want
19 to put on record that I think that is deeply flawed in terms of the process. It is
20 brilliant to see it in action, brilliant to hear about how it happens and I think that can
21 be done on a presentation on any meeting, but the detail and the process and the flow
22 of it, it just feels a little bit off for me. Because I wasn't at the meetings, who I am to
23 come in on an amendment and say actually, I have a view on that? I legitimately
24 have the right to have a view on it but I think there is a flaw in there. I say that in
25 advance of the Bray Local Area Plan which will be the same as Greystones and
26 Arklow and Blessington.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: I hope someone else is sitting here when that comes around.
28 We are getting through it and I do apologise and I accept everyone's understanding
29 that we are going through Wicklow and Rathnew, and it might be a bit tedious but
30 we will give the same courtesy as an MD to all the other MDs when they get here as
31 well. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

32 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, and I won't delay. And
33 I know this came as a quick comment. But our districts boundary each other and that
34 is why, for me, it is coming here. Because a decision could be made in Wicklow that

1 sits on the boundary of another district that sits on the boundary of another district.
2 And while I absolutely respect the six Wicklow getting into the detail of this, and we
3 have been lucky enough to get feedback from our colleagues, I do think, Councillor
4 O'Brien, this is a place to rubber stamp it. Just to make sure where districts are
5 boundarying each other that there is nothing happening very closely in one area that
6 potentially -- but I do agree with you that the main discussion should be happening in
7 the district itself. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Plus the fact we don't get it all right in every district. We're
9 happy for people to have input in. It happens to be my district, but I didn't pick it
10 that way.

11

12 Councillor Gail Dunne, I think you want to come in online there.

13 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Yeah, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to compliment
14 my fellow councillors. We don't agree on everything, but we have talked through the
15 different amendments. We have tried to cover the different ground. But the big
16 thing, as Councillor Snell said, we really want a community gain. There's housing
17 being built. So it is really that we as a group decide what we are going to do and
18 make sure that all of the team are there to make sure that the people in Wicklow
19 Town-Rathnew have pitches, playing facilities, everything. Thank you.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. In fairness to Councillor Dunne, although he has
21 to do a lot of things online and on the phone, so for that man to step up to the mark
22 on this occasion as well was exceptional and I think extra praise should go to
23 Councillor Dunne for his input give what he's going on as well. That's enough the
24 back clapping. We will move on.

25

26 Leonora, do you want to explain how we're going to do this because obviously
27 there's a withdrawn amendment?

28 MS EARLS: Cathaoirleach, first of all, the Chief Executive has no opposition to this
29 proposed amendments. So what we will be looking for the members to do now is
30 that the Elected Members Amendment 1A is the one that is before you, proposed by
31 Councillor Shane Langrell and seconded by Councillor Paul O'Brien. The Elected
32 Members Amendment 1B which was proposed by Councillor John Snell has been
33 withdrawn by Councillor John Snell. So what you are voting on now is the Elected
34 Members 1A, and that's the proposal to do with the provision of the mixed gain area

1 of 0.75. You are also voting on the Chief Executive's amendment, and that is with
2 the change of wording in relation to the delivery programme in relation to the
3 transportation plan. So it is amendment Chief Executive 19 and Elected Members
4 No. 1A.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: And the astro.

6 MS EARLS: And the astro is out of the 1A.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So we have proposer, we have a seconder. Are we
8 agreed on what Leonora just said there? Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you. We should
9 get through them quickly.

10

11 We're on No. 20 on page 14. Okay. "Amendment SLO 3." So we're on No. 20,
12 which is on page 14, and that corresponds then with page number 5, would that be
13 right? So this is proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Shane
14 Langrell. So you would have all got it. All the rationale is there as well. We have a
15 proposer. Councillor Miriam Murphy, sorry I beg your pardon. Do you want to
16 come in there, Councillor Murphy?

17 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yeah, no, sorry, just to make the observation. I suppose
18 when all districts are to be ...(inaudible)... with our population, would this be
19 incorporated into our County Development Plan? Community focus ...(inaudible)...
20 not somebody who is into GAA. And also on housing, not everyone going to have
21 transport... Do you know what I mean? But surely there's a requirement in our
22 County Development Plan ...(inaudible)... Thank you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Just to reiterate there, that the six of
24 us did look beyond GAA and football, and we did --

25 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Absolutely.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: -- insist on the likes of the playgrounds, basketball courts, and
27 also the location of where the lands were being zoned because we didn't want to have
28 them miles away from the town or village where they're not accessible unless you
29 have transport. That was all taken into consideration, councillor. Okay. Thank you.
30 So I do have a proposer here from Councillor Snell and Councillor Langrell. Are we
31 agreed? We're on page number 5. Agreed?

32 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: No, sorry, chair.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to hit your button, councillor? Councillor
34 Doyle.

1 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Could I request just some further
2 information about the impact on the CEO's response stating that there would be a
3 conflict with protection of river environment and the protection of mature
4 vegetation? Can I get a little bit more information about that, please?

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Well, what I might do is I might ask councillor -- Danny, did
6 you want to come in? I might ask the proposer to come in once Councillor Alvey
7 speaks. Go ahead.

8 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: I was getting a bit confused. So we were working our
9 way through the Chief Executive's one but now we've move onto the elected ones,
10 but there's still one in the Chief Executive?

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: It is dual.

12 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Apologies.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. If you switch off your microphone.

14 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: No, no, on this one here in terms of
15 elected -- EM2 -- we're on EM2?

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

17 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: EM2.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

19 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Look, as Councillor Snell is aware I do have concerns
20 about this and I wouldn't be supportive of this amendment. I think it is a really good
21 development that we have these buffer zones now on all our streams and rivers. I
22 know it is only a very small amount of residential that has been increased and I
23 understand why they are doing it but just from an environmental perspective I
24 wouldn't be supportive of this amendment.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: What I am going to do is invite Councillor Snell in as the
26 proposer, and then maybe if there's no other speakers we will be going to a vote on
27 this.

28 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah. So thanks, Cathaoirleach.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: John, sorry. I hit the wrong button. Go ahead, John.

30 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again just to explain because it is
31 very difficult for members who are not looking at the area looking at colours on the
32 map. So to identify where I am talking about, this is from Rathnew to Glenealy
33 Road, as you come the old N11, the railway bridge is up on your left-hand side.
34 There's a really bad bend there. You can see some of it is in this drawing but not all

1 of it. All the houses on the opposite side, existing residential, are all on septic tanks.
2 They were hoping to tap into the proper sewerage line on the other side. A planning
3 application was in on this site already, I think in the region of 60 houses. I must also
4 bring the members' attention to that this was residential. We're not proposing this to
5 go from Residential 2 to Residential 1 like a lot of the other applications you will see
6 coming next. This is remaining Residential 2. Residential 2 cannot be built on until
7 70% of Residential 1 is developed. Also, this land here, there's 100 metres of this
8 land, you will see the motorway in white to the left of the graph as you look at it.
9 There has to be a 100-metre buffer zone for any development to allow for the new
10 potential of the new road. That would come from, driving Ashford into Rathnew at
11 John Linnane's garage, potentially down the road there will be a road coming across
12 the back of Charvey Lane to come out on the Glenealy Road. That is a 100-metre
13 buffer zone of this land which is zoned residential that is will never be built on. You
14 also have in this plan, which was never in previous plans, a 25-metre buffer zone
15 from all streams. And again, that's there for the protection into the future. But I
16 must remind members I am around here long enough to say that in 2013 we sat down
17 and we were given flood risk assessments on all lands and it was the last word, and
18 now we're told that it's not the last word, that, you know, there's new plans out.

19
20 So this residential, it's not going anywhere on anything that's at threat of flooding. It
21 is very minimal in regards to the residential, to maximise, because the
22 previous -- there was lands that go further south towards Rathnew. So it will take the
23 bad bends off the road. It will put in footpaths and connectivity from the Glenealy
24 side into Rathnew. The development will sit for potentially the next four to five
25 years until all the other developments are done. This is open and subject to a
26 planning application. So we are not the arbitrators on planning here. We are only
27 zoning. It's up to the landowner to prove in regards that they will have to wait for the
28 design of the road which I have said to the planners that Wicklow County Council
29 are really putting the cart before the horse here, because the roads are not designed.
30 The roads are not designed. And whether it's Rathnew Inner Relief Road or the road
31 from John Linnane's garage to bring you across to the Glenealy Road they're not
32 designed. But they are putting a committee together to look at that. So I don't want
33 to be too critical. But I have to say that there's very small residential, this is a very
34 small residential in comparison to some we've discussed, some that's happened in

1 previous plans and others that will come after, and this is not going from Residential
2 2 to Residential 1. It will sit as is. It is tidying up the site. It is allowing the
3 residents who are on the old septic tanks to tap in and it will bring what is a
4 treacherous road -- and I am sure the likes of people who are heading south, the likes
5 of Councillor Stapleton and that, who have a to drive through Rathnew, they will
6 know the bend I am talking about, and it will alleviate what has been a death trap,
7 and unfortunately there has been fatalities over the years, one quite recently, and it
8 will tidy that up. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, do you want to come in? There's two amendments.
10 We have Councillor Snell's and the Chief Executive's. We have two votes. We will
11 be either voting for one or the other.

12 COUNCILLOR SNELL: No, no.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to explain that then?

14 MS WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. So there are two separate standalone
15 proposals here. So just dealing with the Elected Members No. 2, that's Councillor
16 Snell's proposal. The first element of that is to slightly enlarge the area of residential
17 zoning compared to the draft development plan. The proposed additional areas, you
18 can see it is outlined in red there at the bottom of page 5, there's sort of a strip along
19 the river there. So the line that Councillor Snell has proposed is set back 25 metres
20 exactly from the river and it is outside of the flood zone as we know it at the
21 moment. And Councillor Snell is correct, we do get updates on flood risk areas. So
22 I would never say that the flood maps we have today in front of us are the be all and
23 end all final maps. For example, only in the last year or two the OPW developed
24 additional maps looking at different climate scenarios going into the future that they
25 want us to take account of. So the flood maps are only based on the best knowledge
26 and the best mapping we have at any moment in time.

27
28 So the additional lands Councillor Snell is proposing are outside the 25-metre edge
29 of the river and are outside the flood zone. However, in the drafting of the Draft
30 Development Plan these lands were proposed and shown by the Chief Executive as
31 being excluded from the zoned area due to concerns we had about the impact it
32 would have on mature vegetation that is in that additional area that Councillor Snell
33 is identifying there.

34

1 The second element of Councillor Snell's proposal relates to adding additional
2 wording about the delivery of the link road that will go from the Glenealy Road to
3 Tighe's Avenue, and the Chief Executive doesn't support the proposal that Councillor
4 Snell has made, which is, rather than allow for the transport plan that we agreed at
5 the last amendment would look at all route selection and delivery methodologies for
6 each of the roads that there would be a separate standalone objective just for this
7 particular piece of land, that this development could go ahead in advance of that
8 transport plan as long as they could demonstrate on application that sufficient land be
9 left undeveloped for a satisfactory route to be established. Our difficulty with that is
10 that that may prejudice development options for this future road has not yet been
11 designed, and we believe that the best way to do that is through the Local Transport
12 Plan which we are committed to starting as soon as possible. And as Councillor
13 Snell points out, these lands are phase 2 residential land. But to pre-determine that a
14 planning application could go ahead on these lands in advance of a route being
15 selected that would deal with all the landowners in the area, the Chief Executive
16 doesn't support.

17
18 Finally, and I will stop talking in a second, the Chief Executive actually has a
19 separate amendment in relation to this same area, which is Amendment No. 20 on
20 page 14 of booklet 1. And that amendment again relates to the Chief Executive's
21 recommended text about the delivery programme for the road. But it also involves a
22 slight change to the map on the other side of this specific local objective area, which
23 is the land up near the traffic lights, near the Aldi there in Rathnew. And that
24 proposal is simply to remove a small area of land from this SLO area. So we have
25 two zoning changes proposed: Removing an area from the SLO area, from the Chief
26 Executive, Councillor Snell's proposal to add some residential land, and then they
27 have the question of what the objective should be with regard to the road and the
28 future transport plan

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that clear? Councillor Snell? I am asking you to be brief,
30 John.

31 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and I am going to be very brief,
32 and I hope to will be able to assist you in doing your job by: I am happy in regards
33 to the -- you know, I met Sorchá and Leonora this morning and to be fair, as a team
34 they're working on putting this transport committee together with senior

1 management. That was knowledge that wasn't forthcoming in regards to the owners
2 of the land at the time when they would have made the submission. They felt there
3 were safeguards in it because it was open to an application. So they were really
4 trying to word it that they would have to demonstrate and satisfy the local authority
5 in regards to an application. And I think based on the evidence and, you know, what
6 you have presented to me to date, that the committee is coming together in regards to
7 looking at this transport, Wicklow Rathnew, you're looking at the roads and that, I
8 would be happy to withdraw that. Because I don't want to bog down the meeting
9 here. And we certainly don't want to be seen to, you know, impact on any of the
10 SLOs. This is a project, and I am glad you clarified it is outside of the flood risk, the
11 25 metres. The 100-metre buffer zone is not reflected in this, but I am telling the
12 members that it is because it is common knowledge to anyone that is aware of
13 development beside the motorway. So I am prepared to withdraw the text and agree
14 with the Chief Executive's text but obviously then in regards to the proposal of the
15 small residential, I think it's imperative that we move this and tidy up that site and
16 alleviate all the other external factors that I explained earlier.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: So, you're withdrawing it?

18 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. And, Councillor Langrell, you're happy enough,
20 because you're seconding it, to withdraw it?

21 MS EARLS: Just to clarify, we will take a vote on the Chief Executive
22 recommendation, which is CE20.

23 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

24 MS EARLS: And we will take a vote then on the Elected Members No. 2, but with
25 the removal of the wording "unless it can be demonstrated in an application that
26 sufficient lands will be left undeveloped to enable a satisfactory route to be
27 designed." That's the wording you had included. We will remove that.

28 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Correct. So you're just removing the two lines.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Actually, sorry, bear with me, Councillor Leonard is in first.

30 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: It is actually just a point of clarification in relation to
31 the Local Area Plan for Wicklow, because I think we're going to probably come
32 across similar things with the Arklow one. In relation to the Local Area Plan and
33 passing it and the traffic plan, like the traffic plan is being done after the Local Area
34 Plan, so does that supersede the Local Area Plan then or how does that work with the

1 Local Area Plan?

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will get clarification for you now.

3 MS EARLS: Cathaoirleach, just to say that the transport plan hadn't been done for
4 the Wicklow Town-Rathnew area, so that is why there is a commitment within the
5 plan to expedite that plan for transport as quick as possible. In relation to Arklow,
6 there is a working document being worked on in relation to Arklow. So the hope
7 would be that that would form part of the actual Arklow LAP.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Duddy.

9 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat. As a point of order,
10 and to echo Councillor O'Brien's remarks, could I suggest that maybe local
11 councillors vote on their local areas and the other councillors who aren't in the areas
12 observe an abstention?

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Unfortunately we can't. People are entitled to vote. There's a
14 process in place.

15 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: I appreciate that. But I would canvass that councillors
16 not in the local area leave it to the councillors who are in the area, who know the area
17 best, to vote on the issues that they have to live with.

18 MS PURCELL: Just to come in on that. It requires a majority to pass the plan. So if
19 only the local area members vote the plan won't pass because there won't be a
20 majority voting.

21 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Just a clarification.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring you back in very quickly.

23 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Just a clarification. Is it a majority of the whole Council?

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

25 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Or a simple majority of those who vote?

26 MS PURCELL: It is the majority of those present.

27 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Thank you.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan.

29 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I have to confess, Cathaoirleach, I don't know how
30 anyone else feels who is not from the Wicklow Municipal District, but a lot of this
31 stuff is quite difficult to grapple with, and when we haven't had the benefit of the
32 meetings you have had. I am trying to get a sense of what the consensus is among
33 the six municipal district members and vote what I think is what they actually want.
34 So I understand what my two colleagues have already said, from Bray.

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Now, in relation to the vote, we're now going to have a vote on two different things. One is the Chief Executive's recommendation and another is proposal from councillors. My question is: Are they conflicting or are they completely different?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: No. Completely different.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I don't want to vote for something and then find that it undermines what the councillors are saying. This is the difficulty we're going to have consistently from now on with all the Local Area Plans, and said it before and I will say it again, it is within our powers to decide our municipal district plans in our own municipal district. We are being hurried along here now as a full Council. In fact, we don't have to do it this way. We are basically trying to grapple with what the councillors want in a municipal district vis-à-vis what the officials want. It is quite difficult to get it right. We're going to have to have more indications or clear indication. For instance, in this particular one now I think Councillor Alvey differs from the other five. So, therefore, you know, we're going to have to make a decision about the balance; where is the balance going to be struck here. And without having the full information on the ins and outs of every proposal, it is actually quite difficult to make a really balanced judgment here. And this is the model we're going to be told we have to follow right around the county. And it is not a good model. And before we get to grips with Bray I'll certainly be looking for us to be deciding the Bray issues in Bray. Because I don't expect people around the county to be grappling with the detail, minutiae in Bray. However, Cathaoirleach, can we get an explanation of what is the difference between those two proposals, why are we having a vote if the majority of members agree with the Chief Executive? What are we having a vote on?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I just say that we are in disagreement on this at the local level, and I am sure -- even if we were in unison I am sure there are some other concerns outside because it has potentially environmental impact here. That is why Councillor Doyle came in and wants to come in again. I am not going to rush this because I know it is important, so I would urge every member to say -- you know I always try and get through an agenda on time, but today if you are not sure of anything I am asking you now to speak up and we will get clarification on it. And I will do my best to get through the agenda but at the same time not -- I don't want members to leave here going what the hell did we vote for. So I will open up the

1 floor as best I can. Councillor Doyle.

2 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just to make the point that while I
3 do agree --

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Your microphone is not on. Do you want to hit your button?

5 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Excuse me. I do agree that a general local consensus is
6 the best thing to follow because the local councillors on the ground are obviously
7 way more aware of the nuance of certain decisions than those outside it. And I
8 would find it frustrating if it were Bray, particularly if people were to vote along
9 party lines rather than out of local interest, interest to the constituents and area itself.
10 But I feel I do have to comment that some things are above and beyond the local
11 interest, and one of those is biodiversity loss. That is not just local, it is national, it is
12 global. So when we take that into consideration we can't just be thinking that it is
13 outside our district and it is none of our business. And when we take votes like this it
14 is a cumulative effect as well. It is a little strip here, it is damage, it is repair an area
15 there. We have to look at it cumulatively. I just wanted to make that point. Thank
16 you, Cathaoirleach.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And I agree with you. That is why I said what I
18 said a few moments ago. Councillor Stokes.

19 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I
20 don't know if this is possible but could I make a suggestion that the six municipal
21 district councillors for Wicklow vote first, that way the rest of us will have an idea in
22 terms of the consensus, you know the rest of us would know.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am not going to cut you off but I think you will find out very
24 quickly when there's no consensus, that we just happened to see a few seconds ago
25 when Councillor Alvey came in straight away. I don't want to be in the middle of a
26 vote and all of a sudden -- plus I want to give people the opportunity to their speak
27 on it and ask the question, if they're not sure by the time we're voting on it, it will be
28 too late to get clarification on it.

29

30 Just for the members' sake going forward, we are in agreement on a lot of the issues
31 here. There is probably two or three we're not in agreement and you will find out
32 very quickly what they are. Councillor Flynn Kennedy.

33 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and just a point
34 for note and the record. Just in relation to the calls for districts to decide this. We

1 have a situation in Newtownmountkennedy where half of it sits in the Greystones
2 Municipal District and half sits in the Wicklow Municipal District. So it is not as
3 straightforward as districts just decide what happens in an area, and I would be
4 fundamentally against us doing it like that.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I bring everyone in. We are where we are. The
6 process is where it is today. And can you please work with me to get through it
7 today? And if we have to learn from it going forward I certainly will listen to
8 members. We are where we are today. Let's get through it.

9

10 Can I ask Councillor Lourda Scott to come in, and then I will ask Councillor Snell.

11 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I wasn't going to speak but I
12 want to say on the record we're all here as members of the 32 councillors in Wicklow
13 County Council, and we all have a voting responsibility to vote on this. And again, I
14 am mindful that the Greystones area plan will be coming up, we boundary with Bray.
15 So a decision taken in one area does have an knock-on effect in other areas, and none
16 more so than when it comes to a decision taken regarding the wide issues
17 biodiversity, et cetera, as Councillor Doyle referred to. I am also quite mindful that,
18 you know, if precedents are set in Wicklow Local Area Plan, for example, it could be
19 pointed to us when decisions are made when other Local Area Plans are coming up
20 for decision. I would just suggest that we be very mindful of the opinions of local
21 councillors. We also do have to make up our own mind about this. Before we take a
22 vote on this one just to be very clear as to what we are voting on because I am a little
23 bit confused at this moment. Thank you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're not the only one. We will get clarification for you.
25 Councillor Snell do you want to come back in there very quickly?

26 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, I do. So it is quite clear, the text in red that was
27 recommended as being withdrawn from it and we're going along with the Chief
28 Executive's recommendation, that is separate to this vote here. The vote that we're
29 talking about is the residential. And I want to be very, very clear in what I am saying
30 here. There's 25 metres protection for the stream in there, it's over 82 foot. Now if
31 we're saying because it's, you know -- it's either in the 25 metres or it's outside the 25
32 metres. It's the same with the National Transport Authority when they assist on the
33 100-metre buffer zone, the 300-foot plus. You can't come within that. So this
34 development that's being proposed is not coming within the 25 metres. And if there's

1 people proposing because it is, you know, within a couple of metres of the 25 metres,
2 like, we're rewriting, we're rewriting the rules here. Twenty-five metres is there to
3 protect the stream. It wasn't there in 2013 to 2019. So we're recalculating the land to
4 reflect -- and I just have to put that on record.

5
6 In regards to biodiversity, you know when I was a child and played in Tinakilly most
7 days of the week, the same with the lands around Broomhall, Birkeen, there was
8 loads of biodiversity there that was lost. And same when we get to your own Local
9 Area Plans. You cannot build houses without losing greenfield space. That's the
10 idea of it. Unfortunately. I am on the side of Councillor Doyle and that, and
11 Councillor Alvey as well in regards to protecting what we have. But that's why the
12 25 metres is reflective in this. The 100-metre buffer zone. So what is on that as
13 zoned residential will not materialise, because there's over 300 foot of that to come
14 off that for a road. We're also losing land at the front to level up the road and take
15 where people have lost their life. I just don't get it, that it is being over complicated
16 in regards to what is being proposed here. So maybe that is being lost because we
17 discussed two proposals at once. But that was withdrawn to simplify it. So thanks,
18 Cathaoirleach.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Leonard. And then I am going to ask
20 Leonora come in with an explanation and then we go to a vote.

21 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: It is just in relation to the 25-metre buffer zone. That
22 was something that we all passed and some of us pushed for in the County
23 Development Plan. Like, it is not just about biodiversity. Biodiversity is really
24 important but as somebody who actually lives on the river in Arklow as well,
25 everything upstream affects the downstream, and flooding and stuff like that. So,
26 you know, a part of the reason is for that. So that needs to be considered seriously as
27 well. And the flood maps aren't accurate. You know, there's a lot of people that
28 don't report flooding or, you know, that aren't put on those flood maps because they
29 don't want their land to be devalued. So there are a lot of reasons other than it is
30 quite complex, but, you know, I think we need to kind of really sustain that 25-metre
31 buffer zone. Thank you.

32 COUNCILLOR SNELL: We're not infringing on it.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And then we will go to a vote.

34 MS EARLS: So because Councillor Snell has removed the wording in relation to the

1 road there is no conflict from that members' amendment with the Chief Executive's
2 amendment, which is CE20. So there's no conflict there. So it is open to the
3 members to agree that if they wish.

4

5 In relation to the Elected Members No. 2 it is as set out by Sorchá with regard to the
6 25-metre line still being there. Thank you.

7

8 So there's no conflict with the Chief Executive at this point, with the withdrawal of
9 that. And then members wish to vote on the Elected Members No. 2 amendment.

10 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Which there is conflict, am I right?

11 MS EARLS: Yes.

12 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: With the Chief Executive I am asking?

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Hang on, Joe.

14 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, the second vote, the second vote,
15 Councillor Snell's proposal is still going forward. This will be the second vote, okay.
16 But the Chief Executive doesn't agree still with Councillor Snell's proposal; is that
17 correct or not? Doesn't agree.

18 MS EARLS: Yeah.

19 COUNCILLOR SNELL: But Councillor Snell is still proposing that?

20 MS WALSH: Yes.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're going to a vote.

22 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah. On a point of clarification, the Chief Executive
23 does not agree with 99% of what's in that document.

24 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I know that.

25 COUNCILLOR SNELL: It just so happens that this has fell second.

26 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yeah.

27 COUNCILLOR SNELL: But if you look at that, the Chief Executive in the book
28 that's there, when it went out on draft display, when I reminded the members, the six
29 selected members that when this goes out on public display for six weeks we lose an
30 awful lot of control on this. This went out in our name. It is your councillors' plan.
31 We met on the Thursday evening and it went out on a Tuesday to the public. And
32 95% of what come back here from the hundreds of submissions the Chief Executive
33 does not agree. Because she's confined to the figures of the core strategy of which
34 we are basing it on 2016 figures, the population figures, the census figures. We're

1 not even basing it on the 2022. So it's just unfortunate that we're discussing that
2 separately. Because you will see in every other recommendation put forward by the
3 Elected Members the Chief Executive doesn't. And it is through no fault of her own,
4 because it's confined to constraints within the powers that she has because she's
5 answerable to ministers and God knows who else come in here and say like they said
6 after two and a half years of the County Development Plan. So just because the
7 Chief Executive said -- it is our plan and we're not infringing beyond the 25 metres.
8 There's a bit of cross wires there. I was one of the ones who voted for the 25 metres
9 by the way. This is not impacting on the 25 metres. So if you want to reject this on
10 the basis, well then we need to go and redraw up the County Development Plan and
11 say actually, you know, it needs to be 35 metres, not 25 metres.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I want to get through it as well. I am going to let
13 people in. Don't worry, Joe. What I want is people coming through here. Not
14 talking across the chamber at each other agreeing and disagreeing. Councillor
15 Behan.

16 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I fully agree with Councillor Snell, and actually maybe a
17 way forward that I could propose is that we take the members' amendments right
18 through from now to the end and then we see what's left. Let's vote on what the
19 members want first and then we can go back and cover and see if there's things that
20 the members haven't covered we can look at them, the Chief Executive's second.
21 Why not do it that way? If it is our plan we should look at what our members say
22 first. I would like to propose that is how we proceed with this meeting. And I agree
23 fully with what Councillor Snell was saying. I am just trying to make sure that
24 everybody else is saying here.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan, I just spoke with Leonora. We will do
26 that. Councillor Doyle.

27 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Just one very quick point about the 25 metres as though it
28 is a magic line beyond passing nothing can happen. The relevant word in the Chief
29 Executive's response is "notwithstanding." So the damage, there's a conflict there
30 notwithstanding the 25-metre set back. Thank you.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am going to ask you to work with me in terms
32 of, it is obviously going to change my format up here a little bit. I am going to ask
33 you to be patient and work with me. That we run through the councillors'
34 amendments and back to the Chief Executive's. Bear with me. I know I probably

1 look silly at time looking for the page number.

2 MS PURCELL: So we're actually looking now at CE20, which is on page 14. So
3 page 14, down at the bottom: "CE20 SLO03." And we have that proposed by
4 Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell.

5

6 Before we go to the vote, do we require a vote or is everybody in agreement? You
7 want to vote. Okay. That is perfect.

8

9 So, if you are in favour please vote "for" and if you are against vote "against." So,
10 CE20.

11

12 Councillor Danny Alvey?

13 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry?

15 COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.

16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Joe Behan?

17 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

19 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

21 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

23 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

25 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.

26 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Malachai Duddy?

27 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.

28 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne?

29 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.

30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin is not present.

31 Councillor Orla Finn?

32 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?

34 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.

- 1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
2 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: For.
3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Tom Fortune?
4 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.
5 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
6 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
7 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
8 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
9 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
10 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
12 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
13 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
14 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
15 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
16 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
17 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
18 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: For.
19 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ian Neary?
20 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
21 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
22 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
23 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
24 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
25 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
26 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
28 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
30 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
32 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.
33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor John Snell?
34 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

2 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

4 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

5 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

6 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.

7 MS PURCELL: For.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: We will do a quick tally and go to the second vote then. Just
9 while Helen is doing that, to make things easier for people, we're going to go to
10 document number 2, which is the councillors' submissions. And that will enable us
11 to get through that quicker and we will go back then to the main document.

12 MS PURCELL: Okay. That is 31 in favour and 1 not present. So CE20 is carried.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: And the second vote.

14 MS PURCELL: So the second vote is on EM2. And that is EM2, Elected Members
15 2, as proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell, and
16 with the removal of the line "unless it can be demonstrated in an application that
17 sufficient land will be left undeveloped to enable a satisfactory route to be designed."
18 Which was withdrawn by Councillor Snell. Are we clear? (Agreed.) Great. So, if
19 you are in favour "for," and against, "against." EM2.

20

21 Councillor Danny Alvey?

22 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.

23 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?

24 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.

25 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Joe Behan?

26 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

28 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

30 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

32 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

34 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

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

1 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.

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

3 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

5 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

7 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.

8 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor John Snell?

9 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

11 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

13 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

15 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.

16 MS PURCELL: Against. That is 24 for, 7 against and 1 not present. So that
17 amendment is passed.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, members. I think we are slightly
19 clearer now on where we're going on this. Okay. We're going to page number 8 now
20 on your document number 2. And this is myself proposing this and seconded by
21 Councillor Gail Dunne. Unless anyone wants to come in there's a proposer and
22 seconder. Is it agreed? (Agreed.) Okay. Thank you very much.

23

24 We now go to page number 10. Proposer, Councillor Gail Dunne -- sorry. The
25 amendment number is EM4. So Councillor Gail Dunne proposed this. Councillor
26 John Snell seconded it. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

27

28 We are going on now to page number 11, which is EM5. This is proposed by
29 Councillor John Snell. I don't have a seconder yet.

30 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I second it.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Joe Behan. Councillor Alvey.

32 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Yeah. Look, as Councillor Snell is aware from our
33 discussions ahead of this, this is another area which I don't agree. From the maps
34 and available information we have, this area is clearly in a flood risk zone. It is also

1 right along the river, and I understand that a minimum of 25 metres is desirable but
2 in areas where we have quite a substantial amount of existing vegetation close to a
3 river I think we should be doing our utmost to retaining that. So similar along the
4 lines of EM2, I am opposed to this EM5.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Snell, do you want to come in here?

6 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Hit the button there.

8 COUNCILLOR SNELL: So again thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is unfortunate the way
9 they're laid out, but look it, so as someone who knows the area, born in the area, lives
10 in the area, I made the point to the planners that unfortunately it doesn't show on this,
11 this map, but for the benefit of people who don't know the area, when you're driving
12 back through here you're see Domino's Pizza on your left-hand side, you're going
13 over the little bridge, there's a housing estate on the left-hand side called Charvey
14 Court. Charvey Court is just in front of the Applegreen. It is an existing residential
15 housing estate. Unfortunately in the corner there's what was a depot let for building
16 materials and stuff, and it is unsightly, it is a dumping ground. Unfortunately the
17 landowners had to clean it up numerous times. It has the potential for antisocial
18 behaviour. All of that map that you have on the screen there now, Chief Executive,
19 is actually going village centre, all of that housing estate and the lands next to it was
20 re-designated as village centre. I made the planners aware that just from that site, if
21 you drive by the Applegreen, you're stopped at the traffic lights at Aldi, you look to
22 your left-hand side, you will notice one little house beside the Applegreen and there's
23 a vacant site beside the Applegreen, that site belongs to Wicklow County Council.
24 And funnily enough, that site is zoned in this plan for Residential 1. And I accept,
25 and I have to be fair to the planners, they have taken out some of that site. They say
26 it is at risk of flooding. So I can say hand on heart, as someone born and reared in
27 the area that I have had four phone calls on a house that was flooded. It was the
28 house next to the Applegreen garage, next to the site, which is the Council's site,
29 which is not down for dezoning, which is actually priority 1 down to be built on.

30

31 And I understand, I suppose, it is in our interest to protect the assets of Wicklow
32 County Council but we also have to play with an even hand and be fair and balanced.
33 So on one hand we're saying that a site that I have been called to on four occasions,
34 that the fire brigade has been called to on four occasions, which is possibly 500 yards

1 away from this owned by the Council is staying within the plan. All the houses that
2 surround this parcel of land have never flooded. Never. They're all built. They're in
3 existence over 20 years. And in fact it would be impossible for this land to flood
4 before the land on the lower side, which is the Domino's site, but the topography of
5 the ground states that it is lower than Charvey Court.

6
7 And unfortunately I am going to give away my age here, I'm 54 years of age, I am on
8 God's earth over half a century and there's been no flooding in that site there or those
9 houses. I didn't get a phone call to go down and help and assist people, I didn't have
10 to walk through two foot of water to go in and assist anybody in Charvey Court. But
11 I did on four occasions have to go to the house at Applegreen beside our site. And
12 when I say "our" I say Wicklow County Council's site. So you can produce all the
13 maps you want, you can put up all the arguments you want but there is no balance,
14 there is no fairness. We're zoning that as village centre. Village centre should reflect
15 that. It should be neighbourhood friendly. It should be a site, whether it is a
16 Montessori, a small school or two houses, but that should be -- we're saying that
17 we're open to infill sites, we need to be build on infill sites. We need to get rid of the
18 nooks and crannies, the antisocial behaviour element within communities. And for
19 the love of God I cannot understand -- and I understand people are looking at maps,
20 but to look at a map and not stand on the site and not talk to the people on the
21 ground, go to the houses on the left and the right, and come to me and I will bring
22 you to the house that's been flooded on four occasions that can't get insurance, and
23 justify your decision that you want to dezone, take out this, never to be built on,
24 leave as antisocial behaviour hub for antisocial behaviour, but we will leave in our
25 own parcel of land because we think it is a good idea.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor.

27 COUNCILLOR SNELL: It wouldn't happen in any other industry. Honest to God.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell. Sorcha, do you want to come in
29 there before I open?

30 MS WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just with all due respect to Councillor
31 Snell, with regard to the flood maps and the different sites that flood in the area, and
32 we have run through these with the Wicklow district councillors, the house that has
33 been spoken about by Councillor Snell that has flooded is clearly identified in the
34 flood maps as being in a flood risk area. There is no confusion about that. There is a

1 house beside the Applegreen which Councillor Snell has experienced flooding there
2 and our flooding maps do show floods. As a developed site, an existing developed
3 site, no decision has to be made about a site like that. It is an existing residential site.
4 So the flood maps don't influence how to zone that piece of land. It is already
5 developed. With regard to the Council land --

6 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Next door.

7 MS WALSH: -- next door, the Council land next door in the current plan is all
8 zoned for residential development. In this proposed draft plan, more than half of it is
9 being taken out of the zoned area, is being zoned open space which aligns with the
10 area at the risk of flooding. So it is not correct to say that the Council owns land
11 which floods is being zoned for housing. It is not. The area that floods has been
12 removed from zoning. So just to clarify that is what the flood maps show.

13

14 So in terms of this land in question, the flood maps clearly show again a high flood
15 risk similar to the house site that Councillor Snell has mentioned a few times, the
16 same level of risk arises on the site that is proposed for zoning now.

17

18 So just to remind councillors about the flood risk guidelines, which are ministerial
19 guidelines that sets out where land is at high risk of flooding - and that is flood zone
20 A and B, which applies to this land - that they should only be zoned for residential
21 development where they pass what is called a justification test. And the justification
22 test is not passed in this case. The justification test relates to that the zoning of land
23 is essential for the regeneration of the town, it is essential for strategic development
24 and so on. So this very small piece of land does not fulfil those criteria set out in the
25 guidelines.

26

27 I suppose ultimately at the end of the day we don't want to be in a situation where
28 new development floods, particularly where we have data that says an area is at risk
29 of flooding. And that is not what anybody wants, and that is what we are trying to
30 avoid. That is the simple fact of the matter. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell briefly, yeah.

32 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Very briefly. You know, there's an existing house estate
33 there. An existing housing estate built. So what do you plan on doing for those
34 people because they haven't flooded since the housing estate was built over 20 years

1 ago, the lands hasn't flooded in over 50 years? But I gave you examples of land next
2 door to where the local authority own. And, yes, I did say, to be fair, you have taken
3 some of that land out, but I did tell you at that meeting that you don't know if it
4 flooded because that land is completely overgrown with trees and briars and dirt and
5 nobody can get in to see what's in it. So nobody has set foot in that site for over 40
6 years. But the land next door has been under 2 foot of water on four occasions. So I
7 am saying to you that this will tidy up our village. We're far from a town. We're a
8 village. We will always be a village. We want to tidy up village centre and that's
9 what this is. Village centre. The topography of the ground on the land that I am
10 talking about is higher than the whole village on the left-hand side. Domino's Pizza
11 right along to the Main Street hasn't flooded, not in my lifetime.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Behan.

13 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I just think when you hear Councillor Snell's local
14 knowledge, it is absolute common sense what he is saying. It is clearing up a derelict
15 antisocial behaviour area. He has set it out so clearly that I honestly think we just go
16 ahead and have the vote. I am certainly happy to second it and vote for it.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. We will go to a vote then.

18 MS PURCELL: So it is amendment EM5, proposed by Councillor John Snell,
19 seconded by Councillor Joe Behan. If you are in favour of the proposal please vote
20 "for" and if you are against it please vote "against." EM5.

21 Councillor Danny Alvey?

22 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.

23 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?

24 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.

25 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Joe Behan?

26 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.

27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

28 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

30 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

32 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

34 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

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

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

2 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

4 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

5 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

6 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.

7 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor John Snell?

8 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

9 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

10 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

12 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

13 MS PURCELL: For. And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

14 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.

15 MS PURCELL: Against. 23 in favour, 5 against, 2 not present and 2 abstaining. So
16 the amendment is carried.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, members. We will move on to page
18 number 14, which is EM6, proposed by myself and seconded by Councillor Gail
19 Dunne. Are we agreed or does anyone want to...? Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you
20 very much.

21

22 The next one is page 16, EM7, proposed by Councillor Gail Dunne, seconded by
23 Councillor Shane Langrell. Are we agreed? (Agreed.)

24

25 The next one is on page 18, EM8, proposed by Councillor Gail Dunne, seconding by
26 Councillor Graham Richmond. Are we agreed. Agreed? (Agreed.)

27

28 Councillor Graham Richmond, we're changing that for the record. My name is on
29 your document but Councillor Graham Richmond is going to do that one. I am still
30 supportive of it obviously. Agreed? (Agreed.) Yeah.

31

32 Okay. We're on now to page 20, EM9, Councillor Graham Richmond, seconded by
33 myself. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

34

1 Just bear with me a second until I get to the next one. We're on now page 23, EM10,
2 proposed by Councillor Snell, seconded by myself. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you
3 very much.

4

5 Page 25, EM11, proposed by Councillor Snell, seconded by myself. Agreed?
6 (Agreed.)

7

8 Second one then is on page 27, EM12, proposed by Councillor Snell, seconded by
9 myself. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

10

11 Next one, page 29, proposed by Councillor Richmond, seconded by myself. Agreed?
12 (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

13

14 Page 32, EM14, proposed by Councillor Dunne, seconded by Councillor Shane
15 Langrell. Councillor Alvey.

16 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, look, I failed so far to
17 convince you of my environmental reasons for voting against all the other
18 amendments so maybe I might have to put more energy into this one.

19 Notwithstanding, this is the location of Conways timber yard. If you look at the
20 Google Earth image in front of you there. Notwithstanding it is a very important
21 local business, and I understand this land currently belongs to them and they had
22 hoped to expand out into it in the future. They're an important local business that has
23 employment opportunities locally. Indeed, it is really important that we keep
24 Wicklow Port active with enterprise, especially with the Codling Wind Park coming
25 down the line. However, this is right on the boundaries of a special protection area
26 for birds along the Murrough. And we have put a lot of effort into this plan into
27 these buffer zones. Whatever about a buffer zone along the riparian way of 25
28 metres where we're trying our best to support the rivers and streams, this is on a
29 European protected site. And as it reads, the Chief Executive's response is quite
30 comprehensive here in terms of if we vote in favour of this amendment this will have
31 to go to a full SEA, which, correct me if I am wrong, may delay the overall Local
32 Area Plan in total.

33

34 Having spent my childhood down around this area, look, Conways will make the

1 argument there isn't a high nature value on the land as it stands now, I would
2 disagree on that. I spent my childhood walking around the Broadlough and the lakes.
3 I think that whereas the birds may not be nesting there all the time I have seen many
4 birds there. It is a special protection area for birds. I believe if we were to zone this
5 and if planning permission was put in the future there would be a very high
6 likelihood that that planning application would fail. So I feel to some extent it would
7 be disingenuous in rezoning this for employment. And, to be honest, if none of this
8 existed, if this employment opportunity existed here on the edge of the Broadlough, I
9 don't think anything of it would get planning permission in nowadays' climate when
10 we are very much more aware of the importance of special protection areas and the
11 need for buffer zones on them. I will speak a little bit more on that one. Thank you,
12 Cathaoirleach.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: You're more than welcome. Councillor Dunne, this is your
14 proposal, would you like to come in online? I will open it up then.

15 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Yes. The climate action I understand as well. At the end
16 of the day we're talking about 7 acres of land here. The Conway shipping is in
17 Wicklow since 1970 and provided numerous jobs, have offered 4 acres of land and
18 for them to use the other 3 acres. This land will be used for storing Scandinavian
19 timber that is wrapped, that comes in, supports house building in Ireland. And we're
20 the biggest importer of Scandinavian timber within the country. The amount of jobs
21 throughout the town, outside the town, is unbelievable...(inaudible)... 1970, and they
22 said we will give 4 acres of land, we will get 3 acres to store the timber. This is
23 somebody coming in to build something on that, that would be dealt with by a
24 planning application. The Council are not happy with it, they won't be...(inaudible)...
25 I am very, very disappointed. Seven acres of land. Most of the members in Wicklow
26 know it quite well. They know, people like, you know, Councillor Behan would be
27 in around the town, this is equivalent of the...(inaudible)... in Wicklow Town. This is
28 not just like a few feet here. This is a massive area. And in my opinion Conway
29 Shipping, where do we start hearing about people not going off the N11, where
30 people would start -- got mortgages, people who have families, where do they come
31 in all of this? Because they're important too. And they're living in the town and
32 working in the town. You know, doing their business in the town. So if this was
33 rezoned ...(inaudible)... it would be okay, fair enough, but when they're prepared to
34 give 4 acres and to use 3 for storing Scandinavian timber. They are trying to meet

1 the climate action change and everything. And 7 acres is, to me, way too much.
2 Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Scott, do you want to come in there?
4 And then I will let Councillor O'Brien come in.

5 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, for my raised hand appearing
6 on screen. I'm not sure if you could see me. I want to comment on this and I kind of
7 echo really what Councillor Alvey said more eloquently than I will say. I am very
8 appreciative of all the local comments and knowledge that our colleagues down in
9 Wicklow MD have about this area, but so far I haven't heard a convincing argument
10 as to why I, a councillor that doesn't live in the area, should ...(inaudible)... given by
11 the Chief Executive a very comprehensive response to this amendment outlining the
12 concerns which were environmental, but specifically as well ...(inaudible)... And
13 while I appreciate the point about employment, and the argument that Councillor
14 Dunne just recently there has made, I am not hearing a sufficient reason why we
15 should ignore the Council's own ecological consultants. And they have a very
16 significant ...(inaudible)... in respect of the Murrough SPC. The Murrough is
17 important to not just Wicklow, but to people in the surround. We do have to have
18 ...(inaudible)... but also the information that is presented to us about the high risk of
19 present day flooding. I would just advise people just to proceed with caution. As I
20 said, we haven't heard any good reasons yet as to why to disregard that information.
21 I would like, if it were possible, if we could be advised regarding the adoption of the
22 plan if this amendment is adopted, and if then they need to go to a full appropriate
23 assessment, an SPA, proposal, is there any ballpark as to how long that will take and
24 knock-on effect on the Local Area Plan? Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I am going to invite more councillors
26 in first before I get back to the Executive and the officials. Councillor O'Brien.

27 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, this one
28 caught my eye because it is an interesting one in terms of how the proposal generates
29 attention amongst our policies. So we have a policy around the growth of enterprise
30 at the port, the road that was built, the service support. And it is literally in the
31 County Development Plan, promoting growth at Wicklow Port. So then there's
32 tension between promoting economic growth and then protecting the environment.
33 And I came across a couple of examples where Dublin Port and Dublin City Council
34 had a tension around rezoning, and Cork Port also had tension with their Council, but

1 in both cases compromises were found. And I am curious about what Councillor
2 Dunne was saying around the engagement of Conways and compromise, or a way of
3 looking at this whereby it might be feasible to -- and I don't know whether that's
4 reflected in the amendment or whether that's sitting hovering out there. So clarity on
5 that I would appreciate Cathaoirleach.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: What I will do is I am going to ask Councillor Richmond in
7 first because he has light on, but I am also going to allow Councillor Dunne to come
8 back in maybe with that clarification. Unless anybody else wants to come in.
9 Councillor Richmond.

10 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just this one, and I can
11 see on the face of it why it causes some people concern. And having met with
12 people concerned and heard their view and taken clearly the views of the Chief
13 Executive, I have weighed up, when we look at first of all -- we talk about in the
14 chamber about generating local economic growth, keeping more -- you know
15 lessening the traffic congestion. We have heard with the transport infrastructure isn't
16 there because the vast majority of people in Wicklow Town are commuting for the
17 daily work, whereas something like this, which offers extra local employment, thus
18 taking more vehicles off the road. But also you are dealing with an industry here
19 which imports hardwood from Scandinavia, which is the biggest nationally; it
20 services a national interest. So it is not only the local community but it is the
21 national community. And that's why I will be supporting this.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have one more, I have two more speakers. Councillor
23 Behan. Councillor Dunne, just to let you know if you want to come back in I will let
24 you back in in a minute.

25 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thank you.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan.

27 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I mean, up to this point that site has been and is zoned for
28 employment. It is the Chief Executive telling us, no, we're not going to have it as
29 employment anymore, we don't want the jobs that might be created there?
30 Completely contrary, as Councillor O'Brien has pointed out -- although he might
31 have a different view about the overall plan, completely contrary to everything we
32 hear every month from the Chief Executive about protecting jobs, promoting job
33 creation, reducing the need for people to travel out of the town and go up the N11 to
34 Dublin. So for heaven's sake, can we just look at the mismatch that one side of the

1 Chief Executive's office is saying we need jobs and the other side, not alone are we
2 going to take virgin land and turn it into employment, we're actually going to take
3 out of zoning that was already in the plan on a previous occasion and is being
4 worked and will be worked hopefully again into the future to provide more jobs.

5
6 But the second thing I really resent is that there is a gun being put to our heads here
7 today that if you don't agree with the Chief Executive the whole plan is going to stop
8 now, we are going to press pause, because the Chief Executive doesn't agree with
9 what we say, the Chief Executive is now going to say we have to go off and get an
10 appropriate assessment and we can't say how long it's going to take and we don't
11 know how long it will be. And basically, you know, there's two choices here, either
12 do it what the Chief Executive does or do what the Chief Executive wants. And I
13 don't accept that. I think we should go for what we think is a realistic proposal by
14 councillors from the area, including Councillor Dunne, who knows it better than
15 anybody else. But it does not make sense to take out an employment zoning in a
16 county that desperately needs more jobs

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Langrell.

18 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I suppose I am just
19 echoing what Councillor Dunne has just said. I've visited a site there, the Conways,
20 down there last week, spoke to the family-run business. I suppose the employment
21 that the Conways are bringing in. As Councillor Richmond just alluded to, over 50%
22 of the timber that comes in there is gone out throughout the country. As Councillor
23 Behan was just saying, these zoned lands, I don't know it is ten, 12 years ago, we put
24 in a port road that cost, I don't know what the figure is, 10, 12 million, and we need
25 employment in this town. And Conways, all they're looking for is to expand their
26 business. And they're sacrificing 4 acres. Four acres is a lot of land to sacrifice.
27 Like, I will be supporting this. And yeah, I will supporting this. And I would really
28 like the rest of the members to really consider this and support Councillor Dunne's
29 proposal. Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Pat Kennedy.

31 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, correct me if I
32 am right here now because I was trying to keep up with everybody. As somebody
33 who comes from the timber background, and I am just looking at the rezoning, and as
34 somebody who is very pro employment, and I am also looking at the environmental

1 impacts here as well. So I am looking at both sides if I am being honest. So there's 7
2 acres in this site; is that right?

3 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yeah.

4 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: So there's about 28,000 square metres. And they're
5 going to give up 4 acres; is that correct? So they're giving up about 16,000 square
6 metres. So of the 28,000 square metres they're giving up about 16,000 square metres
7 and keeping on to 12,000 square metres to put it in context so people know what we
8 are talking about.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: I beg your pardon, Councillor Leonard.

10 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Sorry, look it, I am a bit conflicted here as well but I
11 do understand and would add a lot of weight to the importance of our maritime
12 industry. We live on an island here. Especially on the east coast, I don't think we are
13 really reaching our potential on the potential of the maritime economy. So I think
14 there's probably -- because of the industrial nature of this, it is very similar to Arklow
15 and the docklands, and I understand the Broadlough and the other environmental
16 concerns, but I think there's scope for mitigation in this, you know, that it can be
17 worked around and through conditioning to any further development of it, and the
18 piece that is left that it could be looked at, and even using the water space to mitigate.
19 So I would be in support of retaining this for the economic side on this occasion.
20 Thanks.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell.

22 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, I will be very brief, Cathaoirleach.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

24 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Just to make members aware that it is actually to store
25 bails of timber. That's what it is. So it is not to construct shed units, industrial units
26 or anything like that. Anyone that's been down there knows what's stored on the site.
27 I am actually aware of a County Wicklow company that's in the process of moving as
28 we speak. I passed two trucks this morning on my way out that are moving 240
29 bales of timber for local employment within the county that's come from that site.
30 And that's two shiploads. I sat down a number of weeks ago watching the ship being
31 unloaded, and to see the employment and the number of people who have jobs in
32 regards to forklift driving, truck drivers, people on the site, and I will always support
33 local industry. It kills me to see the amount of people that have to get out on the
34 N11/M11 to head to Dublin and further afield. So I am fully aware and I appreciate

1 the concerns about the environment, that aspect to it, but this is to store bails of
2 timber. And any application will be open to a hell of a lot of scrutiny and cost a lot
3 of money I am sure to meet all the obligations in regards to the special area of
4 conservation. So I will be supporting this, Cathaoirleach.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Finally I have no more speakers.
6 Councillor Dunne, a lot has been said there, so do you want to come back in?

7 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Councillor O'Brien. They are prepared to
8 give 4 acres of land out of the 7, and that is in the proposal. Wicklow Harbour, at the
9 moment many of you would have known that I fought for the dredging of Wicklow
10 Harbour. Over a hundred ships come in every year. Wicklow County Council run
11 Wicklow Harbour, with ships coming into Wicklow Harbour. We obviously have to
12 pay the Council to use the harbour. So really, you know, the Council have
13 ...(inaudible)... of the harbour. The road out there cost €60 million. So like, why
14 build the road when we weren't going to use it? Do you know what I mean? It
15 doesn't make any sense. And to use it we have to have storage. The ships coming in
16 there, they just can't keep all the timber or all the product on the harbour, they have
17 to move it somewhere and that's what they are doing. Thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I have no more speakers, so unless
19 you want to come in we're going to go for a vote.

20 MS EARLS: Very briefly, Cathaoirleach. I suppose just to say that the reasons why
21 the Chief Executive didn't support the amendment is clearly set out in the report, and
22 we stand by those. They are adjacent to the European site of protection.

23

24 Just in relation to Councillor Scott's query about the time if the amendment is passed
25 and what is required to do the SEA and the AA. We can't say that. We don't know.
26 But just to say, Councillor Behan, we're certainly not putting a gun to anybody's
27 head. It would be remiss of us as an executive not to tell the members what is the
28 next process. And the next process is, with the amendment being passed it does
29 trigger a strategic environmental assessment, it does trigger an appropriate
30 assessment. Both are required to be done in relation to the proposed amendment. So
31 within two weeks of today, if the amendment is passed, we will come back to the
32 members with detail of the timeframe that it will take to prepare an SEA and an AA.
33 Now we have good ecology consultants. They are very, very good. They will work
34 with us to deliver it as quickly as they can. If they can deliver it within the

- 1 timeframe of the LAP they will tell us that. If, for whatever reason, they can't they
2 will tell us and we will relay that to yourselves. We're purely telling you that for the
3 purposes of consequences of if we needed to do an SEA or an AA. So thank you.
- 4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before I ask the Deputy Chief Executive, just
5 for clarification, we had a lot of meetings over the last number of weeks, I think it is
6 safe to say from the Wicklow members we never felt that we had a gun to our head
7 to be quite honest with you. But we did ask, and there was a lot of discussion around
8 this, and in fairness to the officials they gave us the information we asked for. But
9 unless anyone wants to contradict me, I don't think we ever felt that there was a gun
10 to our head on that occasion. Do you want to come in there?
- 11 MR NICHOLSON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. No, I resisted commenting on any of
12 the members' proposed changes up to now, but I feel I have to comment on this
13 having just narrowly survived the worst effects of Storm Eowyn and having seen
14 loads of flooding instances in the county over the past few years. This entire site is
15 within the OPW future climate change areas at risk. That is the only comment I
16 would like to make.
- 17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am going to go to a vote.
- 18 MS PURCELL: Okay. So we are looking at EM14. And that is proposed by
19 Councillor Gail Dunne, seconded by Councillor Shane Langrell. If you are in favour
20 of proposal please vote "for" and if you are against vote "against." And it is EM14.
21 Councillor Danny Alvey?
- 22 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.
- 23 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?
- 24 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.
- 25 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor Joe Behan?
- 26 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.
- 27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
- 28 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
- 29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
- 30 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
- 31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
- 32 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
- 33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
- 34 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

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

1 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

3 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

5 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.

6 MS PURCELL: Against. Councillor John Snell?

7 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

9 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

11 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

13 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.

14 MS PURCELL: Against.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just while we are waiting for Helen to tot that up I am going

16 to propose we do a time extension to half 4. I am conscious of the time here. You

17 will be happy to hear that's the councillors' amendments done and dusted. We will

18 be going back to document number 1 starting on page 16, amendment 21. I am

19 going to propose that we keep going until we get through the full agenda because we

20 have a Chief Executive report to do. Can I have a proposer for that? Councillor

21 Richmond. And a seconder? Councillor Langrell. Thank you.

22 MS PURCELL: So that is 21 in favour, 6 against, 3 not present and 2 abstaining. So

23 the motion is passed.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Okay. We're back on document

25 number 1. And we're on page 16. So we're back on the Chief Executive's

26 amendments. So No. 21, we need a proposer and seconder for. Bear with me.

27 Proposer and seconder. And agreed as usual going forward. Can I have a proposer

28 and seconder? Councillor Langrell. Seconded by Councillor Glennon. Agreed?

29 (Agreed.) Perfect thank you.

30

31 So we're now going to 22, page 18. So SLO 5. Proposer?

32 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Cathaoirleach, just on this Chief Executive's amendment,

33 the six councillors were in disagreement with this amendment from the Chief

34 Executive. So the maps that are reflective there, zoned for schools, for secondary

1 school, it is a site for a secondary school, it is zoned in blue, when it went out on
2 public display it come back short of 2 acres. The Chief Executive has said that she
3 had no disagreement with reducing the site. But as six municipal district councillors,
4 two of which, myself and the chair of the Council sit on the KWETB within our
5 municipal district, and then there's other members within the chambers, most of us sit
6 on board of managements, myself included on three, two secondary schools and a
7 primary school, we know the difficulty with regard to the Department of Education.
8 Every Local Area Plan and County Development Plan we put in zonings for
9 education. If we don't have that provision within our plans and the scope for
10 expansion of existing sites where we're open to like what's happened in
11 Newtownmountkennedy, where land this was zoned 15 years ago ready for a
12 secondary school and yet the Department are only playing catch up, they still haven't
13 developed that site. We need as much zoned land for education as possible. This
14 site was identified as suiting the objectives of the overall Local Area Plan for
15 Wicklow Town and Rathnew, and it was our consensus that we disagree with the
16 Chief Executive by reducing it by 2 acres. Everybody knows that schools are
17 looking for expansion, whether it is a couple of classrooms, they certainly need
18 recreation as well as, you know, the roof over their head in the classrooms. They
19 need outdoor recreational space. And we disagree with the Chief Executive on this
20 occasion. And we want it to remain as what was out on public display and in draft
21 form. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell. And obviously I am in
23 wholehearted agreement with you as are the other members of the Wicklow MD. So
24 in this instance unless anyone is going to propose the Chief Executive's amendment
25 or else you are all against it. We don't need to go to a vote unless somebody is for
26 the Chief Executive's amendment. So I take it that one falls then? Okay. Thank
27 you. Thank you, Councillor Snell, for that.

28
29 No. 23, SLO 6. Can I have a proposer and a seconder? Councillor Snell and
30 Councillor Richmond. Thank you very much. Agreed? (Agreed.)

31
32 No. 24, SLO 07. Proposer? Councillor Richmond. Seconded by Councillor Snell
33 agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.
34

1 No. 25, which is obviously on the bottom of page 21, SLO 08. Proposer? Councillor
2 Richmond. Thank you. Seconded Councillor Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
3 you very much.

4

5 26, "Rathnew Village Centre." Councillor Snell, do you want to propose that?

6 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to speak on it?

8 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. Very, very briefly. This is to move a village centre
9 from, it surrounds Clermont Campus. As a member of the board of Clermont
10 Campus for the screen hub I know the importance of the 55 hectares of land in
11 regards to Clermont Campus and the plans that are happening over there. The village
12 centre, it is more centrally based to move it has it has been already and they're
13 bringing this land back in to use to support the aims and objectives of all the
14 members on the Clermont Campus site.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am happy enough to second that. Okay.

16

17 On 27, again "Rathnew Village Centre" -- sorry all agreed on the last one agreed?
18 (Agreed.)

19

20 27, "Rathnew Village Centre."

21 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Councillor Richmond. Thank you very
23 much. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

24

25 28, "Knockrobin." Do I have a proposer? Councillor Langrell. Seconded?
26 Councillor Snell. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

27

28 29, "Ballybarney North." A proposer? Councillor Alvey maybe?

29 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Yeah.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I second it. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

31

32 No. 30, "Corporation Lands." I am happy to propose this. Do we have seconder?
33 Councillor Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.)

34

1 No. 31, "Waterfront Zone."

2 COUNCILLOR SNELL: That's been passed.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we? Oh yeah, that's the one we've done earlier on sorry.

4 So No. 32, thank you. OS1 and 01. Do we have a proposer? Councillor Richmond.

5 Seconded by Councillor Langrell. Thank you very much. Agreed? (Agreed.)

6 Okay.

7

8 Page 49. 33. Proposer? Councillor Alvey. Secunder? Councillor Richmond.

9 Agreed? (Agreed.)

10

11 So we're going to No. 34. Sorry now, I see them, yeah. Proposer? Councillor

12 Alvey.

13 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Yeah, sure.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Secunder, Councillor Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
15 you.

16

17 35 is the last page. Proposer? Councillor Langrell. Secunder? Councillor Alvey.

18 Agreed? (Agreed.) That's it.

19 MS PURCELL: There's an overall vote.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: But we're finished with the --

21 MS PURCELL: Amendments.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: That's the last. Just before that, I am going to ask Helen to do
23 a vote on the whole.

24 MS PURCELL: So now we're looking at the whole plan, right? So: "The Elected
25 Members resolve to alter the Draft Local Area Plan in accordance with the alterations
26 approved at this meeting and given that said proposed alterations constitute material
27 alterations to the Draft Plan resolve to publish notice of the proposed material
28 alterations and any changes consequent to said material alterations for public
29 consultation."

30

31 Is that clear? (Yes.) If you are in favour please vote "for" and if you are against
32 please vote "against."

33

34 Councillor Danny Alvey?

- 1 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.
- 2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry? Not present.
- 3 Councillor Joe Behan?
- 4 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.
- 5 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
- 6 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
- 7 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
- 8 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
- 9 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
- 10 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
- 11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?
- 12 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.
- 13 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Malachai Duddy?
- 14 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.
- 15 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne?
- 16 COUNCILLOR DUNNE: For.
- 17 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin is not present.
- 18 Councillor Orla Finn?
- 19 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.
- 20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald? Not present.
- 21 Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
- 22 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: For.
- 23 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Tom Fortune? Not present.
- 24 Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 25 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 26 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 27 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 28 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 29 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 30 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 31 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 32 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 33 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 34 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?

1 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
2 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
3 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: For.
4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ian Neary?
5 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
7 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
9 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
11 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
12 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
13 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
14 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
15 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
16 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
17 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.
18 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor John Snell?
19 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
21 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.
22 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
23 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.
24 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
25 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.
26 MS PURCELL: For. 28 in favour and 4 not present. Carried. Thank you.
27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Just before go I to item number 8 which again has to
28 do with the variation, but can I just thank -- to be honest with you, not just thank my
29 five colleagues in the Wicklow Municipal District but to thank every member here
30 for their patience and contributing to the Local Area Plan. Can I just thank Leonora,
31 SORCHA, Bernie, Patrice, Leesha, Michael, Reuben and Christian for all their hard
32 work. When you come to your local area plans in due course you will rely on them,
33 and I have to say they were excellent and we really appreciate their time and effort
34 that they gave us. Again thanks to my colleagues and all yourselves.

1
2 So, item number 8: To consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to
3 Proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 and
4 to consider whether to make or amend the variation with or without further
5 modifications or refuse to make the variation in accordance with section 13 of the
6 Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended (copy attached).

7
8 Leonora do you want to --

9 MS EARLS: So, members, you will be glad to know you don't have to go through
10 all those amendments again for the purpose of variation, but as we have previously
11 advised the variation is being done so that we can bring the Local Area Plan across
12 as seamlessly into the County Development Plan. So for the purpose of today, we
13 will now -- all the amendments that you agreed to in relation to the LAP, we will
14 look to bringing them across now into the Proposed Variation No. 2 again to go on
15 public display. So what we are looking from you now is to do an overall vote
16 agreeing the Chief Executive's Report in respect of the variation which mirrors the
17 LAP.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Before we go on to that, my fault, just going back to item
19 number 7, the actual report. I know we voted on it and I know it was passed, but we
20 need a proposer and seconder. I am happy to propose it and, Councillor Snell, you're
21 happy to second it. Sorry about that. That was my oversight. So we need a proposer
22 and a seconder. Councillor Langrell, do you want to propose item number 8? And,
23 Councillor Alvey, do you want to second it? Thank you.

24 MS PURCELL: This is item number 8 which the Cathaoirleach has read out. So:
25 "The members resolve to alter the proposed variation in accordance with the
26 alterations approved at this meeting and given that said proposed alterations
27 constitute material alterations to the proposed variation resolve to publish notice of
28 the proposed material alterations and any changes consequent to the said material
29 alterations for public consultation."

30
31 That is proposed by Councillor Langrell and seconded by Councillor Alvey. So if
32 you are in favour please vote "for" and if you are against please vote "against."

33 Councillor Danny Alvey?

34 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

- 1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Mark Barry is not present.
2 Councillor Joe Behan?
3 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: For.
4 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
5 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.
6 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
7 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.
8 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?
9 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.
10 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Erika Doyle is not present.
11 Councillor Malacháí Duddy?
12 COUNCILLOR DUDDY: For.
13 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Gail Dunne is not currently present.
14 Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin is not present.
15 Councillor Orla Finn?
16 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.
17 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present.
18 Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
19 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: For.
20 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Tom Fortune is not present.
21 Councillor Patsy Glennon?
22 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
23 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
24 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
25 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
26 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
27 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
28 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
29 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
30 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
31 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
32 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
33 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
34 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: For.

1 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Ian Neary?

2 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.

3 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?

4 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.

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

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.

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

8 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.

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

10 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

11 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

12 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

13 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

14 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.

15 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor John Snell?

16 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

17 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

18 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

19 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

20 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

21 MS PURCELL: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

22 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.

23 MS PURCELL: For. 26 in favour and 6 not present. It is carried. Thank you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. Thank you, members. Okay, we will go
25 back on to the main agenda here now.

26

27 Item number 9: To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report,
28 January 2025 (copy attached). I will revert back now to groups of three. I will invite
29 Michael in to say a few words.

30 MR NICHOLSON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. The report has been circulated. It is
31 a comprehensive 90-page document detailing all the activities the Council are
32 involved in.

33

34 There's a couple of highlights I would like to make. We have been shortlisted for

1 seven projects under the LAMA, Local Authority Members Award, every year,
2 taking place in Cork at the end of the month. We have been shortlisted for seven
3 different projects. We submitted 31 projects, which gives an indication of the variety
4 of work that the Council is involved in throughout, across all the directives.

5
6 One final thing I would like to say, Cathaoirleach. I want to pay tribute to all the
7 staff, indoor and outdoor, particularly the Civil Defence and Fire Service during
8 Storm Eowyn. We did survive thankfully the worst of it. And you will see there's
9 outages out in some counties, which is terrible. But just, all the staff performed
10 brilliantly all hours of the night. We received over 220 calls. And I want to pass my
11 congratulations and thanks all your appreciation to all the staff who worked tirelessly
12 to make sure that those who did have lack of power were restored and that the trees
13 were cut, and just I want to make that point. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Michael. Just before I invite people in, rather
15 than everybody wanting to thank the staff, can I echo on behalf of the entire Elected
16 Members and pass on our sincere thanks and gratitude in putting themselves out
17 there. On behalf of all the members I would like to say that.

18
19 Councillor Avril Cronin.

20 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thank you very much. I have three quick questions to
21 ask. The first one is in relation to the Dunnes Stores centre in Blessington. I know
22 this has come up on numerous occasions at our MD meeting and also the full Council
23 meeting here. The area around the centre is privately owned but the car park and the
24 roads around, they're all privately owned but they're in really bad condition at the
25 moment. The footpaths are also in need of repair. There's issues about antisocial
26 behaviour down there. This has been raised with the local guards and has been
27 raised at our JPC meeting. But the main concern of both residents in the area and
28 business owners in the area is the condition of the roads and the footpaths
29 surrounding the centre. I know that the MD have approached the owners of the
30 complex but unfortunately they said that they don't have funding to maintain the
31 roads or the footpaths. And I am just wondering is there any way that the Council
32 could look into this to see if maybe there's a possibility that the Council could do
33 something to improve the conditions there. There is a concern that a -- a safety
34 concern for both drivers and pedestrians in the area. As I said, they're all in great

1 need of repair and there is a safety concern for members of the public and for
2 business owners there. There's a number of businesses there. The Council are also
3 tenants at the centre. The library is there. And we also have a number of residential
4 properties upstairs in the apartments above the centre. So the Council is a very big
5 tenant to that complex. So I was hoping that the Chief Executive could look into this
6 and maybe start a conversation about taking charge of the area around the centre.

7
8 My second point is I just want to acknowledge the work of the Council and our
9 district staff on the work that's been on the lights. I know there was a big topic of
10 conversation here at our last Council meeting. There has been a huge improvement
11 but unfortunately we are seeing some areas still out. I know Donard Village, and
12 there are a number of lights in Stratford and Blessington out as well. But there has
13 been a huge improvement so far, and I hope that will continue. I want to say thank
14 you to the staff here for working on that and for pushing it from this end. I know
15 we're very quick to complain when things aren't going our way but it is also very
16 important that we acknowledge work when it is done.

17
18 And the last point is, I am just wondering was there any update in relation to the
19 local link service. When the NTA were in I asked them about extending the routes to
20 include other villages, including Donard and Hollywood and Stratford. At the last
21 Council meeting I was told that the Council would follow it up but I still haven't
22 received any update. So I would be grateful if I could get an update on that as well.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

24 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just have a few issues.

25 One is there's a huge issue in the Bray and Enniskerry area with the roll out of
26 installing the new broadband cables. The contractors, Circet and Secto, seem to be
27 just going in on people's properties, damaging hedges, they've knocked down gates,
28 broken signs on gates, and just basically causing havoc, livestock have been getting
29 out onto the land and there's a huge difficulty with constituents getting any recourse
30 on this. They seem to be sent from pillar to post, pardon the pun, but not getting
31 anyone that they can speak to or come back to them or getting any sort of support on
32 this. So I am asking that the Council do something. Yes, we need broadband but not
33 at the risk of, you know, damaging people's property in the course of doing it. ESB,
34 if they're doing any road works or anything like that, are always very, very good

1 about knocking on people's doors saying we're coming in, we're cutting back hedges,
2 whatever. But this seems to be causing havoc on people's properties.

3

4 Another issue is, which I raised previously in the chamber, the Circle K garage
5 northbound in Kilmacanogue, the traffic chaos is getting worse and worse on this.
6 And I did email earlier in the week about this. This main artery is coming out of
7 Kilmacanogue, it is also serving all the traffic coming down from Roundwood, and
8 there's chaos on the weekends and particularly at school times and we really need
9 this dealt with TII as a matter of urgency before there is an accident there.

10

11 I have to mention while I'm here too that the new BusConnects service in North
12 Wicklow is just not delivering as it had promised. The term "ghost buses" is being
13 heard more and more. Buss just are not turning up. We had the NTA in here not too
14 long ago and we were promised great things but it is just not happening. I would like
15 the Council to write to them and say they need to take this up, the delivery of the
16 service is not there, and children have been left not being able to go to school, people
17 going shopping. It's actually got worse instead of better since the new service has
18 come in. So I would like that addressed and if a letter could be sent.

19

20 Just one last thing. We had the IFA in here previously talking about dog attacks on
21 sheep and we all pledged to support them. And it just, there's been a lot of cases
22 recently where dogs have attacked sheep which are heavily pregnant now, so they're
23 not only losing the mother, the ewe, they're using the lamb as well. As a Council I
24 would ask again that we do as much as we can to support the farmers and support the
25 IFA, whether it be social media campaigns or signage or something. But I would ask
26 that as a Council we do something to support them. Thank you.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Joe Behan.

28 COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Okay, chairman. Couple of items. First of all, on the
29 public lighting, I hear what Councillor Cronin has said about improvements in the
30 west. I haven't seen a lot of improvements in Bray. I do think we should learn a
31 very big lesson from this, which is that we should have a designated force of our own
32 staff here at headquarters level and maybe on the ground as well to actually insist
33 that these contractors are doing what they are supposed to be doing and getting ahead
34 and getting the lights turned back on for everybody right across the county. I think

1 we need to be more proactive than we had been. I welcome the fact that things may
2 be moving in the right direction but I still think we don't need to -- we shouldn't take
3 our eye off the ball, we should keep up the pressure. That's the first point.

4

5 The second point I would just like to ask in relation to the N11/M11, the report from
6 the Chief Executive. It is the very same as it was the previous month. We have had
7 a change of Government, we have a new Minister For Transport, but yet the officials
8 of this Council seem to be working on a plan to close the Herbert Road. Everything
9 that I read is basically, I am interpreting it that there is nothing changed at top level
10 here, at Chief Executive or Director level about that absolutely mad proposal. And I
11 would appreciate some kind of a comment from Mr Lane about that because I think it
12 is high time we had a change of heart on that as a body and then go to the
13 Department of Transport with that change.

14

15 Could I also say that noise mitigation measures still haven't been put in place for the
16 people who live on the parallel road at Kilmacanogue, and that is a disgrace, that that
17 work has not been done. It was agreed a number of years ago.

18

19 Could I also, Councillor Corrigan mentioned about Kilmacanogue, there has been
20 another almost fatal accident on the Red Lane just further south from Kilmacanogue
21 at the turn-off to the Glenview. And what I think has been happening is, people who
22 are not familiar with Wicklow, if they miss the first turn for Kilmac just after the
23 garage, they don't go up the slip road, they carry on to the Glenview, they turn off at
24 the Glenview, go over the bridge and they think they can climb up, go up the
25 Sugarloaf up the Red Lane, which is effectively a small local road. And I want to
26 ask if it is possible to re-designate that road as a local road only and for local access
27 only, and divert people up the main road up towards the Sugarloaf and
28 Kilmacanogue. I think that would be a lot safer.

29

30 Could I also say with regard to BusConnects I fully agree with Councillor Corrigan.
31 We will get more time tomorrow night in Bray to talk about it specifically in Bray.
32 But one of the ridiculously mad things they have done in Bray is they have put a bus
33 terminus outside a row of houses in Palermo where people can't get up and down the
34 road past the terminus. This was obviously passed and consulted with staff of this

1 Council, and I think it is going to have to be re-examined.

2

3 And finally, could somebody tell us what is happening about the Taoiseach or the
4 Tánaiste's task force on the Cliff Walk? Who is going to the meeting? I believe he is
5 having a meeting soon. Is there somebody from this body going or what is the latest
6 update of that situation because it is of huge interest to many people in this county?
7 Thanks.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor.

9 MR NICHOLSON: Just working backwards. Most of Councillor Behan's are for
10 Joe: The lights in Bray, N11/M11 noise emissions -- noise emitting measures,
11 Kilmacanogue, BusConnects. As regards the Taoiseach and the task force, I will ask
12 Marc to come in on that. The Tánaiste. Sorry, my apologies. The Tánaiste.
13 Councillor Corrigan, again a lot of those again are for Joe. We will follow up on the
14 BusConnects with the NTA as well. Dog attacks on sheep. An annual problem. We
15 put ads in the paper. We do everything we possibly can. Unless Theresa wants to
16 come in on that, see what else we can do. We did agree to support the IFA and we
17 do support the IFA. It is appalling what happens every year in this season, every
18 year, and we will do everything we can to support that. Maybe Theresa might come
19 in more on that. Public lights again, Joe. The centre Blessington, yes, we have to
20 look at that. I mean I am not quite if it is a simple matter of just us taking it in charge
21 and then surfacing it. We will have to have a look at that work carefully, Councillor
22 Cronin. We will come back to you on that.

23 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Sorry.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Put your mic on.

25 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Just on the NTA, I just asked did you hear anything back
26 from the NTA on the local link services? I raised it at the last meeting and I raised it
27 with them. And just another point that I will bring now while I have the mic again,
28 the extension of the 132 bus service, I was told at the NTA presentation that they
29 were going to have additional services later in the evening. Again we haven't
30 received any update on that. So you might chase that up as well please. Thank you.

31 MR NICHOLSON: Yeah, I will follow that up. I didn't get an update from the
32 Chief Executive whether they got a response, but I will find out for you.

33 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thank you.

34 MR LANE: A few things there. I will start with public lights. Yeah, we having

1 dedicated engineering staff to that after the last meeting. On top of what's happened,
2 Donard, they were out down in the west today, and Bray tomorrow. So just see how
3 that's going and we will come back to you again on that. We will probably go to
4 your engineers because some of the issues are local, and rather than coming here all
5 the time we will come to the area meetings to pick up some of those and pick up
6 some of the other issues that we're not picking up, that's coming in on Deadsure. So
7 within the next two meetings in the area, all areas, we intend to be there to get a
8 better handle on that. We are also seeking approval for an electric technician,
9 electrical inspector going forward. But we will come back to the SPC on that in
10 general. That will be a specialist on our numbers. Because, yeah, we do need more
11 expertise. It is quite a complicated area. But they were in Donard today, they will be
12 in Bray tomorrow, just answering that specific thing. And they were also in
13 Baltinglass I think. But Donard, because there were lights down there.

14
15 Circle K, yeah, we will discuss that with the TII. We have talked to you before that.

16
17 The route selection for the -- the preferred route for the N11/M11 bus corridor is
18 being finalised, and that will be published very shortly and we will be going to Bray
19 on that one.

20
21 The roads in Blessington, taking in charge, we will have a chat about that.

22
23 And the broadband, I will just have to look at that particular one, and talk about any
24 the particular issues. But in general, there are road opening licences but some of the
25 issues that are raised there were more private than road openings. So we might just
26 get the particular issues because they can only affect the road opening. I think that's
27 it.

28 CATHAOIRLEACH: Marc.

29 MR DEVEREUX: Just to answer Councillor Behan's questions on the Tánaiste has
30 invited our Chief Executive to attend the task force meeting later this week, and I
31 understand our Chief Executive intends to go herself. Okay.

32 MS O'BRIEN: With regard to the sheep, yeah, the IFA launched their programme
33 this morning, and one of our staff attended that. We will run -- we normally run a
34 social media campaign. We had a very effective radio campaign a couple of years

1 ago, so we will try and relaunch that. I mean all we can do is try and raise awareness
2 as much as we can. So we will commence that very shortly.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Stapleton.

4 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. With talk there of social
5 media campaigns and communication, I was wondering would it be possible for the
6 Council to engage in some sort of communication campaign around the trimming
7 and cutting of hedges around the county. We shortly approach the March 1st
8 deadline where the general ban will come into place on cutting hedgerows. It is a big
9 issue throughout the county. But it is also one that before I was a councillor I didn't
10 realise who the responsibility lay with. So even for the general public to know that it
11 is the landowner's responsibility and put a bit of pressure on them to cut their hedges
12 before the deadline would be great. Thank you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Shane Langrell.

14 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Councillor Corrigan has
15 touched on what I was going to bring up regarding the sheep kills. I was at a dog
16 control event this morning organised by Wicklow IFA and I am aware they had a
17 meeting here today at 2 o'clock. I suppose, look it, having my farmer's hat on me
18 now when I speak, in 2016 I was a victim of a sheep kill myself. Up to 20 keep
19 killed. It's not a pretty site. You go into your field and you see sheep traumatised,
20 sheep dead, sheep slaughtered. And I suppose it is not even what you find dead on
21 the day, it's what you're left with after. So like, the amount of sheep that passed
22 away since that kill... They say the sheep don't get over trauma, and it is a fact.
23 They don't. And I suppose it's just came to light again. Up in Roundwood there
24 again last week there was a farmer that went to his field and he 18 sheep killed,
25 pregnant sheep. And it doesn't stop there, Cathaoirleach. I think this week now his
26 remaining 120-odd flock of ewes will be scanned, and he's very fearful of what the
27 results is going to come from that. And yes, you did answer Councillor Melanie
28 Corrigan there, we need more awareness. It is not the dogs' fault. It is simply not the
29 dogs' fault. And yes, we need the Council to do as much as possible and put it out
30 there, and if we can get signs up. It does be on Eastcoast Radio which is excellent.
31 Keep it going, keep it going. You don't have to come back to me, you've answered
32 Melanie Corrigan. Please, just awareness. It is not the dogs' fault. The owners of
33 these dogs really, really need to have a good hard look at themselves. And dogs
34 should not be allowed off the leads in forestry, on walkways, trails. It doesn't matter

1 where it is. And that's about me done. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And well pointed out by the way. Councillor
3 Stokes.

4 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. And yes, just to
5 start on dog attacks, I would like to support Councillor Corrigan and Councillor
6 Langrell for everything that they have said. I just wonder if we actually need as well
7 more dog wardens for the county. My understanding, and I am open for correction,
8 is that we have two for the county. It is a massive geographical area to cover. It is
9 another issue that we probably as well, you know, need more gardaí, you know, right
10 across the county that would tie in with that. I do believe though that the legislation
11 needs to be amended in this area. Because my understanding is that it says dogs
12 should be under effective control. Now, that can mean a lot of things to a lot of
13 people. Whereas I personally believe that it needs to be amended to say dogs need to
14 be under complete control, which means that they are on a lead or a leash at all times.
15 Especially, there are some dogs, as I know, because my mother has owned huskies
16 over the years, there are some breeds that have no recall if they get off lead, like
17 huskies. That has to be considered. I also believe the legislation needs to be
18 enforced that is currently in place. And something I have been saying for some time
19 and passionate advocate for which is another item I am bringing up in a moment is
20 the need for more dog parks. Because dog parks are a wonderful amenity. And I
21 have praised Michael Nicholson with the Greystones dog park, in securing that, and
22 we have one in Arklow and Wicklow and that's great. But, you know, we can take
23 all these stick approach measures, no pun intended, for dogs. You can have the stick,
24 but there needs to be the carrot as well. Because a lot of owners do want to let dogs
25 off leash so they can have a run around, and dog parks are the solution to that.
26 Because you can let them off leash, they're in an enclosed area of about an acre and
27 they can socialise with other dogs and it is very good for the dogs. So I think that I
28 personally said last month that I think we need to be getting to a situation where we
29 have a dog park in every town and village over a thousand people. Now I know in
30 the County Development Plan it says one per municipal district. I mean we do need
31 to see the one rolled out in Bray and also in the Baltinglass district as efficiently as
32 possible.

33

34 Now, that brings me to my second item which is the Charlesland dog park

1 maintenance. Now I raised this at the last meeting, or the last full meeting of the
2 Council, and I asked who was responsible for dog parks, and the advice, if I
3 understand it, is that it was the municipal districts. And I was reassured by this
4 response. However, I subsequently brought the matter back to the Greystones
5 Municipal District at the last district meeting and the district engineer advised us that
6 he wasn't aware of it. He had no information. He hadn't been informed about the
7 confirmation of this. So could I ask that we write to the Greystones Municipal
8 District engineer and advise him that the municipal districts are responsible for the
9 dog parks and they need to maintain it? And I would ask that that goes out in the
10 next 48 hours and that the district manager is copied into that email address, because
11 when I asked Marc for support at that meeting I didn't get it. And, Marc, you were at
12 the last meeting and I need -- you know, we need to get this matter addressed
13 because the Charlesland dog park is a wonderful resource but it is falling into
14 disrepair with it being very, very boggy and we need to get this tackled.

15
16 Finally, I'd like to raise the issue of the new estate Cois Droichid. This is also
17 something that I raised at the last Greystones district meeting. And I have to say I
18 am very concerned because, you know, I have seen the Chief Executive's Report that
19 it says, "Final snagging is underway." Now this snagging seems to be the most -- I
20 have never seen more snagging for an estate in my life. This has been dragging on
21 for certainly months, if not the guts of a year. Those units represent about 1% of the
22 stock we need. So I checked the stats and there's about 4,200 people on the housing
23 list if I am not mistaken. That estate represents 1% of what we need and it is
24 dragging on. And I received an email from a resident who said it's not snagging,
25 they got an email from a member of the housing department to say actually, this is,
26 that the houses are complete and now it's paperwork. So I want to get a resolution on
27 this for Cois Droichid. And just one other item with Cois Droichid, there's a spelling
28 inconsistency between what Wicklow County Council has, so it's Cois Droichid with
29 an e-a-d at the end, the developer is spelling it i-e-d at the end, and they have gone
30 and erected a plaque with a different spelling to what Wicklow County Council has
31 at the front of the estate. So I would like to just get clarity on the spelling. I looked
32 it up actually. I actually think the developer might be right. But if Wicklow County
33 Council could look into the spelling of the estate because it might be trivial thing to
34 many people, but that's the estate people are going to be living in for many, many

1 years once it finally does get going. Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach,

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. That's three. Michael, do you want to...

3 MR NICHOLSON: Joe can answer the questions on Cois Droichid. I am anxiously
4 awaiting the arrival of those houses myself from the social housing end as well. I
5 know there has been delays on that.

6

7 Marc can deal with the particular issue with the dog park in the Greystones. But just
8 to clarify, if the county council provide the dog park it is up to the county council
9 through the MDs to maintain them. If they are provided by somebody else, in some
10 cases it is the Tidy Towns, but certainly in Greystones if it is provided by the MD, it
11 is the MD. But Marc can deal with that one.

12

13 As regards the sheep kills, yeah, just to make the point it is something that really
14 annoys us every year. We see it every year. We do our best to publicise it. It is
15 exceptionally unfair and very frustrating that it happens every year. What we really
16 want is more dog ownership awareness and people realise what the responsibility of
17 having a dog is. We will obviously do everything in our power to keep the ads up to
18 date.

19

20 And Joe can deal with the hedge cutting. Thanks Joe.

21 MR LANE: Thank you. I will just talk to the social media people to see. I am very
22 cognisant of the 1st March. So we will see if we can word something on it. But if
23 not, we ran them in September/October, at the start of the new -- it is not a
24 free-for-all. The cut-offs for March still applies. At this stage it is probably a bit
25 risky. We will talk to the social media. Other than it will be September. We always
26 run the ads in September.

27

28 Regarding Cois Droichid, yeah, it is a balance between the two. There are still
29 contractual issues. So it is paperwork, however we need sign off from our consulting
30 engineers and there's still a small number of issues. I think there was a resolution of
31 one last week but there's still issues, and they're not willing to sign off on it. It is not
32 a major issue but there is still paperwork issues that we do require work to be done.
33 It is their job to do it. Okay. So one of them, the bigger issue may have been sorted.

34 COUNCILLOR STOKES: And the name?

1 MR LANE: I would have gone for e-a-d myself, but we will talk to somebody to get
2 an opinion on it. But it is a long time since I did Irish.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Marc.

4 MR DEVEREUX: Just to clarify for Councillor Stokes, the confusion at the district
5 meeting was because the district engineer wasn't sure where the budget was going to
6 come from to deal with that matter.

7 COUNCILLOR STOKES: That wasn't my interpretation.

8 MR DEVEREUX: But it will be dealt with locally, and in the district it will be
9 resolved by myself, if necessary. It will be resolved locally. Don't worry, we will
10 look after it.

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lourda Scott online.

12 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

14 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: And I have a couple of questions here. I just to come back
15 to the lights. Joe, I know you mentioned there that the people will be heading out to
16 Bray there tomorrow and you mentioned West Wicklow. I just want to flag again the
17 issue of the lights gone in the park in Greystones. It was a pole knocked down by a
18 car. I mentioned to you at the last meeting. Not a simple fix. But this issue has been
19 reported in April. We're in the middle of February now. It is in an area where there
20 is a lot of elderly people living, it is a particularly dark area. I know the evenings are
21 getting a bit brighter but there is safety and security concerns there. I would stress
22 again that this is prioritised and that it is addressed as soon as possible.

23

24 And again, I would stress going forward that we have some sort of reps contract with
25 the contractors doing this, because at the moment other than reporting on the app it is
26 impossible to follow up or even get information on when people would be due to
27 come your area. I do think that is a failing in the system.

28

29 Referencing the NTA allocation, the travel allocation, which is always very
30 welcome, but I suppose I have two comments on it. One is we have had monies
31 allocated to the Greystones district, particularly the schemes in Delgany and
32 Killincarrig, which are very, very welcome. I am wondering when will we see some
33 action in getting the money spent, particularly around the Delgany area, Delgany
34 Village. About the safety of footpaths there. Difficulty with people trying to

1 ...(inaudible)... particularly with small kids and for elderly people as well. There has
2 been a lot of consultation going on there, there are plans but either we have the
3 money -- really when are we going to start moving forward? Also in relation to the
4 date. I know there's 500,000 has been allocated countywide. I wonder if I could get
5 information on when the input from the district as to when that money could be
6 potentially spent or what the process is about that.

7
8 Again there's a couple of bus stops in our area, particularly a very busy bus stop at
9 Blacklion that has no shelter, and I would be hoping that these and some other bus
10 stops would be age-friendly appropriate bus stops. A little bit of updated information
11 on that, how the public can input into any consultation process.

12
13 The final thing then is on the BusConnects roll out which is nothing short of
14 disastrous in the Greystones area and Kilcoole and Newcastle. One specific thing I
15 wanted to highlight to the Council is the issue of the L3 terminus on Chapel Road.
16 That is causing a great deal of disruption to traffic trying to get past in the morning.
17 Chapel Road is due for ...(inaudible)... we believe that to be happening soon. But I
18 am just wondering is there any discussion or could it be flagged by the Council to the
19 NTA to look at moving that terminus elsewhere. If it is going to stay there will that
20 stay there when works are going to happen on Chapel Road? In general the roll out
21 has been nothing short of abysmal. The booklet was supposed to be sent in advance
22 of the local council ...(inaudible)... came about a week or ten days late, the page in
23 particular in relation to my own area was virtually impossible to read the print was so
24 small. So I mean it wasn't accessibility friendly remotely, you know, let alone for
25 people with additional needs to look at. But I would ask that the NTA address that or
26 address representatives from the district with all our concerns about BusConnects
27 within the next month or so. I don't know if my colleagues have also raised this, I
28 am sending in queries into the public rep email to the Oireachtas liaison email NTA
29 and I am not getting a response. And I would ask that the Council -- I know
30 Councillor Corrigan mentioned write to the NTA. I would suggest write inviting
31 them back here as a matter of urgency so members can raise our concerns
32 face-to-face with BusConnects and provide direct feedback.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Glennon.

34 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And thank you

1 Mr Nicholson our Deputy Chief Executive. Yes, I am not going to labour it too long
2 here today because a number of the issues that I wanted to address were addressed
3 recently. As Stephen Clarke has kept up to date on RRDF and Blessington RRDF,
4 John Bowes has kept us up to date with the traffic calming and bus stop created at
5 Hollywood. There is one issue that I would like to get a response to, and that is:
6 There is a bridge going from County Wicklow into County Kildare, the Ballasize
7 Lower into Silverhills, and while our own engineering staff did great work there in
8 relieving the water that gathers on the road during flooding times the whole, one side
9 of the bridge is completely down, and we are depending on the bridges crew to mend
10 it. Now it has been brought to their attention by our engineer who is doing their best
11 with it but we do need to get the bridges crew on board. It is a bit of a disgrace
12 really. It goes from one county into the other. I am not sure whether that is the
13 problem that it hasn't been attended to, but I would hope that the Director of
14 Transport would look into it and get it none.

15
16 And I am glad to hear that the light in Donard is being fixed today which Mr Lane
17 has already told us about. I had got a commitment that it would be repaired today.
18 Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

20 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple. A
21 recommendation maybe to pass onto the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach. And again
22 I appreciate the Chief Executive's Report, but something that strikes me is when
23 notice of motions are submitted and voted upon and passed and then we're trying to
24 maybe get an update on where they're at in their journey to maybe implementation.
25 And examples, I am not saying that it is anything to do with me, but the ethical
26 procurement motion that was passed last April, if I am not wrong. I have made a
27 number of representations on that and I just don't know where it is at. So it might be
28 similarly the Part 4 Public Health (Amendment) Act on music and singing licences.
29 So if there could be a consideration around the section in the -- again other motions
30 asked for letters to be sent and maybe replies have landed. But for consideration that
31 it might be included in the Chief Executive's Report, just a suggestion. And just two
32 other items.

33
34 In relation to the Fire Service, Cathaoirleach. I wonder -- maybe it is for the CPG to

1 discuss, but I wonder is it possible perhaps to get maybe a presentation in the
2 chamber from the senior staff of the Fire Service just to give us a sense of where
3 we're at. I know there's been a lot of changes, a lot of controversy around the Fire
4 Service in recent years. I understand there's new policy positions that have come into
5 play. I see Bray, it appears, is being downgraded from a two-pump to a one-pump
6 station. So it might be worthwhile -- again I propose that we might bring in the
7 senior team to do a presentation at some point and maybe CPG might look at that.

8
9 And the last one, Cathaoirleach, and it is an interesting one, because the great work,
10 and it's come up again and again around here around HAP properties and landlords
11 who are not keeping their properties up to standard, and how we take a role in
12 enforcement or prohibition notices in that regard. But I just make a point that the
13 other side of that is possible families finding themselves in distress around their own
14 housing security. So if their landlord, they're in a HAP property and their landlord is
15 under scrutiny and maybe has got some notices from the local authority, and for them
16 to be wondering what's next for them, that maybe we give a little extra attention to
17 the distress and concern. And I know there's HAP Placefinder, but we all know that
18 that is a world where there isn't much action in terms of rental accommodation. Just
19 to be extra mindful of the vulnerabilities of some of our HAP tenants while we
20 pursue landlords who aren't up to standard. Thanks, Cathaoirleach

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Michael.

22 MR NICHOLSON: Yeah. Just on that point, because it falls under my remit. My
23 staff do on a regular basis inspect properties across all different sectors, including
24 HAP, and some of these properties can be in poor condition and we serve notices
25 requiring them to be upgraded, et cetera. We are always very, very conscious of the
26 fact that these are tenanted by people and we always try and make sure the work is
27 done. We are also very conscious of the fact that putting pressure on these landlords
28 they might be inclined to exit the market rather than do the work. We are very
29 conscious of that. And that we have obligation to accommodate the people. Find
30 accommodation for them. So we are very, very aware of that. It is a fine line
31 between us, councillor, between us I suppose doing our job on the one hand and not
32 making people homeless on the other, and it something we always watch. But we
33 keep an eye on it very carefully.

34

1 The Fire Service, I will ask Marc to deal with that. I am not quite sure if we had
2 them in before. We might bring it to the CPG and have a look at it.

3

4 Notice of motion, yeah, it is not a bad idea to have a report in the CE report giving
5 regular updates on notice of motions that have been passed. That is not a bad idea. I
6 will take that back to Emer.

7

8 The rest to the questions unfortunately, Joe, looks like they're all in yours. I am sure
9 you took note of them all.

10 MR LANE: Okay. Right. The ESB lighting in particular, again what I should have
11 explained, whereas the local authority has success to a large number of lights there
12 are still lights that require the ESB input. They're on network poles. Grattan Park is
13 one of those. As you know ESB are still in a stand down and had their own
14 challenges over the last couple of weeks. We have had a number of successes at a
15 local level and we corresponded with the ESB to get a more formal process with the
16 ESB. The successes in most of them, not all of them, have been ones that are easier
17 to fix. Grattan Park is one will require ESB and it is quite a more challenging one.
18 But once we get a formal process we will prioritise that particular one because I
19 know it has been on longer than most.

20

21 Delgany, yeah, we're working on plans at the moment on that. The bus stops, there
22 will be a delay to the bus stops. Because as I said when we dedicated engineering
23 resources they didn't come from nowhere and as it happens, one of the engineers we
24 took from the NTA scheme dealing with buses. So that will slow it down for the
25 short-term. We will try to reallocate accordingly, but based on what we are saying
26 and the fact that there were a whole lot of other issues public lights was seen as
27 priority in the short-term.

28

29 Councillor Glennon, I think he gave me two jobs. I will take one. You said I was
30 going to check it out and fix it. I will check it out and come back to you regarding
31 what issues are resolved. Normally if they can be fixed locally and fixed quickly
32 they are. I am just wondering what the issue was. I will get a report and take a look
33 at it.

34

1 I think the LG terminal is being dealt with at the local Blessington Greystones area.

2 MR NICHOLSON: Joe, the bridge that Councillor Glennon was talking about.

3 MR LANE: I just said that. He commissioned me know look at it, I am committed
4 to looking at it.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: We're nearly getting there. Councillor O'Brien, I have just
6 spoken to -- we will have the fire brigade issue on the next CPG, and we can come
7 back to you on that. Okay. The agenda.

8 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Sorry, Cathaoirleach.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

10 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Sorry, I just a had a question regarding inviting the NTA
11 back to the members just to discuss issues with BusConnects. And sorry, could Joe
12 ...(inaudible)... the L3 terminus is that going to be changed or what is going to
13 happen?

14 MR LANE: The discussions are ongoing between the engineer and staff on that.
15 Okay.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: NTA Michael.

17 MR NICHOLSON: I mean again we come back to CPG, I don't know when they
18 were in last. It was quite recently, wasn't it, the NTA were in?

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Before Christmas.

20 MR NICHOLSON: I will bring it back to CPG whether it is time to bring them back
21 in again. I took a note and will look at it, councillor.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: I commit to that as well, having it on the agenda. Councillor
23 Winstanley.

24 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Sorry, I pressed the wrong button.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead again.

26 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Mine is really quick and
27 it is just following on with the lightening. Are we still going to be getting a
28 spreadsheet with all the faults? Because I feel like we torture you every meeting
29 with specific questions around lights and maybe we could field some of those queries
30 ourselves if we knew which were the ESB faults and which were on the list and then
31 maybe we could lobby ESB ourselves.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will keep going, Joe. Do you want to answer it quickly,
33 Joe?

34 MR LANE: Lights that are out should be on Deadsure, but you won't know if ESB

1 or otherwise. And, as Councillor Behan would said, your job is to persecute. We
2 don't feel persecuted. We need to know the ones that are out because we're trying to
3 negotiate with them, we're trying to keep with our contractor on a regular basis. So
4 send emails to myself or Michael, or through the public lights, there is no issue
5 because we need that information.

6 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Yeah. No, I thought it was agreed though that
7 you had a list of faults that some of them you know are already complex ESB ones
8 that you can't solve, and I don't know what the difference is between just a regular
9 fault that is on the list and --

10 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: That was agreed.

11 MR LANE: The first call will be to check the Deadsure to see if they are up. If they
12 are not up, contact us.

13 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: We agreed at the last meeting that we were going
14 to get a spreadsheet with all the faults so that we knew which were the ESB ones. I
15 would just like to know when we are getting that so that we don't have to bother you.

16 MR LANE: Okay. We were doing that now. The spreadsheet was the ones that
17 were fixed per area on the thing. So if you want that, that might be more
18 complicated. I will come back to you on that particular one. We read it that the
19 spreadsheet was the spreadsheet as attached in the Chief Executive's Report which
20 were the ones fixed per area or done per area rather than a detailed spreadsheet. I am
21 not quite sure whether we can generate that. I will come back to you on that one.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Jason Mulhall.

23 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, just a couple of points,
24 quick points. On Blessington, I think need to also include the fact that national
25 schools, the local national school, and ...(inaudible)... impacted. And the lighting in
26 that area hasn't been working for several years.

27

28 On the lights themselves, I am not sure, in the report I am not sure how accurate they
29 are. For the Baltinglass MD we have gone 4.74% up to 5.44% of lights not working.
30 And then in addition to that, anecdotally what I am dealing with myself, I am not
31 seeing much improvement really. Limited improvement. I can think of about three
32 different areas where lights have been gotten working and that would include Donard
33 happening today. So over the last month very, very little improvement. And on
34 Councillor Scott's point, maybe if we could get some idea of the programme of

1 works where they're planning to be in particular areas, that the company attend to
2 issues in five days or whatever it might be.

3

4 And just in general, a question then as regards accommodation with housing agencies
5 and the issues with standards of living, and antisocial behaviour. As far as I know,
6 the process is that tenants would work directly with the housing agency but if they
7 are not getting any sort of success with that they contact Wicklow County Council,
8 or do they very much work with the housing agency and the standard ...(inaudible)...
9 Thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Leonard. Just before you come in, I
11 only have a few more speakers so I am going to keep going, if that is okay.

12 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

14 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah. I just actually was going to come in on
15 something similar to what Councillor O'Brien there said about the prohibition
16 notices. I suppose like for me, and I have to commend the housing department, I
17 think they're the unsung heroes really, and Director Nicholson. They have always
18 been very good but lately you can see, like, the responses are fantastic, just getting
19 direct responses back all the time. But because there are so many prohibition notices
20 I know we haven't reached that stage yet where the HAP has been stopped yet, but a
21 lot of the tenants are worried about what happens when the HAP is stopped and what
22 is their position in the house, you know, because essentially they'll be there with no
23 payment going to the landlord and they feel like they're squatting. So maybe some
24 sort of communication out to them on that. I want to commend all the housing staff
25 and they're my unsung heroes anyway.

26

27 In relation to the Urban Regeneration Development Fund in Arklow and the two
28 properties that are being CPOed, or whatever. This is an area of concern of mine. I
29 suppose I know conversations are being had and I don't know what the timeline is on
30 things, but I think we're at a key position now we haven't quite started our
31 local -- where our Local Area Plan has started. There's no town centre plan for
32 Arklow and I think the zoning of that site and the steering of the plans for that site
33 are incrementally so important to the development of the town. And, you know,
34 especially the river front area. And I think that for planning -- like, if the properties

1 aren't going to be CPOed and if the people that own the properties are going in with
2 planning I think there needs to be a wider conversation about what is going to happen
3 with that whole key area because it is town centre and I think that needs to happen in
4 conjunction with the local councillors and the community before any decisions are
5 made.

6
7 And then lastly, just in relation to, I know there are a lot of community groups now
8 without a home in Arklow. It seems to be growing every day. There's more news.
9 We're reliant on the private sector and vacant properties, and as they are becoming
10 full with occupancy there is a growing need for our community spaces that we're
11 crying out for. We have a few properties that are going to be developed but they
12 won't be developed for another few years. So I suppose what I am asking is that site,
13 the ones that are going to be CPOed, can they be looked at to incorporate some
14 community spaces into them going forward, and also what is the future of the old
15 clinic, HSE site in Arklow that's not being used at the moment, are there any plans
16 for that, and could we be involved in the conversation around that building before it
17 goes to the market if it is going to be sold. Thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Murphy, I am not sure if you are still
19 there, you did have your hand up? Okay, Councillor Snell, I might come to you now
20 and I can go back to Councillor Murphy if she wants.

21 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. You often hear people say in here
22 "on a point of clarification." This time it is on a point of confirmation. Just to
23 confirm that what Councillor Winstanley was saying was actually correct, and that
24 was my interpretation as well. That we were going to get a list. But if I could be
25 helpful in that regard, to Director Lane, I think it is probably more appropriate that
26 the figures that we requested would be circulated but more so to the municipal
27 district. Because at the end of the day we don't want to fall into a situation where a
28 large portion of our time is taken up in this chamber - we only get a couple of hours
29 every month - on the lights. And I think then we can analyse them within our own
30 municipal district to see if there's 600 lights out in our area and they're making
31 inroads into the ones that they should be, and if there's ones that are ESB problems,
32 that was the information that we were looking at for at a previous meeting here. Just
33 to clarify that, that you're not going mad. That's what I heard as well, and that's what
34 we requested. So thanks, Cathaoirleach.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: No problem. I am going to ask just one more time before I
2 bring in Councillor O'Neill, I am going to give Councillor Murphy one more
3 opportunity if she's there. Councillor O'Neill.

4 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just again on a point of
5 clarification. We're all aware of the situation in Blessington where quite a few
6 Ukrainians have been asked to leave the Avonree. And there's questions as regards
7 their status. Are they entitled to go on the housing list, or are they allowed to go on
8 the local authority housing list? I have been told that they can't. So they're in a bit of
9 a predicament. The people I'm talking about here in Avonree they're the same people
10 who owned the 65 houses over in Kippure Lodge without any planning permission.
11 And back over in Avonree they're doing what they like for the last 18 months which I
12 am harping on about in here. They're evicting all sorts, whether they be non-national
13 or Irish people, and now they're dealing with Ukrainians who have been in there and
14 their time is up as such as regards the time they're allowed stay in the country. It
15 looks like, you know, the Ukrainians, if they did well and they made a few pound
16 they could buy and stay on, but those who didn't they're in a right predicament if
17 they're not allowed onto the housing list. That's point one. That if I could get an
18 answer to that question, whether Ukrainians are allowed go on, whether it be
19 Wicklow or any county's housing list.

20

21 And number two, I would like Wicklow County Council to take on board there
22 should be a complete boycott of the likes of Avonree for the behaviour of that
23 establishment over the last year and a half. And it is Quanta Capital, we all know,
24 the dogs on the street know that. A billionaire outfit. But the behaviour of them and
25 the hardship they're causing people. I know of very unfortunate local people who
26 have been evicted from there, they're living in Naas, they are bringing their children
27 to school in all sorts of weather in Blessington and back again every day. As I said
28 before, it is putting huge pressure on our housing list, Wicklow County Council's
29 housing list. We have 250 people on the housing list in the immediate area of
30 Blessington, but with the likes of these evictions it is making it harder. And I think
31 that type of behaviour shouldn't be tolerated. And, you know, it is a venue that can
32 be used now and then for the likes of Council meetings or whatever, but I think, you
33 know, the word should go out there that people who behave like that shouldn't be
34 entertained and we should think more of ourselves than to go into the door of the

1 place.

2

3 But I would be grateful if I could get an answer sometime as regards if they are
4 Ukrainians are -- it is a bit ironic, you know, that we can send Ukrainians back to
5 Ukraine for Christmas holidays and maybe sometimes they might get two holidays,
6 but they're not allowed go on the housing if that be the case. So I would like
7 clarification, if I could on that. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I have no more speakers and I don't think
9 Councillor Murphy is back online with us, so I am going to wrap up after this.

10 MR NICHOLSON: I will start off with Councillor O'Neill's. Just to confirm, the
11 Ukrainians are not entitled to go on the social housing list. That being said, we do
12 have an obligation to house somebody who presents as homeless. So, irrespective of
13 where they are from, if somebody turns up as homeless counter and declares
14 themselves homeless we have an obligation to look after them. But strictly speaking,
15 no, the Ukrainians are not entitled to social housing, they're not on the social housing
16 list and we're not putting them on the social housing list.

17

18 The proposed move on the Avon, as it is called now, there is a pause on that. That is
19 all we know on that. We haven't been told when it is going to happen, but we have
20 just been told it has been paused.

21

22 As regards lights, I think Joe is back on again. A couple of queries about lights.

23

24

25 Yeah, the standards of living, it's never ceased to amaze me when my staff go out
26 and the appalling condition they find some of the properties that are being let by
27 landlords. And it is something that we are very, very hot on. And thank you for your
28 comments, Councillor Leonard. My staff have really upped their game lately.
29 Because we have a certain number of targets set by the Department. Where we have
30 to assess a certain percentage every year, we do. And we do find awful conditions.
31 As I mentioned earlier, we're caught between acting on behalf of them, on behalf of
32 the tenants, at the same time being very conscious of the fact that we don't want to
33 make them homeless. So we're always aware of that. In most cases the landlords do
34 respond to our notices and repair the houses and then we go back and check and

1 make sure we're happy before we sign off on them.

2

3 In regards, Councillor Mulhall, I mean, yeah, the tenants of approved housing bodies
4 take it up with the approved housing body, but certainly if they are not getting a
5 response from the body in question come back to the Council. We have had
6 occasions in the past where we have had to intervene on behalf of the tenants and
7 contact ESB directly to get repairs done, often simple repairs, and we have done that.
8 So deal first with the AHB and then if they're not getting satisfaction, come back to
9 the Council, we have power, we can give them a ring and chase them up again.

10

11 Urban Regeneration Project, so that is Leonora. So, Leonora and Joe. Joe on the
12 lights and Leonora on the regeneration process.

13

14 Sorry, community centres, we're constantly looking for community centres around
15 the county. And we are aware of the need for one in Arklow council. We are
16 looking at every property. If you know of one that we can get involved in, I will talk
17 to you privately about that.

18 MR LANE: The public lights, yeah, there's cross purposes there. At page 61 we had
19 our first effort at that but we need to retweak it. I have committed we will go to
20 attend area meetings and that might be better off getting information. Just again the
21 lights in general, they changing, that list is changing. There is no list. Like, I mean
22 that list is dated -- it is a totally different one to the one I had this morning.

23 Constantly changing lights, new ones being added and stuff being removed. The
24 ESB ones are a challenge. They invariably are more complex and they do need an
25 input, and up until recently the ESB hasn't been involved. They have had their own
26 issues, and have had a number of -- I think they have been pulled back from public
27 lights twice, maybe three times, in the last number of months. But it is a partnership
28 and we will be working together on that one. And like I said, we had successes at a
29 local level and we will finalise that nationally. But we will pick up that information
30 more at a local level than that report. I am not sure how a report that would be, a
31 design report that would be two or three weeks late, the Chief Executive's Report, for
32 meeting, I am not quite sure how we will deal with that in the future, but we will talk
33 at local level on that one.

34 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. So just in relation to the RDF Arklow, so

1 yeah, there are two properties that were identified. The way the scheme works is that
2 the money is made available to the local authority to cover the purchase price of the
3 premises and then any minor works, and that's with a view to selling on the property
4 to people who are committed to bringing them back into use. And it kind of operates
5 then as a rolling fund. So that allows us then to go to the next property and the next
6 property. So it is a rolling fund to purchase and brings derelict or vacant sites back
7 into use. So we are working with the regeneration team and the Arklow MD staff in
8 relation to those two properties. With regard to how that would tie in with the
9 Arklow LAP, throughout the workshop with the Elected Members we will talk with
10 yourselves as to what you see as appropriate uses or zonings or objectives that you
11 want to put into that plan. Thank you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay. Last item on the agenda.
13 Correspondence. Helen.

14 MS PURCELL: Very briefly. The members were circulated with Circular LG02/25
15 relating to domestic subsistence allowance. So the subsistence just increased
16 slightly, which affects your monthly expenses as well. And then, thank you all for
17 returning your Declaration of Donations, and a reminder in relation to your ethics
18 forms, they're all due back by the end of this month, February. So just a little
19 reminder on them. Thank you very much.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. Thank you all, members, for your
21 patience today and we will all see you all next month.

22

23 (Meeting concluded at 5:42 pm)

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**MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING (HYBRID) OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 12th MAY 2025, COMMENCING 2.00 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS P. O'BRIEN CATHAOIRLEACH, D, ALVEY, M. BARRY, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, G. DUNNE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, M. MURPHY, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND C. WINSTANLEY (29)

APOLOGIES

CLLRS. J. BEHAN AND M. DUDDY (2)

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MS. E. O'GORMAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MS. C. FOX, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. GALLAGHER, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. M. QUINN, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. L. EARLS, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. D. KENNEDY, LAW AGENT
MR. M. DEVEREUX, T/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MS. R. GILLESPIE, A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. L. HEALY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. S. NICHOLS, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MR. J. BOWES, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MR. F. KEOGH, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. B. HARVEY, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MS. E. BERMINGHAM, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MS. P. RYAN, SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER
MR. M. WOODS O'ROURKE, ASSISTANT PLANNER
MS. S. SWEENEY, SENIOR ASSISTANT FIRE OFFICER
MR. S. DOYLE, IS PROJECT LEADER
MR. B. WILDES, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MS. K. BOYLE, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. G. HICKEY, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR**

MS. A. HUBBARD, SPORTS CO-ORDINATOR
MS. A. SHORTT, SENIOR STAFF OFFICER
MS. A. RUSSELL, STAFF OFFICER
MS. I. WINTERS, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER
MS. T. BYRNE, ASSISTANT STAFF OFFICER

At the commencement of the meeting a roll call was taken. The Meetings Administrator advised of meetings etiquette for online meetings and that the press and some members of the public were also present.

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members passed a vote of sympathy to the families of the late Mr, Michael Nicholson Snr., Ms. Brooke Carey, Ms. Anne Blake, Ms. Veronica Carroll, Ms. Aileen Finucane and Ms. Ann Carroll. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

The Cathaoirleach P. O'Brien proposed to move Item no. 6 following Item no. 1.

ITEM NO. 1

To confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 7th April 2025.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to confirm and sign minutes of ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 7th April 2025.

Following her resignation the Cathaoirleach, Elected Members and the Chief Executive all paid tribute to former Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy on her hard work, commitment, integrity and knowledge. The Cathaoirleach made a small presentation to Ms. Flynn Kennedy and wished her every success in her future endeavours.

ITEM NO. 6

To consider the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001 (as amended).

It was proposed by Cllr. S. Bourke, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all to co-opt Mr. Ned Whelan onto the council.

The Elected Members welcomed Cllr. Whelan and wished him well and looked forward to working with him.

Cllr. Whelan thanked the Elected Members for their kind words and stated he looked forward to working with everyone.

ITEM NO. 2

To consider the disposal of 0.0421Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockieran Lower being the property known as 6 Knockieran Cottages, Blessington, Co. Wicklow to Ciaran & Kate Gallagher.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0421Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockieran Lower being the property known as 6 Knockieran Cottages, Blessington, Co. Wicklow to Ciaran & Kate Gallagher, as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.0331Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower Td. being the property known as 24 Fernhill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Eimear Kenny.

It was proposed by Cllr. W. O'Toole, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0331Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower Td. being the property known as 24 Fernhill, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Eimear Kenny as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 4

To consider the disposal of 2 Woodleigh Close, Blessington, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Patricia Wiffen.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Glennon, seconded by Cllr. A. Cronin and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 2 Woodleigh Close, Blessington, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Patricia Wiffen as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 5

To consider the disposal of 0.0057Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray Td. being the property known as 3 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Jane O'Sullivan and Teresa O'Sullivan as Legal personal representatives in the estate of John O'Sullivan.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Corrigan, seconded by Cllr. D. O'Brien and agreed by all to consider the disposal of 0.0057Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Bray Td. being the property known as 3 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Jane O'Sullivan and Teresa

O'Sullivan as Legal personal representatives in the estate of John O'Sullivan as set out in statutory notice circulated.

ITEM NO. 7

To consider the vacancy on the Community & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

Cllr. S. Bourke proposed Cllr. N. Whelan to fill the vacancy to the Community & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy; this was seconded by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin and agreed by all. Cllr. Whelan agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 8

To consider the vacancy on the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

Cllr. S. Bourke proposed Cllr. N. Whelan to fill the vacancy on the Economic Development & Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy; this was seconded by Cllr. M. Corrigan and agreed by all. Cllr. Whelan agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 9

To consider the vacancy on the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin proposed Cllr. A. Cronin to fill the vacancy on the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, this was seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed by all. Cllr. Cronin agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 10

To consider the vacancy on the Board of Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre CLG arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

It was agreed by the Elected Members to refer this item to Bray Municipal District to revert to the Council for ratification.

ITEM NO. 11

To consider the vacancy to the Bray Area Partnership arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

It was agreed by the Elected Members to refer this item to Bray Municipal District to revert to the Council for ratification.

ITEM NO. 12

To consider the vacancy to the Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan sub-committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

It was agreed by the Elected Members to refer this item to Bray Municipal District to revert to the Council for ratification.

ITEM NO. 13

To consider the vacancy to the Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

It was agreed by the Elected Members to refer this item to Bray Municipal District to revert to the Council for ratification.

ITEM NO. 14

To consider the vacancy to the Special Amenity Area Order Committee for Bray Head arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy.

It was agreed by the Elected Members to refer this item to Bray Municipal District to revert to the Council for ratification.

ITEM NO. 15

To consider the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. G. Dunne.

Cllr. C. Winstanley proposed herself, to fill the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of Cllr. A. Flynn Kennedy, this was seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all. Cllr. Winstanley agreed to fill the vacancy.

ITEM NO. 16

To consider the Proposed Material Amendments to the draft Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025, to consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to the

Proposed Material Amendments to the draft plan and to consider making, not making or modifying the Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 – 2031, all in accordance with Section 20 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

2	CE		Add new objective re residential development types, tenures & sizes
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 2 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

3	CE		Add new objective re Wicklow Town & Rathnew Village priority location (new employment)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 3 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

4	CE		Add new objective re Wicklow Town priority location (redevelopment)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 4 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

5	CE		Add new objective re Rathnew Village priority location (redevelopment)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 5 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

6	CE		Add new objective re Rathnew Village priority location (investment / new development)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 6 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

7	CE		Update Rathnew Village Strategy text (omit County Campus lands)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 7 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

8	CE		Update Rathnew Village Strategy Map
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 8 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

9	CE		Improve Wicklow town, Rathnew village, waterfront strategy maps
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 9 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

10	CE		Add new Opportunity Site 5 – Charvey Lane
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Further modify and proceed.

Amendment No. 10 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

11	CE		Add new objective re preparing a LTP
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 11 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

12	CE		Add new objective re bus services
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 12 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

13	CE		Add new objective re Transit Oriented Development
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 13 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

14	CE		Add to Wicklow County Campus objectives, FRA text
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 14 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

15	CE		Amend Zoning objectives lands uses to include childcare/ crèche
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 15 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

16	CE		Amend OS1 lands uses to include allotments
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 16 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

17	CE		Add to zoning objectives – infrastructure in OS1 & OS2 lands
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 17 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

37	CE		Rezone lands from unzoned/OS2 to WZ/OS2 at rear old Veba factory (PMA 18)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 37 proposed by Cllr. P. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

18	CE		Amend Waterfront Zone text and map to extend ‘regeneration area’ at rear of old Veba factory. (PMA 37)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 18 proposed by Cllr. P. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

19	CE	EM	SLO 2 Tinakilly / Newrath, EM -extend boundary and add MUGA & pitch objective, CE -LTP objective
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

To further modify with the Chief Executive’s modifications and the Elected Members modifications and proceed to make PMA no. 19.

Amendment No. 19 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed by all.

20a	CE		SLO 3 Milltown Nth, amend boundary at Tighe’s Ave
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 20a proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

20b		EM	SLO 3 Milltown Nth, rezone OS to RN2 along stream
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 20b proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr G. O'Neill was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 20 votes for, 8 against and 4 not present viz:-

FOR (20)	CLLRs. S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. MAHON, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND N. WHELAN		
AGAINST (8)	CLLRs. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, O. FINN, P. LEONARD, J. MULHALL, L. SCOTT AND C. WINSTANLEY		
NOT PRESENT (4)	CLLR. J. BEHAN, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE AND M. MURPHY,		

21	CE		SLO 3 Milltown Nth, add text to refer to LTP
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 21 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

22a	CE		SLO 4 Bollarney Nth, Rezone from PU to RN2, Rezone RN2 to OS1 and add AA objective
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 22a proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

22b		EM	SLO 4 Bollarney Nth, Rezone from RN2 to RN1
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 22b proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

23	CE		SLO 6 Ballynerrin, Rezone land from RN2 to RN1
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 23 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

24	CE	EM	SLO 7 (Rosanna Lwr) CE - Amend map and text and to include some of the lands originally in SLO 8, rezone RN1 to RE EM - relocate CE zone
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 24 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

25	CE		Delete SLO 8 map boundary and text, Rosanna Lower
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 25 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

26		EM	New SLO 9 Glebe Rezone from CE to RN1 / RN2
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

To further modify and proceed to make PMA no. 26.

Amendment No. 26 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

27		EM	New SLO 10 Ashtown Lane and rezone 3.5ha from RN2 to RN1
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 27 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

28		EM	New SLO 11 Marlton – Ballynerrin Lower Rezone 3.6ha from CE to RN1, Rezone 3.82ha from E/OS1 to CE (at grain store) and 0.5ha from E/RN1 to CE
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 28 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed by all.

29		EM	New SLO 12 Broomhall Rezone 7.35ha from RN2 to RN1, c.1.7ha from unzoned to AOS
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 29 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed by all.

30		EM	New SLO 13 Broomhall- Hawks Bay Rezone c.2.7ha from RN2 to RN1, c.2.8 from unzoned to AOS
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 30 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed by all.

31		EM	New SLO14 Ballynabarny Rezone lands from AOS to E/CE
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

To further modify and proceed to make PMA no. 31.

Amendment No. 31 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O’Brien and agreed by all.

32	CE		Rezone lands from VC to WCC at Clermont
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 32 proposed by Cllr. P. O’Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

33	CE		Rezone lands from RE to VC at Charvey Lane, Rathnew Village
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 33 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

34	CE		Rezone lands from OS1 to CE at Knockrobin
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 34 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell and agreed by all.

35	CE		Rezone lands from OS1 to RN1 at Bollarney
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 35 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

36	CE		Rezone lands from RE to CE at Greenhills Road (Convent)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 36 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

38		EM	Rezone c.0.06ha from OS2 to RN1 at Charvey Court, Rathnew
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 38 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 23 votes for, 5 against, 3 not present and 1 abstained viz:-

FOR (23)	CLLRs. S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D.

	O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND N. WHELAN
AGAINST (5)	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, L. SCOTT AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT (3)	CLLR. J. BEHAN, M. DUDDY AND G. DUNNE
ABSTAIN (1)	CLLR. M. MURPHY

39		EM	Rezone c.0.673ha from unzoned to RN1 at Ballyguile Beg
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 39 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

40		EM	Rezone c.3ha from RN2 to RN1 at Greenhill's Rd (Mariner's Point)
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 40 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

41		EM	Rezone c.1ha from OS2 to 'E' at Murrough
Reasons			As set out at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

To further modify with the inclusion of the following objective and proceed to make PMA no. 41

'All proposed projects at this site shall: have full regard to the Habitats Directive (with particular regard for the Murrough SPA and the Murrough Wetlands SAC), including being subject to AA that identifies and addresses any likely significant effects. In doing so, proposed projects and associated AAs in this area shall, as relevant:

• Be informed by appropriately targeted ecological survey(s) and assessment(s) of the Qualifying Interests of the SAC and SPA that consider issues including:

- i Bird usage of the adjacent wetland areas (river corridor and intertidal), including spatial and behavioural considerations and associated role in supporting the QIs of the site as a whole.*
- ii Use of the area adjacent during darkness, including a consideration of lighting effects on spatial and behavioural considerations.*

iii Use of the area for fish and mammal movements – notably Otter, Atlantic salmon, bats – to have consideration of lighting effects on connectivity for these mobile species.

and

- Give due consideration to any requirement for project level mitigation that arises from the surveying and assessment described above, ensuring that prescribed mitigation measures are proven, robust and address the need for certainty in achievement of mitigation of potentially significant adverse effects. Notably this should include a presumption to achieve significant net benefit to the features which may otherwise be impacted.

To avoid the potential for impacts on the aquatic environment and associated species, key components of nearby European sites, any development must adequately address the management of surface water run-off and drainage at the construction and operational phases to ensure that no adverse impacts may occur to the sites. It should be recognised that this may require significant exceedance of any existing measures to ensure that any development provides a net benefit over its life, to the nearby sites and wider aquatic environment.'

Amendment No. 41 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond was put to a vote and following a roll call was passed by a margin of 19 votes for, 6 against, 5 not present and 2 abstained viz:-

FOR (19)	CLLRs. S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, L. FENELON GASKIN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES AND N. WHELAN
AGAINST (6)	CLLRs. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, E. DOYLE, J. MULHALL, L. SCOTT AND C. WINSTANLEY
NOT PRESENT (5)	CLLR. J. BEHAN, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE AND G. O'NEILL
ABSTAIN (2)	CLLRs. O. FINN AND M. MURPHY

42	CE		Land Use Map - Amend OS1 to OS2
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 42 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

43	CE		Updated Transport Strategy Map

Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 43 proposed by Cllr. G. Richmond, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

44	CE		Infrastructure Delivery Schedule Appendix Insert table on implementation/timeframe for all objectives
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 44 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

45	CE		Add SFRA Addendum (updated flood maps)
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Amendment No. 45 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

1	CE	EM	Amend Table 3.1 New Residential Zonings to include all new & amended PMA's re new residential zonings.
Reasons			As set out in the CE Reports and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Proceed and update with any changes consequent.

Amendment No. 1 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

Proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien and seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond that '*Having considered the Plan, the Proposed Material Amendments, the Chief Executive's Reports on Consultations and the*

- *The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report for the Draft Plan*
- *The Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan*
- *The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Plan*
- *The SEA Environmental Report for the Proposed Material Amendments*
- *The Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Material Amendments*
- *Written submissions relating to SEA, AA and SFRA made during the Plan preparation process*

- Ongoing advice on SEA, AA and SFRA from the Council's agents / staff
- The final, consolidated Natura Impact Report
- The final AA Determination

in accordance with the provisions of Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the members agree, by resolution, to make the Wicklow Town – Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025 - 2031:

- *with those proposed amendments that have been agreed today,*
- *with those proposed amendments that have been agreed to make with minor modifications today,*
- *without those proposed amendments that were not agreed today,*
- *with any changes consequent required as result of the agreed amendments and with any minor data or document updates that have arisen during the adoption of the plan'.*

Was put to a vote and following a role call was passed by a margin of 25 for and 7 not present Viz:-

FOR (25)	CLLRS. D. ALVEY, M. BARRY, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, C. WINSTANLEY AND N. WHELAN
AGAINST (0)	
NOT PRESENT (7)	CLLR. J. BEHAN, S. BOURKE, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE , P. KENNEDY AND M. MURPHY

ITEM NO. 17

To consider the Proposed Material Alterations to the proposed Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Wicklow Town – Rathnew LAP), to consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to the Proposed Material Alterations to the proposed variation and to consider making, not making or modify Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028, all in accordance with Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

1	CE	Alter Map 17.09 Landscape Category map
Reasons		As set out in the CE Report and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Proceed subject to any amendments/modifications from LAP adoption process.

Amendment No. 1 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

2	CE	Alter Map 1 - Land use Zoning Map for Wicklow Town & Rathnew LAP
Reasons		As set out in the CE Report and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Proceed subject to any amendments/modifications from LAP adoption process.

Amendment No. 2 proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all.

3	CE	Alter Map 4 Indicative Flood Zones Maps for Wicklow Town & Rathnew LAP
Reasons		As set out in the CE Report and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Proceed subject to any amendments/modifications from LAP adoption process.

Amendment No. 3 proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. G. Richmond and agreed by all.

4	CE	Alter Map 5 Transport Strategy Map for Wicklow Town & Rathnew LAP
Reasons		As set out in the CE Report and at the Council meeting of 10 th February 2025

Proceed subject to any amendments/modifications from LAP adoption process.

Amendment No. 4 proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all.

Proposed by Cllr. J. Snell and seconded by Cllr. S. Langrell *that 'Having considered the Variation, the Proposed Material Alterations, the Chief Executive's Reports on Consultations and the*

- *Strategic Environmental Assessment screening report and associated determination for the Proposed Variation and the Addendum I to the SEA Screening Report*
- *Appropriate Assessment screening report and associated determination for the Proposed Variation and Addendum I to the AA Screening Report for the Proposed Variation*
- *Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination for the Proposed Material Alterations*
- *Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Determination for Proposed Material Alterations*

- *Written submissions relating to SEA and AA made during the variation preparation process*
- *Ongoing advice on SEA and AA from the Council's agents / staff*
- *The final AA Determination*

in accordance with the provisions of Section 13 (6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the members agree, by resolution, to make Variation Number 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022 -2028:

- *with the proposed alterations that have been agreed today,*
- *with any proposed alterations that have been agreed to be made with minor modifications today,*
- *without any proposed alterations that were not agreed today,*
- *with any changes consequent required as result of the agreed alterations and with any minor data or document updates that have arisen during the adoption of the variation and to proceed in accordance with Section 13 (8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to publish notice of the making of the Variation’.*

Was put to a vote and following a role call was passed by a margin of 26 for and 6 not present Viz:-

FOR (26)	CLLRs. D. ALVEY, S. BOURKE, M. CORRIGAN, A. CRONIN, E. DOYLE, L. FENELON GASKIN, O. FINN, P. FITZGERALD, P. GLENNON, P. KENNEDY, S. LANGRELL, P. LEONARD, P. MAHON, J. MULHALL, I. NEARY, D. O'BRIEN, P. O'BRIEN, G. O'NEILL, W. O'TOOLE, G. RICHMOND, L. SCOTT, J. SNELL, P. STAPLETON, S. STOKES, C. WINSTANLEY AND N. WHELAN
AGAINST (0)	
NOT PRESENT (6)	CLLR. M. BARRY, J. BEHAN, M. DUDDY, G. DUNNE, T. FORTUNE AND M. MURPHY

ITEM NO. 18

To note the Annual Financial Statement 2024 and to approve by resolution (i) additional net expenditure in excess of budget in accordance with Section 104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 and (ii) additional transfers to and from capital.

Mr. B. Gleeson, Director of Services gave an overview of the Annual Financial Statement 2024 as follows:

- The financial accounts for Wicklow County Council for 2024 have been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Accounting in Ireland Code of Practice Accounting Regulations and the directions of the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

- The Council's overall financial position remained strong throughout 2024.
- Total expenditure that occurred in the revenue account after transfers was €172 million which was an increase of €22 million on 2023.
- A surplus of €601,000 which has fully cleared the reserve deficit in the revenue account leaving the account with a small surplus of €2,782 at year end.
- The capital account expenditure, including transfers, was €114 million in 2024. The vast majority of this expenditure was under the housing programme.
- The commercial rates collection rate increased again from 91% up to 93% which is the highest collection rate Wicklow has ever received, and also housing rents have improved their collection rate increasing from 84% up to 85%.
- While the AFS itself is just for noting by the members, under section 147 of the Local Government Act approval of the members is sought for the net expenditure in excess of budget in the revenue account and for transfers to and from the capital account.
- Net expenditure in excess of budgets these amounts are outlined by division on page 5 of the AFS as well as in Note 16 on page 26, and they are as follows: Housing and building 2,235,936; environmental services, 817,741; and agriculture, educational, health and welfare, 84,638.
- Total transfers to capital are 5,713,463 and from capital, 1,399,374. Transfers to capital are in respect of past expenditure which has resulted in deficits in the capital account as well as the provision of specific reserves for future expenditure and commitments. Some of the most significant transfers in 2024 include capital reserve for fabric upgrade works and conditional surveys, half a million, which is charged to the Housing Improvement Programme; capital provision for match funding requirements, charged to development management; provision of just under half a million for harbour works, including dredging; 300,000 for a capital reserve for County Buildings refurbishment works; and 200,000 for the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project.
- The most significant transfers from capital are the rates revaluation provision of 700,000 that covers rate income reductions from tribunal decisions, also quarter of a million for funding of Local Footpath Renewal Scheme, and our insurance dividend of 300,000.

It was proposed by Cllr. L. Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Cllr. P. O'Brien and agreed by all to approve:

- (i) Additional net expenditure in excess of budget in accordance with Section 104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 and;

It was proposed by Cllr. P. O'Brien, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to approve:

- (ii) Additional transfers to and from capital in excess of budget.

ITEM NO. 19

To consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, April 2025.

Elected Members were circulated with the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, April 2025.

Some of the issues raised included the following:

- Magheramore Beach.
- Update – outdoor staffing levels.
- Coastal protection – Clogga Beach.
- Arklow Flood Relief Scheme.
- Priority dredging – river – Arklow.
- Cost of car parking – Brittas Bay – residents .
- Farrankelly Estate.
- Homeless figures.
- Youth homelessness – figures for County Wicklow.
- Scope of Chief Executive monthly report to include progress of motions raised in the Chamber.
- Fire Service – percentage increase in call-outs.
- Request for a presentation to be given by the Fire Service.
- List of rent arrears.
- Update on two strategic documents – Age Friendly Strategy and Migrant Integration Strategy.
- Town teams – Baltinglass – role of Elected Members.
- RRDF funding, Baltinglass.
- Additional staffing – parks in Blessington and Baltinglass.
- Status update on new social houses, Tinahely.
- Detailed list of empty housing stock.
- Status of Arklow/Shillelagh Greenway.
- Changes – Tenants in situ Scheme.
- Clarification – bus stop – Hollywood Cross.
- Burgage, Blessington housing development.
- Proposed closure of Herbert Road Junction.
- Blessington Greenway project.
- Maintenance of parks.
- Casual trading licenses – Wicklow Town.

Elected Members raised questions which were responded to by the Chief Executive and the relevant Director of Services.

Following the discussion on the Monthly Management Report, The Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive paid tribute to Ms. L. Gallagher, Director of Services on her forthcoming retirement and thanked her for her dedicated service to Wicklow County Council.

The Elected Members joined in wishing Ms. Gallagher well in her retirement.

Time Extension: It was proposed by Cllr. S. Langrell, seconded by Cllr. J. Snell and agreed by all to extend the meeting to 5.30 p.m.

ITEM NO. 20

To note and receive a presentation on Wicklow County Council 2025 Countywide Differential Rent Scheme for social housing tenants.

The Chief Executive reminded the Elected Members that this item was on the agenda and that the Elected Members had requested a second legal opinion. The Chief Executive confirmed that it is an executive function of the Council to make a Differential Rent Scheme

Mr. B. Wildes, Administrative Officer gave a presentation outlining the following:

- Wicklow County Council Countywide Differential Rent Scheme Review.
- Rent.
- Rent schemes explained.
- Why review and amalgamate schemes?
- How – schemes reviewed.
- Proposed changes.
- Examples given – Bray Municipal District.
- Examples given – Wicklow County Council.

The Elected Members raised queries which were responded to by Mr. Wildes.

ITEM NO. 21

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

ITEM NO. 22

Notice of Motions

Notice of motion in the name of Cllr. M. Murphy (proposer), seconded by Cllr. L. Scott and supported by Cllrs. C. Winstanley, D. Alvey, J. Mulhall, W. O'Toole and M. Corrigan (7th March 2025)

'Recognising that 22% of the people in Ireland have a disability and that these people live in every community in our county,

Acknowledging that Ireland has ratified the UN CRPD on the 20th of March 2018, and has, as a state committed to disability inclusion through this treaty,

And

Understanding the crucial role played by local authorities in ensuring the accessibility of public space and amenities, and the delivery of vital services to people with disabilities,

We urge that members adopt the following motion:

- 1. Wicklow County Council will, agree in principle that, the Access officer role should be a full-time, dedicated role with appropriate seniority and training,***
- 2. A structured national approach should be developed to support a standardised approach to implementation of UN CRPD at local level, which is resourced and monitored to achieve consistency across all counties,***
- 3. Funding is allocated to each local authority from central Government to upgrade the access officer role, develop a standard national approach to UN CRPD implantation and to implement this approach, once agreed, at local level.***

Wicklow County Council will, work together as elected members, with our council colleagues and any other relevant stakeholders, including people with disabilities, to achieve the afore mentioned, by writing to An Taoiseach, An Tánaiste and the Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, T.D and the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, James Browne, T.D.'

RESPONSE

Wicklow County Council is recognised as being an access and Disability champion in the Local Government sector, with our unique partnership with the Disability Federation of Ireland, the establishment of a Disability and Inclusion steering committee (DISC) in 2020 and the development of a Disability & Inclusion Strategy in 2023, to achieve a multi-departmental approach to making the services provided by the Council equitable and accessible to all. Our approach to access and disability is in line with the United Nations convention on human rights (UNCRPD). Our commitment to accessibility and disability is further enshrined in our other local strategies such as the Local Sports strategy, the outdoor recreation strategy, the Library strategy and the Wicklow age friendly strategy. It also aligns with the Councils Corporate plan and our Customer charter.

Within the Social Development Directorate of the Council, a dedicated staff member has responsibility as Access officer along with other duties as age friendly officer, disability officer and Comhairle Na nOg co-ordinator as there is symmetry between these activities as they focus primarily on the aged, the disabled, and the youth of the county. Provision has been made in the recently developed Workforce plan to continue with this position in the Social development directorate.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. PAUL O'BRIEN
CATHAOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. RACHEL GILLESPIE
A/SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**

Confirmed at meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday the 9th June 2025

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

ON MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

Transcript provided by
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1 PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED ON MONDAY, 12TH MAY 2025 AT 2.00 PM,
2 AS FOLLOWS:

3

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members. Just bear with us now while we
5 do the roll call first. Thank you, Rachel.

6 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to welcome everyone to
7 today's meeting. Can I remind everyone online to remain on mute unless speaking?
8 Can I also remind everyone in the chamber to have their mobile phones on silent? If
9 anyone has any technical difficulties please contact either myself or Teresa. I will
10 now take the roll call.

11

12 Councillor Danny Alvey?

13 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.

14 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Thank you. Councillor Mark Barry? Online. I'll come
15 back to him. Apologies received from Councillor Joe Behan. Councillor Sylvester
16 Bourke?

17 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.

18 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

19 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.

20 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?

21 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.

22 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Erika Doyle?

23 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Present.

24 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Apologies received in advance from Councillor Malachai
25 Duddy. Councillor Gail Dunne? He's trying to join in online so I will check in with
26 him after. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

27 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Present.

28 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Orla Finn? I understand she's coming late.
29 Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?

30 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.

31 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Tom Fortune?

32 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.

33 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?

34 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.

- 1 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
2 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
3 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell?
4 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
5 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Peir Leonard?
6 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
7 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Pat Mahon?
8 COUNCILLOR MAHON: Present.
9 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
10 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
11 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
12 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Present.
13 MS GILLESPIE: Present online. Councillor Ian Neary?
14 COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
15 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
16 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: Anseo.
17 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Present.
19 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
20 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Anseo.
21 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
22 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Anseo.
23 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Graham Richmond?
24 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present.
25 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Lourda Scott?
26 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here.
27 MS GILLESPIE: Present online. Councillor John Snell?
28 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.
29 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
30 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Present.
31 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
32 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.
33 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
34 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.

1 MS GILLESPIE: Present. Thank you.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. I hope we haven't missed anyone. Just
3 before I go onto the next item on the agenda I just want to, on behalf of all of us,
4 staff and elected representatives, to pass our best wishes on to Councillor Joe Behan,
5 and we wish him a speedy recovery, and we look forward to having him back in the
6 chamber sooner rather than later. Thank you very much.

7

8 So, do we have any condolences? Do you want to hit your button. Councillor Shane
9 Langrell.

10 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I have a
11 vote of sympathy for Brooke Carey who was from Ashford, who passed away three
12 weeks ago now. Brooke was a neighbour of ours and her life was her horses, and she
13 passed away suddenly, so I would like to send my sympathies on to her dad Declan,
14 mam Susan, and her brother Emmet. May she rest in peace. Thank you,
15 Cathaoirleach.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Silvester Bourke.

17 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the Fine Gael group I would
18 just like to offer our sympathies to Director of Services, Michael Nicholson, on the
19 passing of his father who was buried this morning. Michael is from a family in
20 Arklow held in the highest of esteem, so it is a very sad day for his family, and we
21 express our deepest sympathies.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And I am sure we can all share in that, every
23 elected member would share in that sympathy. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.

24 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: I just want to second what Councillor Bourke has
25 said. I happened to be there this morning in the church, and it was great to see so
26 many elected representatives there this morning in the church. He was a person well
27 renowned in the community, and to hear people talking about him was gratifying for
28 Michael and his family. So, as I say, his family live near me as well in Oaklands, so
29 the best wishes to the family. All right.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. If there's no one elsewhere there,
31 Rachel, do you have any staff members? Thank you.

32 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. We would also like to extend our
33 sympathies to the families of Anne Blake, mother of recently retired Councillor
34 Vincent Blake; Veronica Carroll, mother of our former colleague and friend Matt

1 Carroll; Aileen Finucane, mother of our colleague Suzanne Finucane; Anne Carroll,
2 mother of our colleague Sinéad Bishop and our former colleague, Pam Kennedy.
3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel. I would ask everyone to rise for a
4 moment's reflection and silence. Thank you.

5

6 (Moment of silence.)

7

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

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I go into the agenda proper I am going to propose
11 that we bring item number 6 up to item number 2, which is the seating of the
12 vacancy of Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. So if there are no objections I will
13 move that up so we can seat the new councillor. Happy enough? So, before I go
14 into that, item number 1 on the agenda: To confirm and sign the minutes of ordinary
15 meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 27th April 2025. Can I have
16 a proposer, please? Councillor Pat Fitzgerald. And seconder? Councillor John
17 Snell. Thank you.

18

19 Okay. Just before I do go on to item number 2 on the agenda I want to welcome a
20 very special guest here today. She needs no introduction. She sat in this chamber
21 for almost six years with those of us what were elected in 2019, and we all got the
22 news there not so long ago that she's going on to pastures new. That doesn't mean
23 that we're not going to miss her here in this chamber. As I said, we're colleagues but
24 we're also friends in this chamber. And she is a former Cathaoirleach here in
25 Wicklow County Council and if the speeches were anything like last year when she
26 stepped down I know she's going to leave this chamber very proud, very emotional,
27 like all of us. She's not going to be just a sad loss to myself and Fine Gael, she's
28 going to be a sad loss to everyone in this chamber because she had a broad appeal,
29 she worked with everybody. She didn't see the colour of a party, she seen the colour
30 of the person's eyes and she worked with them. She didn't care if they were
31 Independent, Sinn Féin, Soc Dems, Fine Gael or Fianna Fáil. She worked with
32 everybody across the board. And might I also add she also worked well with every
33 staff member because I know, it went around the room like a vibration, that it was a
34 shock, and I know a lot of the staff speak very highly of Aoife Finn Kennedy and

1 they were shocked and sorry to see her go, like all of us. So, Aoife, if you would like
2 to come forward maybe to say a few words and I can make a small presentation to
3 you then. You might come up to the podium so people online can hear you then.

4 COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Cathaoirleach, thank you so much for that.
5 Thank you for the invitation here today. It is a unique opportunity to get an
6 opportunity to come down and thank everybody face-to-face because obviously the
7 decision I know came as a shock for a lot of people. It's obviously a really important
8 decision for my family. It changes my family dynamic and my home life, so it's the
9 right decision for the family but a very difficult decision to make, nonetheless.

10

11 I don't have a lot to say, just to thank everybody for your support. You've all been
12 amazing, and it's been great working with everybody, and I think everybody in this
13 room brings something unique to the table. As Paul said, regardless of party or
14 non-party, I don't think there's anybody in this room that's here for any other reason
15 than to do the absolute best for their own community and that's probably what unites
16 us all. Thank you very much for your support. Much appreciated.

17

18 (Applause.)

19

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just stay there for a minute. You're not getting off that
21 lightly! Councillor Silvester Bourke.

22 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just on behalf of the
23 members of Fine Gael we want to thank Aoife Flynn Kennedy for her hard work and
24 her dedication which often went above and beyond the call of duty. And we all
25 know that when she was in your job there she could have taken some time and
26 possibly should have but didn't she was so committed to the job. And she will be
27 greatly missed by all the members here and we thank her most sincerely for her
28 dynamism and her energy and enthusiasm for leading this group over the past year.
29 So, we wish you the very best of luck in your new endeavour as well and I am sure
30 our path will cross again. So very best of luck, Aoife.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Tom Fortune.

32 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'd like, on behalf of the
33 Independent group and myself, to wish Aoife the very, very best in her new role. No
34 doubt she'll shine in it as she has done in her political role. What we will miss, or

1 what I'll probably miss, Aoife, is the bits of jousting we'd have from time to time on
2 matters of very important local issues. But no, you are very good at what you do. I
3 know you obviously outside of politics, as you know, and your new role I know you
4 have good reasons for it, but it is a great opportunity for you. Maybe someday you
5 will end up back here as a Director or even the CE because you certainly will have
6 the ability. I wish you the very, very best. You're a decent individual, and that's
7 what matters. So I wish you the very best.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Corrigan.

9 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I know Silvester has
10 spoken on behalf of the Fine Gael group but as a Bray colleague I just wanted to say
11 a few words. Aoife and I worked very closely over the last six years, and we have
12 become very good friends, and I think that will continue for life, I think. But I just
13 wanted to say on record, Aoife, thank you for all the support you've given me, the
14 guidance, the cooperation. You've been absolutely a wonderful co-worker. We've
15 got a lot of things done together. I always thought we were a bit yin and yang; you
16 had your strengths in your areas which supported me, and I was able to help you in
17 other areas. And I will miss you terribly, but I just want to wish you and all your
18 family the best of luck, and we will miss you. Without a doubt you put the people of
19 Bray and County Wicklow foremost in your work and your duties and we were all
20 very, very grateful to you. Thank you.

21 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Miriam Murphy online.

22 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: You've gone on mute, Councillor. Sorry, Miriam.

24 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Sorry. We go back 25 years in the sense of the role of
25 ...(inaudible)... officer, which is obviously very emotional and actually, Aoife, started
26 that position over 20 years ago. So, it is very important that we give Aoife all the
27 credit for all the disability issues that you brought to the Council many, many years
28 ago. And it will get stronger after this meeting today. Aoife, I will miss you as a
29 councillor, but I know our friendship will go on forever and you will shine in
30 whatever you do.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lourda Scott.

32 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Aoife, I am sorry I can't be there
33 in person. I know you understand that struggle with family life. I yet again have to
34 attend this meeting online. But, look, needless to say I was absolutely gutted to hear

1 of your resignation, from a personal level and genuinely it is a huge loss to the
2 chamber. Your contributions here in Wicklow County Council were always so well
3 thought out and measured and worthwhile, and even if we were disagreeing on
4 points I know this is what you had to say because I knew behind it you carefully
5 thought about it and weren't just saying something for the sake of it. You are
6 unbelievably a hard-working councillor not just putting social media posts but
7 background work to get stuff done. And in the few committees we were on, Bray
8 Area Partnership, et cetera, and we worked together organising a few events and all
9 with the incentive ...(inaudible)... we'll get it done and get it done with good humour.
10 And I have great respect for that. When you were Cathaoirleach you ruled with a
11 great sense of humour but also a sensitivity and you were possibly the busiest
12 Cathaoirleach I have ever seen. There wasn't an event big or small that you wouldn't
13 pop up. You stayed for a good length of time; you weren't just there to pop up for a
14 photo. In the depths of the winter last year, at nine o'clock, I was coming out of the
15 shower, and I had a towel on my head and there on the doorstep was Aoife Flynn
16 Kennedy standing there with the Taoiseach looking for votes. Look, I am going to
17 really miss you. I am always here for a call, a chat or to touch base on something.
18 As I said again you will be a huge loss to the Council. We need more people like
19 you to represent the people in Wicklow, not less. If I can point out that you are now
20 going to be the fourth female councillor to have stepped down from your post in the
21 last three years and I think that is a really, really sad note. But I wish you all the best
22 in your future work and I know you will be a massive success as others have said.
23 So best of luck.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Leonard.

25 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah, I just want to follow on from all those true
26 comments about you and just want to thank you personally for all the times you
27 helped me outside of hours with housing issues and advice and help, and you most
28 definitely are a hard-working individual and you're a hard-working councillor for the
29 community and I wish you the very best in your new role and I am sure our paths
30 will cross again. Thanks, Aoife.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stokes.

32 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Aoife, thank you so
33 much for your service. You have been a wonderful colleague to have worked with.
34 You were a brilliant councillor and just a wonderful human being and great friend to

1 all of us. And I am reminded of that Dr Seuss quote, "Don't cry because it's over,
2 smile because it happened." You know, you did such a wonderful tenure, and I am
3 sure everybody in the chamber will be long-time friends with you. And it is no
4 surprise that the lights lit up like a Christmas tree to sing your praises. Thank you,
5 Aoife.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: I follow that quote.

7 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. At this stage of the
8 proceedings all the things have been said. But, Aoife, you've become a close friend,
9 and we obviously work very closely together in Bray and have done over the years,
10 and you've done that with such a spirit of generosity and never once any aspect of
11 territorial politicking which is incredible considering the nature of the business that
12 we do. I think you are such an incredible example for your daughters and for all of
13 our daughters actually, and as somebody else said we need more women like you in
14 politics. I completely understand your decision, but it is a devastating decision
15 actually for politics in County Wicklow and in particular a Bray. But I know you
16 will continue to contribute all your strengths for the benefit of others in your new
17 role, and I am delighted for you on that, but I will miss you and Bray will miss you.
18 The very best of luck and thank you for everything you've shared and given to me
19 over the last few years, and I know that our friendship will continue beyond this.
20 Thank you.

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

22 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Three things I'll
23 say to you, Aoife. First one, and three things I love about how -- who you are and
24 how you carried yourself in this chamber. And I would say number one, and this
25 very much -- I think we have a lot of resonance in the fact that we see ourselves as
26 part of community, rooted in community and in service to community, and it's
27 something that we see consistently, without pause, sometimes without even
28 consideration for self that you are selfless in your commitment, and I praise you
29 hugely for that. I love the way and loved the way you manage, yeah, as has been
30 mentioned, even in the chamber the tension that might exist between us at times.
31 And what sticks in my mind is that you're the type, which again relates to the type of
32 councillor that we need this chamber where you would say 'I appreciate where
33 Councillor O'Brien is coming from but...' and you will bring your point into the
34 room. And I think that actually says something, because to appreciate where

1 someone is coming from and to disagree with them I think says something about
2 how you do politics, and I think that is to be commended. And the last thing I would
3 say is that I very much loved how also selfless you were to say, Dermot, get into that
4 photo there, get your chains on, up you go, or that you would send me a WhatsApp
5 with a picture of me where I haven't got around to it or haven't bothered, and that is
6 such a thoughtful way to work with someone who may be seen as an opponent, who
7 may be seen as an other, but you are so thoughtful, so considerate and I really, really
8 appreciate that. Best of luck I would say. Yeah, you're another escapee, which
9 might be a good thing, and I know that the role you're going into is also one where
10 there's care and compassion and commitment to community. So, best of luck.

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

12 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I have been asked to say a
13 few words on behalf of my Fianna Fáil colleagues. And you were our Cathaoirleach
14 in the last year of the previous term and you did it with great style and fairness to
15 everyone, you were support for us all. I didn't always agree with some of your
16 political judgments but that has never interfered with our friendship and thank you
17 for that. Aoife has the charm and charisma of her father who is great character and
18 clearly the drive and determination of your mum. I wish you well in your future
19 career and every aspect of your life and thank you for everything.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Caroline Winstanley.

21 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Sorry I, pressed the wrong button. I should know
22 by now.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: No problem. Go ahead.

24 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: So, I would like to say thank you on behalf of the
25 Social Democrats. As a new councillor you have offered me nothing but kindness
26 and support, and you have always been very generous with your time, and I have
27 learned so much from you. And if I could be half the councillor you are I would be
28 happy.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: We are all going to get emotional at this stage. Councillor
30 John Snell.

31 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. First and foremost on behalf
32 of myself and Councillor O'Neill I just want to thank Aoife for everything that she's
33 done over many years. I was lucky enough to meet Aoife when she worked for
34 Wicklow County Council almost 15, 16 years ago. It was an honour to serve on the

1 East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force when Aoife came on board to
2 chair that forum, and she done it the same way as she carried herself in here in these
3 chambers; she was very open, transparent. And the issues were close to her heart,
4 and she made that known to everybody. If you look down through the item agenda
5 that's coming up, there's nine positions to be filled, that Aoife Flynn Kennedy sat on
6 nine boards. I know at least another six off the top of my head within her own
7 community, within her own political party. Your party was better for you; the
8 Council was better for you and Bray Municipal District was better for you. But I
9 always say to everybody, whether you're an official or an elected member, family
10 first, work second. And I think you have got it right. And knowing that you're a
11 workaholic you're going straight back to work but at least you won't be hopefully
12 leaving some of those 15 positions behind because you're passing on the baton, and I
13 know it will be in good hands with regards to your political party, your colleagues
14 and your friends. I want to wish you and more importantly your family all the best.
15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. So it is my honour to ask you to
16 come up here and we will present you with a small token of our appreciation.

17
18 (Applause.)
19

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Aoife. And as we can see now life goes on
21 unfortunately. So, item number 2 on the agenda now is: To consider the casual
22 vacancy arising from the resignation of our friend, Aoife Flynn Kennedy, in
23 accordance with section 19 of the Local Government Act 2001. So I am looking for
24 a proposer. Councillor Sylvester Bourke.

25 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to propose
26 Mr Ned Whelan from Bray. Ned has been a very long time loyal Fine Gael
27 supporter. I have known him for as long as I have been a councillor. He has worked
28 for the past 43 years in the Department of Justice. He has great life experience, and I
29 believe if he is co-opted today will make a very positive contribution to life in
30 County Wicklow and to the work that goes on in this chamber, to improve the lives
31 and improve the services of every citizen in County Wicklow that we serve. So, I
32 propose that we accept his nomination from the Fine Gael constituency to become a
33 member of Wicklow County Council.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Shane Langrell.

1 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I second that.

2 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillors. So, are we agreed? Agreed?

3 (Agreed.) So it is again my honour here today to welcome the second councillor I
4 have to do in this term of office. So I would like welcome and formally ask
5 Councillor Ned Whelan to accept his seat. I am obviously going to ask Rachel to
6 read out... (Applause.)

7 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just for formalities: Due to the casual
8 vacancy arising from the resignation of Aoife Flynn Kennedy I can confirm that Ned
9 Whelan has been nominated to replace Aoife Flynn Kennedy in the Bray East LEA
10 on Wicklow County Council. It is an honour to welcome you to the chamber.
11 Thank you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Would you like to say a few words? Go ahead.

13 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I can concur with everyone
14 here in the chamber here this evening. I know Aoife for a long number of years. I
15 know her family for a long number of years. I ran with Aoife in Bray East in 2019.
16 Aoife was very successful on that occasion; she was the better person, better lady for
17 the job. I would concur with everybody. I know Aoife's shoes will be hard to be
18 filled. I take size 11 shoes myself, but I think I need a bigger shoe now to be able to
19 fill Aoife's role, but I will try. I will do everything. I am a team player. I will work
20 everyone here, all the people in the chamber, and I will work with all the officials,
21 and I look forward to it. It is a learning process for me, but I will pick it up very
22 quick. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Whelan rather than
24 bringing everyone in, on behalf of all the members I want to welcome you here
25 today, and I want to wish you the best of luck. I had a brief conversation with you
26 before we started today. So your congratulations on your appointment to Wicklow
27 County Council. I do wish you the best of luck on behalf of all the members. We're
28 here to work with you. Thank you. I am going to switch off your microphone so we
29 can keep going.

30

31 Okay. So we go onto the agenda proper again, which is item number 3: To consider
32 the disposal of 0.0421 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Knockieran Lower
33 being the property known as 6 Knockieran Cottages, Blessington, County Wicklow
34 to Ciaran & Kate Gallagher (as per notice previously circulated). Can I have a

1 proposer, please? Councillor Patsy Glennon. And a seconder? Councillor Avril
2 Cronin. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

3

4 Item number 4 now on the agenda: To consider the disposal of 0.0331 hectares or
5 thereabouts in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower, being the property known as
6 24 Fernhill, Arklow, County Wicklow to Ms. Eimear Kenny (as per notice
7 previously circulated). Can I have a proposer? Councillor Warren O'Toole. And a
8 seconder? Councillor Pat Fitzgerald. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

9

10 Item number 5: To consider the disposal of 2 Woodleigh Close, Blessington, County
11 Wicklow to Ms Patricia Wiffen (as per notice previously circulated). Welcome on
12 board, Gail. Proposer, please? Councillor Patsy Glennon. Seconder? Councillor
13 Avril Cronin. Item number 6 on the agenda -- sorry. Agreed? (Agreed.)

14

15 Item number 6: To consider the disposal of 0.0057 hectares or thereabouts in the
16 townland of Bray, being the property known as 3 Connolly Square, Bray, County
17 Wicklow to Jane O'Sullivan and Teresa O'Sullivan as legal personal representatives
18 in the estate of John O'Sullivan (as per notice previously circulated). Can we have a
19 proposer? Councillor Melanie Corrigan. And a seconder? Councillor Dermot
20 O'Brien. Agreed? (Agreed.)

21

22 We are going to move on to item number 7 on the agenda: To consider the vacancy
23 on the Community & Social Development Strategic Policy committee arising from
24 the resignation of Councillor Aoife. Flynn Kennedy. I am looking for proposer and
25 a seconder. Councillor Sylvester Bourke.

26 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Councillor Ned Whelan.

27 CATHAOIRLEACH: And Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

28 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I second that.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. And, Councillor Whelan, are you accepting the
30 nomination?

31 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: I will, Cathaoirleach, yes.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed? (Agreed.)

33

1 Item number 8: To consider the vacancy on the Economic Development &
2 Enterprise Support Strategic Policy Committee arising from the resignation of
3 Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. I am looking for a proposer. Councillor Silvester
4 Bourke.

5 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I propose Councillor Ned Whelan.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

7 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: And I second Councillor Ned Whelan.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor, do you agree to that?

9 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: Yes.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

11

12 Item number 9: To consider the vacancy on the Kildare Wicklow Education
13 Training Board arising from the resignation of Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy. I
14 am looking for a proposer. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

15 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I propose Councillor Avril Cronin.

16 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I second that, Cathaoirleach.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: And Councillor Silvester Bourke is going to second it.
18 Councillor Cronin, do you agree?

19 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Agreed. Thank you.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we all agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you very much.

21

22 So items number 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 will be deferred. They will go back to Bray
23 for them to decide on that, and then will come back to us next month to ratify it.

24

25 Item 15: To consider the vacancy on the Housing Strategic Policy Committee
26 arising from the resignation of Councillor Gail Dunne. Do we have anyone
27 forthcoming for that? Do you want to put on your mic? Councillor Caroline
28 Winstanley.

29 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: I propose myself.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. To keep things flowing I am happy to second it. I
31 presume you're agreed?

32 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Agreed.

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we all agreed. Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you for
34 working with me there, members.

1
2 Item number 16: To consider the Proposed Material Amendments to the draft
3 Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025, to consider the Chief Executive's
4 Report on submissions to the Proposed Material Amendments to the draft plan and to
5 consider making, not making or modifying the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local
6 Area Plan 2025-2031, all in accordance with section 20 of the Planning and
7 Development Act 2000, as amended. (Copy previously circulated).

8
9 Just as a way of introduction, we are here to consider the Chief Executive's Report
10 and submissions to the proposed amendments to the Wicklow Town and Rathnew
11 LAP and the proposed alterations to Variation No. 2 to the County Development
12 Plan. There are 45 amendments to the Draft Local Area Plan and four alterations to
13 Variation No. 2. You should all have a copy of the Local Area Plan amendments
14 and the variations and alterations in front of you. You should also have a copy of the
15 summary document that presents a list of the amendments in order of the plan. This
16 is the order in which we will consider them today. All of the amendments were
17 considered in detail at the full Council meeting on the 10th February 2025 and each
18 amendment has to be voted on again today and it is important to state your reasons.
19 If it is the same reason as before please state clearly for the minutes that you propose
20 the amendments today for the same reasons as you set out in the February meeting.
21 If you've any additional reasons please clearly state them also. Each amendment also
22 needs to be seconded. The full appropriate assessment of the Local Area Plan was
23 also circulated to all the members last week for your consideration. Alongside the
24 amendments, you also have a copy of the final AA determination of the plan and
25 variation in front of you. Proposed amendment number one is an update to the
26 Residential Land Table which we will consider at the end of the Local Area Plan
27 amendment so that we know what the new zoning amendments have been agreed on.

28
29 So, members, I am asking you to work with me on this and we will get through it. I
30 just want to say that the Wicklow MD, which I just happen to be part of, have done
31 an extensive amount of work on this. We had a lot of meetings on it, a lot of
32 workshops on it and we are mostly in agreement with most of the plan. So I am
33 going to ask you to work with me on this one. So if you have this document here
34 (indicating)? If everyone has that. So I am going to start with number 2. If you see

1 "CE" it's the Chief Executive, if you see "EM" it's the Elected Members. So you
2 know what you are looking at.

3

4 We will start with number 2: "Add new objectives RE residential development
5 types, tenures and sizes." So I am looking for a proposer and a seconder. There's no
6 rationale given here.

7 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell. Seconded by Graham Richmond. Are we all
9 agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

10

11 Number 3: Add new objectives to Wicklow Town and Rathnew Village, priority
12 location, new employment. Proposer? John Snell. Seconded? Shane Langrell. Are
13 we all agreed? (Agreed.) I presume we're all agreed because it's the rationality
14 behind it, the previous report that was circulated? I will do it right from here on in.

15

16 Item number 4: Add new objective Wicklow Town priority location redevelopment.
17 Proposer? Shane Langrell. Seconded? As for the reasons stated, yeah? John Snell.
18 Are we agreed? (Agreed.)

19

20 Number 5: Add new objective to Rathnew Village priority location redevelopment.
21 Proposer? John Snell. Seconded? Graham Richmond. As per the February
22 meeting, the report, agreed? (Agreed.)

23

24 Number 6: Add new objective Rathnew Village priority location, investment and
25 new development. Proposer? Graham Richmond. Seconded by John Snell. As per
26 the rationale, agreed? (Agreed.)

27

28 Number 7: Update Rathnew Village strategy text. Omit county campus lands.
29 Proposed?

30 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

31 CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell. Seconded? Graham Richmond. As per the
32 rationale, agreed? (Agreed.)

33

1 Number 8: Update Rathnew Village strategy map. Proposer? John Snell.

2 Seconded? Shane Langrell. Agreed as per the rationale provided? (Agreed.)

3

4 Number 9: Improve Wicklow Town - Rathnew Village Waterfront strategy maps.

5 Proposer? Graham Richmond. Seconded? Shane Langrell. As per the rationale are
6 we agreed? (Agreed.)

7

8 Number 10: Add new opportunity site 5, Charvey Lane. John Snell, proposed.

9 Seconded by Shane Langrell. As per the rationale are we agreed? (Agreed.).

10

11 Number 11: Add new objective when preparing an LTP. Proposer? John Snell.

12 Seconded? Shane Langrell. As per the rationale are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
13 you.

14

15 Number 12: Add new objective RE bus service. I propose this as per the rationale.

16 And a seconder? Shane Langrell. Agreed? (Agreed.)

17

18 Number 13: Add new objective RE transit orientated development. Proposer?

19 Shane Langrell. Seconded by John Snell. Agreed as per the rationale? (Agreed.)

20

21 Number 14: Add to Wicklow County Council's objectives FRA text. Proposer?

22 John. Seconded Shane Langrell. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
23 you.

24

25 Number 15: Amend zoning objective land use to include childcare and creche.

26 Proposer? Shane Langrell. Seconded? John Snell. As per the rationale agreed?
27 (Agreed.)

28

29 Number 16: Amend 050S1 lands use to include allotments. Proposer? John Snell.

30 Seconder? Graham Richmond. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.)

31

32 Number 17: Add to zoning objectives infrastructure and OS1 and OS2 lands.

33 Proposed? John Snell. Seconded? Shane Langrell. As per the rationale agreed?
34 (Agreed.) Thank you.

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So number 37 and number 18 here are combined but we need a proposer and seconder for both of them. Starting with number 37: Rezone lands from unzoned OS2 to WZ/OS2 to rear of old Veha factory. Proposer? I propose that. Seconded? Councillor Shane Langrell. I am actually happy to propose the two of them, but I will do them individually. You are happy enough to second the two of them, Shane? COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Perfect. So just number 37, as per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you. And number 18: Amend waterfront zone texts and map to extend regeneration area at rear of old Veha factory. Again we have a proposer and a seconder. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Okay. We have an Elected Members one now. So: SLO Tinakilly, Newrath, Elected Members extend boundary and add MUGA and pitch objective. So I am going to call upon Councillor Shane Langrell to come in here COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I want to propose to further modify the fourth bullet point of SLO2 Tinakilly, Newrath to change from 25% to 20%.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to second it. You're happy enough with the modifications. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

We're going to move on to number 20A. So the new proposal there was to further modify with the CE's modification and the Elected Members' modification and proceed to make PMA No. 19. Thank you.

So number 20 A: SLO Miltown North, amend the boundary at Thigh's Avenue. Proposer? John Snell. Seconded by Graham Richmond. As per rationale provided agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

So we've another Elected Members one here now: SLO Miltown North rezone OS to RN2 along stream. So we need a proposer. So I am looking for a proposer. Councillor John Snell. Seconded by -- and, John, do you want to come in? Here. Go ahead, John

1 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah. Just based on the same reasons given at the
2 February meeting it's been long-documented, it's there for everyone to see, public,
3 Elected Members and officials alike, so rather than going over old ground I think it is
4 only fair to move the meeting on. So based on the same reasons in February. Thank
5 you.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am going to look for a seconder first before I
7 bring in Councillor Alvey. Councillor O'Neill. Councillor Alvey, do you want to
8 come in there?

9 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Yes, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I won't go on. I would
10 like to reiterate my position on this amendment as per the reasons outlined at the last
11 meeting on the subject, and I will be voting against this.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We have to vote. Unless anyone else wants to come
13 in? Okay. We're going to go for a vote. Do you want to make sure?

14 MS GILLESPIE: Now as proposed by Councillor Danny Alvey -- sorry. Proposed
15 by John Snell and seconded by Councillor Gerry O'Neill: 20B SLO3 Miltown North
16 rezone OS2 RN 2 along stream. So you're voting for or against.

17

18 Councillor Danny Alvey?

19 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.

20 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?

21 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.

22 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Joe Behan is absent. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

23 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

24 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

25 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

26 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

27 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

28 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

29 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

30 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Malachai Duddy is absent. Councillor Gail
31 Dunne, I'm not sure if he can hear us online or if he's available. Councillor Gail
32 Dunne?

33 CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll come back to him.

34 MS GILLESPIE: I don't think he has connection there now. He's absent.

- 1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
- 2 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
- 3 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.
- 4 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn?
- 5 COUNCILLOR FINN: Against.
- 6 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
- 7 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
- 8 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?
- 9 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.
- 10 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune?
- 11 COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: For.
- 12 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 13 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 14 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 15 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 16 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 17 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 18 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 19 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Against.
- 20 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 21 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 23 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Against.
- 24 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Miriam Murphy? Are you online there? I
- 25 will come back to her in a moment. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 26 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 27 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 28 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 29 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 30 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 31 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 32 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 33 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 34 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

1 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

2 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

3 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

4 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.

5 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor John Snell?

6 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

7 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

8 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

9 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

10 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

11 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

12 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.

13 MS GILLESPIE: Against. And can I just check, Councillor Miriam Murphy, are
14 you available? Not present. And Councillor Gail Dunne? Not present. Just one
15 moment. So we have 20 for and eight against. So the motion is carried. Four not
16 present. Motion carried.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel. We will now go on to number 21: SLO,
18 3 Miltown North add new text to refer to LTP. Proposer? Councillor Snell.
19 Seconded? Councillor Graham Richmond. As per the rationale provided agreed?
20 (Agreed.) Thank you.

21

22 Number 22A: SLO4, Ballynabarney North, rezone from PU to RN2, rezone RN 2 to
23 OS1 and add AA objectives. So I am looking for a proposer. Councillor Snell.
24 Seconded? Councillor Shane Langrell. As per the rationale agreed? (Agreed.)
25 Thank you.

26

27 22B: SLO4 Ballynabarney North, rezone from RN 2 to RN 1. This is an Elected
28 Members one. Have we a proposer? I am happy to propose that as given the
29 rationale provided at the February meeting. And seconded by Councillor Graham
30 Richmond. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

31

32 23: SLO4 Ballynabarney, rezone land from RN2 to RN1. I am happy to propose
33 this. Seconded by Graham Richmond. As per the rationale provided are we agreed?
34 (Agreed.) Thank you.

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Number 24: SLO Rosanna Lower, amend map and text and to include some of the lands originally in SLO 8, rezone RN1 to REEN locate -- relocate, sorry, CE zone. So I am looking for a proposer. Councillor Graham Richmond. Thank you. I'll second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Number 25: Delete SLO 8 map boundary and text, Rosanna Lower. Proposer? Councillor Graham Richmond. Seconded by Shane Langrell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Okay. So we go now to an Elected Members one. Number 26: New SLO 9 Glebe, rezone from CE to RN1 and RN2. So, Councillor Graham Richmond, because there will be a modification here.

COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I won't outline what I said before at the February meeting but just one small modification to further modify the text omitting the second bullet point, to omit the bullet point that states "any development on these lands shall make provision for possible future pedestrian/cycling connectivity between Friers Hill and R750." Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You're more than welcome. I am happy to second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Okay. Number 27 -- in relation to last one the new proposal is to further modify and proceed to make PMA to number 26. Thank you. But we are agreed. Thank you.

We're nearly there. Number 27, another Elected Members, so: New SLO 10, Ashtown Lane, rezoning 3.5 hectares from RN2 to RN1. I am happy to propose this as per the rationale given by Councillor Dunne back in February. Can I have a seconder? Councillor Graham Richmond. Are we agreed as to the rationale given? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Number 28: New SLO, 11 Marlton, Ballynerrin Lower, rezone 3.6 hectares from CE to RN1, rezone 3.82 hectares to E to OS1 to CE at grain store and 0.5 hectares from ERN1 to CE. Councillor Graham Richmond and I'm happy to second that. As per the rationale given back in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

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Number 29: New SLO 12 Broom Hall, rezoning 7.35 hectares from RN2 to RN1 from unzoned to AOS. A proposer? Councillor John Snell. I am happy to second that. As per the rationale given back in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Number 30: New SLO 13 Broom Hall, Hawkes Bay, rezone 2.7 hectares from RN2 to RN1 from unzoned to AOS. Councillor John Snell. I'll second that. Per the rationale given back in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Number 31: New SLO 14 Ballynabarney, rezone lands from AOS to E/CE.

Councillor John Snell, for the rationale modification, sorry.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a small modification in regards to bullet point 2 on SLO 14 Ballynabarney, to read, "No more than 50% of the employment units may be permitted on foot of the zoning may be occupied." It is just a small modification to give this project the best opportunity possible to come to fruition. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. I am happy to second that. That means new proposal to further modify and proceed to make PMA number 31. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

Number 32: Rezone land from to DC to WCC at Clermont. I'm happy enough to propose that. Seconded by Councillor John Snell. As per the rationale provided in February are we agreed? (Agreed.)

Number 33: Rezone lands from RE to BC at Charvey Lane, Rathnew Village.

Councillor Snell. I am happy to second that. As per the rationale given agreed? (Agreed.)

Number 34: Rezone lands from OS1 to CE at Knockrobin. I am happy enough to propose that. Do we have a seconder? Councillor Shane Langrell. As per the rationale provided in February are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

1 Number 35: Rezone lands from OS1 to RN1 at Ballynabarney. Proposer?
2 Councillor John Snell. Seconded by myself. As per the rationale given are we
3 agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

4

5 Number 36: Rezone from RE to CE at Greenhills Road. Can I have a proposer,
6 please?

7 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shane Langrell and John Snell. As per the
9 rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

10

11 Number 38, which is Elected Members: Rezone 0.06 hectares from OS2 to RN1 at
12 Charvey Court, Rathnew. Can I have a proposer?

13 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Proposed.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell. Do I have a seconder? Councillor Shane
15 Langrell. Councillor Alvey, do you want to come in there?

16 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I just want to reiterate
17 my position on this amendment as per the reasons outlined at the last meeting
18 ...(inaudible)...

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillors. We will now go to a vote.

20 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you. As proposed by John Snell and seconded by Shane
21 Langrell we will have a vote on the rezoning of 0.06 hectares from OS2 to RN1 at
22 Charvey Court, Rathnew. Councillors are voting in favour or against.

23

24 Councillor Danny Alvey?

25 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.

26 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?

27 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.

28 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan is not present. Councillor
29 Sylvester Bourke?

30 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

31 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

32 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

33 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

34 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

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

1 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.

2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?

3 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.

4 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?

5 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.

6 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?

7 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Against.

8 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor John Snell?

9 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

10 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

11 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

12 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

13 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

14 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

15 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.

16 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Twenty-three for, five against, three not present and one
17 abstaining. The motion is carried.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank
19 you.

20

21 Number 39: Rezone 0.673 hectares from unzoned to RN1 at Ballyguile Beg. I am
22 happy to propose that. Seconded by Councillor John Snell. As per the rationale
23 provided in February are we agreed? (Agreed.)

24 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Your mic was off.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're still on 39. Thank you. Rezone 0.673 hectares from
26 unzoned to RN1 at Ballyguile Beg. I'm happy to propose that, Councillor Snell was
27 happy to second it. As per the rationale provided in February are we agreed?
28 (Agreed.) Thank you.

29

30 Number 40: Rezone 3 hectares from RN2 to RN1 at Greenhill Road, Mariners Point.
31 Can I have a proposer? Councillor Shane Langrell. And seconder? Councillor John
32 Snell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

33

1 Rezone 1 hectare from OS2 to E at Murrough. Number 41 we are on. Can I have a
2 proposer? Councillor Shane Langrell

3 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yes, Cathaoirleach, I'd like to propose that to further
4 modify the PMA 41 to add the following local objective for the subject lands set on
5 page 96 and 97 of the CE report. New proposal to further modify and proceed to
6 make the PMA number 41.

7 CATHAOIRLEACH: So that's a new proposal to further and modify and proceed to
8 make PMA number 45. Seconded by Graham Richmond. So are we
9 agreed -- Councillor Danny Alvey, do you want to come in here?

10 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. This proposal relates to the
11 Murrough, it is right on the boundary, it is over the special protection area. I
12 welcome the observation that any development in this area won't happen
13 ...(inaudible)... nonetheless it would significantly affect the bird population in the
14 area that the SPA is due to protect, and it is for that reason ...(inaudible)....

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. We'll be going to a vote.

16 MS GILLESPIE: As proposed by Councillor Shane Langrell and seconded by
17 Councillor Graham Richmond for the rezoning of circa 1 hectare from OS2 to E at
18 the Murrough.

19

20 Councillor Danny Alvey, for or against?

21 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Against.

22 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Mark Barry?

23 COUNCILLOR BARRY: Against.

24 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Joe Behan not present. Councillor Sylvester
25 Bourke?

26 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

27 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

28 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

29 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

30 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

31 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

32 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Against.

33 MS GILLESPIE: Against. Councillor Malachai Duddy not present. Councillor Gail
34 Dunne not present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

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

1 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.

2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

3 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

4 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

5 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

6 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

7 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Against.

8 MS GILLESPIE: Against. We have 19 for, six against, five not present and two
9 abstaining. The motion is carried.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're all in agreement then. As per the rationale provided
11 are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

12

13 Number 42: Land use map, amend OS1 to OS2. Can I have a proposer? Councillor
14 John Snell. I'll second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)
15 Thank you.

16

17 Number 43: Updated Transport Strategy map. Proposer? Graham Richmond. I am
18 happy to second that. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)
19 Thank you.

20

21 Number 44: Infrastructure Delivery Schedule Appendix Table on implementation
22 and timeframe on all objective. I'm happy enough to propose that. Seconded by
23 Councillor John Snell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)

24

25 Number 45: Add SFRA addendum updated flood maps. Proposer? Councillor John
26 Snell. Seconded by Graham Richmond. As per the rationale provided are we
27 agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

28

29 Now, we're going back to number 1. So: Amend Table 3.1 new residential zoning,
30 zonings to include all. I'm happy enough to propose that. Seconded by Councillor
31 John Snell. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.)

32 Thank you, members. Rachel

33 MS GILLESPIE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We will now take a vote on the Local
34 Area Plan proposal in total. Having considered the plan, the proposed material

1 amendments, the Chief Executive's Report on consultations and the Strategic
2 Environmental Assessment, Environmental Report for the Draft Plan, the
3 Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan, the Strategic Flood
4 Risk Assessment for the Draft Plan, the SEA Environmental Report for the proposed
5 material amendments, the Natura Impact Report for the proposed material
6 amendments, written submissions relating to the SEA, AA and SFRA made during
7 the plan preparation process, ongoing advice on the SEA, AA and SFRA from the
8 Council agent staff, the final consolidated Natura Impact Report, the final AA
9 determination, in accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the Planning and
10 Development Act 2000, as amended, the members agree by resolution to make the
11 Wicklow Town-Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031 with those amendments
12 proposed that have been agreed today, with those proposed amendments that have
13 been agreed to make with minor modifications today, without those proposed
14 amendments that were not agreed today, with any changes consequent as a result of
15 the agreed amendments and with any minor data or document updates that have
16 given rise during the adoption of the plan. Can I have a proposer, please?

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am happy to propose, and Councillor Graham Richmond is
18 happy to second. Are we all agreed? (Agreed.) Members, thank you very much for
19 your patience, especially those from outside of our area. I want to thank my
20 colleagues from the Wicklow district for all your efforts.

21
22 Bear with me one second now. We've to go to number 17 on the agenda: To
23 consider the Proposed Material Alterations to the propose Variation No. 2 to the
24 Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (Wicklow Town - Rathnew LAP), to
25 consider the Chief Executive's Report on submissions to the Proposed Material
26 Alterations to the proposed variation and to consider making, not making or modify
27 Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, all in
28 accordance with section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as
29 amended). So you should have all got a copy of that. Okay.

30
31 So just a couple of pages on from the last, you should be on that page there then,
32 okay?

33

1 Number 1: Alter map 17.09 landscape category map. Proposer? Councillor Shane
2 Langrell. Seconder? Graham Richmond. Are we agreed? (Agreed.) As per the
3 rationale provided, agreed? (Agreed.)

4
5 Number 2: Alter map 1 land use zoning map for Wicklow Town and Rathnew LAP.
6 I am happy enough to propose that. Seconded by Councillor John Snell. As per the
7 rationale provided, agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

8
9 Number 3: Alter map 4 indicative flood zones maps for Wicklow Town and
10 Rathnew. Proposer? Councillor John Snell. Seconded by Councillor Graham
11 Richmond. As per the rationale provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

12
13 Number 4: Alter map 5 Transport Strategy Map Wicklow Town and Rathnew LAP.
14 Proposed by Shane Langrell. I'm happy enough to second that. As per the rationale
15 provided are we agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

16
17 MS GILLESPIE: In relation to overall the County Development Plan 2022-2028
18 Variation 2 proposal, having considered the variation, the Proposed Material
19 Alterations, the Chief Executive's Report on consultations and the Strategic
20 Environmental Assessment Screening Report and associated determination for the
21 proposed variation and the Addendum 1 to the SEA Screening Report, Appropriate
22 Assessment Screening Report and associated determination for the proposed
23 variation and Addendum 1 to the AA screening report for the proposed variation,
24 Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessments Determination for the Proposed
25 Material Alterations, Screening for Appropriate Assessments Determination for
26 Proposed Material Alterations, written submissions relating to SEA and AA made
27 during the variation and preparation process, ongoing advice on SEA and AA from
28 the Council's agent staff, the final AA determination, in accordance with the
29 provisions of section 13(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
30 the members agree by resolution to make Variation No. 2 to the Wicklow County
31 Development Plan 2022-2028 with the proposed alterations that have been agreed
32 today, with any proposed alterations that have been agreed to be made with minor
33 modifications today, without any proposed alterations that were not agreed today,
34 with any changes consequent required as a result of the agreed alteration and with

1 any minor data or document updates that have arisen during the adaptation of the
2 variation, and to proceed in accordance with section 13(8) of the Planning and
3 Development Act 2000, as amended, to publish notice of the making of the variation.

4

5 I understand we need a proposer and a seconder on that item first.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: I have a proposer, Councillor John Snell, and a seconder,
7 Councillor Shane Langrell. Are we agreed? (Agreed.).

8

9 So what we're going to do now, members, to copper fasten everything, we are going
10 to go for a vote on the variation and what we're going to do is go back then and we
11 are doing to vote on the LAP, so we've everything done and dusted then. Thank you
12 very much. Do you want to call a vote on the variation?

13 MS GILLESPIE: Just on item number 16, we're just having the vote overall in
14 accordance with the provision of section 20 -- sorry, 17 first. Sorry, apologies. In
15 accordance with the provisions of section 13(6) of the Planning and Development
16 Act, as amended, the members agree by resolution to make Variation No. 2 to the
17 County Wicklow Development Plan 2022-28. So we will call for a vote. Councillor
18 Danny Alvey?

19 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

20 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Mark Barry? Not present. Councillor Joe Behan,
21 not present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

22 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: For.

23 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

24 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

25 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

26 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

27 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

28 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.

29 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Malachai Duddy, not present. Councillor Gail
30 Dunne, not present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

31 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.

32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn?

33 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.

34 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?

- 1 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.
- 2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?
- 3 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.
- 4 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune? Councillor Tom Fortune, not
5 present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
- 6 COUNCILLOR GLENNON: For.
- 7 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
- 8 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: For.
- 9 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Shane Langrell?
- 10 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: For.
- 11 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peir Leonard?
- 12 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: For.
- 13 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Mahon?
- 14 COUNCILLOR MAHON: For.
- 15 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
- 16 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: For.
- 17 MS GILLESPIE: Councillor Miriam Murphy? Councillor Miriam Murphy, not
18 present. Councillor Ian Neary?
- 19 COUNCILLOR NEARY: For.
- 20 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
- 21 COUNCILLOR O'BRIEN: For.
- 22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Paul O'Brien?
- 23 CATHAOIRLEACH: For.
- 24 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
- 25 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: For.
- 26 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
- 27 COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: For.
- 28 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Graham Richmond?
- 29 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: For.
- 30 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Lourda Scott?
- 31 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: For.
- 32 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor John Snell?
- 33 COUNCILLOR SNELL: For.
- 34 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Peter Stapleton?

1 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: For.

2 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Stephen Stokes?

3 COUNCILLOR STOKES: For.

4 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?

5 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: For.

6 MS GILLESPIE: For. That's 26 for and six not present. The proposal is carried.

7

8 And then to item number 16. In accordance with the provisions of section 23 of the
9 Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the members agree by resolution
10 to make the Wicklow Town - Rathnew Local Area Plan 2025-2031. Calling on vote
11 for or against.

12

13 Councillor Danny Alvey?

14 COUNCILLOR ALVEY: For.

15 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Mark Barry?

16 COUNCILLOR BARRY: For.

17 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Joe Behan, not present. Councillor Sylvester
18 Bourke? Not present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?

19 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: For.

20 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Avril Cronin?

21 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: For.

22 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Erika Doyle?

23 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: For.

24 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Malachai Duddy, not present. Councillor Gail
25 Dunne, not present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?

26 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: For.

27 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Orla Finn?

28 COUNCILLOR FINN: For.

29 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?

30 COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: For.

31 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Ned Whelan?

32 COUNCILLOR WHELAN: For.

33 MS GILLESPIE: For. Councillor Tom Fortune, not present. Councillor Patsy
34 Glennon?

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

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel, for your assistance today. Can I also
2 thank Leonora, Bernadette, Sorchá and all the team for being very patient with us
3 and very supportive of us over the last number of weeks and months. So my sincere
4 thanks to you on behalf of all the Municipal District members, indeed all the
5 members. So thank you for your help over the last number of months.

6
7 Members, we will move on to item number 18: To note the Annual Financial
8 Statement 2024 and to approve by resolution (1) additional net expenditure in excess
9 of budget in accordance with Section 104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001 and
10 (ii) additional transfers to and from capital (copy attached). Brian.

11 MR GLEESON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will give a short overall of the
12 unaudited AFS to start with, and, as the Cathaoirleach said, that is just for noting,
13 and we can take the formal resolutions in respect of net expenditure and the capital
14 transfers following that.

15
16 The financial accounts for Wicklow County Council for 2024 have been prepared in
17 accordance with the Local Authority Accounting in Ireland Code of Practice
18 Accounting Regulations and the directions of the Minister for Housing, Local
19 Government and Heritage.

20
21 I am pleased to report that the Council's overall financial position remained strong
22 throughout 2024. We managed our finances in a prudent manner while ensuring that
23 essential services were delivered to a high quality. The total expenditure that
24 occurred in the revenue account after transfers was 172 million which was an
25 increase of 22 million on 2023. The positive news is that we had a surplus of
26 601,000 which has fully cleared the reserve deficit in the revenue account leaving the
27 account with a small surplus of 2,782 at year end. This represents the first year since
28 the amalgamations of the town councils that Wicklow County Council has produced
29 a closing credit balance, and this is a significant achievement and is testament to the
30 good financial management of the Council over the past number of years to eliminate
31 this deficit which at one point stood at more than 4 million. The capital account
32 expenditure, including transfers, was 114 million in 2024. The vast majority of this
33 expenditure was under the housing programme. A full break down of the
34 programme by group is outlined in Appendix 6 on page 42 of the AFS report. I am

1 also pleased to note that the commercial rates collection rate increased again from
2 91% up to 93% which is the highest collection rate Wicklow has ever received, and
3 also our housing rents have improved their collection rate increasing from 84% up to
4 85%. With a significant amount of expenditure incurred a lot was achieved in 2024
5 and some of the key actions and deliverables are outlined on pages 7 and 8 of the
6 Financial Review. While the AFS itself is just for noting by the members, under
7 section 147 of the Local Government Act approval of the members is sought for the
8 net expenditure in excess of budget in the revenue account and for transfers to and
9 from the capital account. In relation to the net expenditure in excess of budgets these
10 amounts are outlined by division on page 5 of the AFS as well as in Note 16 on page
11 26, and they are as follows: Housing and building 2,235,936; environmental
12 services, 817,741; and agriculture, educational, health and welfare, 84,638. These
13 excesses were offset by under-spends in other areas and explanations for the net
14 expenditure are outlined in the Financial Review on pages 3 and 4. Approval by the
15 members for transfers to and from capital is also requested. The amounts by division
16 are outlined on page 5 of the Financial Review and they're also in Notes 14 and 16
17 on pages 25 and 26. Total transfers to capital are 5,713,463 and from capital,
18 1,399,374. Transfers to capital are in respect of past expenditure which has resulted
19 in deficits in the capital account as well as the provision of specific reserves for
20 future expenditure and commitments. Some of the most significant transfers in 2024
21 include capital reserve for fabric upgrade works and conditional surveys, half a
22 million, which is charged to the Housing Improvement Programme; capital provision
23 for match funding requirements, charged to development management; provision of
24 just under half a million for harbour works, including dredging; 300,000 for a capital
25 reserve for County Buildings refurbishment works; and 200,000 for the Public
26 Lighting Energy Efficiency Project. The most significant transfers from capital are
27 the rates revaluation provision of 700,000 that covers rate income reductions from
28 tribunal decisions, also quarter of a million for funding of Local Footpath Renewal
29 Scheme, and our insurance dividend of 300,000.

30
31 So, if the members have any questions on the AFS I can take them now and after that
32 I will need a proposer and seconder for both the net expenditure in excess of budget
33 and then for the transfers to and from capital, thank you.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Brian. Anyone like to come in? No. Anyone
2 online? No. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin.

3 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to
4 propose everything Brian has said.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to do it one-by-one. Okay? So you're proposing
6 the net first. Okay?

7 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Yeah.

8 CATHAOIRLEACH: And I'm happy to second it. Can I have a proposer for the
9 second one maybe, the transfer? Okay, we're agreed on the first one. Agreed?
10 (Agreed.) The second one we're looking for the transfer, I'm happy to propose and
11 seconded by Councillor John Snell. Are we agreed? (Agreed.)
12

13 Brian, just before I move on can I say well done. It's not easy. We have gone
14 through some turbulent times over the last number of years, including the pandemic
15 and so forth, so to get us debt-free is a huge accomplishment, so well done to you
16 and all your team, and we will move on.

17 MR GLEESON: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Number 19: To consider the Chief Executive's
19 Monthly Management Report. So we haven't had one for a while so I did try and
20 bring it up as much as I could on the agenda. Councillor Stephen Stokes.

21 COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, can I
22 congratulate Wicklow County Council on Magheramore Beach, a very positive
23 achievement. I would be interested in the timeline of events of what is going to
24 happen terms of the process now. But I think it is a great credit to everybody that is
25 involved, the Chief Executive and all the departments.
26

27 Just one item I'd like to raise. This is an item that comes up regularly at municipal
28 district level and also here in the chamber, just in relation to our staffing, outdoor
29 staffing. I am wondering if there's an update? It had been mooted that there may be
30 staff transferred over from Uisce Eireann to potentially work as general operatives or
31 on the outdoor teams. Most recently we were advised by the outgoing engineer that
32 the staff, the outdoor staff are now down to 12 in the Greystones Municipal District
33 and as I understand it the next level, the next lowest in terms of any other districts is
34 at 28. Maybe that's been updated since. So there is a severe crisis in terms of the

1 outdoor staff in the Greystones Municipal District. In fact, the outgoing engineer
2 advised us on some weeks, on some occasions there can be as few as five staff
3 available. And he stated, and it was minuted in our municipal district meeting, that
4 that number really needs to be over 30. That's not my words, that's what the
5 outgoing municipal district engineer said. As I said, that was noted. So I am trying
6 find is there some sort of plan, you know, to rectify these concerns, and I would be
7 particularly interested in an update on the Uisce Eireann. Go raibh maith agat,
8 Cathaoirleach.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I want to say congratulation to our finance
10 director, Brian Gleeson, because Councillor Stokes is right. It was a major
11 achievement and a very positive new stories that Magheramore happened. It is
12 something that I know didn't happen overnight, by the way. A lot of work has gone
13 into this over a number of years. I know Brian has given his heart and soul, plus the
14 municipal district office up in the Town Hall. So on behalf of all the members here,
15 Brian, well done, it is a great achievement and a positive news story.

16 MR GLEESON: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I appreciate the kind words. Can I also
17 mention Annalisa Ryan in our law department who did trojan work in relation to this
18 in a short period. It was over two weeks we closed the deal. That was phenomenal.
19 I want to mention her for the massive work she did.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Brian. Councillor Leonard.

21 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah, I would like to say congratulations to Brian as
22 well. That is brilliant, to have a piece of our coast back in public ownership. I want
23 to bring up some other parts of the coast. I know there are ongoing coastal
24 protection studies being done but there is an urgency around more erosion down
25 around the Clogher Beach area with landslides and stuff like that. There are a lot of
26 residents really worried about the protection of their homes and businesses down
27 there, so I don't know whether something could be done to liaise with them in the
28 interim.

29

30 And then just in relation to the Arklow Flood Relieve Scheme, we had the wonderful
31 opening of the wastewater treatment plan which the whole town really welcomed. It
32 is a transitional point in Arklow's future. We have many different recreational clubs,
33 the sailing and bowling clubs, and different recreational boat users in the town, and I
34 have been asked by them to try and get the dredging part of the deliver prioritised as

1 part of the Flood Relief Scheme. I know we're still at design stage and it's yet to go
2 out to tender, but I think that needs to be made a priority because there's that much
3 silt in the river and I think the dredging part could be prioritised and probably done
4 as one of the first measures of the Flood Relief Scheme going forward. And it would
5 allow these clubs to be able to get the young people using the boats and expand on
6 that recreational amenity over the next few years. There's a real need for recreational
7 amenities for the kids in the town. And they don't even realise that the river is there
8 for them to get involved in. So I would just urge the Chief Executive maybe to have
9 a look at that and prioritise the dredging of the deliver. Thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Langrell.

11 COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, just two
12 things. I know you address them. I'd like to say massive thank you and support to
13 SORCHA WALSH and BERNIE over the last few months regarding our area plan. They
14 have been outstanding support. And even BERNIE this morning put this guidance in
15 the right direction, so I really appreciate the support.

16
17 Just one more thing. The residents of Brittas Bay have been on to me regarding I
18 suppose if they want to attend their local beach and go for a walk with their dog and
19 children the costs of having to park in the car park there. And I believe before my
20 time this was brought up in the chamber before. I do find it a bit -- I don't agree with
21 it, and I suppose it's something that I'd like for us to look at it again, and maybe get a
22 response back. Thank you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, I will do it in groups of threes as usual. It's
24 been a while since we've had a report, just to remind the members.

25 MS O'GORMAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And bear with me, members, if I cough
26 my lungs up; I have an awful chest infection. So don't take it personally. Thank you
27 all, and congratulations on Magheramore. It is a very, very important piece of
28 natural infrastructure that we're very proud to call ours now. And when we have
29 more details on the access and other arrangements we will make them available to
30 you all.

31
32 Councillor Stokes, in relation to staffing and Uisce Eireann, we have been in a very,
33 very protracted transitional arrangement with Uisce Eireann - this is at a national
34 level, not just locally in Wicklow - much of which is to do with I suppose the

1 country being at full employment. And where staff have expressed an interest to
2 retain with the local authority, Uisce Eireann have asked us on some occasions to
3 hold off on those while they backfill on their end. It is proving to be difficult. That
4 is not going to be the panacea to the problem in Greystones and elsewhere. We
5 have, as you may be aware, undertaken a Strategic Workforce Plan Review. So each
6 directorate, each of the directors here, including district administrators, have looked
7 at their staff compliments, have looked at the corporate plan, have put forward
8 proposals to augment their staffing structure over the next five years in line with the
9 objectives of the Corporate Plan. We have sent that plan, draft, to the unions for
10 their consideration and they've come back with feedback on it, and we have worked
11 along with that. The next stage of that plan then is to submit it to Customs House for
12 their approval. Brian might, or Lorraine may be able to put a figure on the total
13 additional staff overhead that we would be looking -- if I was to fill all the posts that
14 all of my directors are looking for in the morning it is multiples of millions. That is
15 not to say that we don't need posts in specific areas, but we have to be able to fund
16 them. But the Workforce Plan is the first in that notwithstanding the Uisce Eireann
17 hiatus. I might come pass to Lorraine to come to you in a little more detail on the
18 overall cost of that workforce plan and how we might go about filling those posts
19 into the future.

20
21 Councillor Leonard, in relation to the coastal protection at Clogher Beach area, I
22 don't know if Maeve has any more detail on that. We can get more detail from you,
23 and we might liaise with you. I am very mindful that Maeve is stepping into the
24 breach here today at short notice, as is Caroline, so you might bear with us, some of
25 the question we might have to come back to you on. Similarly on the Arklow Flood
26 Relief Scheme, we will certainly look at that and we will come back to you directly
27 on that.

28
29 Councillor Langrell, on Brittas Bay and parking in the car park. Obviously the car
30 park is there for a particular reason, because of the influx of tourists in the
31 summertime. I take your point about locals not being able to access the beach in the
32 same way. It is under a contract, is my understanding. We might have a look at it,
33 and we will have a discussion with you offline about that. Lorraine, if you might just
34 want to come in on the Workforce Plan.

1 MS GALLAGHER: Yeah. There's a lot of information contained within the
2 Workforce Plan, and I am just looking at the Greystones one. So for Greystones, for
3 example, there's an additional 12 GOs recommended over the next five years. I just
4 haven't got the costings to hand, but it is all subject to finance. Going back to Uisce
5 Eireann, in relation to the GO grade, there are no staff working with Wicklow
6 County Council who either wish to transfer over to Uisce Eireann or stay within the
7 Council at GO grade. So it doesn't come into the equation. So Uisce Eireann doesn't
8 come into the equation in terms of that staff. As the Chief Executive said, what's
9 included in the Strategic Workforce Plan is what will be included in the next five
10 years. But just to say that we did extend our current GO panel for another couple of
11 months and we are filling vacancies as they arise. So it is not like we are not
12 fulfilling current vacancies, we are.

13 MR GLEESON: I might just come in on the costing. I think the last costing that
14 was done on it, and it's kind of a live document, it was minimum of 5 million
15 anyway. So it's a fairly substantial amount in order to get all the staff that we feel we
16 need, and obviously that's over a five-year period. It wouldn't be a case of we need
17 all that staff right here right now. But it would include increases across all the
18 districts, including Greystones. So it is something that is finance, we want to put
19 forward a strategic plan and obviously, as you're well aware, there's only certain
20 sources of funding we have that can generate additional money, so we will be
21 looking at that and putting forward a proposal in advance of the budget later on this
22 year. Thank you.

23 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

24 COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I want to bring up
25 the Farrankelly estate in Greystones again. This has come up a few times and it is
26 going on since before my time here in the Council, and it's going around in circles
27 and I know I bring it up, it's come up at our local level, but it's just at this stage off
28 the Richter scale what the Council are doing about it. I know they're saying that they
29 need to sell priorities and everything, but there in the estate the residents are at
30 breaking point at this stage. We were told that an engineer took a walk around. A
31 walk around isn't sufficient at this stage, so I think it's down here now to Wicklow.
32 We need to take immediate action and do something in Farrankelly, and I'd like to
33 hear back from her what they are going to do.

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

1 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach, and
2 thanks, Chief Executive, for the report. Just a few bits. Just noting in the housing
3 section the homeless figures again which are never pleasant reading. I guess if we
4 look at the presentations, Cathaoirleach, we're really looking at one homeless
5 presentation every single day in 2025 up to the point that the report was made. One
6 thing I am wondering is, and I am not saying this with any presumption or sense of it
7 myself but, with the prohibition notices coming into the picture now as an important
8 part of how we try and bring up the standards in HAP properties in particular is that
9 having an impact on homeless figures? That is a curiosity which probably can't be
10 answered today which I understand but that is something I am curious about. In
11 terms of youth homelessness also, which is a feature in the report, and I know we
12 flag it because there's a national strategy on youth homelessness, but I wonder is it
13 possible for us to have figures? Do we have that data I wonder so that we can see
14 where youth homelessness -- what it looks like in Wicklow in terms of the age
15 profile that fits the criteria for youth and then that might inform what we do, how we
16 respond. Again there's a strategy sitting there but I guess it's difficult to streamline
17 the response to youth homelessness without a sense of the data so I just wonder is
18 that possible.

19

20 A couple of other items. I know I have mentioned maybe, I'm not sure was it the
21 January or February meeting, around whether there is scope in the Chief Executive's
22 Report to include the updates and details on motions that are passed in the chamber
23 and whether that is an appropriate place. And I say that because I am just mindful
24 that we have on record when motions are debated and passed in the chamber and
25 that's public record, but we don't necessarily have an update on the progress of
26 motions, and I know sometimes they're passed and then there's a resolution to send
27 them off to all the other councils. And I am also aware and have had experience
28 myself of motions that are passed in the chamber but become unimplementable. And
29 I think you know, and as frustrating as that can be and as much of a hit that might
30 feel like for any councillor or councillors who propose motions I think it is probably
31 appropriate for that to be recorded; that a motion that was passed is not
32 implementable or is going to take a period of time to be implemented. And I think it
33 also gives us an opportunity to share the success of motions and to show the record
34 that this motion has been passed on this date and it has been implemented on this

1 date. So I wonder is there scope for that, Chief Executive? I'm not sure whether the
2 report is the place for that, but I think it would be valuable for the public record that
3 we show the updates on the journey of our motions.

4

5 The last item, Cathaoirleach, I am just looking again at the Fire Service Report and
6 the percentage increase in call outs, and I know I mentioned this before as well and I
7 wonder is there scope for us to have a presentation in the chamber from the chief fire
8 officer. I think 2022 was the last time that the chief fire officer was in the chamber,
9 and, as I said before, there's been a significant amount of change since then and a lot
10 of new members. So I wonder is there scope for us to have a presentation from the
11 chief fire officer. Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

13 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive.
14 Literally two notes of thanks. Firstly, following on from Shane Langrell, it's just to
15 thank Leonora, Sorchá and Bernie with their help with the LAP but also pay tribute
16 to the fellow councillors, the six of us I think worked very well together with the sole
17 option of gaining something for the community. I hope we have achieved that.
18 Secondly, it is just to compliment Brian and the team on the Magheramore thing. It
19 is the one thing, and over the last few days the amount of people who have said to
20 me complimenting the work of Wicklow County Council which it's nice to see that
21 we're getting out there, it's being recognised and just thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive.

23 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, members. Councillor Fenelon Gaskin, I might ask
24 Caroline to come in on Farrankelly. I don't know if we're going to be able to answer
25 the question on youth homeless, but you might be able to give some context to
26 Councillor O'Brien in a moment. In relation to the updates and decisions on
27 motions, yeah, I agree with you, it'd be a good way to track it. In a previous
28 authority that I worked in there was a tracking system where members could see, so
29 we've started to look at that to see. I don't think the CE report is the place for it but if
30 we had some sort of online tool where we could go and look that's where the motion
31 was passed in member, that's where it is resting now, or we have had X response, or,
32 as you say, it is not implementable for whatever reason. So we're working on that.
33 If you bear with us on that. In relation to the fire services, yeah, I take your point on
34 that. We were I suppose awaiting the final outcome of some of the WRC matters.

1 They have now been resolved so I think. My understanding is it will go back to the
2 CPG for a recommendation for CPG to invite the fire service in. I have no issue with
3 that. I might hand over to Caroline. Thank you.

4 MS FOX: Just on Farrankelly, yes, myself and the senior engineer and the Clerk of
5 Works did visit the site possibly three weeks ago and we did visit a property as well.
6 So we actually physically went into a property to view it. We are aware that there
7 has been numerous reports carried out on this but the view of the senior engineer at
8 the time was to do with a full survey once again on the stop that's there and to
9 ascertain and to survey exactly what is needed at this very present time. We would
10 hope to have that carried out in the next two to three weeks and it was agreed with
11 the administrator and the manager of Greystones Municipal District that we would
12 report findings back to the MD itself and keep in contact with you on our approach.
13 I acknowledge that you mentioned there that there was some few that we'd sell
14 housing stock to possibly fund that. That is an item we are looking at. But the first
15 step is to see the costs of the works that is needed to be carried out. And again, I do
16 acknowledge this is an item that is continuously brought up at MD and it needs to be
17 addressed. So that is where we stand, councillor. Thank you.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Keep going.

19 MS FOX: So coming to Councillor O'Brien there on the homeless issue. Yes,
20 figures of presentations have indeed unfortunately increased. We have noticed that
21 ourselves over the last few months. Homelessness is an issue that is getting more
22 and more complex. We, with our other local authorities, Meath and Kildare, we are
23 taking a regional approach to it, and it is something that we coagulate all the data on,
24 who is presenting. We also have data on the youth. Obviously they are in care until
25 they are 18 and they may present with family members. That certainly sometimes
26 happens. But normally once they're 18 they would present themselves to Wicklow
27 County Council. But it is an issue that we currently are reviewing the strategy that is
28 there, and we would hope to kind of keep an eye on that and see what the increase is
29 there. But certainly numbers are increasing. We've also recently in Bray carried out
30 a survey on the homeless people sleeping rough in Bray and we should have data
31 soon on that. So it is an area that we are working on. Thanks, councillor.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Lourda Scott, I know you're online
33 there.

1 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of quick things first
2 and then I want to touch on a matter already raised but a follow-up question on this.
3 I would like to see the list of rent arrears going back over the Chief Executive's
4 Report. It seems to have dropped off in the last year or so and I would like to see
5 that, just what arrears are outstanding and just what changes there are from time to
6 time. I have also been asked to look for an update on the two strategy documents
7 which I appreciate won't be available right now, but if they could be circulated to the
8 representatives I'd really appreciate that. One is on the ...(inaudible)... strategy which
9 I think there's two years left on the current strategy, and the second is on the
10 Wicklow Migrants Integration Strategy which was adopted in 2020 and is valid until
11 2026, so that is coming to near the end of the line. I am not sure which committees
12 ...(inaudible)... give an update on the implementation, if that could be circulated I'd
13 appreciate that. I was going to raise a question on Farrankelly, and it is important
14 that I ask my question anyway. We had been told at our last meeting that an
15 outgoing survey had been done in 2021. I had asked our MD for a copy of that
16 survey to be sent to all the Greystones elected representatives and I would like to
17 reiterate that ask now. It is very good to hear that survey is going to happen up there.
18 Both past and present representatives have been asking for surveys to be carried out
19 since 2022, so we're now in May 2025. I would ask if you could possibly follow up
20 after this meeting with the date as to when that survey will take place, so we are
21 aware. And I would ask that is done. Thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Avril Cronin.

23 COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. Last week the
24 members of the Baltinglass Municipal District received an email with an attachment
25 of an ad that was sent out in relation to the establishment of a town team in
26 Baltinglass. And on that ad it said: "The town team will typically consist of
27 representatives from local businesses community groups, residents, tourism
28 organisations, And Garda Síochána, charities, social enterprises, sports organisation,
29 cultural groups, voluntary groups, chamber of commerce, retailers, developers and
30 educational institutions." There was actually no mention of elected representatives
31 in that advert. My query is just in relation to first of all the role of the Elected
32 Members in the establishment of a town team, will it actually be discussed at
33 municipal district level with the Elected Members, as to date it has not been
34 discussed, or is the membership of the town team ultimately down to the decision of

1 the Executive? At the end of the day it is the elected members in the district that will
2 have to make the decisions relating to their MD. And following on from that,
3 considering it is the establishment of a town team in Baltinglass, we are still waiting
4 on development to begin with the Baltinglass RRDF funding. We're still waiting on
5 work to commence there. So I am just wondering is there any update on what's
6 actually happening with the RRDF funding in Baltinglass. My final question is in
7 relation to the two parks that we have in our municipal district. We have a new park
8 in Blessington, and we have the redeveloped park in Baltinglass. But unfortunately
9 our staff are -- they are quite stretched at the moment. They are under pressure
10 trying to do all their everyday tasks that they have to do and then we obviously have
11 our new park as well. I know our local town are very great assistance. I know it's
12 been discussed at our MD meeting, but you might give me an update on that thank
13 you.

14 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stapleton.

15 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a few different
16 points and issues to raise with the Chief Executive arising from the report. Firstly,
17 the new houses that have been developed by the Council in Tinahely, just looking for
18 status update on that. There's 20 houses there in Lugduff that look fully developed at
19 this stage. I know that the ESB and water connections have been made. So I am just
20 being inundated by the people on the housing list wondering when the allocations are
21 going to be made and when they can expect for keys to be handed out. I know you
22 can appreciate there's an awful lot of people for which this is going to hugely impact
23 their lives, so they are apprehensive.

24

25 Then just on Council's housing stock, the vacancy within our stock. I was wondering
26 would it be possible to share with the members a detailed list of the houses that are
27 empty and perhaps like a status report on how long they have been empty for and
28 what the plan of action is. I don't know, I assume I'm not the only councillor who
29 will be -- it's often pointed out too by members of the public that, oh, this house is
30 sitting empty, what's the story with that? It's a question we get over and over again
31 and it'd be nice to know we could give them information on that. I am thinking
32 particularly of a four-bed house, or even possibly bigger, on Barton Street, Tinahely,
33 that I know has been sitting vacant for a long time. I can't even go back to residents
34 or members of the community and say that's definitely the Council's house because I

1 don't have that information readily available. So if that was possible it would be
2 hugely helpful. It'd be great for us to monitor our vacant stock.

3

4 Thirdly, just on the status of the Arklow and Shillelagh Greenway. I welcome that
5 there has been an update in the Chief Executive's Report that there was a meeting
6 with the National Parks and Wildlife service around Tomnafinnoge Wood as part of
7 the Arklow-Shillelagh Greenway, and I was wondering what arose from that
8 meeting, but also to request if it would be possible for the Council to issue some sort
9 of a press release in giving a general status update of the Arklow-Shillelagh
10 Greenway and its future prospects and projects. I know I get a lot of feedback from
11 people throughout the different communities saying that they felt that the
12 communication was really good at the start in terms of how it was progressing and
13 what they could expect but just feel a little bit in the dark. It is something I get asked
14 over and over again.

15

16 Finally, on the Tenant in Situ Scheme. I know there's been a number of changes
17 brought about by our government that have been passed on to councils, and I am just
18 wondering if you could share some information not necessarily today but at some
19 point with the Elected Members so that we can you understand exactly what the
20 changes are and how the Council are applying them. Thank you very much.

21 Appreciate there's a bit in that

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive.

23 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, members. Councillor Scott, in relation to the list of
24 rent arrears, we can get that back in the CE Report. I don't know why that dropped
25 off.

26 MR GLEESON: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, Chief Executive, I might come in. It's
27 actually on page 92, under "Finance." So I am not sure if you were looking at the
28 housing section, but it's always been grouped with the commercial rates and housing
29 loans. There's a table on page 92 that outlines the arrears are 3.2 million at the end
30 of March, which is down from 3.3 at the start of the year. Thank you.

31 MS O'GORMAN: If that's not what you're looking for, Councillor Scott, you might
32 come back to me directly. Thanks, Brian. In relation to the two strategies, the Age
33 Friendly and Migrant Strategy, the implementation, we can arrange for updates to be
34 provided to all members on that. The 2021 survey.

1 MS FOX: Sorry, then we will come back to you with a date of the proposed new
2 survey, so we will definitely, as I say, mention we will feedback into the Greystones
3 Municipal District on that.

4 MS O'GORMAN: I might pass over to Ms Earls on the RRDF and Baltinglass but
5 just to say the members absolutely do have a role to play in town teams. As you
6 know, in some of the districts the Cathaoirleach of the town team, the Cathaoirleach
7 of the MD, it is completely up to the MD as to what shape and form the town team
8 takes, but Leonora might give you a little more detail on that. In relation to the two
9 parks in the MD area, again as part of the Workforce Plan proposals Teresa O'Brien
10 in her role as Director of Environment and with her eye on the MD has sought to
11 create a kind of parks outdoor maintenance team as part of her work programme, so
12 that will be taking account of the large number of public spaces that come into public
13 ownership and then are left in the districts to manage. It is just not sustainable. So
14 we're looking to try and address that through our Workforce Plan. It is not going to
15 be today or tomorrow it will be fixed but we are working on a plan to do that.

16

17 Councillor Stapleton, Caroline might come in again on Tinahely on the houses there.
18 Certainly vacant stock, we can look at that to see -- we should have a list of our
19 housing stock that is vacant and then we should be in a position to tell you if that
20 house in Tinahely is ours or not, and again the duration that it is vacant. Often
21 they're hard to let properties so we've started, as you will know in some of our newer
22 schemes started using choice-based letting and that might be a solution in those
23 vacant properties that are vacant for longer for particular reasons. We can certainly
24 look at that. I will ask Joe to give you an update on the Arklow to Shillelagh
25 Greenway. Caroline, you might come in quickly on Tinahely and then I will go to
26 Leonora.

27 MS FOX: Again, Tinahely, you're correct is almost ready. We're probably two to
28 three weeks out, then we will be handed over the key. It is imminent, so that would
29 be a great scheme. On the vacancies, we have constantly in the region of 120 to 150
30 houses all the time vacant for, as the CE mentioned there, either they are about to let.
31 So the relets can take some time. Obviously when we get stock back some only
32 takes a few weeks' work, some can take four to six months' work, depending on the
33 level of work that needs to be carried out. We generally don't share the list because
34 obviously if tenants are aware we would be inundated with calls, so it is something

1 we generally don't share in the public domain. As you said, obviously when people
2 are in the local area that they do know when a house is free, so that's probably why
3 we wouldn't share it really public. If you don't mind, if you give me that exact
4 address on Main Street, Tinahely, I will have a look at that. And then the
5 actual -- there was one other scheme. Tenants in Situ. So yeah, we were awarded 6
6 million this year. How and ever the Tenants in Situ Scheme has changed somewhat.
7 If we buy a property now, if there any repair works that need to be done the Council
8 are to carry those costs themselves. So that is a big piece that has changed. As I
9 mentioned the 6 million is awarded, how and ever that is to cover some previous
10 costs that have been carried out by ourselves and some CPO, the compulsory
11 purchase houses that we bought in previous years. So we're looking at what remains
12 in that 6 million going forward for this year. But the scheme has changed somewhat,
13 and it may not suit us as a Council, as I say, going forward particularly because we
14 still have to look at some costs that were incurred last year. So we're looking at that
15 balance, what remains, for this year 2025. Thanks.

16 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. So just I suppose we have been talking
17 about setting up these new town teams for a while in Baltinglass, Rathdrum and
18 Kilcoole. The process we take is that we appoint consultants to go out and do a
19 public consultation just to gather ideas and thoughts of the community, kind of give
20 them a background to what a town team is, and then they can put in an expression of
21 interest to see if they are interested in being on the town team. The most recent town
22 team set up was in Newtown and we have two Elected Members sitting on that town
23 team. So they have a very central part in playing in the town team. We will keep
24 you informed. This is the public consultation stage, to let people know what the
25 town team is about and see if they are interested in coming in, but as we move into
26 the next stage obviously the members will be as part of that consultation informed of
27 what the next stages are and what the make-up of the town team will be, what will be
28 the headings that the town team will have, and the members can then decide if they
29 wish to sit on the town team and what grouping within the town team they wish to sit
30 on. So there is an important role for the members there because the community
31 obviously will look to the Elected Members for their assistance also.

32
33 Just in relation to the Baltinglass RRDF. Look, I acknowledge the patience of the
34 members in relation to this when it has gone on a while. So we have completed the

1 tender preparation, finalising the costings, so we've kind of covered all the areas
2 around landscaping and services, SuDs, the drainage, what materials will be used and
3 just kind of drawings and specifications. So we are going out to tender with a view
4 to using the shortest possible tendering process that we can use. So we are looking at
5 SupplyGov rather than E-tenders because that speeds it up. We have added in an
6 extra piece, so there was a piece of ground that wasn't included close to the bridge,
7 and we've now included that in to finish off that whole Phase 1A piece. We have got
8 a new resource attached to the RRDF area. We've a new senior executive engineer,
9 so that should have a significant impact on delivery because heretofore we simply
10 didn't have the physical resources we have been asking other departments to assist us
11 but now we will have a dedicated senior engineer on the project. I suppose just to
12 say that in relation to the public consultation that happened in Baltinglass last
13 Wednesday, it was very positive, there was good engagement, a lot of questions
14 asked not least about the RRDF project but there seems to be very good interest from
15 the community out there in the setting up of the town team. So we will ensure that
16 we keep that communication piece going with the public but obviously we will speak
17 to Elected Members first and let you know how the piece is travelling. I think as
18 well in relation to the RRDF what we might do is once we start on the ground we
19 will put photo montages up around so the public can see physically what it is going
20 to look like, because at the moment they probably don't have, so that is a
21 communication piece that we need to do as well. Thank you.

22 MR LANE: Yes, councillor, you're correct, we have met with the National Parks
23 and Wildlife, and that is to revise the route along that particular area Tomnafinnoge,
24 dividing an environmentally sensitive area and the subsequent challenges that would
25 be possible afterwards. We're waiting for the finalisation of that report which will be
26 forwarded to TII before we can move to Phase 3 design and environmental thing. So
27 the publication will be in the next couple of weeks, but we are waiting for that report
28 to be finalised.

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

30 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is just clarification from the
31 CEO on three issues. Ten year ago, 11 year ago, 12 year ago I looked for a bus stop,
32 and that's a pole in the ground with a sign on top, B-U-S, for Hollywood Cross and
33 12 year later still no sign of it. It is not a designated stop which means that some
34 drivers will bring people on to Annalecky which is 6 kilometre away. But anyway,

1 lo and behold we believe there's a lot of money around at the moment and there's a
2 lot of money being talked about being spent in the Hollywood area, whether some
3 people think there's a new airport going in, according to the local Monsignor
4 Glennon Monsignor Horgan did it so maybe he could manage it. I don't know. But
5 there's a ferocious amount of money around the Hollywood area, but we still don't
6 have the pole and the sign on top so I am just wondering how quick we can get that
7 in place. It's still happening that there's buses going by, monsignor or no monsignor
8 it is not happening, it's not stopping. I can't get answers from the Cathaoirleach on
9 the Baltinglass Municipal District at all.

10

11 The other issues there is, there was a Part 8 here a year and a half ago on the
12 Blessington housing, over a hundred houses there in Burgage, in the new estate there
13 in Burgage, over 100, I think 113, but there's been no movement on that. And can I
14 briefly say you know how urgent it is we are? We're in dire needs for housing in
15 West Wicklow. It's dreadful. The amount of people waiting and under pressure. So
16 I would love to see that movement or have an idea of when they will be ready.

17

18 The third one I want clarification on this one. I know it's a live planning and we
19 can't discuss it too far but it is a little bit strange in that I've had a lot of calls, maybe
20 a dozen calls during the week of an application for a solar farm and I admit I missed
21 it, and I know other councillors missed seeing it because the address on the
22 application wasn't Hollywood or wasn't Donard or whatever, it was a townland
23 Mullicar. The local people know nothing whatsoever about it. And I am just
24 wondering is there any way of communicating with the people? This is more than a
25 solar farm. I think it's the biggest one in Ireland. It's off the N81 there. Parts of it
26 can be seen from the N81. It's up to 200 acres of solar farms. I think it is a little bit
27 unfair. The application for this farm was on one of the English tabloids, it wasn't on
28 a local paper. No one knew a thing about it that way, you know. As I say, the
29 townland was only mentioned in the application, so everybody missed out on it. But
30 it is a massive development, and it would be developed off very, very small rural
31 roads. So there's huge concern on it. So maybe if there was -- I don't know whether
32 we have to sit and wait for the decision and then from there move on but I think it is
33 a very unfair approach by Wicklow Renewables, the applicants, whoever they are I
34 don't know either, but I think it is a very unfair way of going about it by putting the

1 planning application in a tabloid somewhere and not even mention the village that it's
2 near. Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

4 COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I know this was
5 discussed at length at our last meeting but it's such a massive issue in the Bray area
6 that I want to keep it highlighted and that is the proposed closure of the Herbert
7 Road. The campaign is growing from strength to strength, public opinion is real,
8 people are very distressed. I know we can do nothing about it at this meeting. I
9 want to keep it highlighted on behalf of the residents of Bray. Campaign is really
10 growing. There's been a lot of road stops, slowdowns for want of a better word
11 which is causing a lot of stress in the community. I want to keep it highlighted that
12 this is still a massive issue for people in Bray. Thank you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Jason Mulhall.

14 COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just for the Chief
15 Executive as per my written communications I do want to express my
16 disappointment at what appears to be a somewhat, in my opinion, quiet withdrawal
17 from the Blessington Greenway Project. I do acknowledge that the community had
18 outline concerns on certain elements of the projects but at the same time there was
19 and still remains strong community and agency support. We're all aware that
20 significant sums of monies have already been spent to this point on the greenway. I
21 do fully recognise the pressures on local authority resources, but I am asking you to
22 consider re-examining and considering to possibly establish a small working group
23 bringing together Council, local reps, community to explore a way forward and
24 examine what could be salvaged. I do not believe pushing it to the MD office for
25 investigation of smaller projects is appropriate. I don't believe they have the
26 resources to give it the attention that's required. I believe our local community in
27 West Wicklow deserves more than a quiet withdrawal from that project, and clarity
28 and what alternatives, if any, could genuinely be considered. And I am personally
29 not particularly happy with or supportive of the decision to simply drop the project.
30 I believe there remains an opportunity to re-engage with the project in a meaningful
31 way. I do welcome the clarity on the current situation on the Arklow-Shillelagh
32 Greenway by the Director. Much like Councillor Stapleton, the community on the
33 ground have been outlining their concerns on the future of the project. So it is good
34 to hear there's movement again. Then in addition, thanks for the update on

1 Councillor Cronin's query on potential staffing numbers for the parks in the
2 Baltinglass MD. The parks are maturing now and in need of maintenance. And I
3 can confirm that it is being left to the local tidy town groups in Blessington to look
4 after the park. Nobody else is. In my view it is not acceptable. We deliver these
5 resources, parks, and this needs to be addressed without further delay. Thank you.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. If you don't mind, Chief Executive, if no one else
7 is coming in I will ask my own question. I am looking for the casual trading licences
8 to be looked at again because to me they're antiquated at the moment. They're
9 stretching back decades at this stage. For example, I'm not going to go into any other
10 MD but for example in my own MD the only place you can have a casual trade
11 licence in Wicklow is AIB car park. We're not actually doing the town justice; we
12 have a Market Square; we can't have the market. I know the Director is not here, but
13 I think it is something we should look at and maybe have a bit more leeway where
14 common sense comes into it. There's going to be festivals and so forth. We can look
15 at it through the MDs as well. Thank you very much.

16 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, members. Councillor
17 O'Neill, I am going to defer to Joe on the bus stop in Hollywood Cross and on the
18 Part 8 housing. In relation to the planning query that you have, if the application is
19 still live there's very little we can say about it, but Leonora may clarify around
20 placing of advertising and how notices go into the press and that.

21
22 Councillor Corrigan, thank you for your comments. It's noted, and it is of concern
23 certainly.

24
25 Councillor Mulhall, I note the disappointment, and you know what you've expressed.
26 To say it's not a slow withdrawal from the Blessington Greenway Project. We have
27 to take stock and take time with it, and in the meantime we felt it would be useful for
28 the MD to get on with some smaller projects to give some positivity in the area. A
29 significant amount of time and effort and money was spent on getting that
30 application to the stage it was at, and I would be very foolish to spend that time and
31 money again on a similar application if the outcome is likely to be the same.
32 Notwithstanding that, we do have to look at it again. It's too significant I suppose a
33 tourism opportunity in the area. Our resources are very limited. I mean I think four
34 or five members today have queried staffing and we had one member of staff looking

1 after all the greenway projects and that's not sustainable. So at this moment in time
2 the focus is on the Arklow-Shillelagh project to get that one over the line and then
3 resources will get freed up. So in the meantime I think the MD should progress. But
4 I am quite happy to meet with any group or members again in Blessington, I am
5 quite happy at your suggestion to have a working group and look in a more broad
6 sense at what we can do in the future, but there's not a quick fix to it is the very
7 simple answer I will give you on it.

8
9 Councillor O'Brien, the casual trading bye-laws, yeah, we can certainly have a look
10 at them. I think it has been raised in a couple of MD areas about them not being fit
11 for purpose and I know a discussion has been had between the Director of Planning
12 and Director of Environment on it, so we will certainly take that away and get back
13 to you.

14 MS EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I can't be specific about any planning
15 application but just in general within the Planning and Development Regulations
16 2001 an applicant can list the townland as the location for a development, and they
17 can put the newspaper notice in any newspaper that circulates in the area but they are
18 also required to put a site notice on the site so that is another means of the public to
19 become aware of an application if they don't see it in the newspaper. Any
20 application that is under the Planning and Development Regs allows for newspaper
21 circulating in the area and the use of the townland as the location. Thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay.

23 MR LANE: Okay. Just for the councillor, it is not quite as simple now as putting a
24 pole up and putting "Bus", B-U-S, on top but thank you for the clarification. The
25 area has to be safe for pedestrians, and it has to use the comprehensive traffic
26 calming scheme. We've currently gone out to tender and we're awaiting those tender
27 reports. Subject to TII funding and approval of those we'd hope to be starting during
28 this year. So it is getting there but it is not quite as simple as putting up a pole.

29
30 And I fully understand the email regarding Herbert Road, but people might look
31 when they get an opportunity because there was an awful lot going through it but
32 there is a Bus Priority Interim Scheme website explaining the rationale and if people
33 have time now there is a 13-minute video explaining the rationale of that. I know the
34 Bray councillors have seen it but some of the others might keep it going. Thank you.

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The Burgage, yeah, tenders have been received on that. That's PPE bundle 3. Tenders have been received. There's a few little design tweaks, and a little bit of legal work but we will be progressing it. It might be a small bit later. We anticipated it would have commenced by now but there's a few issues being looked at. Nothing major, just small procedural issues. But the contractor has been appointed, preferred option.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before I go on to item number 20, it just seems to be a day for good-byes which is unfortunate. Today we say good-bye to Director of Services Lorraine Gallagher who will be retiring at the end of the month. This will be Lorraine's last meeting. On behalf of all the members, I'm not sure if they want to come in, I just want to put first of all say thank you for your 41 years of service. You were one of the first phone calls I got when I got elected in 2019 to welcome me to Wicklow County Council. You couldn't have been any more helpful. It was obvious from the get-go that your wealth of knowledge and the experience you have was invaluable not just to Wicklow County Council but to us newbies at the time and I'm sure all the new members elected there recently last year as well got that same attention as well. So you will be missed. Your knowledge will be missed, not just by the Elected Members but the staff also because I know we all look to you at times up here, what do we do next, how do we do this. So all I want to say is thank you and to wish you every success in your retirement, I hope you enjoy it and get to travel and spend more time with your family as well. So thank you very much for your service to the public, to County Wicklow and to Wicklow County Council. Thank you. Would you like to say a few words?

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. So this time last year it was all about the Local Elections and here we are a year down the road and how the time flies, and that's exactly how time has flown for me since I joined Wicklow County Council in 1984 in the different roles and different directorates. Over half my career has been working in Corporate Services in this chamber in partnership with the Elected Members, and it's been absolute honour and privilege for me to serve the people of County Wicklow in a place I born, grew up in and went to school in and live in. So I consider myself extremely fortunate to work in such a progressive organisation with some very inspirational people down through the years. And I have seen many changes and worked with many good people, staff and Elected

1 Members, but it is time to call it a day and hand the reign over to others. Looking at
2 the people up here and with people standing here today, new faces, and that's the way
3 life is. I want to thank you, Cathaoirleach and the Elected Members. Thank you,
4 Chief Executive, Emer O'Gorman, for her support and guidance and friendship over
5 the last two years, my colleagues on the senior management team for their support
6 and friendship too, the senior team that I have led by Helen Purcell and Joanne
7 O'Dowd and the team in Bray MD, Garvin Hickey and Steve, and all the staff in
8 Wicklow County Council for the work that they do and the support that they have
9 given to me. So it's been quite a journey, but it is time now for a new chapter and it's
10 what I am looking forward to. So thank you very much. (Applause.)

11 CATHAOIRLEACH: Not surprising my screen has lit up again. Councillor
12 Leonard.

13 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I am in shock. I can't believe Lorraine is leaving. I
14 want to thank her personally. As Paul has just said, you're such a lady and you've
15 been such a great help and support to elected representatives, all the newbies coming
16 in. I think when you work in the Council and to put that time and experience that
17 you brought to Wicklow County Council there's been a lot of seeds planted in the
18 county, good seeds, positive seeds, and things that have come to fruition, that
19 everybody, all the directors have been involved in. We're not great at good PR a lot
20 of the time. A lot of the PR is usually when there's a battle which we navigate
21 through, but the amount of good work that's been done throughout those years and I
22 think there's probably a book or two in you in your experience here and I want to
23 wish you the best of look going forward and you deserve a really enjoyable
24 retirement, and as Paul said to travel and enjoy life, but you have planted a lot of
25 very good seeds and been part of a good County Wicklow. Thank you.

26 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Bourke.

27 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Well, I am really stunned at
28 this news because I thought Lorraine would go on for a lot longer. I hadn't realised
29 the clock had caught up so quickly. I have known Lorraine for quite a while because
30 I was elected here since 1999, so I did a quick calculation she has had at least six
31 Chief Executives that she has worked with in that time and maybe even before that.
32 So on behalf of the Fine Gael group I want to say congratulations on all the hard
33 work and achievements that you have made in County Wicklow, Wicklow County
34 Council. I am sure there's many legacy items there that will have your stamp on

1 them and that you've helped to get over the line and has had a really positive effect
2 on the lives of everybody in the county. You will be certainly missed. I recall every
3 former the Cathaoirleach of the county council praising you to the highest heavens
4 for your help and assistance, particularly Councillor Vance when he was saying
5 good-bye he was nearly crying because he was having to say goodbye to Lorraine at
6 the time. But I do think that you have left a huge legacy and a difficult job for
7 whoever takes over from you as well in due course. So I hope that your advice will
8 be available as well to help whoever is coming behind you because you've got huge
9 experience and that may be needed to help others to guide them in the right direction
10 as well. Thank you very much, Lorraine. I'm looking forward to perhaps a more
11 formal arrangement if the Council will be doing something for you to pay their
12 tributes to you.

13 CATHAOIRLEACH: I will two reasons to cry next month. Councillor Dermot
14 O'Brien.

15 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I was going to not
16 say it but like I was ten years of age in 1984 but what I mean by that is I know when
17 we say the word "institution" we think of a big building and a big machine but I
18 think people can be institutions as well and it is incomprehensible to me how much is
19 stored in the mind of Lorraine Gallagher and how accessible it is to her whenever she
20 needs it. I have the world of admiration and respect for you, Lorraine. Again what
21 an asset to this council, to this county that we will miss. If we could get a budget for
22 cloning maybe for extracting what's in there we would benefit from that. At the
23 same time huge congratulations for this moment. You have so much to reflect on
24 and to be proud of I am sure, but we will miss you. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Miriam Murphy, you're online.

26 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I know Wicklow has loads
27 of gems, but I think we have a gem in Lorraine. It is actually very emotional. I'm
28 sorry I can't be with her today. She sat with me on Friday in the Bay, and you know
29 said she'll be gone in three weeks, I couldn't believe it. Lorraine, you've always been
30 very inclusive, you have always raised the flag any time I approached you on
31 disability, but as a person you're welcome for anybody, your understanding is just
32 exceptional and your knowledge, as Councillor O'Brien has said, will be something
33 left untold. I am sending hugs, Lorraine.

34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Erika Doyle.

1 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'm going to save my long
2 good-bye, Lorraine, for tomorrow night in Bray. I have no doubt that it is the right
3 time for you to go because you do everything in just the right way. And when
4 anything happens or when anybody is unsure all eyes go to you because everybody
5 knows that you are absolutely rock solid and you know exactly how things work,
6 how they should work, how to resolve sticky issues to everybody's satisfaction and
7 it's such a skill that sometimes it is almost invisible and that's when you really know
8 that somebody knows their stuff. I am under instructions as well to pass on my
9 regards from Stephen, Stephen Matthews, who you were such a huge support to as
10 well and me too in my early days as a co-opted councillor and in fact even before
11 that, because I would have known you before that. But yeah, an absolute institution
12 and I really do hope we get to say a proper goodbye to you. Whether you want that
13 to happen or not I think it needs to. Thank you for everything.

14 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

15 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor John Snell.

16 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach. I don't get shocked easily in
17 the council chambers over all these years, but I am shocked to hear that. I wasn't
18 aware that Lorraine will be stepping aside. Sixteen years I've spent working in
19 Wicklow County Council and you said that Lorraine has been here for 41 years, so
20 doing the maths I reckon you must have started when you were nine or other than
21 that it is Oil of Olay. You're looking well on it anyway. Lorraine, over the years in
22 Wicklow County Council there's been turbulent years, and I have no doubt that you
23 resolved more issues behind the scenes than any one person that has passed through
24 Wicklow County Council. If I was to say what your legacy is, what you've left
25 behind I think you know the passion that you put into the Enterprise Offices, County
26 Wicklow Tourism, but the big one for me is the campus, County Wicklow campus
27 out in Rathnew. Again, I am a bit biased because there's a little bit of the Rathnew
28 DNA in you and that has come through, your passion for the county as a whole.
29 Every member that has passed through here over the 41 years, it is very seldom that
30 someone wouldn't have a bad word to say about somebody, I don't think anyone
31 could have a bad word to say about you. I wish you well in your retirement. Unlike
32 previous speakers, I don't think you should pass on your knowledge. I think you
33 should get the laptop, the phone, throw them in over the footbridge down there
34 because I am sure people will keep asking you. But if you are looking for something

1 to do at some stage there's loads of boards out there who are out there actively
2 looking for really good members in regards corporate governance, there's Wicklow
3 Town Team and beyond, but I wish you and your family all the best.

4 CATHAOIRLEACH: I probably shouldn't have said the 41 years but anyway.
5 Councillor O'Neill.

6 COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, yeah. Lorraine Gallagher, what,
7 it is a big shock to hear you're bailing out. It really is. You know, Wicklow County
8 Council is Lorraine Gallagher in my book. No matter where you move around,
9 Kildare, you know we knew Lorraine Gallagher in Wicklow. It is a big shock for me
10 anyway to hear that you're moving out, but I just want to thank you for all the help. I
11 have been dealing with you, Lorraine, for a long, long time. As I said earlier I'm
12 probably second 12 year, ten or 11 year but it is way over the 30 years since I met
13 you. I'll always remember how helpful you were you know to me as just a member
14 of the community trying to help the people of my community, you know, 20 years
15 before I was elected, and how helpful you were. And right up to this day you know
16 you could ring Lorraine Gallagher, and she'd answer, if she didn't she'd get back to
17 you within no time. The query she'd carry through. You never let me down once.
18 Never once. You'll be a huge loss. And I just want to wish you -- I know you will
19 have a long, long retirement, as John says you've a long way to go with your
20 retirement and probably you spend some of it up there in Leitrim with the hubby and
21 that, but I want to thank you for what you have done for West Wicklow and your
22 courtesy and wish you and your family the very best of luck, Lorraine. Thanks a
23 well.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Pat Kennedy.

25 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Lorraine, it is very hard to
26 know what to say about you today because I think it has already been said. I agree
27 with all the sentiments the other members said. But I think what Councillor Doyle
28 said struck a chord with me because everything you do you do it the right way. And
29 for you to retire now is the right time for you because you think about everything and
30 you're very professional in the work that you do. You've been very professional in
31 the role here in Wicklow County Council. You're part of a great management team
32 led by Emer. And I don't believe there's a Cathaoirleach that has ever sat up there
33 could have done the job without you being at their side. I know when I was there I
34 certainly couldn't have done it without you there and I know of other Cathaoirleachs

1 who would have said the very same thing as the Cathaoirleach said, Councillor Pat
2 Vance referred to it at one stage as well, and I think that's very true. The one thing
3 that always struck me about you, Lorraine, was not just your professionalism but it
4 was every time you spoke about Wicklow the passion in your voice for your county
5 was something to behold. And I wish you the very best. It is great to take time off
6 when you're healthy, still young enough to do it and I wish you the very best in the
7 future. Thank you for everything you have done not just for the councillors here in
8 this chamber but for the things that you have done for the people in Wicklow behind
9 the scenes they don't ever see. It is only by working closely with you over the years
10 that you see what you have done for the people in Wicklow whether that be by
11 enterprise or other things you have done. Thanks for all that you have done.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Orla Finn.

13 COUNCILLOR FINN: Yeah, I have to say it is a shock. I would like to thank you
14 very much for being so welcoming when I joined the Council last year. I haven't
15 really had a huge amount of time to get to know you personally, but I think it is great
16 to have strong, capable, intelligent women at the top level of any organisation. So I
17 know you will be a huge loss to ourselves as councillors but also to Wicklow County
18 Council. And to reiterate what John Snell said, you will be very welcome in every
19 and all of the many organisations that are around the county, but I obviously hope as
20 well that you will take some time to yourself and to enjoy your retirement and I
21 would like to thank you very much. It's been great. Thank you.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Finally, Councillor Lourda Scott online.

23 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Lorraine, I just want to wish you the absolute very best in
24 your retirement. I was very sorry to hear you're going. I would echo what
25 everybody else has already said here, but my abiding memory is you reached out to
26 me when I first joined the Council and when I sent in my first motion you very
27 gently and professionally guided me through it. That is a marker of how you dealt
28 with people throughout your years here; very professionally and kindly. You were
29 particularly great help and support to myself when we were trying to set up the
30 Women's Council Caucus. There's lots of organisations that we'd love to have you
31 on if you find yourself at a loose end.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, members. Chief Executive, maybe you might say
33 a few words.

1 MS O'GORMAN: Yeah, thank you, Cathaoirleach. I don't even know where to
2 start. I have only known Lorraine I suppose a reasonably short period of time but as
3 I think maybe Councillor O'Neill said before I ever dreamt of coming to Wicklow
4 everybody knew Lorraine Gallagher, Lorraine Gallagher Corporate Services, the
5 go-to person if you had a query about local government, about the legislation,
6 standing orders, whatever it was. So for the last two odd years Lorraine has been
7 what I would consider my conciliary, she has been my adviser, guidance, the person
8 who has kept me on the straight and narrow and always with a smile on her face, but
9 I suppose what I admire most about Lorraine is that she puts people first all the time,
10 whether that's the people of Wicklow, the people of this organisation, business
11 people, everything is done through that lens. Like I've seen the passion even in
12 doing small changes internally in the building here and what it meant to the staff, and
13 Lorraine led that because she thinks about the staff first. And that's a real testament
14 to what a truly wonderful leader of her team she has been and is going to be a great
15 loss to this organisation. On behalf of all the management team - we will say out
16 proper goodbyes another day, but - I want to say thank you sincerely for all of your
17 help to me. I wouldn't be able to do this job without your help. Thank you very
18 much, Lorraine.

19 MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

20 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. So it gives me great pleasure
21 and honour again on behalf of all the Elected Members indeed all the staff and
22 people of County Wicklow to present you with a small little token of our
23 appreciation.

24 MS GALLAGHER: Thanks everybody. Thank you.

25 CATHAOIRLEACH: So we're going on now to item number 20, and it is: To note
26 and receive a presentation on Wicklow County Council 2025 Countywide
27 Differential Rent Scheme for Social Housing Tenants. I think we have Brian up
28 here.

29 MS O'GORMAN: Just before Brian starts, members, you'll recall from the last
30 meeting we had this item on the agenda and members asked and we provided a
31 second legal opinion for you. So it confirms the position that we had; that it is an
32 executive function of the Council to make a Differential Rent Scheme. So today's
33 presentation is for noting, for your information, we thought it would be useful for the
34 members to see a couple of working examples, just to see the impact the new

1 countywide scheme will have on people of Wicklow. A review of the scheme
2 emanated from multiple audit reports from the local government auditor about the
3 need to consolidate the two schemes into one. So Brian will walk you through that.
4 If you have any queries on that, Brian is happy to take questions, after the
5 presentation.

6 CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before we go on, I want to, I am conscious -- I don't
7 know how long your presentation goes on for, but I am conscious that there is a
8 notice of motion in here for long time, so I am going to look for an extension to half
9 five. I hope I don't need but I do I would like to have that option. So I am looking
10 for a proposer. Councillor Shane Langrell. Seconder? Councillor John Snell. Are
11 we agreed? Yeah. Thank you. Brian, sorry about that. Thank you.

12 MR WILDES: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks for the invite down here to
13 discuss and present on our new proposed rent scheme and rent review that we are
14 planning for this summer hopefully. Just on this presentation I will briefly go
15 through an overview of both the Bray MD Scheme and the Wicklow MD Scheme,
16 our plans for the rent review, an overview of the new scheme that we are bringing in
17 in the next couple of months and the impact this may have and will have on certain
18 cohorts of our tenants in Wicklow.

19
20 So just a brief overview on the rents then. There's two income-based Differential
21 Rent Schemes in Wicklow: We have the Bray MD Differential Rent Scheme, and
22 the Wicklow Rent Scheme. Our last rent review was in 2019, and this is going to be
23 our first step in rolling out the new rent scheme.

24
25 As everyone knows, it is an obligation of the tenants to inform Wicklow County
26 Council of any changes to their incomes, and in fairness the majority of tenants do
27 do this. However, starting off with the rent review will give us a really good base to
28 have a solid new rent scheme going forward. The two schemes in the county. As far
29 as I know we're the only county in the country with two rent schemes in operations
30 so there's difficulties there. You can see the weekly accrual is in around 326,000 and
31 our arrears are down to 3.2 million now. I will take the opportunity to discuss
32 arrears. Myself, Caroline, Aideen, under Michael's guidance, have been proactively
33 engaging with people on rent arrears and asking tenants to come forward and get into
34 repayment plans. That has been somewhat successful so far.

1
2 So just an overview of the two schemes. So the Bray Municipal District Differential
3 Rent Review Scheme. This was initiated in 2014. Subject to annual review, the
4 primary earner in a household is charged rent not the tenant. So whoever earns the
5 most money who is over 18 we base the rent on that. There is no rent cap in the
6 district. The minimum rent is currently €25 per week. A couple of other points to
7 note, that we do assess maintenance people receive and Carers Allowance in the rent
8 and there's a deduction of total rent of €1 per child in the household. The Wicklow
9 Differential Rent Scheme, the difference here is that the tenant not the primary earner
10 is assessed, there is a rent cap of €200, and the minimum is €27. As with the Bray
11 scheme, maintenance and carers allowance is assessed, however there is a €5
12 reduction per child in the Wicklow Rent Scheme.

13
14 So why are we reviewing the schemes and why are we amalgamating the schemes?
15 As I said there's been no countrywide rent review since 2019, and this is where we
16 are going to start and roll it out. As our Chief Executive said, we're annually asked
17 by the auditor to merge these schemes and it has been something that we have been
18 planning for quite a while, so we're in a position now that we are ready to execute.
19 Since the last rent review in 2019 there has been roughly a 17% increase in people's
20 Social Welfare earnings, and this is not reflected in what rent we can accrue on our
21 weekly rent. From a personal perspective here it is easier to manage. As the
22 Housing Administrative Officer in Bray having two rent schemes in the town is
23 difficult. There may be people living next door to each other paying different rents,
24 we have to deal with people asking why and what the difference is, so bringing this
25 in will be beneficial to Bray in particular. I believe one rent scheme will be fairer as
26 well for the county and the changes that we're going to propose will make sure that
27 everybody in the county is treated the same and pays the same percentage of their
28 income no matter what they earn towards their rent.

29
30 So how we went about it? Myself, Caroline, Michael, Aideen and Annemarie would
31 have went into detail on both schemes to discuss what was working, what wasn't
32 working and how we can tweak both schemes to be mindful of the more vulnerable
33 people, people under Carers Allowance or receiving maintenance, and we also
34 looked at all the local authorities nearby to see what rent schemes they were using

1 and how they were working. If we were going to take a model of what was being
2 used in Dublin City Council it would make a massive change to everybody's rent, so
3 we decided to tweak our two schemes into one scheme that we are quite happy to
4 stand over going forward. And I will explain the changes shortly.

5
6 Once we decided what we were going to do we did a cost benefit analysis where we
7 looked at a random cohort of 150 people in Bray, similar in Wicklow, to see what
8 way would the rent go, up or down, or what the impact would be, and then we
9 formed a plan. The next step then is the rent review. That is the last step is how we
10 got there but it is the first step in rolling it out. That will be this summer hopefully.

11
12 Proposed changes then is the next slide. So amalgamate the schemes, okay. We will
13 have one scheme in the country -- in the county. We will raise the minimum rent to
14 €30 per week across the board. That's up from €24 in Bray, €27 in Wicklow. The
15 rent cap will be removed countywide. There's no rent cap in Bray at the minute, so I
16 personally think this is a good thing, so everyone is paying the same percentage of
17 their income no matter what their income is. Rent cap in Wicklow of €200 is going
18 to be removed. This will increase the higher earners' rent but they will still be paying
19 the same percentage of rent. We will not be assessing carers allowance or
20 maintenance going forward under the new scheme, and this will hopefully help out
21 our more vulnerable tenants. One other slight change is that to reflect the Wicklow
22 Scheme there will be a discount of €5 per child instead of €1 per child. So that will
23 be a positive impact for the people under the Bray Scheme.

24
25 I suppose if anyone has concerns about specific tenants let us know, put them in
26 touch with us and we can let them know what their rent will be when we roll out the
27 rent review and new recent scheme. But just as example: An applicant in receipt of
28 pension, current income 243, current rent charged €30.50, and under the new scheme
29 the rent will go up to 36.50. That is just with the raising of the minimum rent
30 amount. The next one: Two tenants in receipt of Carers Allowance. As you can
31 see, their income there, current rent charge is 168 but their updated rent will be down
32 to 127.86, a reduction of €40. This is when we're not taking into account people's
33 Carers Allowance. Onto the next one. Joint tenants, three children, income of 503,
34 rent charge 86.20, and the updated rent will be roughly 80.50 and this is with the

1 deduction of the -- so previously in Bray they would be given a deduction of €1 per
2 child, this is because it is €5 per child. That is why there is a decrease there. Then
3 finally the joint tenant, five children, their updated rent will be 50 cent lower, and
4 this is for similar reasons as to the charges around children and the discounts.

5
6 Just a couple on the Wicklow rents now as well. This is, the next two examples are
7 of people who are currently at the rent cap. Okay? So as you can see, one of our
8 tenants, their income of 939 per week, their rent will go up by €17 when the rent cap
9 is removed. The next one is a little bit more higher I suppose, and their rent will be
10 going up by close to €80 a week. Now, I suppose one thing what we would be pretty
11 strong on is that if people are kind of earning that and paying that rent we would
12 encourage people to look at tenant purchase and we would be supportive of that as
13 well. The last two examples then are income 104, rent charge 27 and the updated
14 rent would be going up by €17.50, and that's just with the minimum amount rent
15 raising. The last one then, as you can see, a €3 increase for someone on the
16 minimum rent. So that's just a very brief overview of the rent schemes. I can take
17 questions if there's any.

18 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for that presentation. Councillor John Snell.

19 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah, thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks, Brian, for the
20 presentation and explanation and thinking behind it. If I could, Cathaoirleach, with
21 your indulgence just first and foremost before I get onto the rents I did seek a second
22 legal opinion at the last meeting because for me it's another power that's being
23 diminished in regards to publicly Elected Members and I would be calling on the
24 members of this chamber who are part of the LAMA group and the AILG to go and
25 seek opinion from them in regards to LAMA, Local Authorities Members
26 Association, and AILG, Association of the Irish Local Government. We did have
27 the Cathaoirleach for AIG for 2019 from this chambers. But really what I am
28 seeking is clarification which we got from senior counsel Esmonde Keane, and we
29 have to accept that the information he has given is correct. What we have been
30 given, we're told that it is legally privileged and it is not to be forwarded on for
31 transmission to any other parties external to Wicklow County Council without the
32 express consent of the author, and I would be asking that the Chief Executive would,
33 through our law agent, see if Esmonde Keane would allow us to forward that on to
34 the members here who could give it to the AILG and LAMA. And really, Chief

1 Executive, what I am getting at is for many years people believed that it was a
2 reserve function, it's listed as a reserve function for the Elected Members and now
3 we're told that the Act didn't implement it. The Local Government Act 1925-2014
4 said that it was a reserve function. Part 14 of the 2001 Act said the same. Section 58
5 of the Housing Act 1966, Elected Members were under the impression that this was a
6 reserve function, not an executive function. It's been quite clearly demonstrated that
7 you have the authority to implement this. What I am saying is that section 31 of the
8 2009 Act, it was never implemented by senior government, so it is there to be
9 implemented but it was never done. That is not the fault of any person in this room,
10 but it is something that needs to be highlighted to the people who are meant to have
11 the best interests of us as Elected Members. Because over the years our powers have
12 been diminished significantly. Even prior to the abolition of the 2014 town councils,
13 now here is another Act, a reserve function that we believed we were entitled to have
14 and it's not. So I am aware of some of the members of those two bodies that I've
15 mentioned and I am asking -- rather than me putting in a motion here and going
16 through the whole rigmarole I am asking the Elected Members of Wicklow County
17 Council who sit on those two boards to please raise this to see can they talk to the
18 Minister to enact the 2009 Act, section 31? It's only a very small thing. I actually
19 don't disagree with the senior executives of this Council implementing a rent review
20 after six years. I have no issue with that. But it is the loss of power that was
21 perceived for Elected Members. So please, members, go and talk to LAMA and
22 AILG and I'll leave at that.

23
24 In regards to the rent review, Brian, if we could have that forwarded out to all 32
25 members I do think it makes sense to have one rent throughout the whole county. It
26 makes perfect sense. But there is, if you delve down into it, when you talk about,
27 like in 2009, 2010 there was four families in County Wicklow who were paying the
28 maximum of €200 per week, €200 per week was a lot of money back then, but by
29 and large people had an option to purchase their home then. They could do the
30 tenant purchase scheme. As we progress now as a local authority and as a nation, the
31 vast majority of the housing stock that we're bringing forward now cannot be
32 purchased. The approved housing bodies are stepping into the breach, and I
33 welcome that as well, because we in Wicklow have used everything that is available
34 to us, every scheme that's out there and the approved housing bodies step in, but can

1 you not purchase those houses. They're not for sale. So somebody now, if you don't
2 have a rent cap of 200, if you don't increase it to 300 or 500, whatever you want to
3 call it, if there's no rent cap, that will be implemented across the approved housing
4 bodies and it's also something that's implemented across the Housing Assistance
5 Payment Scheme. The HAP scheme is based on what is incorporated in the local
6 authority. So now you have people who will be expected to pay the same, the
7 minimum rent was €27, it's increasing to €30. No major issue with that. But every
8 other scheme follows suit based on what you implement as the top table. The Chief
9 Executive is going to clarify?

10 MS O'GORMAN: Yeah, just to clarify, Councillor Snell. The approved housing
11 bodies do not adopt our rent scheme. They have their own schemes. And you are
12 completely correct in saying that you cannot purchase an approved housing body
13 home, but you can -- as Brian alluded to, people that are on a higher income we
14 would encourage them to purchase the property. But they do not mirror our rent
15 scheme. They have to have regard to our rent scheme, but they don't automatically
16 adopt ours. Just to make that point.

17 CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm sorry, Councillor Snell, I know this is an important to
18 you, but I also have four other speakers.

19 COUNCILLOR SNELL: No, and I appreciate that. And look it, we've waited since
20 2019 for this, we've waited four weeks for legal opinion of which I fully accept. But
21 it is important and it's not -- it's important to the constituents of County Wicklow,
22 because if I can't get my head around it I cannot explain it to them. And that's why
23 the slides that's been given to us, whatever stages you go through between now and
24 implementing this in a couple of months, it has to go beyond the strategic policy
25 committee, it has to filter down to the municipal districts and there has to be a
26 conversation with each municipal district to let them know what you're
27 implementing. Because if we can't explain it to the four and a half how families out
28 there who are in our local authority homes -- and we have enough four and a half
29 thousand waiting to get into the local authority homes of which now the approved
30 housing bodies fill the vacuum. So my question is: Have you looked at a cap on the
31 maximum rent in this scheme or is it still open for debate, or is it open-ended? And
32 it's just to bear in mind that not everybody can purchase, do the tenant purchase. The
33 other thing to be mindful of is, as the approved housing bodies step into the breach if
34 they're not governed by what we set in Wicklow County Council it is very important

1 for people who have made an offer that go into approved housing body that they
2 know how much the rent is going to be. Because people are there now basing it on
3 the fact of what you're going to implement here is what they will be charged, and fact
4 we know these are businesses with boards, they are answerable to their boards and
5 they need to have money in a sinking fund for repairs and everything else, and there
6 is 504 approved housing bodies in the country of which we deal with an awful lot of
7 them here in County Wicklow. For me it is not straightforward but I commend our
8 Senior Executive Officer, Caroline, Michael Nicholson, the Director of Services, our
9 SPC and to you, Brian, and the staff in Bray because it hasn't been easy dealing with
10 two different rents, it's not, and it's probably not fair and it is time it is collated into
11 one, but I'd still have more questions into the future.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Do you want to come in?

13 MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Councillor Snell. Just two very brief points. Firstly,
14 we had anticipated that there might be a request for the legal opinion to be sent on
15 and Mr Esmonde Keane has no issue with it going to LAMA or AILG. That is not
16 an issue. I suppose that riders on his advice is not just published on the internet.

17 COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yeah.

18 MS O'GORMAN: That is not a problem at all. Secondly, the housing team will
19 happily facilitate workshops in the MDs as we work through this. That is not an
20 issue for anybody. We want to members to be comfortable and understand the
21 process. My final point I make is that, yes, this has been listed as a reserve function
22 and that piece of legislation has never been enacted and that is not what was intended
23 when the legislation was written. In my 30-plus years in local government it has
24 never been brought to a chamber for adoption by members in any council that I have
25 worked in. That's not to say that that shouldn't be the process, but I suppose that's for
26 the members to pursue with their TDs and Minister. So Mr Keane has no issue with
27 the advice or the opinion going to LAMA or AILG. Just to make that point before
28 others come in. Thank you.

29 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Graham Richmond.

30 COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Cathaoirleach, firstly, to back up an awful lot of
31 what Councillor Snell said there particularly in seeking the advice between AILG
32 and LAMA. I welcome the fact that we're going from two rental schemes to one.
33 Like, it is common sense. What struck me on the set of examples were what certain
34 people on certain incomes are paying in rent. There's one category that is often

1 ignored, it's the ones before they get to the social housing, those on HAP who are
2 struggling to find rental properties which will match what their allowance is for
3 HAP. But then in the same way I would encourage a rent review is an ongoing event
4 and particularly if you have, for example, someone -- if there's a household income
5 of over €900 a week and your rent is €217, it is very heavy encouragement to buy a
6 house, because that is actually holding up a social house for those who require it
7 most. And I think that's where we have to look at that. And maybe look at, when
8 you're at a certain level it's where we go from there. Thank you.

9 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

10 COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks, Brian,
11 for the presentation. Thanks for putting this on the agenda as a follow up for a very
12 meaningful conversation that happened last month. I won't go over what has been
13 said already. But I think when change happens there's both a challenge and an
14 opportunity. And the challenge is this do it smooth so that, as Councillor Snell, we
15 are also -- they'll come to us when they have questions and issues and concerns,
16 when they have things to critique, so the more we're tuned in I think the better. I
17 think the opportunity as well is to, in lieu of it kicking off that we have in place
18 through the SPC and otherwise the opportunity is to have scrutiny and review woven
19 into the change. I think that's also an asset because the things that I would be
20 concerned about is even the smoothness of our hardship cause response, the system
21 that's in place that will make that smooth rather than someone you know losing a job,
22 having a howler, things go south and then they accrue arrears while they're trying to
23 negotiate and manage a scenario, which again is stressful in its own right. Another
24 thing I would say is worthy of attention is the self-employed piece, because the gig
25 economy is also the self-employed world and for some people that's up and down
26 and gone. So again that we're mindful of that I think would be really useful. Then
27 the other thing I would say is again for when we're thinking about how we track the
28 changes that we also have rights with the Irish Human Rights and Equality
29 Commission, we have opportunities with the Poverty Proof, we have opportunities
30 with the Minimum Essential Standard of Living Index. So there's things as well that
31 I think would be a strength if we were weaving them in at this stage as we manage
32 the change and that we also are in a position to -- if we're committed to review then
33 we can also tweak as needed. Thanks very much for the presentation. Appreciate it.
34 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Leonard.

1 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yeah, look it, I absolutely agree with a fair system and
2 that everybody should be paying the same. I suppose I feel a bit uncomfortable with
3 this because the reality on the ground is that everybody's situation isn't the same, and
4 people have debt, they have other costs that might not be factored in, and that a lot of
5 mental health issues are related to financial stress and with the cost of living and
6 everything it's the impact on you know people. So I think the transition period is
7 really important and that it's not done really fast and that it's kind of done in a
8 gradual -- and give people preparation time you know to do this. That it is not just
9 brought in in a couple of months and people are impacted. They need plans. Some
10 people will have to access MABs, you know to adjust. It might look on paper that
11 they have loads of money coming in, but the reality is they might have other costs
12 that aren't being factored into their household. They mightn't have that spare money
13 every week. And then just I had asked before at a previous meeting about housing
14 bodies and how they operate and how does Wicklow County Council contribute to
15 the rents for the housing bodies at all or is it just completely separate?

16 MS O'GORMAN: Separate.

17 COUNCILLOR LEONARD: And we don't contribute to the Local Property Tax that
18 we pay? They pay their own Local Property Tax on the... Okay. Thank you.

19 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Stapleton.

20 COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thanks for the
21 presentation. Just a few comments/questions. Just wondering if you considered
22 having a cap where the rents would be capped by the market rent for similar
23 properties in the area. Just I understand in a normal functioning housing market you
24 might want to be encouraging people to move into the private rental market or to
25 purchase their own home, but in cases where people's incomes are going up they
26 can't avail of private rental markets or purchase their own house, and we mightn't
27 necessarily want to encourage them to purchase the social house because we want to
28 maintain our own stock, that I think it would be a good back stock considering there
29 would be probably very few where people are breaching the limit but that it could be
30 capped by the market rent in an area. My other point, I had flagged before and I
31 think it was confirmed just that earners, other earners in the house doesn't include
32 people in full-time education that maybe have a job on the side, but just if that could
33 be confirmed here it'd be great, or if it's included in the scheme just to flag it for
34 people I think would be helpful. Then just to an understanding piece, as you go

1 down through how the rent is calculated there's a Part 5 where it says, "multiplied by
2 3%." I don't get that at all what that refers to, so just to explain would be helpful.

3 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Caroline Winstanley.

4 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, Brian. I
5 am not going to repeat everything that has been said but what really pleases me about
6 this change is that I think it really captures those people that are falling in that no
7 man's space where they were earning slightly too much not to be able to get social
8 housing because they had different benefits that would be included in that rent, and I
9 think it's that kind of strand of the population this is really going to impact, it's going
10 to allow more people to be able to access social housing. So I just wanted to make
11 that point thank you.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Pat Kennedy. I'm going to keep
13 going if you don't mind.

14 COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thank you, Brian, for the
15 presentation there. Just on one of your slides there I think there was a family earning
16 I think €1,300 in one slide, and you said that you would be steering those towards
17 probably the Tenant Purchase Scheme. But anybody that is in a Part 5 house doesn't
18 have any an option of buying that house or is that going to change? Perhaps now I'm
19 not up to speed. Is that going to change now, that somebody in a Part 5 will be let
20 buy their house? Because at the minute they can't unless it has changed recently.
21 Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

22 CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Erika Doyle.

23 COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a brief comment to say I
24 think it is an absolute no-brainer to have the one rent scheme and there's always
25 going to be difficulties initiating that anything that has to be ironed out like this. One
26 particular thing I am really pleased to see is the removal of maintenance and Carers
27 Allowance. I think that these fall into the category of some of the most vulnerable
28 tenants that we have and particularly single parents and the maintenance may be very
29 little but it might tip them over into a responsibility that they have to pay added rent
30 but they are a single parent, they are operating by themselves, and I think that the
31 removal of that would probably make a difference to quite a few single parents. I
32 think that's a really good move to see. And thanks for the presentation, Brian, thank
33 you.

1 CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Brian, I thought we were nearly done. Councillor
2 Silvester Bourke.

3 COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I agree with the changes that are being
4 proposed. There will be winners and losers. Now I would like to propose in
5 addition that as Chief Executive you would make at least one extra person of staff
6 available to the rent section to deal with all the queries that are going to come in.
7 There will be an avalanche of them I would predict, and it is going to fall back on us
8 as councillors to deal with those queries which I don't think is really fair. I think you
9 need to put in a couple of extra staff for at about six months to deal with it. I know
10 they are overworked as it is, and they can't deal with the volume of work they're
11 doing so please make staffing adjustments to the staffing levels in that department.

12 CATHAOIRLEACH: Brian, there's been a few queries if you want to answer them
13 as best you can.

14 MR WILDES: Yeah, thanks very much. Councillor Snell, no, there is going to be
15 no cap on the maximum rent. Okay. And your comment regarding people knowing
16 the rent, if they're signing up with AHBs, everyone will see the rent before they sign
17 the tenancy agreement so that shouldn't be an issue. Councillor Leonard, a transition
18 period. That's something that I might discuss with Caroline, if we're going to do a
19 transition period when it comes to rolling out the new rent scheme. Caroline.

20 MS FOX: So that on that, yeah, you're correct, like there will be some increases.
21 We will be taking it step-by-step, and as the CE said we will discuss it at MD level
22 and so all the councillors are aware what the queries would be and possibly issues
23 raised. The issue here really is we've had no rent review at all in six years. Income
24 hasn't been submitted by all our tenants and at the moment as it stands the rent
25 review that we're charging we've over 5,000 tenants isn't fair, and the discrepancies
26 there are huge over those six years, and we badly need to address that, and it is an
27 opportunity here now with councillors to start to address that. How and ever, yes,
28 the tenants will need to be aware of the increases but overall you'll note there as well
29 there is decreases. So there is benefits to the tenants. It is going to be absolutely a
30 huge piece of work, and I acknowledge Councillor Bourke that mentioned that. We
31 would see the scheme taking numerous months to carry out. It is something that
32 previously in 2019 there was a huge amount of queries following it so you are
33 correct there, we will look at how to address that. We will put plans in place how we
34 are going to deal with those queries. But I think overall it is going to be beneficial to

1 most of our tenants. The issue around the Tenant Purchase Scheme, I think one of
2 the councillors brought it up, the Part 5 Tenant Purchase Scheme won't change. And
3 you did also mention, Councillor Snell, that some of the houses are not for purchase.
4 You know, so the one-beds is something we always look at closely. When you see
5 the amount of rent we're charging and the quality of homes that we're now delivering
6 for €30 a minimum rent you are now getting -- now, obviously there is older stock,
7 but the newer homes we're giving out you're still being charged minimum rent. I
8 think there's a number of councillors that mentioned the cap. Our view was there's
9 very few tenants that would, you know, be on the higher earners, there's very few of
10 those tenants. So we'd like to flush those out and see how that pans out. We would
11 see them and give them generally the opportunity to buy the property. I mean if
12 you're earning that type of income, and I know Councillor Leonard said, well, you
13 don't know the other bills behind that, you're correct, there could be, but generally I
14 think if you're earning that type of money paying 280 or 250 a week is manageable.
15 And I think for the quality of home you've got to factor in then as well that if there's
16 any major issue as a local authority we're maintaining the home, you're not like a
17 standard homeowner you have to look at the property yourself. If anything goes
18 wrong the Council then steps in. So you've got to factor that in as well. So yes, this
19 rent review being that it hasn't been done in a number of years it is very important
20 that we look at it and I think it is fairer that we do carry out a rent review for all the
21 tenants that are there at the moment. Just on the AHBs, and I think you're concerned
22 about that. The AHBs will absolutely look closely at what we are charging, and they
23 don't have to, but they generally are in line with our charges. And yes, it is correct,
24 even though you are getting as such a long-term home with AHB you can't buy it
25 out, but you're there, it is a long-term home and that's the way we would treat an
26 AHB property. So thanks.

27 MR WILDES: Thanks, Caroline. I think, Caroline, covered all the questions there,
28 but, Councillor Stapleton, we might discuss the 0.3% out of chamber if that's okay.
29 And anyone who is in education then is not charged the minimum rent on the
30 rate -- the rate on the rent. Your query about the capital market rate that's not
31 something we're going to have in this rent scheme. I think that's everybody.

32 CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you very much. Just to reiterate what
33 Councillor Dermot O'Brien said, I think it was valuable to bring it here today to have
34 a further discussion rather than what we probably would have had at the last meeting.

1 Thank you very much for your presentation, Brian. Thank you very much. Thank
2 you, members.

3

4 Okay item number 21: Correspondence. I believe we have no correspondence. Item
5 number 22: A notice of motion. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Miriam
6 Murphy, proposer, seconded by Councillor Lourda Scott and supported by
7 Councillors Caroline Winstanley, Jason Mulhall, Warren O'Toole and Melanie
8 Corrigan. Is Miriam online to propose it?

9 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yes, I am. I propose it.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. And Councillor Lourda Scott is
11 online to second it. Thank you. And I have the response for you now.

12 MS GILLESPIE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Wicklow County Council is
13 recognised as being an access and disability champion in the local government sector
14 with our unique partnership with the Disability Federation of Ireland, the
15 establishment of a Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee 2020 and the
16 development of a Disability and Inclusion Strategy 2023. To achieve a
17 multi-departmental approach to making the services provided by the Council
18 equitable and accessible to all our approach to access and disability is in line with the
19 United Nations Convention on Human Rights. Our commitment to accessibility and
20 disability is further enshrined in our other local strategies, such as the Local Sports
21 Strategy, the Outdoor Recreation Strategy, the Library Strategy and the Wicklow
22 Age Friendly Strategy. It also aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and our
23 Customer Charter. Within the Social Development Directorate of the Council a
24 dedicated staff member has responsibility as Access Officer, along with other duties,
25 such as Age Friendly Officer, Disability Officer, Comhairle na nÓg Coordinator, as
26 there is symmetry between these activities as they focus primarily on the aged, the
27 disabled and the youth of the county. Provision has been made in the recently
28 developed Workforce Plan to continue with this decision in the Social Development
29 Directorate. Thank you.

30 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Rachel. Councillor Murphy, would you like to
31 come back in or are you happy with the response?

32 COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Yeah, no, I think I need to, Cathaoirleach. I fully
33 support the outline there that has been given. In saying that we need to raise the bar
34 a hundred percent. We have a brilliant part-time access officer, she has done

1 wonderful work, and I know our relationship has been ongoing, but we're only I
2 suppose on the side lines really. We need to persist. We're only hitting the side lines
3 on some of the works that needs to be implemented around the county, and I think
4 now we need to step that up. As the motion reads, and I'm sure you all read it in
5 detail ...(inaudible)... Ireland has an Age Friendly National Policy ...(inaudible)...
6 and again it is very beneficial I think this needs to be implemented sooner than later
7 to improve Wicklow County Council's work in all departments not just in
8 community development culture, but in every department Wicklow County Council.
9 And I hope that it is given support. Thank you.

10 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Murphy, for that contribution.
11 Councillor Lourda Scott, you have your hand up.

12 COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yeah, thank you, Cathaoirleach, and I just want to echo
13 and support what Councillor Murphy has said. The Executive response gives a
14 really good overview of the great strides that Wicklow County Council has taken in
15 this area, and I suppose by bringing this motion and helping push towards a full-time
16 position of access officer we could only imagine ...(inaudible)... And just to point out
17 the seconders to this motion, we all sit on this committee which does great work and
18 is also supported by other members of the Council that are sitting there during the
19 last Council term, it does great work but again we have to think about what could be
20 achieved, whether a full-time role would be able to support that. Just because we are
21 leading the way, as Miriam said, the bar could be raised. I hope we have the support
22 of our members in putting pressure on Government to provide funding for this area.
23 Thank you.

24 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Scott. Again I would like to commend
25 Councillor Murphy and Councillor Murphy for bringing this and to all the
26 councillors who are not just listed here but support it. Councillor Winstanley.

27 COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just wanted to add to
28 what has been said. So this motion actually has come through a piece of research
29 that was done by the Disability Federation of Ireland, and I suppose it is a motion
30 that's been encouraged that all councils bring to council because it is something that
31 kind of came out of a piece of research as being an issue across the county. I wanted
32 to pick up that Laura technically isn't the Access Officer, that it is actually Stephanie
33 Lang. And just to say that I think she has three massive jobs. So she doesn't just do
34 the Access Officer role, she has the older persons work and she has Comhairle na

1 nÓg, and I actually think that that many jobs is too much for one person just due to
2 the I suppose growing disability and older persons demographic, that actually
3 particularly the older persons role and the Access Officer should both be distinct
4 roles. Thank you.

5 CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor, and apologies I didn't see your light
6 on there. Members, that brings the meeting to a conclusion, and I shall see you all
7 next month. Thank you very much.

8

9 (Meeting concluded at 5.11 pm)

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