

ORDINARY MEETING MEETING
OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ON

MONDAY, 5th DECEMBER 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Nicola Dutton

Sheryll Holley

CATHAOIRLEACH: Dia duit. Members, thank you very much for coming this afternoon. Thank you to members that are online also. We'll just start with condolences, Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: Yes, I will just start by going through the etiquette. Just to remind people in the Chamber, please turn their mobiles off. Welcome to everyone who is online, media and the public and our members. If you have any problems with your connectivity, please contact me or Teresa and we'll get you back in. Then, we'll do a roll call.

[Roll call]

HELEN PURCELL: Thank you very much. And then, condolences. We pray for Siobhan Doyle, sister of our colleague Ken Doyle, and for Mary Walsh, our former colleague.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: To the family of my good friend and former Garda colleague, Declan Lynch, who passed away after a short illness on Tuesday evening. Declan would have known to many as the Garda voice on East Coast Radio on the Tuesday morning show. He was a long-term community police member in Greystones. He was really the face of policing in Greystones for many years.

Declan was also a long-time member and the Garda representative on the Wicklow local Sports Partnership Committee. He chaired that committee before he retired from An Garda Síochána. He was an accomplished basketball player and coach. He was the first community committee for Greystones back in the mid-nineties which is now Shoreline. He was on the board of management at St David's School at one point. He was also the current Children's Officer with Greystones United FC, and had a role previously with Greystones Rugby Club. He was the current National Child Protection Officer for the IABA Boxing Association.

Condolences to Declan's wife Marjella, his sons, his brothers, Ger and Patrick and to his mum, Peg.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: I would propose a vote of sympathy to well-known families in Wicklow Town. Helen Russell died recently. They ran the Mariner pub up there in the middle of the Main Street and Helen was -- her maiden name was Dunne. A well-known family, no relation, but well-known family in Wicklow Town.

And Mrs Rayburn as well, very well known in the town. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Dunne. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Unfortunately, Wicklow Town has been hit badly at the moment. I want to be associated with Cllr Dunne's words as well.

Can I offer our condolences to the family of John Doyle, again another family going back generations. He will be sadly missed by his daughter Wendy and his son John.

And also, Don Hodgkinson, neighbour of mine at the Black Castle, another good Wicklow Town man sadly lost there. I know he will be missed by his family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I want to convey my condolences to the family of Ned Hatton, a long-time council worker, I think up to 30 years' service. Condolences to his sons John and Bernard, and his daughters Mairead and Jane. Just to convey our sympathies.

I'd like to be associated with the condolences of Cllr Walsh to Declan Lynch. I worked with Declan on Wicklow Sports Partnership. To his family, deepest sympathies.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Cullen. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I would like to propose a vote of sympathy for Dan Kenny. Dan died recently. He was born and reared in Hacketstown but moving to Blessington over 40 years ago. He bought a little shop there and grew that business over the years. Dan was the proprietor there in Supervalu in Blessington. But he was also a great man of the town. He was a member of the Town Team. He worked hard for the community. He was the driving force of the Tidy Towns group in Blessington. Everything that was going on in the town, Dan would be part of. He was a great man to sponsor all sorts, whether it be GAA, soccer or boxing or whatever. He will be sorely missed. Go raibh mile maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Neill. Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yeah, I'd like to join with my colleague Cllr O'Neill in respect of Dan Kenny. Dan set up the first proper supermarket in Blessington, Supervalu. It went from strength to strength and still is a sizeable supermarket in the centre of the town. A decent

man, involved in everything in the community. I got to know him both in my previous life and current life.

I'd also like to be associated with the condolences for Declan Lynch. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Glennon. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to be associated with the comments of Cllr Walsh in regards to the sad passing of Declan Lynch. Condolences to Majella and the family at this sad time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I have one I'd like to add to the list and that's Alan Toal. Alan Toal was a former member on An Garda Síochána and then he took up a barrister's role in the courts in Wicklow and Dublin and south Leinster, so, I'd like to pay my respects. Alan was a neighbour of mine. I would like to pay tribute to his family, his wife Ruth and his family. I pay my respects to them. If we could all stand for a minute's silence, please. Thank you.

[Pause]

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, with your indulgence, I would like a suspension of Standing Orders. I'd like to bring item 7 up to the agenda, please. That is to fulfil Cllr Jodie Neary's position on the council. Can I get a seconder for that, please? Thank you, Cllr Gerry Walsh. Okay. Helen, do we invite Mark in now?

HELEN PURCELL: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

HELEN PURCELL: We have only suspended Standing Orders, at this stage, sorry. Item 7 is: To consider the casual vacancy arising from the resignation of Cllr Jodie Neary in accordance with Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 2001.

We require a proposer and a seconder, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will propose it.

HELEN PURCELL: Cllr Gerry Walsh seconds it. And now we can invite Cllr Mark.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I would have had the meeting over with. Thank God for Helen. Mark, please take your position. At this stage, can I welcome Deputy Jennifer Whitmore here, a former colleague of mine in the Chamber and you have been well guided, Mark. I'd also like to welcome back Jodie and your family. Mark, it is a very special occasion for you and your family today. I will open it up to the floor to the members. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to congratulate Mark firstly and welcome him to the Chamber and to Wicklow County Council. I have known Mark for a long number of years now through his involvement and association with the Éire Óg Greystones GAA Club. Mark was an accomplished hurler in his day, proud of his Tipperary roots. He continues to coach young teams in our club as well as across the county. I'm sure Mark will be a great addition to this council. I want to again welcome him and wish him the best of luck going forward. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Walsh. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I also want to welcome Mark on part of the Labour Party. I look forward to working with you in our little grouping. Best of luck to you, Mark.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yes, I would like to welcome Mark aboard on behalf of myself as member of the Greystones district and also on behalf of the independent group and wish him well. We will get to know you as the game moves on. Best of luck to you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fortune. Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: I don't know you at all but I welcome you to Greystones district and the Council. I look forward to working with you going forward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Scott. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: I would like to welcome Mark to the council on behalf of the Fine Gael group and also to the local district which I'm also a representative. I also don't know Mark but I'm sure we will get to know him quite quickly and look forward to working with him for the benefit of the area and the county. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think you get congratulations on your first meeting and it is commiserations from there on in! Welcome to Mark. A former neighbour of mine. From what I know of Mark, he has community spirit very closely to his heart. I look forward to working with him. On behalf of myself and Cllr McManus, you're very welcome.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to welcome Mark to the Chamber and I have no doubt you will be a huge success into the future. I think I have seen you at GAA matches before, Mark. So, I would have seen you on -- I wouldn't have said much to you but I've seen you there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fitzgerald. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Yes, I would like to welcome Mark as well and welcome him to the mad house. I won't say mad house but ... One conversation I won't be having with Mark is Tipperary and Kilkenny because I'm married to a Kilkenny man so we might have opposition on that! Congratulations, Mark.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Murphy. Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, look, it's a proud day for the Social Democrats. Deputy Whitmore is here to witness it and sad to see Cllr Jodie Neary parting ways with us. But to be fair, by all accounts, I believe that we have a good man on our hands here in regards to Mark. I know myself and Cllr Gerry O'Neill wish you the best of luck. We look forward to working with you, hopefully not against you. But I suppose after today, it was referred to you that you have a hurling background, and I would say give it a couple of minutes and you may as well bringing that hurl to the chambers with you. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, I bring in the Chief Executive now. Brian.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of the senior management team and all of the staff here on Wicklow County Council, I would like to congratulate Mark and his family on his appointment. We wish him the very best in his new post. I know Mark from GAA circles myself, and

he has put in a huge amount of work in underage hurling in Greystones. I think he will be a huge addition to the Greystones Municipal District and the council. Best of luck, Mark, over the coming years. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. Okay. Helen, are we ready to start the meeting then? Sorry, Mark, there you are. Mark, would you like to address the Chamber, my apologies, Mark.

MARK: I would like to say thanks for the lovely welcome. I'm look forward to working with you all in the future. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Mark. If you're assured as that, Mark, we will get on smoothly but I guarantee they won't be. Thank you, Mark.

HELEN PURCELL: Right. Item 1: To confirm and sign minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 7th November 2022.

CLLR MURPHY: I propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Was that Cllr Gail Dunne and Cllr Miriam Murphy?

HELEN PURCELL: That was Cllr Gail Dunne and Cllr Miriam Murphy.

Item 2: To consider the disposal of 0.0555 HA (0.1371 ac) or thereabouts in the townland of Oldcourt, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow to Ms Myra Carroll as Legal Personal Representative in the estate of Mr Garrett Nolan, (also known as Jim) deceased (as per notice previously circulated).

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan. Are you proposing that?

CLLR BEHAN: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Item 3: To consider the disposal of 0.00365 hectares or thereabouts in the townland of Kilcoole, County Wicklow at the rear of Woodbine Cottage, Sea Road, Kilcoole, County Wicklow, comprised in Folio No. WW4484 to Mr Joseph Hunt and Ms Elizabeth Hunt (otherwise Betty Hunt) of Chotah, Sea Road, Kilcoole, County Wicklow (as per notice previously circulated).

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Tom Fortune. Seconded by Cllr Gerry Walsh. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Item 4: To consider the disposal of 115 square metres or thereabouts in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, County Wicklow by way of a one-year lease commencing 23rd May 2022 to Mr Art McCormack and Mr Tomas O'Leary of MosArt Ltd (as per notice previously circulated).

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Snell. Seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Item 5: To discuss the Minister's Draft Direction on the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 as previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Sorcha, do you want to say a few words?

Sovereign sovereign thank you, Cathaoirleach. The purpose of the briefing today is to go through with the members the content of the Draft Direction that the minister has issued on the recently adopted County Development Plan. After today's meeting we have to prepare a report and that will be sent to the minister and to the Office of the Planning Regulator.

Just to go back a little bit, just to give you the context as you all recall, we adopted the plan on the 12th December. The minister had a six-week period thereafter to decide whether he wanted to issue a Draft Direction on any of the contents of the plan. The minister is advised by the Office of the Planning Regulator, so the planning regulator gave their recommendation to the minister four weeks after the plan was adopted and the minister then decided on the 24th October to issue a Draft Direction on the County Development Plan. A copy of the minister's letter and the Draft Direction itself was circulated to all of you at the time.

The Draft Direction was thereafter put on public display from 2nd November and submissions were invited from the public. The display of those Draft Direction is only a two and a half week display. As we advised you at the time, any member of the public can make a submission or could have made a submission and the members Mr Entitled to make a submission as well if they wished through the Chief Executive. The members were also entitled to make a submission directly to the minister and the OPR if they show wished. We don't know anything about that and we won't be discussing that today. Any of the members that did make a written submission to the Chief Executive, their submission along with any other submission from members of the public will appear in the report that gets now sent to the minister and the Office of the Planning Regulator. That report has to go by Tuesday next week to the planning regulator and the minister.

The purpose of today I suppose is just to go through each element of the Draft Direction with the members, some of you like I said have already made submissions. If any of you've have not made a submission and you want to make a comment today on the Draft Direction, we will be sending a copy of the transcript of the meeting and a summary of what you say as part of that report. My reading of the Act it is a non-statutory part of the prong but because plan making is a collaborative process and we've always worked together on every aspect of plan making, anything in you bring up today, we will include in the final report, whether or not you made an actual written submission on the Draft Direction.

After the report goes to the regulator, they have a period of three weeks from my reading of the Act to advise the minister whether they think he should proceed and make the changes that he's outlined in his Draft Direction or not make the changes. If the planning regulator believes that more investigation is needed or more advice as outlined is needed and he can't make a final recommendation to the minister, the regulator can, at the end of that three-week period, advise the minister that additional time is needed and appoint an independent inspector to review all of the matters and prepare a report for the OPR outlined. If that arises, we will keep you informed. It will bring us up to three weeks from next week discounting nine days over Christmas, so that will bring us up to probably the second week in January. So, by then we will know if the minister is making a final decision to issue the direction or the regulator has decided to engage in an independent inspector to review all of the matters.

So, Cathaoirleach, if you want to proceed along this way today, that we present each of the elements of the Draft Direction as the minister presented them to us and then open it up to the floor, if the members want to make any comments on each of them and we will go through them one by one, that's probably the quickest way I would suggest that we go through, if you're in agreement with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm with him on that. Are members happy with that? Cllr Joe Behan wants to come in there.

CLLR BEHAN: A point of order. I mean, publicly it was said there about three weeks ago that a number of developers were seeking a judicial review and looking to strike the plan down. What impact does that have on our decision here today?

SORCHA WALSH: Cathaoirleach, we're not here to talk about that. The only matter we're dealing with is the Draft Direction should by the minister should under statute. A report has to be prepared under statute and submitted to the OPR within three weeks. We're not here to talk about that today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. The Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is a separate process, councillor. So, how it affects it, we don't know at this stage. Obviously, that will be for a court to decide, so it is very premature at this stage. As we can do is just progress along in relation to what we have here and what we have been asked to do by the minister and the OPR. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan, I think that's very well explained, as previously. But are you happy with that? Yes, that's okay.

Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly, Sorcha. How does these directions from the minister affect any planning decisions made by Wicklow County Council in relation to particular items identified?

SORCHA WALSH: Anything in the Draft Direction is effectively suspended for the time being, but that only really relates to if it is a new matter. Say, for example the Draft Direction relates to the zoning of land, land that has never been zoned before, that new zoning is effectively suspend for the time being and any decisions that are made in relation to that land are as if it is not zoned, as if the old plan still applies. But if it relates to any matter that is a change from a previous development plan, then the previous development plan, so say land that was zoned in the previous plan but now the zoning has been changed but it was zoned in a previous development plan, my reading of the Act is that it reverts to the 2016 development plan is what is used for the assessment of decisions because there can't be a gap where there's no plan in effect. The current plan stays in effect temporarily until the decision is made on the direction.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Derek Mitchell.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Some of the points here, of which the Minister has made. First of all, it is a short list of things which the minister has, has obtained to. But I would like to make the point in one of them. I made a submission in relation to the nursing home.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, I think Sorcha was going through them one by one. If you want to wait for the nursing home item. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I let her go through the presentation.

>>: Seeking clarification, obviously we went through a two-and-a-half-year process to get to this stage, the County Development Plan that was signed off in September could Sorcha and the team just explain everything in that plan is that been implemented now we speak, except for what the Minister has in here in front of us, so the amendments that the Minister is looking for. The plan that we worked on, that we signed off on the 13th September, is that we are working towards here now currently in the planning section? So, 95 or 98% of the plan is implemented or is the whole plan on standby until we get this section here resolved? Because it is quite confusing! As I say, invested a lot

of time and method, gone through 3 Cathaoirleaches to get to this stage, 2 and a half years, I can't give an answer the to the public until at us clarified here, where do we stand?

SORCHA WALSH: Cathaoirleach all the other items, all the items are adopted and in effect. The development plan came into effect 23rd October and it is to be utilised in the assessment of applications, other than the 6 items that are in the Draft Direction. Everything else is on affected, everything else that you adopted in September.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Yes, go ahead.

>>: Just in terms I was quite clear when you as Councillors adopted the County Development Plan, that it came in effect, under anything that was other than ministerial direction, to compliment what Sorcha has said. Everything else in the plan is in effect other than what is under ministerial direction.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay thank you. Sorcha, you want to go ahead then? Thank you.

SORCHA WALSH: Put it up on the overhead there. So the first item onto Minister's direction. Relates to the Kilpedder, this was made to the boundary, extending the boundary by about 3 acres the Minister's direction to revert it to the original boundary, to omit those 3 acres out of the village boundary. We received 2 submissions in relation to this from the public, John Fox the landowner and one from Wicklow Planning Alliance generally they have made a submission that relates to all of the items that of the Draft Direction and generally in support of the Minister making the Draft Direction as set out. The landowner John Fox has made a submission against the Draft Direction, seeking that the boundary be retained in the format adopted by the members on the 12th September. That's the first item if any of the members want to raise anything. We can note that and include it in our report.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr John Snell.

Cllr John Snell: This is a disappointing, the two units, for two sites for family members, I think the Minister, he didn't pay much care when strategic housing development applications were going into on, to 250 units into Ashford which was overzoned and under pressure and creaking at the seams for the infrastructure of the units. He has a problem with the units in Kilpedder. We had a discussion and all the members had a say. Supported this. Very little in these 6 issues that the Minister has after such a long deadline process, and I just feel that it is petty to the extreme. I think the office of the planning regulator, in all honesty, they will have to review the process because the reality is, that every, every County Development Plan if it doesn't adhere to what the office of the planning regulator wants, the Minister will come down, what is the point in us going through the process? We are talking about 2 family homes yet, we know throughout the State that the strategic housing development applications that went in, very few of them were refused. Ended up in regards to not hundreds of houses but thousands of houses were being built where the public didn't believe that they were worthy of going in. Yet the elected members of this council all agreed and concord that these two units were going to enhance the area. Not take away. So I am just flabbergasted that we are here having to have this discussion again. In regards to the probably, it is very frustrating and you are trying to bite your tongue and you don't want to be hard on people out there, people I suppose have hobbies and Planning Alliance. I said it before and I will say it publicly now. I believe they should change their name to the anti-Planning Alliance. They are antieverything. Why they call themselves the Planning Alliance, should call themselves anti-planning alliance.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR SHAY CULLEN: A pick view on this, as Councillor Snell has rightly said. I put forward this amendment about two and a half years ago, I think it went through 3 votes and all unanimous support throughout the process of the plan. I suppose I am disappointed and annoyed at this Ministerial Direction. If you go through our County Development Plan and see the amount of information and the amount of amendments and work that has gone into developing our plan, and we are here discussing an extension to a boundary for 3 sites and I just want to correct Cllr Snell, 3 sites not 2. 3 site for a family. It beggers belief how anybody could even question this after going through our full process here in the Council Chamber over two and a half years. I would have to ask the question, who is behind it and making the decisions? Officials in the department? Planning regulator? Minister? I have my doubts that it is the Minister, I can't imagine he would know where Kilpedder is! It is crazy here discussing something in my view is a trivial enough amendment with no respect to the family involved. Gone through 3 votes, had unanimous supports and we will be discuss probably the other 5 in a moment. As far as I am concerned, we need to do a strongly worded letter to the Minister, the Planning Regulator and ask what the hell is going on that they are so concerned about a boundary church that is so innocuous in the overall development of the County Development Plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR GERRY WALSH: Thank you I was surprised to see this is in the Minister's direction, of all the amendments that went through the process, as Cllr Snell says over two and a half years, looking at 3 sites, at the edge of an existing development. Not out in the rural areas, in the middle, adjacent with serviced by a dual carriageway almost running right into it as well as public transport. At the end of the day, we are not giving planning permission here, a change of zoning. If there is a proposal come to the planners they will have discretion and they are the arbitrators as to whether a development is allowed on this particular piece of ground. Again, just want to express my surprise and again I support the previous two speakers thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, happy standing there for a couple of minutes I have a few more speakers.

SORCHA WALSH: Absolutely fine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Two more, I will bring in Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR DEREK MITCHELL: I am surprised that something for 3 sites, 3 houses, 3 family houses has got them in the attention at all. Seems minor from the point of view of the Minister when there are sites close to there, with nearly 500 houses a mile from it.

But, just, I find it also surprising that this grove is somewhere and these sites are within about 400 meters of a bus stop, with 3 buses an hour and a footpath provided there all the way to Greystones. It is quite well fixed for public transport and other issues. I find it amazing that the Minister has decided to take out these sites. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR IRENE WINTERS: I want to support what previous speakers have said, particular Cllr Cullen and I would like, to the Minister and ask him, what is his problem with this? Out of everything that has happened in the two and a half years, why he feels the need that these 3 sites shouldn't go ahead. I agree with Cllr Cullen, I would be interested to see the paperwork in the department to see what is driving this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Sorcha.

SORCHA WALSH: Thanks, just on that matter, what happens next is there is no letter going to the Minister, a report goes to the Minister from the Chief Executive and all that report does is it summarises any submissions that were made by the public or written submissions by the members and will include a summary of what is said today. All is open to the Chief Executive is to answer one question, what is the best way to give effect to this Draft Direction? Basically, means how, what is the best route to do what the Minister is asking for? The Minister is asking for a precise thing, remove this site from the village boundary, when something as straight forward as that. The Chief Executive has no option to say, I don't think you should do this or a bad idea or only 3 sites. The Chief Executive can only offer what is the best way to do this Minister, now you said this is what you want to do, possibly the only way, to do it, to make his decision. If the Minister come back and say, too much land zoned, 10 hectares too much. I want you to reduce it by 10 hectares but not telling you where. Then it would be open to the Chief Executive to provide options to the Minister, remove this piece and this piece, but the questions or the Draft Directions that the Minister issued are precise. So there doesn't seem to be options for the Chief Executive in terms of responding to the Minister over than the, other than the best way to do it is just do it. There is no scope for the Chief Executive to say why are you doing this, what are the grounds of this? That is not in the scope of the legislation at this point. A very simple straight forward report. Chief Executive doesn't get to offer an opinion. We provide the Minister with your opinions and, and the opinions of the members of the public they take it from there. So there is no scope for the executive or the Chief Executive to write to the Minister at any point or ask for clarification, or anything at all other than prepare this report that is quite narrow in scope. I should have said at the beginning any submissions are all scanned and are on our website if anybody wants to see the submissions from the public.

>>: There is nothing to stop any of you as members you know, it was open to you to make that submission with the submission and within the submission time frame to address both the Minister and the OPR, that is part when you let you know about the next steps once the original Ministers direction was issued. So there was scope at that stage for you just as individual members or as groups to make your opinions known at that point. So hopefully, hopefully you did do that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Sorcha. Do you want to go to the second one?

SORCHA WALSH: Okay, thank you, the second item relates to the village of Johnstown. Again, this was a village boundary extension to the north of the village shown there. That was agreed by the members on the 12th September and again it is very similar to the Kilpedder one. Given a direction that it be omitted from the village boundary. In terms of submissions, the only submission we got in relation to this was from the Planning Alliance, we didn't get submissions from local people or landowners on this element of the Draft Direction.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

CLlr Gerry O'Neill: I want to say, others people's opinions on the Kilpedder. How did the Minister pick out this 3-acre site in Kilpedder? I work on the HSE there and didn't strike me as a lad that wouldn't know the ins and outs. Very important, huge concern being expressed by the members of the council here. Peter is a member of the - a Minister, surely there could be a shortcut to his office. This is alarming and concerning that off all the hundreds, I think council - thousands of bits and pieces to that County Development Plan, he is aiming to pick out 3-acre site in Kilpedder. I am totally amazed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, just on the Johnstown members, any data on John town sorry, Patsy.

CLLR PATSY GLENNON: On the position of Johns town, people in the area getting planning, surprising they have sites, suitable sites not going to cause any issues, the Minister decides whoever

decides the Planning Authority to take the plan without the following amendments. I don't think that's right to be honest.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr, Chief Executive?

Chief Executive: A few comments have been made about why the Minister might pick this piece of land out, the letter circulated with the Ministerial order, the letter from the minister, says, recommendation made to me as Minister, by the Planning Regulator on 7th October. And then at the bottom... (reading) I formed the opinion.

That explained on the basis of the submission made by the office of the Planning Regulator that he determines his opinion in relation to making a Ministerial order.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Chief Executive. Councillor Tom Fortune.

CLLR TOM FORTUNE: Listening to the debate so far, as members, I think fundamentally my impression is, we don't agree with what the Minister is, has basically said to us. But then the Minister is totally guided by the Planning Regulator, because obviously takes the Planning Regulator's view and sends it on to us. Likewise, as Sorcha has explained, when you are going back as the executive; not going to say to the Minister, hang on we don't agree with you. You have said that is not what you are going to do. All we can do is express our disappointment. We have done this, some people done it publicly already, other counties done the same thing, isn't just Wicklow, getting these kinds of correspondence. At the time when we haven't enough houses or accommodation for our residents, I agree with some of the comments, about the pettiness of it. It doesn't make sense. The Minister is rubber stamping what the planning regulator has said. Why doesn't the Planning Regulator, come down to tell him the problems are or send someone down, so we can have a proper conversation, rather than go through a pointless exercise.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you - I won't say we are happy with number 2.

SORCHA WALSH: Just what the Chief Executive said. Essentially the Planning Regulator has already told you the submission on the proposed amendments most of them relate to the amendments agreed last March and published in April. The OPR's submission set out their opposition to all of these, would have been all of these in front and many adopted in March. They have made it clear from the earliest possible stage that they became aware of the changes suggested that they have objections to them. That would have been set out in the third executive report that was circulated to you in July this year. This hasn't come out of nowhere, the process is when the draft development plan is made and we invite submissions, summer 2021 the OPR made they're submissions, identified a number of aspects of the development plan that they weren't happy with and needed further justification.

Some of the matters raised, the Chief Executive would be advised to make the changes. Some cases you took that advice and some you didn't. A small matter, the Chief Executive didn't agree and we recommended you didn't make changes. But once you made your decision on what to do with each of the OPR's recommendations the meeting in March this year. A report had to go to the OPR outlining for each and every single recommendation on the draft plan, what you the members decided to do with that recommendation. Went in March or April. They then had a repository of anything they weren't happy that you the members decided not to take the advice. The next stage was proposed amendments the OPR given advice and done a report on the proposed amendments once the plan adopted in September. A second report going to the OPR for each recommendation; whether you took their advice or not. Had a list of maybe 20 or 30 items that they suggested you do or change in the plan, that you the members decided not to take that particular advice. That's the

source of these 6 or 7 items that are in the Minister's Draft Direction. Had 20 or 30 items not happy with, whittled it down to these few, were the ones they felt they should intervene on. The Minister outlines other aspects of the plan, trying to think something they raised. I think they mentioned rural housing and guidelines imminent. The Minister didn't feel it was to get involved. It may well be addressed by the new guidelines coming before Christmas.

That is all set out in the Minister's letter why he has gone for some things and not other things. You can track the progress of where these 6 or 7 items how they arise, they didn't pop out of nowhere, said all the way through they were not happy with.

What we will do, we will send the transcript and a summary of this meeting as part of the report, so the Minister will have your views on the general process of the Minister intervening at this stage and with regard to the individual elements of the proposed Draft Direction. It is not open to the Chief Executive at this point to take on the Minister, the Minister issued his Draft Direction and the report is essentially just summarising what issues raised and giving it to the OPR and Minister to make their final decision. They have to weigh up the pros and cons. I don't think it is a guarantee that if the regulator says something should you be removed. The Minister will follow the OPR's advice. There is nothing in law that says the Minister has. Minister doesn't have to and certain procedures need to be invoked if he decides to do that. The OPR is an adviser to the Minister.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Bourke online.

CLLR BOURKE: Apologies for not getting to the chamber, it is quite disappointing that we find ourselves in this position, I think it is a sad day for local democracy, hard work into making this plan, partially rejected by the OPR and Minister. I suppose, I just like to state it is my belief that the OPR was involved in advising the previous government to stop building social housing, he might not necessarily get it right all the time. Not saying that we are going to get it right all the time. I believe we put in a huge effort into making this plan supposed to be our plan and it is what we feel is best for our county. In this instance I proposed that we extend in Johns town to provide for one or two sites for people who are looking for housing being looking to build, qualify under the rules to build in the small villages but, because there are no sites available, because it has been built out mostly that they can't go anywhere, would have solved housing for one or two couples there. That may not be the case now. That is the reason why I brought the proposal forward. It is disappointing that our role as local representatives is being usurped really by the OPR. That's all I can say for the moment Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Bourke.

CLLR MIRIAM MURPHY: I would like to echo what Cllr Bourke said, I am from that area, those families would have brought economic increase into the area, the schools, shop locally and everything else, they were born and reared there and this situation happen in our county. Again, these people are coming to us who have been voted in to represent these people and we have to go back with the bad news that we are not able to do anything for them. We are the ones with responsibility on our shoulders and we have to look at those people every day. If it is coming again Councillor - I support it again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Murphy. Sorry, you want to go ahead or anything to answer there? I think you have answered them already.

SORCHA WALSH: No thank you, we will move on to the next one, probably the best one. These were the simpler ones and these are the more complex ones, Theresa, if you would move on.

The next one relates to Ashford, this is a piece of land that is proposed to be or adopted with a residential and active open space zoning and had a special local objective, SLL4 I think it is, tied the delivery of the residential units to active open space. 4 submissions and one written submission from Cllr Dunne. Then also submission from the Wicklow Planning Alliance and 2 submissions from the land own, Patrick Stephens. One is a sort of a support letter from other members of the community and the second submission is a more deadline planning rational opposing the Ministers Draft Direction. So I will hand it over to you Cathaoirleach and the members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any members like to speak on this? Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, like other members and other parts of the county, I'm very surprised over the minister's direction -- sorry, the OPR's direction. There was genuinely community gain here; that was one of the main reasons that I was involved in this.

The second thing was, and there was a HSAHD [sic] granted just down the road from it, literally, I'd say, a minute's walking distance, 127 houses, that a lot of people were not too happy about. I think this was a better site. It was a better plan.

I'm hugely disappointed with what has come out of this. I've made a submission. I don't know whether it will be listened to but I just wrote something down when the other members were there saying we're the people on the ground, we're dealing with this for the last two and a half years. In consultation with the planners, with the council, we tried to come up with the right decision that's best for the county. I think we have been very conservative in our County Development Plan. I think we have all worked very hard and I thought it was a good County Development Plan. I'm seen a few of them. In my opinion, for the OPR to come in and nit-pick at certain areas, whether it is this one, or other ones, six out of the whole plan, it leaves a lot to be desired as far as I'm concerned. I think they talk about good planning and bad planning. I think that's really bad planning on his behalf. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Dunne. Okay, Sorcha.

SORCHA WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. If we move on to the next slide. The next matter is in Carnew, at the northern end of Carnew. It was a proposal for a new zoning, to zone the land half residential and half open space. There were two submissions from the Wicklow Planning Alliance and from Michael Kinsella, the landowner. Cathaoirleach, I hand it back to you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Any members that would like to speak on this? Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, I'd like to echo what my colleagues have been saying on this matter. We've been two and a half years at this. Not only have we put our inputs into it, I know what Sorcha is saying that the planning regulator flagged his opposition to some of these, he's pushed, he's obviously given up on some of them. Some of the more bizarre ones he was fighting tooth and nail, he seems to have not bothered with now for some reason. He's picked these number of very odd pieces of -- they're not very significant, you know, they're relatively small in the context of the plan. Really, I think what he's doing is, it is the thin edge of the wedge here. So, it's three objections this time. It could be 33 next time.

At the end of the day, the councillors and the communities who live in these villages are being told, you know, we want to consult you about your plan and the community groups in Carnew did consult on this plan and as far as I know they're going through the submissions, they were all in favour of housing development in Carnew and in all of the lands that were proposed.

The second thing is we're not handing out planning permissions when we do a County Development Plan. We are suggesting that the appropriate sites that can be looked for in terms of planning permissions. In some of these, any difficulties that may or may not exist particularly on the issue of flood plains, which there is significant difference of opinion on, from both local engineers in the area and what is said by Wicklow Planning Alliance and the planning regulator, these would be teased out in a planning application.

This is the thin end of the wedge. There are three houses for sale in Carnew today, only three. There's nothing to rent in Carnew, private rental. In our district, in the western district -- and there's some media reports to this -- we have a massive shortage of private rental accommodation. The housing crisis affects all parts of Wicklow, with the social infrastructure and the physical infrastructure in Carnew to be flexible in where we build houses be we need to offer that flexibility in building houses. What the planning regulator is doing now, he's cherry picked a few things and says these are the ones I will object to this time because this is my first time down the road of overruling locally democratically elected and fully consulted development plans. But if we don't as a council, as a full council object to the way this stage eight process is handled, then we're going to get, this is going to get worse and worse and worse. That's all I want to say. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mullen. Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Look, as a personal councillor who lived in the area for a long, long time, I doubt very much the minister or the planning regulator has a lot more money, a lot more time on his hands and problems on his hands than worrying about five houses in Carnew. So, I certainly would like to support the landowner's submission for five sites. Anybody around Carnew would know that down the years people who are applying for planning permission anywhere in rural areas or anywhere in Carnew but knowing they've been refused by Wicklow County Council for planning permission, have had the issue of people going across the border into County Wexford, even around Carnew, in the town of Carnew, going across the border getting planning permission in County Wexford. It's made a laughing stock of us in the area in terms of how we dealt with planning and particularly in terms of rural planning.

The landowner himself is a rural person. He himself intends to build on one of these Wicklow sites. It leaves four sites available for people that he's time and time again tried to sell sites in the rural areas, and lo and behold, whether it be his architect or whoever else, you won't get planning permission from Wicklow County Council. There are five sites within the core of Carnew, you might also say, that are available to people to be able to buy them and build their own house on them. It's a progressive thing we want to try to do, people who don't have opportunity to qualify for social housing, they won't qualify for loans or whatever else but here we have an opportunity that people can actually build a house on a site being provided in the core of Carnew. Very close to a secondary school, a national school, and to the shops as well. If anyone can see the map itself, they will see that it's actually quite close or adjacent to a housing estate that stands at the moment anyway.

Look, I support the owner's application for five sites, one of which he will probably build himself and that will leave four sites for people in an around Carnew to be able to build a house within their own town and village. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Blake. Sorcha, do you want to say anything there? I think all of the members have spoken on it now.

SORCHA WALSH: We can just move on if members don't have anything else to add on that one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Moving on then to Aughrim. There are two aspects of the adopted Aughrim plan that the minister's Draft Direction is concerned with. The first, the sort of oblong that you can see on the overhead there is land zoned for low density housing in red there, above the existing housing estates that are there. The other one which is on the far right of the screen there, it is labelled AUG4, which is zoning there for four units or something like that. One is low density but it is ten acres. The other one is for four units.

We got four submissions that related to the larger site and, actually -- that's a mistake, I should say we got one submission in relation to the smaller site which would be the Wicklow Planning Alliance, their submission related to all elements of this Draft Direction. And then another three submissions that related only to the normal site, the larger site. The submissions were from Paschal Bermingham, the landowner, from Cllr Tommy Annesley and from Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, anyone want to come in on that one? Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I will only speak on the smaller one, Cathaoirleach. I will leave the other one to probably yourself and Cllr Sylvester Bourke to come in on.

In relation to the R4 units, the small piece there that is on the map, I can't understand why the minister would take this out. The fact of the matter is Aughrim is a small village in South Wicklow that won the Tidy Towns competition one year, a beautiful little village, but there hasn't been a house built in Aughrim for 12 years. There's not going to be any more houses built in Aughrim for at least another five. There's a housing list of almost 50 in Aughrim. This piece of land, I actually put it in the last plan as an R4, what was unusual about this piece of land was it was four acres, so there was enough land to provide their own water and their own sewerage on site. Now, if we're really serious about providing housing for people, this is something that the minister should have left in, because we can't build houses in Aughrim, so there's enough land being provided here to build a house, provide your own on-site treatment and water. Now, there is one of those sites has been sold and has planning permission, so leaves three.

Now, I know another member said about the minister being a member of a certain party. I don't think the minister did this at all, to be quite honest. I think Minister Burke picked out these little pieces at all. I don't think the OPR picked them out either. If either of those gentlemen had to find these villages, they would have to use Google maps to get them there. I don't think they did it.

I actually think that we should be encouraging what the landowner has done here in Aughrim. I know he didn't make a submission on this, but we, as members, went through two and a half years or three years of a planning of the County Development Plan and when that letter is going from the CEO to the minister, well, I think the CEO is representing us as members.

I think the CEO should be telling the minister or the OPR or wherever that letter is going that we want these pieces of land put back in because we want to provide housing for the people and the citizens of this county. I'd like a copy of that letter to be circulated to the members in advance, a week in advance before it gets sent up to the minister or the CEO because this is ridiculous, taking out this. Taking out a piece of land in Aughrim that can provide three houses because there has been planning permissions given on one of these, where there have been no houses built for 12 years and there won't be another house built for another five years.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Kennedy. Cllr Peir Leonard. You're on mute, Cllr Leonard. Can you hear us?

CLLR LEONARD: Can you hear me now?

CATHAOIRLEACH: We can hear you now loud and clear.

CLLR LEONARD: Thank you. Our own municipal district, Arklow in particular, has been badly hit with a lack of housing and on the ground put a lot of pressure on everybody and all of the councillors in the area as well as the rest of County Wicklow. So, I would be encouraging the minister to reconsider these sites. We do need extra housing and the municipal is quite small and these towns and villages, because of the lack of housing in Arklow, it affects all of the municipal districts, so I would ask him and urge him to reconsider, you know, his direction on these. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Leonard. Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I made a submission in relation to the ten-acre piece of ground there on the north of Aughrim, on the north boundary. It was for low density housing. The piece of land was actually zoned by the county council about 20 years ago, when the Bermingham family bought it for development. They did develop some housing there and couldn't finish it because of the lack of water and sewerage infrastructure, which is being upgraded at the moment. It's an ideal location now for the provision of sites for people who want, who are living in the village or have young families growing up, they won't have anywhere for them to live to build housing because they can't build outside of the boundary of the village. So, you know, by taking that out, we're restricting what we can provide for housing for future generations of residents from Aughrim. And you know how quickly your family grow up, yourself council or, and I'm sure officials know how quickly their children grow up and all of a sudden, where are they going to live. If we don't look ahead, we are doing them a disservice. I believe this is important and we take a strong stand to make sure there is enough suitable sites available for our children to build and to live in because otherwise we're failing as local representatives and we certainly wouldn't have anything to be proud of in terms of what legacy we will leave behind when we're gone.

And I do know it is quite elevated and Sorcha Walsh pointed out to me that it is quite elevated. But I have to put it to you how some of the sites around Wicklow Town are, where we are currently building and granting planning permissions for, so we overcome difficulties like that as well when we want to, so, you know, when there's a demand and a need to provide housing for future generations, we should be accommodating of them as well. That's all I can say on this case, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just a general comment as Chairman of the Planning SPC. Like, the really striking thing about this is the planning regulator aware that all of these small towns in Wicklow, Carnew, Tinahely, Aughrim, Ashford, all over the county that are affected by this development plan, do they realise that it is practically no housing built in those towns? Practically none. The vast bulk of the housing is happening and will happen in the five big towns, albeit Blessington and Arklow will get their waste water and they will be built on. All of the development is in the five big towns. A lot of these smaller towns, there's nothing being built in them and local people can't actually there's nothing for sale. The only show in town is some social houses. There's nothing else. The planning regulator just strikes me as totally out of touch with what is happening in these small towns. Like a little extension in Carnew for four or five houses. Come on, like. It's ridiculous. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Timmins. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to support what Cllr Bourke and Cllr --

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kennedy.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I was trying to read it her ... Cllr Kennedy said about the situation in Aughrim and I'm well aware of the situation in Aughrim. I'm well aware there are a lot of people on the housing list. I do notice that people from Aughrim and rural areas are now putting down Arklow as their place of choice and that's not where they want to be but they need housing. So, I think that that needs to be changed.

I know one house has been built in Kilaclornan and three not getting planning permission. I think it is a dire situation in Aughrim. As I said, we built probably 120 houses in Arklow and I do note that people from rural areas are now putting down towns, the towns as their place of choice, that's not where they want to be, that's not where they were born. I think the minister has to have a look at that situation. I dare say that the minister never looked at that and wouldn't even know what is in it, to be honest with you. Look, we will make contact with the minister ourselves as well. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fitzgerald. I think that's everyone that is showing, Sorcha. I'd like to add my shoulder to the wheel on this one. I did send a submission in about Aughrim. I made one submission in the development plan. I won't say I was shocked; I was very happy to get my one across. I was shocked to see this one had not got across the line. I made a submission that this land was bought at a high price when there was a development allowed on it, there was planning permission south for half of the site and it was given. He didn't go away for the rest of the site. The landowner is in a position now. In the middle of a housing crisis, not to be given planning permission, or not be zoning land in villages and that's why I added my submission, Sorcha, to this. Thank you for all of the help you gave to me on that one. So, that's my opinion, members. That's all I have to say on that.

Is there anyone else that would like to add anything to Aughrim? No. Everyone happy. Sorcha, thank you. Sorry, the Chief Executive wants to come in.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I to come back in relation to what Cllr Pat Kennedy suggested, that this is on the basis of Wicklow County Council telling the OPR what to put in. That is completely wrong. I think it should be withdrawn. The OPR are an independent I wondered and they make their own decisions and statements. This is not a surprise. As Sorcha has already said, these responses from the OPR have been made throughout the whole process in the different versions of the County Development Plan. They didn't come out of thin air. To suggest that Wicklow County Council contacted the OPR told them what ones to include in or what ones to take out is not correct.

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

CLLR KENNEDY: I find it hard to believe that the minister has time to be looking at small little pieces of land as Cllr Edward Timmins said earlier on, whether it is in Carnew, Aughrim or anywhere else, for little bits of land, two or three houses or four houses here, I find it hard that the minister has time to look at every map in the country to look at little pieces to shave off.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I was quite happy to see only six that were being pulled, without making aspirations or accusations against anybody. Sorcha, if we can ...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: At the risk of repeating myself, but the minister's letter quite clearly stated, the minister's letter dated 24th October addressed to me, quite clearly stated that it was a consequence of the recommendation made to him by the offers of the planning regulator. So, that's the information that he is getting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I'm not going to start a table tennis match here. Cllr Pat Kennedy, have you something to add really quickly?

CLLR KENNEDY: Cathaoirleach, I'm not making aspirations against anybody here or accusations against anybody here but the fact of the matter is that people in Aughrim cannot get a house. There's 12 years I think since there were houses built in Aughrim. If you were in Aughrim and you can't get a house and you have small children, that is some worry on a family and every other day of the week, as Cllr Pat Fitzgerald alluded to a minute ago, they're being looking now to putting their names on housing lists in towns because they cannot get a house in their own village. There is something wrong with the whole system when we can't build a house in Aughrim, where there are three sites, it is big enough to provide their own water and their own sewerage and we're taking that bit out, for three houses, something wrong there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. You can see the unbelievable dismay from every member in this Chamber about this. So, I'm just going to move on and let Sorcha move on to number 5, is it?

SORCHA WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just as a follow up to that last point and I won't express the same -- I do express the same views as Brian that any suggestion is totally unwarranted and untrue. Any report that we prepared for the OPR and the decisions made by the members are available for you to [Problem with sound] ... issued in April and it went through every single one of the amendments and every single one of the recommendations. They're fact-based reports. The second report in September set out what the members decided. There was no commentary, no opinion, it was just what the members decided and that's where the OPR get their information from.

The final item is in relation a nursing home at Killmullen, which is between Newtown and Kilpedder. It's land that was previously zoned as part of the integrated tourism and leisure complex at the Druid Glen but is in separate ownership from that complex and is just behind it. What was yesterday at the 12th September was to change the zoning of the land to sort of nursing home resident care facility for the elderly. We received three submissions, one from the Wicklow Planning Alliance, one from Cllr Derek Mitchell and finally from the landowners Eamon Bourke and Margaret Hocter.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: This land is not in the middle of nowhere as some suggestions would appear. It's right next to Druids Glen which is a lot of facilities which older people could use which is a large resort and I think it is appropriate to have a nursing home next to that. I have made that submission to both the council and to the minister and I hope he reverses this. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Like Cllr Mitchell, I'd like to add my support. Again, you know, these decisions, it's a surprise this is one of the six selected. These decisions, it is like a broad stroke if it doesn't align with the national planning framework or the RSC document, we're talking about a macro document there and we're picking out just examples at will. Again, as is accepted here but as part of the Druids Glen report, this piece of land is not isolated. It is equi-distant between Kilcoole and Newtownmountkennedy, two growing settlements, two growing villages that are now towns in effect. You could cycle from either one to this location, walk I'd say from Kilcoole quite easily. I'm sure in the not too distant future we will see it serviced by public transport in the frame of a local link connection.

Again, like I pointed out earlier in a previous contribution, we're not giving planning permission for a nursing home here. It was previously zoned tourism. Again, the final decision will be with the planning authority as to whether a planning application is deemed suitable or not for this particular location. Again, I'd like this decision to be reconsidered. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Walsh. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just an overall observation based on a lot of what has been said. Again, relating to this, that the idea of the process is the plan for the future, to put things in place for that. I notice -- and words matter, I unless the very first line from le said Wicklow County Council has failed to implement recommendations made to it. I have though out that recommendations are recommendations, not directives. But should we now just consider every time a recommendation is presented by the OPR that it's going to become a directive? There's an insult sitting in there somewhere about again the lived reality on the ground and how people see. I mean, the biggest question of all on some level is this our plan or is there a hierarchy of decision making and power that sits way above us in lots of layer and somewhere down the bottom we get the scraps of the responsibility because we certainly don't get the credit for what comes out of it? I think when we consider all of the thousands of pages that have been read, the hours and hours of meetings and consideration and contribution that to be told we failed, failed to set out an overall strategy, that kind of doesn't sit well at all, considering that we are elected to this structure and that we have taken a responsibility to do this. Just a comment, Cathaoirleach. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: I want to make a general point. There's a palpable frustration amongst the members. I think that's an understatement if I'm reading the room right. I'm going to use a word inconsistency. There's a total inconsistency in the entire process. You know, we've looked at a situation where there was probably 30 amendments that were supposedly taken out by the OPR and then they whittled it down to six. Nobody can understand how those particular six were chosen and it left a lot of questions.

At the end of the day, we have spoken about this being our plan, our County Development Plan for the last three years. We have put enough work into it to suggest that it should be our development plan. I sadly believe, Chairman, that the decisions that are being made by the OPR in the main are against developing rural areas. I think that's very clear from those five or six submission or measurements that we're looking at. I go as far to say, I believe it is an attack on rural communities across Wicklow, and other members have very articulately put it together. We need our villages to develop, we need our villages to grow. We need our people to stay in their communities. This type of situation that we're faced with here today shows us that the upper echelons of regulation doesn't want our communities to develop. They're against rural communities. They're against people being able to build a home in their own community, being able to live in their own community. We, as public representatives, are the voice of those people. We put forward their views in our County Development Plan. I'm going to finish, Chairman, by saying I'm asking that we put a very strong report to the OPR, but I'm also asking that our Chief Executive and planners at the top table will support what we're putting together, support what you've heard here today, and show that we're a county that really united behind the people that we represent.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Cullen. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I'll be very happy to second that proposal, Cathaoirleach. There hasn't been one dissenting voice here this evening on any of the point that have been made by members right across the county. The essential point has been put by an urban-based counter, Cllr O'Brien, who made the point that we were told it was our plan, we were told we were getting recommendations, but, in fact, they're really instructions. We're not the only council that has come up with this problem. It's right across the country. Council after council from Kerry, to Cork to Galway, right across the country, are being told by civil servants in the Department of Housing and in planning and in the OPR

that we as public representatives have do what we're told. For people who live in rural parts County Wicklow it is a damning indictment on the people who are making decisions at the senior level in this Government, whether they're politicians or civil servants, that rural Ireland does not matter. All of the development has to be focused in urban areas. So, in addition to what has been put in the transcript from today and, obviously, everything that has been said will be in the transcript, I think we should agree with what Cllr Shay Cullen said, we should unanimously agree a very strong statement saying we reject these recommendations right across the board, apart from the individual reasons, but on principle, we are not willing to accept diktats from civil servants at central Government level. I think at the very least if that message goes back, we may be doing some good, obviously, for the people we represent but for others around the country. Thank you.

At the very least, if that message goes backs, we may do some good for thepeople and for others around the country.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR TOM FORTUNE: I would completely agree, he summed it up brilliantly for the meeting. Whose plan is it, that is what we are wrestling with. It is not the executive's fault either. That's the real issue for us and it needs to be addressed and we are either the democratically elected, on behalf of the constituents of Wicklow or not, you know my other views, the attacks on our role, in different areas, and this is crazy stuff as far as I am concerned. We were sitting here for an hour and having a discussion, all predetermined, as the Councillor said, acting on instructions, this is how you act. I am not saying they may hear what we are saying, but they are not telling us that. If you read this letter. I think it is ridiculous, we should say, hang on LOPR or whatever, whatever they call themselves, we don't agree. Come and debate it with us, let's have a rational conversation about it. Don't treat it as we don't matter. As far as we are concerned, we do matter.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Gail Dunne.

CLLR GAIL DUNNE: I never speak twice on the same subject, but in my opinion we received a Minister's direction, Minister of Housing, trying to provide housing in this county, leave land in that has proper infrastructure, all the members are talking about housing and trying to provide housing for the people of this county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: It is our plan, what has been dictated, at 3 stages, at every stage we have argued why we didn't agree or we did agree. But the reality is, that the end product is, if we don't agree 100% with the OPR, basically, yes, they are going to do what they want to do anyway and it mind me of the treaty, you can have a referendum and provided that you are told the way it will come out, if you don't, you will do it again. That is how it is now. My fear is as elected members, I believe all members in this chamber will concord. We are just being used as pawns in the system. The reality is Council Chambers are turning into talking shops and not bringing advice to the people that we are supposed to represent because it is falling on deaf ears. Not by the officials, but higher above. The Office of the Planning Regulator has never given a presentation. Some of them are party members that the Minister has no inkling of what is going on here at all. High ranking officials. We are being dictated to again. So, as far as I am concerned the mask as slipped and the reality is, we as public representatives know your true value, you are not valued at all. Walked all over here, and you can have your way providing you agree with those in power. The office of the planning regulator.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Murphy.

CLLR MARY KAVANAGH: You sit and wonder, but I mean, I am thinking of the members who are representing and sitting on the boards of the AILG, all our TV'ses, in the chamber as Councillors like ourselves, gone to the higher level of the government. When they were sitting in the chamber, they were on our side. Now they are in the higher chamber and, to me, in the opposition and also, I know that coming in from other emails from TD's and senators like all of us. We sit and we read about our County Councils. I know Cork was having a problem, putting it just as, requesting for it to be looked at. So I think Wicklow is not the only one. Again, why aren't all the councils coming together? We are not able to deliver on our own, other 31 councils we should be coming together as one. Our voices will not be harder, our representation coming from the... they have been in the hot seats for many years, what's the communication from these? We question from all levels, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Councillor Murphy, Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: We are in the worst crisis, I would use the word, plead, to plead with the Minister in whatever submission we make to allow these quite small negligible developments, 3 houses here, 2 houses there, it is not going to make a difference, not going to amount a whole hill of beans here. We cannot forget the housing crisis, that has to be the first priority in this country. These houses would take people off the housing list, take pressure off the housing list. Would allow people who live in that area, to live in that area. We should stress in whatever submission we make that the housing crisis has to take priority over everything.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Thank you Chair. Just one brief comment. Not sure I picked it up correctly. That was made by Miriam Murphy when she referenced the TD's and how they are working against us. What they are doing at the top level and all this kind of stuff. I am not sure if she was suggesting there should be interference by our 5 political representatives with the Office of the Planning Regulator, if she is, maybe a rethink on that. Also, not sure exactly how our TD's supposed to be working against us on this. This is a moot point and not relevant to some of the productive conversation that is happening here today. Thank you Chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Sorry you want to come in? Or just finalising things up there?

>>: The Chief Executive has to finish his report like I said and mainly focused summarising, we might include the transcript of today that will give everything to the Minister, send it off to the OPR and Minister next week, like I said we should have feedback by the second week of January, knowing where the Minister is going on this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To surmise my sitting here, listening to everybody in the chamber, no one is agreeing with his recommendations, I hope you can clarify that in your reasoning off today's meeting to the best of your ability to speak up and say what the members said here today? I have no doubt you will do that.

>>: Just to be clear, no scope for the Chief Executive to do at this stage.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are going to transcript.

>>: The transcript is done for every meeting. We will submit it on your behalf. With no additional information. The Chief Executive doesn't have scope to offer opinion, simply to provide a summary.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Shay Cullen.

CLLR SHAY CULLEN: I did make a proposal, seconded by Cllr Behan, a strongly worded report goes forward. Some person suggested to be circulated to the members. I want to make sure we have unanimous support for this, if we have to take a vote, please do so. Also, still asking for the CEO to support what he has heard today unanimously from the members in some shape or form to add his voice to what I think would be very helpful if possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Sorcha, no mechanism for me to respond; it is, they are not looking for my opinion in relation to it. As we have said already, all the comments made here today and strong comments made, they will be included in the report to go to the Minister. Just to be aware, we can't send that report out in advance to the members, that will have to go at the same time. Goes to the members at the same time. As it would to the OPR and Minister? That's the process, that's the legislation and we have to adhere to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Councillor Tom Fortune?

CLLR TOM FORTUNE: I am wondering you as Cathaoirleach can ask the CE to include in whatever communication he sends back to the Minister to reflect the view of the chamber, which I think is unanimous? Surely to goodness, I mean, you are the Chairman of the county. Surely if you ask the CE to, to express the following on behalf of the members that has to be done, even if under a separate letter. I think this is such a serious issue, I am saying this to the CE. I think this is such a serious issue we cannot like just follow on and say the Minister has sent out this letter and reading it again and some parts of it you could challenge. Yes, answer that back and Sorcha has explained you are kind of mandated in how you respond to it. I think with the discussion we had here today I think as members we are not happy with this in any shape or fashion. We should be asking the CE, if need be under a separate letter to write to the Minister, under your guidance Chair.

>>: We are including all the views of the, that will be in the Chief Executive report.

CLLR TOM FORTUNE: No, it is like any report, if we are sitting here next month or the month after, everything we say is recorded and 50 pages of script. It needs to be more succinct and pointed. All kinds of expressed by members. I think the day has arrived. We cannot be ignored if we ask the executive to do something in a business-like manner because we fundamentally think it is the disgraceful the way Wicklow is treated and the rural villages, we express that separately. It will get lost, the Minister will get this and one of his people will look at it, I don't know where else it goes and come back with a standard answer back to us and we need to be proactive and say it in advance because I think this is a unique meeting we are having here today.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

>>: I think we can summarise the points raised and attach the transcript if necessary, if you are afraid it will get lost in a big transcript. We can pull out the main issues raised and include that in the report.

CLLR TOM FORTUNE: That's something.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for asking me to ask the Chief Executive to do that, I asked him twice, he outlined to me, he couldn't do. I asked the Minister to have a serious look at what he is doing to County Wicklow in rural areas, my submission on-line for everybody to see as well. But thank you for outlining, I should have asked the CE, I did ask him twice in the meeting. He answered as well.

So, I would like to thank you very much for that. What wasn't a big objection for the Minister, turned into a massive - it is a small part of our community. Going to affect largely, so I would like to thank you.

Councillor Mark Berry welcome to the chamber, I hope you have signed up now because you can't walk out on us. This is one of the tough decisions, Cllr Snell said, it took 3 Cathaoirleaches to get this across the line. I am in the Chair with my half time. It took us 2 and a half Chairmans to get through. Sorcha and the team thank you for the work done on this. Thank you very much.

Sorry Lorraine?

>>: If you are ready for the next agenda item, to consider NOAC indicator report as circulated.

>>: Members have been circulated with the NOAC report for 2021 as outlined in the correspondence, indicators under 11 headings for the local authority sectors in Ireland, performance indicator, water, waste, planning, fire services, library, recreation, youth, community, corporate finance and economic development. The indicators address the core functions of the local authorities, they do not reflect the range of services by city and County Councils throughout the state. Members will be aware of the role and what was responded to the in pandemic and we continue to deliver the essential services in the wellbeing and deliverance. In addition to 5 other local authorities, Wicklow participated in the annual quality assurance review, that aimed to report the success of a subset of indicators to assist NOAC in getting a clear understanding how data is assembled by councils and the particular approach that is used as part of the validation process. If there is any questions, we will endeavour to answer them for you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Lorraine.

CLLR EDWARD TIMMINS: Thank you. I actually attended a NOAC workshop in the summer, I am familiar with what they are trying to do. This document is very useful and I think for the management of this council, it could serve as a useful tool to see where Wicklow could you know, improve, Wicklow is doing okay. But to certain obvious areas where this opportunities for us to increase funding etc to this county. I just draw your attention to one item, Page 121, spend per head population basically, based on the expenditure in the council, divided by the population of County Wicklow and Wicklow ranks second from the bottom. 885euro per head of population, Galway city is high. Their average would be higher, second or third from the bottom in terms of spend. That is not something you easily address overnight. From our budget discussion with, looking to have the baseline increased hopefully in 2023 that we get, baseline will be increased and give us an opportunity to retain more of the property tax in 2024 and as a result up our spend per head of population.

But, certainly, you know, you might say, well you know, it is a county close to Dublin, high population, sorry, high population compared to Donegal's or whatever. But comparing it to Dublin, well below Dublin city, the argument of being urbanised doesn't stack up. I think we are losing out as a county that's not all under the control of the management of this council. I think we have an ammunition to argue that we should be receiving more funding and certainly the baseline this should be added to our baseline argument that we will make in the New Year. I think it is there in black and white, Page 121 of the NOAC report in terms of expenditure per head.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Councillor Timmins. Okay, next on the agenda please?

>>: Item Number 8 to consider the vacancy to the climate and biodiversity SPC arising from the resignation of Councillor Joe Neary. Some are on two. ... Is on one and some on two.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor? John Snell sorry.

Cllr John Snell: Can I nominate Cllr Barry. He should take up that role, coming from the political party that he does, replacing former Cllr Joe Neary, it is natural that, I don't know, I haven't had a chance

to discuss it with the council. Not to put him in the position, but being aware there is only one Councillor from that party in the chamber, but for him to go and hope others will support that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Tom Fortune? Thanks.

>>: I would second Councillor Snell's proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mick Berry, sorry, you told me not to call you Annesley and now I am calling you Mick sorry.

Cllr Mark Berry - sorry I am going home. Mark, would you be willing to take that position?

MARK: Yes, I take that position.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Apologies for calling you Mick Berry. Sorry. Thank you Cllr Mark Barry.

>>: Item 9, to consider filling the vacancy to the Wicklow County Partnership arising from the reads I go nays of Cllr A Cronin, this is more - Councillor Cronin was representing the Group 2 at the AGM Councillor O'Brien, now you conceded, so the Group 2 vacancy is there. Councillor John was proposed, seconded (inaudible) but there were only 2 places on the committee at that time. So now looking for replacement for Councillor Cronin.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

>>: Postponed to the January meeting?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everybody agree with that, thank you Councillor Blake. Thanks Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: The next item is Item Number 10 to consider filling the vacancy to the regional health forum Dublin mid-Leinster. There are 3 other members on the regional health forum, Councillor O'Neill and Patsy and Joe Behan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: ...

>>: I would like to nominate Councillor Vincent Blake for the position.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fitzgerald seconded that. Everybody in agreement? Okay. Thank you Cllr Blake and Cllr Flynn-Kennedy.

>>: Happy to take that position?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I was thanking him before he took it. Thank you. Thank you Cllr Blake.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the consider the Monthly Management Report of November 2022 as circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR EDWARD TIMMINS: Yes, just one item, I bring it up every month and bringing it up with more urgency in the last 6 months (name) as people know at this stage, funding allocated... not a shovel put in the ground since then, tenders way in excess of the funding, tenders come through early, June, July, almost double what the funding allocation was. I can forward it to the department just, this is obviously a bit parochial, this is one of the most urgent items and ask for it to be given massive priority.

CLLR PAUL O'BRIEN: I want to congratulate the council, being mentioned as one of the best destinations it's a feather in the cap and recognised as a complement. Was great to be mentioned.

On Page 30. There is the Abbey grounds in Wicklow Town. There was concern expressed, I have to share this, about the slow pace of progress. I know there was skeletons found in and around the old Abbey and stables, it is worrying, we have to have it up and running, by summer, this will be a great addition, at us something the town can do it. I would like more of an update of it. Thank you for the towns and villages for the invitations of turning on for the Christmas lights. We were made to feel welcome and I want to put that on the record.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR JOHN MULLEN: Yes, to echo what Cllr Timmins was saying, the town centre project, it is quite urgent that we make progress there, but I know we in fairness a lot of work going on in the background, just on a particular question, if a retender is necessary on the basis of a phased basis, that is not confirmed yet. If it is, my understanding the shortest period of time for the tender process for that amount on a phased basis is 42 days, essential that it will start immediately that confirmation of having to retender would come in because we need to get this project started and it was said before, that tender process could take up to 3 months, that would be entirely unacceptable. Days is more than enough. It is beyond me how it is costing. If the tender, if it is confirmed that the tender process has to take place again because we are going on a phased basis, the shortest possible time 42 days the trigger will be pulled on that immediately. So we can have people on site as quickly as possible. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Mullen. Joe Behan.

CLLR JOE BEHAN: Wondering if he had the meeting with the Chief Executive of TIZ, the argument about the M11 pause and funding. I had proposed that that Chief Executive should be invited next, but the Chief Executive wanted to talk to them first, if we get an update on that first, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, J Walsh.

Cllr Walsh: On the housing piece, looking at our list and comparing it with our schemes complete, our schemes on site, pipeline, etc, you know the list is, it is still, actually on the rise and continue to rise with the eligibility criteria on the increase and our continual, hap reliance, but just on one particular thing, notice to quit, we talked about it last month's meeting, increase from October to November. Up to 139 with the landlords selling. Wondering when that comes into our homeless, or housing section, do we engage with the property owners and establish why they are selling, maybe an effort to offer to, with the tenant in situ, why these landlords are leaving the market in such numbers.

The other question I had was in mobility aid grants with last week's budgets or two weeks ago. The figure in the private section, that point of clarification, we lose that and I know a considerable figure there, we lose that or is there an opportunity to carry that forward?

The other thing that jumped forward was the boiler servicing and the safety checking for boilers access issues, 60% access issues with the tenants just again. That's disturbing, again, what efforts are made to try and address that issue.

On the Ukrainian response, the new vacancy and home call which has been spearheaded and led by the local authorities, offer a home and people pledging properties, I wonder maybe Brian, our Chief Executive, could elaborate on what efforts are being made to advertise that and know there's an increase in the grant allowance there from 400 to 800 for people engaging in that process.

Again, any announcement on the Town Regeneration Officers or the Town Teams. Like Cllr O'Brien, I welcome the latest announcements on the tourism front in relation to the National Geographic

magazine. Well done on that. That's something we can build on going forward in attracting visitors to the county. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Walsh. Chief Executive, I will hand over to you now. I hope we didn't take too many for you. Sorry, I will answer those five and we will go back again.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will take Baltinglass first. The members of Baltinglass were at the last MD meeting, Christine Flood made a detailed presentation in relation to the matter and that we have received all of the options back from the consultants. Christine has sent in the submission into the Department last week so we are waiting a response from them back in relation to that, whether there are queries and whether we need a follow-up meeting. So, we're in constant contact with the follow up again this week in relation to trying and pushing it on as quickly as we can.

In relation to the tendering, obviously, we don't know at this stage if we have to re-tender or not. But obviously look, we will prioritise it and try and ensure the shortest period of time possible in order to progress the project.

In relation to the Abbey Grounds, I suppose it is an MD matter but as I understand it, because Cllr O'Brien made the point that there were bones found on the site, there has to be an amendment on the design done at the moment. We have hope to have that finalise and available in January and the project will progress at that stage.

The rest of housing, is it? I'm sorry, TII, we haven't arranged a date first, councillor. We will keep you informed as soon as one is done.

On the Ukrainian call, yes, that's up and running now and we've actually already starting matching houses. As we are aware, there will be a national advertisement done in relation to that but we are going to organise our own workshops or evenings for the public. Grainne will be working on that and will notify the members in due course. I think the rest might be for Joe to answer.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: The competition for the Town Regeneration Officer, that has been through the Recruitment Office. We should have that in place in the new year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. Joe.

JOE LANE: Yes, the housing list, look, the housing list is always for people in need. As you would expect, a certain increase. But we have a delivery as people will be familiar which is well above the targets that were set by the Housing for All.

As regard [inaudible], a number of issues there. First of all, to try and prevent it as part of your budget last week, there will be an officer to maintain tenancies both public and private and that person will be appointed in the new year. All attempts to maintain [inaudible] and we look at rents and we are working on the tenancies.

I suppose is not just a Wicklow issue. Ireland would have a relatively low small institutional landlords, as what it's called. The other size of that in terms of accidental landlords, a lot of landlords have a variety of reasons why they're selling and it is sometimes not systematic, it is just a personal situation that, they have a situation it is tied up in.

There is or there was announced recently a scheme for what you are calling buy in situ or buying tenant in houses there are a number of criteria. We're looking at a few there. Especially in North Wicklow we have a lot of units coming in the next two to three weeks that will assist in that regard also.

Yes, boiler maintenance and other inspections, the Local Authority undertakes. It is heavy on resources when people are not available or can't be available or don't look available is one thing, but I suppose they don't hold on to appointments and just ... yes, it does impact a small bit on resources. We work as best we can with people and we have mobile numbers where possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Joe. Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just two points. The first one is on page 64 probably related to Director Leonora in relation to Tinahely waste water treatment plant update or upgrade.

The second thing is in relation to our winter maintenance, maybe it is more for the CEO. Over the last number of weeks, we've had a huge amount of rain and a huge amount of damage has been done particularly to our county roads. We're heading into what the weathermen are talking about being a very bad period of frost and maybe even snow. I'm very, very worried with regards to the quality and the state of our county roads out there at the moment. I'm getting a phone call on a daily basis with regards to the state of them. Potholes, apart from damage that has been done to them with the bad weather over the last number of weeks. I'm really, really concerned that we're going to get frost now on not-too-distant top of all of the rain we have got and we are in for a very bad period. I'm asking that we would endeavour to ask our outdoor staff, they do our best to try and carry out as much maintenance as they possibly can to the county roads. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Blake. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I'd like to say that, what isn't clear from the Chief Executive's Report, nor what we have been told in any other way, is there's a lot of issues about building social housing in Greystones and a lot has been built. This is good. I'm certainly not aware of what's going on in much of these. For instance, last Friday, the Land Development Agency advertised 145 cost rental apartments and housing in Delgany, which is a good thing. I have also asked by certain other people, members of the public in Greystones, about the large apartment blocks in two other places in Hawkins Wood and in another place, which told me were social housing and they had questions about them and these are huge buildings. I know nothing about these. I haven't been told and I'm not sure that anybody on the council knows what's going on with these really quite large buildings and we would certainly like to know because I think it's important that even though the LDA is not subject to this council, we should at least have some knowledge of what is going on and what is coming up. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. It's a housing issue as well. This is the only forum I can bring this to. I have spoken to many of the councillors, yourself include, Cllr Annesley, and Cllr Snell on this matter, it is regarding the DVG grants. I have to put a story together. From my knowledge, a case came to my table regarding a family who has a member who has been in a nursing home for six years. Now they're ready to come home to their home. They applied for an application for an extension of a bathroom and bedroom and it has been refused twice on this occasion.

So, when I looked into it, I have discovered that Wicklow County Council don't approve of their own tenants getting a DPG. But they can, if you're a private owner, they will give you the grant. Now, I was quite astonished it and I said no, that couldn't be real. I looked into it; it has been the case. I just want to give you my personal view and my personal experience is, on that, I was told they would be offered a transfer but that person or family might not want that transfer. I'm a tenant of Wicklow County Council. That's saying if I look for a transfer or an extension that I would have to move out of my home, out of my support system, out of a community that knows me and I know them, an

environment that I can get in and out of town very, very simply, so you're asking people to move out of their own home even though they've been living in it for years and years and years and I know there's two sides and I know that Mr Joe Lane will come back and say it is cheaper to provide a newer home than put an extension on it but that is not the point. That is not the point. These people want to live in their own home.

Also, where is the National Disabled Strategy for people who are congregated and who are bed-blocking at the moment? This person is bed-blocking for six years and wants to come home to their own town, to live in their own area, in the area that they know very well and feel the environment is very safe for them to come to. I'd like to know why is this decision being made. It's not a national policy. It's a budgeting policy from Wicklow County Council because it isn't happening in any other county council. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Murphy. Members of the Chamber, can I ask you to refrain from whispering when there it; are members speaking remotely because it is very difficult to listen to the member that is speaking remotely and to be listening to this whispering. If you can reframe that or whisper a bit quieter, please. Thank you.

Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to support what Cllr Timmins has said in relation to Baltinglass. I know the Chief Executive has somewhat answered it. There still remains a number of questions in relation to it.

I understand that it is causing a lot of disquiet in Baltinglass that this is not happening, the perception and strongly held perception in Baltinglass is that it wasn't a priority for Wicklow County Council. Hence it was put on the back shelf while work that was a priority of the then Chief Executive has been done even though Baltinglass was chosen in priority to that work. It has caused a lot of disquiet in West Wicklow. They feel that once again we've just been screwed over. I would hope that that's not the position and I do hope that it gets the priority it deserves from the full management team here in the council at Wicklow.

In addition to that, we were told initially there was an application for additional or RDF funding to do the bridge in Baltinglass. We have since been told that now is going under Ms Earls' department and that application has been made in respect of it and that TII might have an input into that. We would hope that something would happen very shortly because the annoyance is quite palpable. I can't say much more than that. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Glennon. Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, two points that have both been brought to my attention recently and I just want the Chief Executive or somebody to comment on them please. The first one is to do with the coastal erosion at the Murrah. It must have been over a year ago that we were told that a team was being put together to draw down funding from wherever the funding was to come from, I'm not sure if it was EU or state funding, but to do with the coastal erosion works from south Dublin all of the way down to Arklow. I know it takes time to put together a team of people because they have to be people who are really in the know and they have to have all of the knowledge about what funding they're looking for and they have to submit reports and all of the rest of it. But it is at least a year since we were told that was going to happen. There's been no updates except for one a couple of months ago when they were told they were working on it. But to be perfectly honest what has happened over the last week or two down the Murrah, we've lost at least a metre of ground. People were coming up to me in shops and saying it to me. I went down

and had a look at it yesterday. It's very, very drastic. Considering that we haven't had any what I'd call storms, bad storms in the last few weeks, I know we've had very, very high tides and we've had huge waves, so it seems that we don't even need storms for the Murrah to lose even more ground and to worsen its condition.

This is a crisis at this stage. We have in some places barely two metres left. If this takes another year before anything is done, before the funding is granted or wherever, there may be nothing left to save. So, I would like a timeline of where we think we're at and how long it is going to take before we can get something up and running if at all.

The other thing I would like to know is if it happens that we get the funding, can I ask that Wicklow is prioritised first? Unless there is some other place that is as bad as we are in, we stand to lose the most at this stage. If we can be put to the top of the queue, if any funding comes through.

The second item is to ask the planners or the planning enforcement team or whoever is responsible for ensuring that building developers always work in accordance with their planning conditions. It's to do with roads that are being left in a particular housing estate in Ashford, in a dreadful state, so bad that, you know, the residents are even thinking of taking their own action. The roads aren't being cleaned daily. They're supposed to be washed down or hosed. They're supposed to be left in conditions that the residents can drive in and out without slipping all over the place. There is also the condition of the roads. There are potholes that are so bad that cars are now driving on the other side of the road, which is causing all kinds of dreadful dangerous conditions out there.

So, like, is up to planning enforcement to go out and check that developers are actually adhering to the terms of their conditions because something needs to be done? There's going to be building out there for a long time to come. They're only in the early stages. We need to get something done out there with the potholes, but also with the dirt and the dust and everything else. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Kavanagh. Chief Executive, do you want to distribute your answers to the questions?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes, I will hand the last one over to Breege there, she can take it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think Marc will come in online there, members.

BREEGE KILKENNY: We will deal with it once it's at construction stage. If you have any complaints, write them in. Send in an email, we will get those addressed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Is Marc online?

MARC DEVEREAU: I was contacted a couple of weeks ago by Irish Rail to say, yes, they have consultants on board and they're starting the initial survey. The project has started and I'm expecting to be invited to a steering meeting in the New Year. I will forward photographs which I have received of recent erosion and I suppose from what I can see in the photographs is that the CB units we placed there a number of years ago are doing their job well. I will put pressure on them to move the project on. As Cllr Kavanagh has pointed out, the further north we go, the further into the SAC we go and the higher the level of environmental scrutiny there will be of any works that we carry out, or Irish Rail carried. They have a lot of work and surveys to do but the recent photographs will be very useful for them and I will forward them on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Marc. Joe, there's a couple of questions there for you.

JOE LANE: We are aware of a few applications in the Greystones area. First of all, the social element, in general there's a number of applications for support for approved housing bodies. As we support, so if we feel an area requires social housing and if the approved housing bodies have negotiated with developers will be privy to that negotiation. But they come to an agreement. They must come to the Local Authority. We submit applications on their behalf to the Department of Housing. But we also put in an independent evaluation, so we put a bit of weight to it. We look at it in the context of sustainable communities. In this case, there are two applications in the Greystones, in the Hawkins Wood area for two blocks of apartments, with approved housing bodies. They have received approval. There will be two significant provisions of social housing in that area for the applicants.

Affordable is different. We can apply, the LDA or [inaudible] can apply for cost rental. Two of the three there, ourselves and the LDA have recently put in ads looking for developers to develop affordable housing on our behalf. I'm pretty sure our ad is limited to affordable purchase. We are going through processing and we are looking at three applications from three developers to develop affordable housing on our behalf, pending our schemes, like Lock Lane, coming into place. These will be developers who had planning permission ready to go who would be willing to work on our behalf and we would, similar to the Greenhill Road application, we would apply for the AHF on their behalf.

The LDA also ran ads but they were looking for investment in cost rental sorry, I believe they have an application received in the second half, the sister application at Archers Wood. Because of that, we have agreed to have and bearing in mind our own applications and other applications under RH, we will have this as an item on the agenda for the January meeting, with the LDA coming in to plain cost rental and explaining what is happening in the Greystones area on the affordable side. I hope I have answered the social application element of that.

There are a number of other applications in all of Wicklow where approved housing bodies ring us. Some of these never come to fruition, where those developers having particularly apartments, possibly planning permission, or even in some cases have applied for planning permission and have sought to see would the Local Authority or approved housing body be interested in them. If the area, like in most areas, not all but in most areas, we're quite happy to progress applications if they come in for social housing. An example would be Rathcorn House in Baltinglass where it started off with the developer and approved housing body and it progressed and got advanced. They are an essential part of the component of the delivery of affordable housing.

D PGs, the matter of this was discussed in the SPC and we had a long discussion on it. I understand there are individual cases that pose a particular challenge. However, in the main, extensions do not represent value for money. Many houses are not suitable for the extensions. Even though the extensions might be up to the any standard, you are extending on to an old house. They are resource heavy. The good does say you have to consider acquisitions and other options first. We will consider acquisitions in any cases like that and our delivery has increased more units. We can't progress with extensions under very few in addition to what we said before, some of these houses, they are not suitable, you end up with darker house or an extension log would be an extension.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Joe. Leonora, there's a question for you there.

LEONORA EARLS: Our understanding is that Tinahely will move across for the first quarter of 2023 and that's the units within Irish Water that then goes about designing and delivering the project. In the meantime, we are doing -- they are doing upgrades to the system so it will allow for the additional 20 housing in Loch Duff to go in there.

In relation to winter maintenance, there's ongoing maintenance happening at the moment and the district engineers are monitoring the situation with regard to snow in their districts. We did purchase another velocity patcher last year, so they're now both full-time around the county where they're needed. It will be an ongoing process throughout the next few months.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Leonora, thank you. I think that's the trench of questions? Yes. Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of quick questions there. The Local Area Plans for Wicklow and Greystones, I'm just wondering whether you hope to start that process. I know we had a Forward Planning Team who were doing other things, but it would be nice to have an approximate start date.

The footpath in Brittas Bay, I'm just wondering when they hope to start that.

Finally, I have just on a point of clarification, in Ashford, the roadway in Ashford and that, I have reported that to the relevant section in the planning department and I'm waiting for a response on that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Dunne. Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Yes, Cathaoirleach. Thanks, Chief Executive for your report. I have just a few questions here. I have the same one on Hawkins Wood. Thank you for the information on that, Joe. I've had a couple of queries regarding the cold weather initiative scheme. Concerns have been raised to me about rough sleepers who are not on the Wicklow housing list. They didn't receive the letter asking if they still had a housing need and now, there's concerns particularly with the cold weather forecasted this week that they'll be turned away. I'm just wondering how best to advise how this could be addressed fairly urgently and quickly.

The other thing I was going to comment on in the report, I see reference to an assessment of an ebike rental scheme in Bray which I really welcome. I strongly urge will be possible at all to extend that assessment to Greystones/Delgany. We're in a particularly hilly area. We're down a little bit of a hollow and, you know, the commuters from there, they have access to less frequent buses, trains than those in Bray and indeed even just transport between the two towns. There's always a string of cars going up Windgates Hill. If there was any access to any bike scheme to commute between the two towns would be really welcome. I ask that you would consider that please.

The other question I had was I welcome seeing progress on the CPO. I think there's 16 vacant houses that were reported. I would ask in future reports if we could see the time. It would be useful to know the time when these houses were first reported so that when, I think there are two or three that have actually gone through the process and now are able to be relet, but just to get a time scale has to how long it takes. I know some of them are going for appeals so that would be really, really useful, just to see how quickly that whole process works.

On a similar theme, on the section on complaints, I was just wondering, do the County Council have, within their policy for receiving complaints from the public, do you have a time frame for which complaints should be dealt with or closed out? If not, would you consider introducing one and could we see that reflected in the CEO's report?

One of the reasons I'm asking is this, one of my constituents sent in a complaint about a certain issue back in July and we're here five months later and it still hasn't been really addressed or closed and that is, you know, really, it's not acceptable. If there was a time frame around that and we could see that reflected in the report, that would be really useful. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Scott. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a one. Can I pay tribute to the community section in it the Chief Executive's Report? The variety and volume of activity that's going on across the county really does lift the spirits. Credit where it's due across the board there.

Just to give a flavour in terms of that section, as you know yourself, the members of the youth council want to pass on their gratitude to you, Cathaoirleach, for giving the opening address to their youth summit a couple of weeks ago which was very welcome and inspirational, and just to share with the members that we had over 100 people in the park view hotel. They represented all of the MDs in Wicklow, always very much supported by CCSD and some of the other stakeholders. So, members are walks, the priority issues identified by the young people in the county that they want to work on over the coming years is mental health, drugs, which includes vaping in particular, the cost of living and discrimination. Again, just to express that if the young people of the county can grow up and stay and live in the county, we're in very safe hands in the future. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Dermot O'Brien. That was definitely one of my most worthwhile experience in addressing 100 young people in the audience. Well done to you on that occasion.

Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR PAT KENNEDY: What I want to say is nothing to do with the Chief Executive report. I suppose earlier on, you could feel my frustration. I was frustrated with the process, especially the taking out of land, I am passionate about this county, I should never let my frustrations get ahead of me to interfere with my thoughts. As a former Chair of this council. I know the work that Sorcha and the team put into the whole planning process. I want to withdraw the marks I made earlier, I have the utmost respect for you, the executive, the planning team and members, I want to withdraw the remarks I said earlier and hope they are accepted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much Cllr Kennedy, the Chief Executive accepts them as well.

Chief executive: I know you Councillor, I was surprised, I know you probably don't mean it. I think in the public domain, important that was it was corrected.

>>: Thank you on behalf of the staff. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Tom Fortune.

CLLR TOM FORTUNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach, a few points, the time line on the work that's been proposed by the National Parks and wildlife services, it has been going on for a number of years at this stage. The second thing, I think at the last meeting, a week before, I made a proposal on the Town Teams, seconded. Want to see where we are with that, haven't heard anything back since.

In many houses we have got from the Greystones MD in the last couple of months, (sound interference).

... on the or the, the petrol vapor recovery (inaudible) I am just curious.

Wind farms we had a number of presentations from potential wind farm providers, I wonder if we could get in the New Year, a consensus with some kind of report that encapsulates kind of the main features and the main points of the presentations that has been presented to the council. So we can look at them in a more kind of total sense rather than having individuals come in and pushing their individual wares.

CATHAOIRLEACH: ... (inaudible).

>>: We received the update last week, great to see that the pedestrian and cycle. Disappointed that nothing as yet throughout the residents, they are serviced by a poor bus service, so service or footpath. From there out to Kilmarkarnik. I want to see this progressed; it is not fair for the people who have been disenfranchised with the motorway running through it. They need to access the time, similar to Kilmarkarnik to Glen Town. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive?

Chief Executive: I will pass these on. The asking about the bridge, that is included the in the - there is an application going in for that.

In relation to the breaches, I think, I know Marc Devereu has been on to the national parks wildlife service in relation to getting an update on that.

I think Sorcha is here, to give an update on the local area plans?

SORCHA WALSH: Thanks. We are very keen to get the next round of local area plans up and running, we have had 4 significant impediments which is setting us back and to detail for them. The Draft Direction to the County Development Plan we need to get that resolve add and finished out and bookend. There is a possible pending judicial review, until that gets to the court, we don't know the outcome of that. We need a solid county development plan on which to base future plans, if the population is to the housing targets or something like that, it is difficult to create a local plan based on a target that hasn't been determined or decided. The housing factors will have what land, this is one area of the key functions.

The third item, residential land tax. In the consultation period, people can maybe submissions, if you land in scope as they call it for this new tax, zoned serviced land as part of your submission, if you are unhappy with being taxed, ask for the land to be de zoned. All of those requests have been assessed and if there is merit, initiate a process of varying the plan. Say someone in Greystones or Wicklow town asked to be de-zoned. There is (inaudible) deals with the same land and I don't think the department fully thought through how you do the two processes at once.

A planning Act we are told is imminent, originally before Christmas, but there is talk of the forward planning process being reviewed and maybe local area plans no longer existing and something else, or integrating like we have done already and then some other version of a area plan, that will be more micro-issues in that town. But the builder issues built into the county plan. So many things up in the air with regards to those 4 items, difficult to get moving. As soon as we see light, we will get going, started on the research phase, heard the consultants doing the assessments. We are doing what we can, hitting a lot of barriers and we will keep you updated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, Lorraine answer the question about the complaints.

Lorraine: We do have a complaints process, we have a complaint form. We have a complaint charter, customer charter, we have a customer action plan, that is all on our website. A difference between a complaint and a complaint about a facility or service. What we try to do for example, is to ensure that people who are looking for a service, they are dealt with in a courteous manner and a timely manner, if a member of the public feels that we have fallen short of that, they can make a complaint. A complaint about how we delivered the service. We do, we do say that we will respond within 21 days and there is also an appeals process in that, but there is also the complaint in relation to a third-party activity. If a person complains about an activity or something that is happen. That

could be go somewhere different. Could be a planning issue, goes down a different road, inspections and all that. I wanted to differentiate between the two.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, winter initiative.

>>: It was a bit more general than that, on both issues, two questions asked, if the applicants would engage with the local authorities and particularly in the housing assessment, we will take a pragmatic view. On the CPO process, quite complicated, (inaudible) processes, get a copy and separate the question into the 16 and the process, the process that was in, we will prepare an email and I will (inaudible)... chartered the 16 and just in general.

Social housing in Greystones, it is quite complicated question. I will circulate, I might make the next meeting but (inaudible) next meeting on the 9th detailing what is going on in Greystones, what we have got and getting next year, particularly the part 5's, they are complicated. So we will break that down to you and get that up to you. Because I can... part 5's... (inaudible) it is not complicated, which ones we are getting and if I say 10% and it is complicated to answer your particular question on what we are getting next year and. Will have that on the 13th.

>>: Treating all developments equally.

>>: 10% yes. Like you said the legislation, it may not be on site there are a number of options.

>>: Oh really?

>>: Yes, in the subsequent Acts.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I bring in (inaudible).

>>: Just in relation to the buy to rent scheme, that scheme in Bray is just a pilot at the moment we will have to see how that works out. Come back to you with regards to how that pans out at the end of the day. In relation to Councillor fortune's question on the petrol vapor recovery. Each station has to do their own discovery. We do look at each station to make sure they are up-to-date.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Leonora.

>>: Leonora: (Inaudible) to district to deliver the projects and to deliver them by the end of 2023. So we will follow-up with the district in Wicklow where they are at with that particular project.

Cllr Corigan, hoping to go in 2023 that is preferred option for TII over an inroad route. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Shay Cullen?

CLLR SHAY CULLEN: One quick point, to do with the provision of waste water in new town Kennedy, as we are all aware, there is a lot of housing development but seems to be problems in getting connections to waste water. The plant was upgraded to facilitate the housing development in the mid 2000's and that was to coincide with the amount of development land that was zoned for housing. But it seems now we are looking at another upgrade at this point so I suppose the connection or the question I have would be around capacity. What capacity is there because there is quite a lot of development happening in Newtown and I suppose the developers are trying to build houses for the people of Wicklow, we need this resolved as quickly as possible. Very unclear, we are still granting planning permissions in Newtown, yet there seems to be a problem with Irish water. I am questioning the fact, is water speaking to each other and we would like clarity on this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Councillor Murphy.

CLLR MIRIAM MURPHY: I wanted to come back to Joe and maybe make contact with me to arrange a meeting on the case highlighted. It is very important to me. Also, as Councillor O'Brien Dermott raised, the community work going on in the community. Last Friday, disability and inclusion group from the County Council launched a tool kit they called it. A booklet of how to include people with disabilities on all levels. We had a fantastic launch! We had 70 people turned up from all different sections. We had the Parkinsons choir from Ashford and the music group. They lifted the spirits of everybody. I would sincerely like to thank the members who sit on our committee, into producing this important booklet and like to thank the Chief Executive and our Director of service, Michael who has given 100% to this so this is a very proud day.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR SYLVESTER BOURKE: Can you hear me okay? A couple of things on the housing issue, support Cllr Murphy's, people applying for DPG's, people should be given fair play and no discrimination in my opinion, that needs to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, the other thing wanted to ask the Director of Housing, the council owned 28 acres of land earmarked for housing in Arklow. Was pushing that for a public private partnership approach to providing housing, people should be getting an update on that, a number of months ago, he mentioned at the time, part of a priority scheme, if we can be updated on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Leonora?

Leonora:... planning applications the public water scheme, they would make comments in relation to applications received. We have raised this with them and it has been raised further in Irish water and we might come back to you with more information on that, if that's okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Joe and last question goes to you there.

CLLR JOE BEHAN: Yes, no problem. I think I have it. The second piece, yes, it is not that the only, the only options we have in the delivery in Arklow on that piece of land or pieces off land was PPE. We included part of the site in the south of the land, as part of PPC bundle 6. The call hasn't been made for that at the moment. We will also be considering our own developments in addition to the PPP, I think that might be the piece missing in that one. That's two locations in Arklow that we are looking at the moment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Joe, I think that's all the questions answered now, happy with that?
Helen. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Just two items of correspondence to bring to the members attention, the first is the local authority members public liability scheme, all in place and all members covered under that.

The minutes in October and minutes went out to yourselves.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Helen for that. Notice of motion? I think we have one Helen?

HELEN PURCELL: Little Christmas present, notice of motion, two, the first was proposed by Councillor Erika Doyle and Cllr Murphy. I don't think Cllr Doyle is with us presently okay, move on to the other one. Miriam, Cllr Murphy want to get a seconder for that and take it?

CLLR MIRIAM MURPHY: I can't remember what it was.

HELEN PURCELL: Yes, Cllr O'Brien for that.

Play items... accessible for children with disabilities or movement impairment. That accessibility be included at design stage. That where possible in the case of existing playgrounds refurbished an accessible item be included in that stage. The response, sorry?

CLLR MIRIAM MURPHY: Yes.

HELEN PURCELL: You wanted to talk on it?

CLLR MIRIAM MURPHY: Go ahead Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: Response, until recently the national policy was for inclusive play, for all to play together. In recent years, bigger emphasis on equipment for children with disabilities, Wicklow has changed its approach and accessibility is now included at design stage to ensure that each playground has accessible items. Some playgrounds retrofitted with items such as a swing and round about both accessible in a wheelchair and other mobility equipment.

CLLR MIRIAM MURPHY: Can I just come in there Helen and say, absolutely, great improvement and, you know it is great to be able to say that. But I think the motion which threatened that policy and because it is some maybe rural areas that, might be forgotten not intentionally but could be forgotten, children with special needs and disabilities are able to have that availability. Well done to the work already done, I look forward to more increased in accessible play areas thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Second notice of motion, Cllr Timmins, seconded by Cllr Blake.

Tenants purchasing a house, the value of the site is deducted from the house evaluation. Give the response or want to come in first?

CLLR TIMMINS: Yes, thanks this is self-explanatory, comes down to simple fairness, if the council build for you, you supply the site then years later we look to purchase that council house. No recognition is given to the fact that you decided free of charge to the council in the first place. From a simple fairness point of view to have a level playing field to people in a rural area, if they are supplied the site, surely some value of that site should be recognised in the evaluation of the house when, when the evaluation comes up and then the calculation is done whatever deduction you get after. Some recognition has to be done -

HELEN PURCELL: The site where originally provided by a tenant, i.e. a rural cottage, the individual evaluation as part of the scheme 2016 is specifically requested for the house only. That's not including the site or land on which the house is built. Therefore, the value of the site is not deducted from the house evaluation, rather excluded from the evaluation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay Helen?

>>: If that's absolutely the case, then that's great. My experience of valuing rural houses I question whether that is the case. Is the auctioneer instructed that it is purely the house is valued. I have never seen a case where a house has been valued and it said, well the site is worth X and the total house is worth Y and then therefore valuing Y minus X? I just hope that has been enforced thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Joe.

CLLR JOE BEHAN: A particular case it has been excluded. If it is one you want me to look at, on appeal I will look at all cases, in general that is what happens. In a particular case if it is one going through at the moment, it has been excluded I have that from the valuer. If it is a case you want me to look at, no issue what so ever.

CATHAOIRLEACH: ... (inaudible).

>>: We are not given that?

CLLR JOE BEHAN: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, happy with that Councillor Timmins? Thank you very much members.

CLLR ANNE FERRIS: I want to take the opportunity to congratulate Cllr Rory, graduated with a Masters in...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well done, thanks for bringing that to my attention. Members thank you very much in assisting me in getting through that meeting. As I say, your meeting, it is the members meeting and I am only here steering the ship. You keep the waves calmly. At this stage, wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. I think it is early, Helen warned me I have to say it to you. Members, please enjoy your Christmas. I know that the council and I know the council officials have to answer to us, so if we are busy, they are busy too. Members, please have a safe Christmas and enjoyable one. Thank you very much members.

Cllr Mark Barry, I would like to apologise to you again, I will be sleep with this under my head. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Proceeded with the protocol of the meeting now, thank you. Just get the file. Thank you.

(Close of meeting)