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

ON FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2024 AT 2:00PM

STENOGRAPHER: Niamh Kelly-Leahy, RMR, MBIVR

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, everybody you are extremely welcome.
The first order of business is actually a group photo.
So, Mick, do you want to coordinate that? And if all the councillors could come forward. Tall people to the back. Mick, do you want people at the back here or people at the front here, or everybody here? Everybody up here.

COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Can you hear me, Cathaoirleach?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, go ahead.
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Just when the photograph is taken, could we adjourn the meeting until 2.30 ?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. Can I get a seconder for that?
(Short recess.)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, everybody, I will ask everyone to take their seats and then we will do a roll call. I know we have one proposal in, but we will just get that business done first.

So, Helen, I will hand over to yourself.
MS PURCELL: I just want to welcome everybody to the chamber. The re-elected and the newly elected, you are all very welcome. And then in relation to etiquette, if you wouldn't mind when you are speaking into your microphones to speak into the microphones for the purpose of the people who are attending the meeting remotely. It is very difficult to hear what is going on in the chamber. We do have members of the public and members of the members of the press with us remotely today, and they are very welcome as well, and quite a number of members of the public in the gallery as well, which is fantastic to see. You are very welcome too.

I am going to do a roll call. For the purpose of this, you don't need your microphone, but going forward when you want to speak - for the new members - you press the button under the microphone. Only four microphones can line up at a time, so only four lights will come. So you do need to keep an eye after that when one goes off to press and come back in. But everybody will get their opportunity to speak. Thank
you very much.

Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Malachaí Duddy? COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Anseo.

MS PURCELL: Present, Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present, Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.

MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Jason Mulhall?
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Present. Councillor Miriam Murphy?
COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Present. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Present. Present. Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gerry O'Neill? Gerry?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Graham Richmond?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Here.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. We are going to do votes of sympathy
first.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would like to propose a vote of sympathy for a rather sudden death we had the area in West Wicklow, in Kilbride, of Nuala Haughian. Nuala was a great character, very much involved in the community. In actual fact she ran in the elections about ten or 15 year ago, the local elections. She was secretary of Kilbride GAA Club, and I was a founding member of Blessington District Forum with Nuala going back a long time. She was involved in anything and everything in the area. She was a likeable character, and she died suddenly the other day and she left 15 children. Her husband passed away some time ago. But she was an outstanding woman of the community. And I can tell you the community is in dreadful shock over her sudden passing the other day. It was only on Sunday that she was at the sports day in Kilbride where hundreds of people attended, and she passed away then on Monday. Go raibh maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Pat Kennedy. COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Malachaí Duddy.
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: I am not sure what the protocol is here?
CATHAOIRLEACH: For votes of sympathy.
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Well, I suppose I could propose a vote for Annette
Hynes. She was very active in the community in Bray for many years, very active politically with certain parties of the House here. She attended the Abbey School of Dance and was under the famous dancer Ninette de Valois, and I know that her dancing continues through so many of her students. So I would like to propose that. Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Paul O'Brien.
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to propose the sympathy to the family of Vincent Byrne, one of the founding members of Wicklow Swimming Club, and I know he will be sadly missed by his wife, Pauline, and his children. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Patsy Glennon. COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I would like to be associated with Nuala Haughian's vote of sympathy that Councillor O'Neill has mentioned. A great community person. Her deceased husband, Paddy, used to help a lot of children around the area; he was a career guidance teach in CBS in Naas, but he helped everyone in West Wicklow in
their career paths going forward. And she is the mother of the Chair of Kilbride GAA, Diarmuid Haughian. Deepest sympathy to the family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Edward Timmins. COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Thanks, Chairman. Just briefly I would like to be associated with two of those votes of sympathy. First of all, Nuala Haughian, who ran in the local elections in West Wicklow in 1999. A great community person. And also, I would like to be associated with a vote of sympathy for Annette Hynes. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Mulhall.
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: I would like to be associated with the vote of sympathy for Nuala Haughian. A great character and a good friend. Thank you. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. We will just stand for a moment's silence.
(Moment's silence.)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. We just have a point of order, just -- actually, Helen, if you explain that.
MS PURCELL: Yes. In accordance with paragraph 4(1) of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2001 the names of the persons duly elected are as follows.

In the Arklow Local Electoral Area: Councillor Pat Kennedy, Councillor Peir Leonard, Councillor Silvester Bourke, Councillor Pat Fitzgerald, Councillor Warren O'Toole and Councillor Miriam Murphy.

In the Baltinglass Local Electoral Area: Councillor Gerry O'Neill, Councillor Edward Timmins, Councillor Peter Stapleton, Councillor Avril Cronin, Councillor Patsy Glennon, and Councillor Jason Mulhall.

In the Bray East Local Electoral Area: Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Councillor Erika Doyle, Councillor Ian Neary, and Councillor Malachaí Duddy.

In the Bray West Local Electoral Area: Councillor Joe Behan, Councillor Melanie Corrigan, Councillor Caroline Winstanley, and Councillor Dermot "Daisy" O'Brien.

In the Greystones Electoral Area: Councillor Stephen Stokes, Councillor Tom Fortune, Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin, Councillor Orla Finn, Councillor Mark Barry and Councillor Lourda Scott.

And the Wicklow Local Electoral Area: Councillor John Snell, Councillor Danny Alvey, Councillor Paul O'Brien Shane, Councillor Gail Dunne, Councillor Shane Langrell, and Councillor Graham Richmond. CATHAOIRLEACH: That is great. Thanks, Helen. So, Councillor Kennedy. COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Today is a very important day in the working of the new Council, Cathaoirleach, and what I am proposing is that we take a recess of 15 minutes because I do believe there is business still to be sorted out before we come into the chamber proper. So with your permission, and with the permission of the other members in this chamber, I propose that we take a 15 -minute recess.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Do we have a seconder for that proposal? Councillor Edward Timmins. Just looking at the time now, it is 20 past. Can I propose that we come back at quarter to three? Is that in agreement with everybody? (Agreed.) Okay. So we will recess now until quarter to three. Thank you.
(Short recess.)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, members. I will give everyone a chance to retake their seat.

So we are going to do a roll call. I will hand over to Helen.
MS PURCELL: Just to make sure everybody is here.
Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present Councillor Sylvester Bourke?

COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Here.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Malachaí Duddy?
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Gail Dunne.
Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Present. Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
MS PURCELL Present. Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall?
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy?
COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richmond?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Present.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Helen.

Thank you to all the members for facilitating. That is my pause.

Before we commence the meeting, I am just going to take an opportunity, if I can. I just want to say a few thank yous and reflect a little bit on the year I have had as a Cathaoirleach. It is not a long speech. I will be very quick. But I would like to take the opportunity to look back on the year and to thank those who have helped me along the way.

I have held many, many roles in my life, and I can honestly say that over the last year this has been the most rewarding of any position that I have held. Over the last
year I have had the opportunity to witness the best of what Wicklow has to offer, the best landscape and most importantly the fantastic diverse community that keep this county alive and thriving. I have had the opportunity to witness Wicklow hold its first ever Pride parade; to formally recognise the contribution of our Civil Defence and our Gardaí; to welcome the Ukrainian ambassador to Bray and to visit the Palestinian ambassador in residence; I have had the opportunity to celebrate our diverse Irish community with the festivals of culture celebrating our Irish-Indian, our Irish-African, our Irish-Chinese communities with food, dance and stories; and to welcome new communities, to support our retail, our health, our hospitality sectors, as well as our community groups such as Coast Care and Tidy Towns.

I have also had the opportunity to join in the 21st birthday celebrations of our county arts centre, The Mermaid, and recently celebrate the 10th birthday celebrations of Wicklow PPM.

I have had the opportunity to participate in the National Women's Enterprise Day, to mark the opening of Clermont Hub, to welcome the Made in Wicklow Head, Heart and Hand Creative Strategy, to see the huge success in the Pride of Place Awards, and to see Wicklow County Council win the Council of the Year.

If I was to go through all of the list of amazing opportunities that I have had over the year we would be here for quite a while, so I will not do that. But I do want to thank you all. I want to thank the staff of Wicklow County Council, both the indoor staff and outdoor staff for all their support over the year, for all their advice and guidance. It'll can be a little be challenging up here sometimes when you don't know the legislation and you're trying to figure it through, so my thanks to you for that support. But I also want to thank each of you here for giving me this opportunity. As many you know, many, many years ago I availed of the services of Bray Women's Refuge, and I can tell you now that I never thought this time or at that time that I would be sitting here in the Cathaoirleach's position. So I want to thank each of you for giving me that opportunity.

You may not realise it, but you have made decisions over the last term that have provided step-down housing for women stepping down from the Women's Refuge,
some of you may not be aware of that but you have done that, and I think that is a massive impact that you have had.

This is a position that has been an absolute honour, and I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for doing that.

So now we move on to --
(Applause.)

Thank you, folks. Okay, we will move on to the -- sorry, Councillor O'Neill. COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Could I just say, Aoife, you know, that you have been an excellent chairperson. Absolutely excellent. And I have been here ten year and you're way up at the top there, you know. You have a great understanding of councillors and the frustrations that we all go through, and I probably drew your patience to the --
CATHAOIRLEACH: Not at all.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: But I just want to point out, I have always admired your attitude and how, as I say, you understand the frustrations that councillors have been going through. You have done an absolutely excellent job. So fair play to you. The best of luck. There's no doubt, a few more year you'll be back at the helm again, maybe. You have done a great job. Fair play. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Stephen Stokes.
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. And as
Cathaoirleach of the Greystones Municipal District I would like to thank you for all your efforts in the Greystones Municipal District. I know that you are passionate about inclusion. It was great to have you at I believe Africa Day and Goa Day. I would like to thank you for all your attention to detail, Cathaoirleach; making a special effort to try and get to motions. When we have a busy agenda you would always try to get to motions which are very important. Thank you for your support and wish you the best of continued success. Go raibh maith agat.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. Councillor Silvester Bourke.

COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, I would like to, on behalf of Fine Gael group, say how pride we are of the work you have done over the last year. You have
been an exemplary chairperson, and you went beyond the call of duty. When you weren't well recently you came back in very, very promptly, which other people would have probably taken a month or two to recover from. So I congratulate you and thank you very sincerely for the hard work and dedication. You have been a true example of a fine chairperson, and we are very proud of you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. Thank you. Councillor Tom Fortune.

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of my group and myself I would like to wish you the very, very best. I think you have been a fantastic chair. You have been probably one of the busiest chairs that I have witnessed in my time around here, and, quite simply, I just think you have been a class act, and well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Appreciate that. Councillor Pat Kennedy.

COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of the Fianna Fáil group I want to say a huge thank you to you, Aoife, for the way you represented this Council and all the people around the county. You represented us all with distinction. So thank you to you personally, to your family. It has been a huge pleasure to work with you in your position as Cathaoirleach. Thank you for all you have done for all of the people of this county. Because you represented all of the people. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Paul O'Brien.
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And I am very proud to call you that, Cathaoirleach. When your family sat here a year ago I said you obviously reared her well, and they did, because you have been an absolute credit, not just to councillors in here and officials; you have been a credit to your community, you have been a credit to your family, and you have done an excellent job, and I am proud to call you my friend.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. Councillor Lourda Scott. COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thanks so much, Aoife, for being an absolutely amazing Cathaoirleach for the last year. You have been incredibly fair with your chairing of sometimes testy meetings, but you were never less than fair. You chaired the longest of meetings and the most difficult meetings with immense good humour, and you made the chair position look really easy, and it is not an easy position at all. You
were easily the hardest working Cathaoirleach I have seen. You were everywhere. You were supportive of all of the events in Greystones as well as across the county, and also a fantastic supporter of the Women's Council Caucus as well. You have done a fantastic job, it was an absolute pleasure working with you as Cathaoirleach, and I hope to see you back in the position in the future. You will be missed in that role. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Councillor. Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: I want to say congratulations on the year in the role. I think you -- for anyone wouldn't know or who would be watching, you really showed that when you step into the chair, you step into the role and you take on the role, and that role is a role that thrives when you are inclusive, when you have a certain approach. When I see you in the chair I see someone who chairs from a place where they are rooted in their values, and when those values are values like inclusion and having everyone having a say and ensuring that we navigate our way to good decisions, or at least strive to do that, that was there every single time you sat in that chair. And I really appreciated that from my position as a Councillor. So congratulations to you and best of luck.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Peir Leonard.
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I would like to thank you genuinely both inside the chamber, being Cathaoirleach, you were always so fair, and you have get empathy and understanding and giving everybody a chance to speak, but also outside of the chamber as well. I know I have rang you outside of hours, at weekends and everything and you've also been so helpful. And I wish you the best of luck and I just want to thank you for your great work over the last year. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Thank you. Councillor Mark Barry.
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. On behalf of the Social Democrats and myself personally I would like to thank you for your service for the last year. You have been exceptional in the chamber and outside the chamber you're always available for a call, available at events to talk and to give guidance. And so, thank you very much and congratulations on your success.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Councillor Erika Doyle. COUNCILLOR DOYLE: I want to thank you for your service over the last five years. It was great to see you sit at that table, that top table there and add to the
many fantastic women that we have at the top table, which is a sea change from several years ago when it was almost exclusively men. That is always a great to see. I know how hard you work as a working mother and as a councillor in Bray as well. We are good friends, but you were an awful person to run against in an election because you were just so accomplished and so busy and so over everything, and really so good at your job. So yes, I wish you well and thank you for everything. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Erika. And Councillor Gail Dunne. COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I enjoyed your working, you didn't tax me too much in fairness to you, you were always there turning up with -- there was one or two occasions you did give me the reins when I went off with myself. But before I ever met you as a councillor we were work colleagues as well, and that's when you saw how good and kind-hearted Aoife is, and I always enjoyed her company. I wish you well in your term this time. Thank you. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you so much Councillor. Sorry. MS O'GORMAN: Cathaoirleach, it would be remiss of me as the chief executive and on behalf of the management team and the staff of the county just to thank you again for all the work you have done over the last year. You have been one of the hardest working Cathaoirligh I have ever met. There hasn't been an event where you haven't been prepared to turn up to, which is just amazing. What I really appreciate about the last year in particular is your honesty, your willingness to work to a solution. We all know we don't always agree on things, but to be fair to you, you have always been extremely fair and diligent in your deliberations in the chamber, and I want to thank you for that because you have made our jobs an awful lot easier. Thank you sincerely.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Okay. Now we will move onto item number 1 which is the election of the new Cathaoirleach. So do I have a proposer? Councillor Pat Fitzgerald.

COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Yes. I want to propose Councillor Gail Dunne for the position of Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council. Gail has served the Council here for 13 and a half years between the Town Council and the County Council, and he has been a very effective councillor over them 13 and a half years. So I am proposing Gail for the position of Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Patsy Glennon.

COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Yes, I am honoured to second that nomination that Councillor Fitzgerald just made. Gail has been vice chair, and he has done well in that position. He has served the Council well. He gave an excellent speech down in Coolattin on behalf of the Cathaoirleach recently. It is my pleasure to second him for the position. And his family are here today and hopefully will witness him taking that office today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Stephen stokes. COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat. I would like to propose Councillor Paul O'Brien. Paul was first elected in 2009 to Wicklow County Council. He was the youngest ever President of the Irish Soccer Referees Association. So he is used to chairing meetings. He has been a proud member of the Labour Party for 20 years, and I have known him for many years. He's a good, decent man, who brings a wealth of experience having been both Leas Cathaoirleach and Cathaoirleach of the Wicklow Municipal District. Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you so much. Councillor John Snell. COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I wasn't sure whether there was a seconder coming in for Councillor Gail Dunne, so it's just to lend my support to Gail's, his candidacy for the chair here. To say that I have worked with Gail for many, many years. He's currently the President of the AILG. He's representative of just under 950 public representatives throughout the State of Ireland. He's represented both his town, Wicklow Town. I always say about Gail and the Dunne family, they're an old, traditional, steeped in the DNA of Wicklow Town family. But Gail himself is really well-known. He's represented his county on the playing fields all over Ireland, but also when he took up the role as a councillor and indeed in these chambers here. I want to wish Gail well. And I will be supporting his chance to go forward here for the Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council.

I am on record here, it's no surprise, over the last 15 years to say that I do believe a Leas Cathaoirleach shouldn't be challenged. I believe that when their family is in their chamber to take on the role the contest should be for the Leas Cathaoirleach, not the Cathaoirleach. I honour that, and I respect it. And I actually want to support Councillor Dunne wholeheartedly, and all his family are here to witness him here today. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Silvester Bourke. COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I would like to second the proposal for the nomination of Paul O'Brien as Cathaoirleach. He has been an excellent councillor over the last five years. I would classify him as a very progressive contributor to debate and very positive person, and I would be delighted to see him in the role as chair as well. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Joe Behan. COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, before I make my remarks could I just note and welcome former Councillor Jim Ruttle from West Wicklow who is here today with his wife Catherine; a very stalwart member of the Council for many years, representing the people of West Wicklow and it is great to see both of them here and looking so well. You are very welcome, Jim.

I want to follow on from what Councillor Snell said about Councillor Dunne and enthusiastically, and absolutely, and comprehensively support everything he has said. Because Councillor Snell has been quite consistently; in other years when this position has come up he has consistently said the person who is Leas Cathaoirleach in the previous year morally should be the Cathaoirleach in the following year. And members around this chamber who were here in the last term know that that has been the policy. And I think it would be a very important step for us to continue that policy here today. Given in particular, and I hope Gail doesn't mind me saying that, but many members of this chamber and many people in the county know that the medical struggles that Gail has had. He has been public about them himself. He's due to have, hopefully, a very important medical operation at some stage in the near future and we certainly all hope that that will work out really well. But his courage and tenacity and going forward and talking publicly and encouraging people who have similar challenges medically has been absolutely inspirational. And particularly given that his family are here today I think it is extremely important that members of this chamber give him the support that he so absolutely deserves. CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We are looking for nominations and seconds at the moment rather than statements of support, if we could. Councillor Doyle. COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, I don't have a nomination or seconder.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, sorry. Do we have anything else who wants to put forward a nomination or a second? No, no.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: No.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We have two proposal and two seconders. We are going for a vote.
MS PURCELL: Before we go to a vote can I ask if Councillor Gail Dunne and Councillor Paul O'Brien are happy to accept the nominations.
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Yes.
MS PURCELL: Yes. So I am going to call Councillor Gail Dunne proposed by Councillor Pat Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Patsy Glennon; Councillor Paul O'Brien proposed by Councillor Stephen Stokes, seconded by Councillor Silvester Burke. When I call your name please say whether you wish to vote for Councillor Gail Dunne or Councillor Paul O'Brien. And a majority is required. Thank you.

Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Councillor Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy?
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Councillor Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Councillor Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Councillor Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Councillor Dunne.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Councillor Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy? COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Councillor Paul O'Brien.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune? COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Gail Dunne.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall?
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy?
COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Councillor Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Councillor Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Councillor Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Councillor Gail Dunne.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Paul O'Brien.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Councillor Dunne.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton? COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Paul O'Brien.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes? COUNCILLOR STOKES: Councillor O'Brien. MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins? COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Councillor O'Brien. MS PURCELL: Councillor Caroline Winstanley? COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Paul O'Brien.

You're testing me now; it's 16 each. So it's 16 for Councillor Gail Dunne and 16 for Councillor Paul O'Brien. We now go to section 37 of the Local Government Act 2001, and --

COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, I honest to God think that the pact here last year --

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor O'Neill could I ask you to refrain from commenting and let Helen do her job. I know, but Councillor O'Neill would you let Helen do her job, please, and be respectful in the chamber.
MS PURCELL: The legislation under section 37(1)(h) says: "Or if, from the quality of votes given to two or more candidates any question arises as to which of the candidates is to be excluded or as to which of the candidates is to be elected such question shall be decided by lot in accordance with paragraph I." And paragraph I says: "Deciding any such question by lot, the names of the candidates concerned shall be written on similar slips of paper, the slips shall be folded so as to prevent identification and mixed and drawn at random, and the candidate whose name is first drawn shall be elected as competition, as the question concerns the election."

So the candidate's name who is first drawn shall be elected.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So we will go to drawing the names.
MS PURCELL: The person's whose name I draw is the person who will be the Cathaoirleach.

MS GALLAGHER: This is a first, I think.
(Councillor Paul O'Brien's name is drawn.)

MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien.
(Applause.)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Commiserations, Councillor Gail Dunne. I know you are extremely good friends. Councillor Paul O'Brien, if you would like to come up.
(Councillor Paul O'Brien takes the chair as Cathaoirleach.)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am sorry for delaying you there. The first thing I want to do is acknowledge my own family here today, my mam and dad, Denis and Mary, and my aunt Kathleen. And I can safely say that I wouldn't be sitting here today as a councillor let alone Cathaoirleach without their love and support. I wasn't always the easiest son growing up, but I hope that I made them proud over the last number of years, and I know they got emotional here themselves five years ago when I got elected, but I am forever in their debt and I am very proud to sit here as a "Digger Brien," and I just wish my grandparents were here to see this day because they never believed for one second that their grandson would sit here as a councillor let alone a Cathaoirleach.

I am in shock here today because this is not the way it was supposed to go in one way, but I am very honoured to be elected as Cathaoirleach to this Council, and I want to thank my good friend Councillor Stephen Stokes for proposing me in such elegant words, and Councillor Silvester Bourke for seconding.

To my good friend Councillor Gail Dunne, I am genuinely heartbroken for you, because this should be you up here today in my opinion, but I hope I make you proud over the next year and I will certainly work with you.

The next year is going to be a challenging year, and even though I was elected by 16 votes to 16 and drawn out of a lot, I am not here to represent one half of the chamber, I am here to represent the entire chamber. I am here as a Wicklow Municipal District Councillor, but I am going to represent the entire county to the best of my ability.

I look forward to working with the executive. I have tried to build up relationships over the last five years with them. They know the respect I have for them. And they know the great work they do. And without them this county wouldn't function.

Forgive me today, if I am a bit shaky and I don't know what to say more, but all I want to say is that my door will always be open, my phone will always be on, and I will work with anybody that wants to work for the betterment of Wicklow.

Congratulations to all the new councillors here today. I am sure you were wondering what was going on earlier, and, as I said to you a few earlier on, welcome to the mad house.

To all the old councillors that would have a lot more experience than me, congratulations on your re-election, and I will be reaching out to you for advice because that's the only way we can work together and progress this county, the garden county of Ireland, with so much potential, and so much potential we haven't reached yet, but I am confident with your support that we will get there.

Just again thank you very much. I am deeply humbled, deeply honoured and I hope I don't let you down. Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

Sorry, there is one other person that I forgot, and I would be in trouble if I went home. I am very proud of being the first open LGBTQ Cathaoirleach, and I owe a great gratitude to my partner of 22 years Colm Corrigan, some of you might know him as Inspector Corrigan. But it would be remiss of me not to mention him here, and my apologise. Thank you.
(Applause.)

This is a learning game for me. Stephen Stokes. Councillor Stokes. COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. You know I have to
say you spoke extremely well, Paul. You know I have known you for many years, I consider you to be a close personal friend, but you know I supported you on merit, you know, because I believe you will make an excellent chair, as would have Councillor Dunne. And I certainly believe that you will bring a positive, progressive agenda. There are many important challenges throughout the county, and I want to reiterate that you will my full support. Go raibh maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Stokes. Councillor Gail Dunne. COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just want to wish you very well in your new position, Paul. I think it is well-known in the chamber that we get on very well together and have done, and you said yourself it was unfortunate it came to this, but as somebody once said it's nothing personal, it's just politics. So I wish you well in the -- I don't know if I can be any help to you at all but if I can be, don't hesitate to contact me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am sure you will be, Councillor Dunne. Thank you for your kind words. Councillor Fortune.

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Congratulations on your election to chair the Council. I wish you the very best with the year ahead. I know you're very articulate in your approach to everything so I am sure you will do a super job. I look forward to working with you over your period. And I think it is quite unique in the history of Wicklow County Council what has happened here today. The Council is in existence since the late 1800s, I don't think we have ever had a situation like we had today. It's normally been dominated, you know, in a certain direction down the decades. So I think it was very healthy what we seen happen here today. It's interesting to see the outcome drawn by lots, you know. I need to think about that one a little bit. But, you know, I do wish you the very, very best and I look forward to working with you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Fortune. Councillor Lourda Scott. COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yes, I just want to offer my congratulations, Councillor O'Brien. I am delighted that you were elected as chair today, but I do have to say Councillor Dunne as well, you know, has done a fantastic job on the previous Council and it is just a sign of two great candidates of merit that we ended up bizarrely deciding by lot. I want to say I have worked with you, Paul, on the KWETB over the last five years and got to know you through your work there as well as through your work on the Council, and we collaborated on motions and
supported each other on various bits and pieces, and I found you inclusive and fair. You will bring progressive politics to the role. I know you will always conduct yourself with the greatest respect to everybody in the chamber, and I know you are very willing to work with everybody across the chamber, regardless of where they are sitting, including with the executive as well. And I think that's what we need going forward and particularly somebody who will bring that inclusive brand of politics is what we all need at the moment. So I am delighted to see you there. Any help that I can offer in our own district of Greystones my phone is always there for you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Erika Doyle. COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to congratulate you on your election and commiserate with Councillor Gail Dunne, who is a fine councillor, and obviously he would have made a fine Cathaoirleach. And maybe his day will come, and it is a shame in a sense that it didn't. But nonetheless you are in the chair now, Cathaoirleach, and I look forward to the next year, and as my colleague, Councillor Scott, said, welcome you to Bray, and expanding your horizons out to Bray. It is fantastic to have a progressive voice in the chair. That can only add to our offering as a local authority. So well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. This is my first time speaking from this chair in over a year. It is much appreciated. I just want to congratulate you on behalf of the Fine Gael group, Paul. You have consistently showed your willingness to work with anyone and everyone as long as it's for the betterment of the county. And I really admire that in you. I think you're going to have an absolutely amazing year. I want to congratulate you, Colm and your family, on the achievement, and on behalf of Fine Gael wish you the very best. Thank you. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Mark Barry. COUNCILLOR BARRY: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. I would like to offer our congratulations on behalf of the Social Democrats on your appointment as Cathaoirleach. We wish you well in the next year and we are looking forward to working with you over the next 12 months. Congratulations.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Dermot O'Brien. COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Congratulations to you. I think it is commiserations to Councillor Dunne. We had a surreal experience
in the chamber which is just another story to tell about how democracy works, I think all of us share in the nuances of how things operate here. I wish you well. I hope you don't have to use your refereeing skills as much as you can use all the other skills at your disposal. But yes, if you need to fling out a yellow or a red card or a sin bin, but best to luck to you. I know that the commitment won't be wanting, and your attitude towards getting this Council working together and doing good for Wicklow will also not be wanting. So congratulations and best of luck.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I think that's everybody. So with your permission we will go onto the next item on the agenda, which is the election of Leas Cathaoirleach. Councillor Edward Timmins is first.

COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Thanks, Chairman, and well done on your election and commiserations to Gail.

I would like to propose Councillor Melanie Corrigan for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach. I got to know Melanie over the last number of years, and I have to say she's proven to be a natural politician, and has done a superb job as a councillor, working really hard for her constituents. She is a genuine, honest to God person. In politics for the right reason: to do public service. And it is with great pleasure I recommend Melanie for Leas Cathaoirleach

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Joe Behan.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Do you want to get a seconder for that? I am making another proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Lourda Scott.
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yes. I would like to second Councillor Melanie Corrigan for Leas Cathaoirleach. I would like to echo what Councillor Timmins has said. She is an excellent worker. A hard-working Councillor. I have had the pleasure of getting to know her through the previous council term, through her work on the Women's Council Caucus, and she would be an excellent candidate for the role. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Behan, your light is still on if you want to come in there.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yes. Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Congratulations on your election.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: And commiserations, Councillor Gail Dunne. I want to propose Councillor Tom Fortune for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach. Tom has been a councillor now; I think this is his fifth successful election in a row. He has been true advocate not only for the people of his district and in particular his hometown of Kilcoole, but also for councillors and the struggle that councillors will have -- and new members will become very familiar with this song very quickly, the struggle that councillors have to ensure that their decisions and their mandate are actually respected by those in power, both locally and nationally. And Tom has been fearless in pointing out various issues that would have arisen in the last term but over many years in the past, and I have great pleasure in proposing him for the position of Leas Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Do we have a seconder for that? Councillor Leonard, just bear with me. Thank you. COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yes. Look it, everything that Joe has said there. I think Tom has been a stalwart of transparency and the importance of councillors' role and democracy, and all his good work that he has done in Kilcoole over the years. And for new councillors as well, I think you know being able to have the support, me for one, as being an independent councillor, from Joe and Tom over the years, and the fairness, and the information that is passed down to new councillors as well, enabling them to be empowered to be able to represent the people and be the messengers of the people, which is all our job. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Any other nominations? Okay. We have two nominations. We go to a vote.

MS PURCELL: So we have Councillor Melanie Corrigan proposed by Councillor Edward Timmins, seconded by Councillor Lourda Scott; and Councillor Tom Fortune proposed by Councillor Joe Behan, seconded by Councillor Peir Leonard. Are you both a happy to accept the nominations? (Yes.)

As in the last vote, if you can say the name of the Councillor that you wish to vote for.

Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Melanie Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Melanie Corrigan.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Melanie Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy?
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Councillor Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Councillor Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Councillor Melanie Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Councillor Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: Councillor Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Councillor Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Councillor Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall?
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Councillor Fortune.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy?
COUNCILLOR MURPHY: Councillor Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Ian Neary? COUNCILLOR NEARY: Councillor Fortune.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien? COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Councillor Fortune.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Councillor Melanie Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Councillor Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Councillor Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Councillor Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Councillor Corrigan.
MS PURCELL: And once again we have a tie at 16 for Councillor Melanie Corrigan and 16 for Councillor Tom Fortune. But in this instance, the casting vote is the Cathaoirleach's vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Not a nice position to be in unfortunately. This is nothing personal, but I want to nominate and vote for Melanie Corrigan.
(Applause.)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anyone want to say a few words? Do we move on? Melanie? Councillor Corrigan?

COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach, and thank you to everybody in the chamber. As you have said here before, I will be here for everybody, not just the people who voted for me, and I very much look forward to working with you all and also to being a support for you in your year as

Cathaoirleach as well, Councillor O'Brien. And thank you for the trust you put in me, and I will be working very hard to repay that trust and work for everybody. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Tom Fortune.
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks to everybody who supported me and well done to those who didn't, you don't know what you're missing. That's democracy. I would like to repeat what I said. I think this is a very unique day in the history of this Council. I think we went very, very close to breaking the monopoly. I suppose if I am being brutally honest, as I am generally, I am sad the monopoly wasn't broken. The opportunity was there; it should have been taken. That is democracy. I am a democrat. So I wish yourself and Melanie very well. But sure, we'll be back next year, and we'll fight it again, and maybe some of you will change your mind.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Fortune. Councillor Stephen Stokes. COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. And I would like to wish Councillor Melanie Corrigan the very best of success. You know you have been a tremendous municipal district chair in Bray, and I think that you will be a very positive influence in the chamber, and it is good to see a woman in leadership. So best of luck.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay. So we will go on to the next item on the agenda which is item -- I will say a few words. Sorry, I wasn't being rude. I am still getting used to this here.

First of all, commiserations to Tom Fortune. Myself and Tom have history. One of my first political campaigns was when I canvassed for Tom, and Tom was a proud Labour man. And we came close that da, Tom. I was very proud to be part of your team that day on that campaign, and I wish you well. And I look forward to working with you as Cathaoirleach and thank you for your kind words.

Councillor Corrigan, I couldn't ask for a better Leas Cathaoirleach. I know you will be there for me when I need you to be. We came into this chamber together, and I look forward to working with you. And, as I say, we're more friends than anything so I am sure that partnership will continue for the next year. Well done again. Thank you

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. So item 3 on the agenda: Appointment of -COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Can I just say, Cathaoirleach, I honestly don't think there's much honour in the chamber.

MS PURCELL: Could you put on your microphone, please?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I think it is disgraceful, the way the whole shambles, the way things turned out, I really do. We sit down here today and now we have a vice chairperson elected and there could be more back stabbers lined up for her next year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you refrain from that kind of language? COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Hold on now, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I think it is very unfair what is being done here thing. I am not a big lover of Fianna Fáil or Fine Gael, but we agreed, you know, last year that this would be procedure. And he was here with family. I think it is bad form. And as well as long as these back stabbers are around --

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am sorry, Councillor, would you refrain from using that language, please?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: It will always happen. It is a great pity that this chamber has got into that. We're in a dark place here.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach -- sorry. Thank you, Councillor. You're entitled to your opinion.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: That'll never happen anyway.
CATHAOIRLEACH: I am glad 16 don't agree with you. Councillor Erika Doyle. COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Yes, I would Councillor O'Neill to withdraw his comments. He is making pretty serious accusations about half the members in this chamber. That type of language has absolutely no place in this chamber. Councillor Dunne knows my opinion of him, I have a very, very high opinion of him and indeed his family. But when a council is dissolved it is dissolved, and this is a new Council, with a new agreement. And that's the end of it. It went into a hat. You can't say
fairer than that. It was 50/50.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Into a hat. Into a hat.
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Excuse me, Councillor, I am speaking. I am speaking.
Could you switch his microphone off?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I haven't been co-opted in -COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Yes, and I was elected.

COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I have 2,000 votes for you.
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: And yes, I was elected. Democratically elected at the last election. Were you there.

COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: This time.
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Were you paying attention?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: This time.
CATHAOIRLEACH: This is a day of celebration for all the new Councillors elected. Can I bring a little bit of decorum back in the chamber here.

COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Councillor O'Brien, I would like to point out that due process has been followed --

CATHAOIRLEACH: Correct.
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: -- according to the Local Government Act. It went into a hat. It could have gone your way, and it might not have. But there is no place in this chamber for name calling. And I am speaking as a democratically elected councillor for my district. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Can we move on because we don't want to get down into the gutter here. We want to keep moving on. I am going to go to:
"Appointments of Cathaoirligh designate to the following Strategic Policy Committees." "Economic Development and Enterprise Support" is the first one. COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Point of order, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Before we start on this -CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Joe.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Point of order, okay. I think there's something seriously wrong with that list that we have in front of us. And for those of us who were here on the last AGM, the last elections, the members on that occasion decided to have six strategic policy committees not five. They were named differently. In fact, we added a climate change SPC purposely in order to facilitate discussion of that very
important issue. What we have been presented with here today is a reduction in the number of SPCs from six to five. This is one of our functions. It is not the function of the executive to decide how many SPCs there are on the Council. It is up to us as members. This was not brought to us for any consideration and in fact the legislation which I have here on the desk, I am not going to waste everybody's time by reading it, it is by way of a resolution of the members, how the -- the number and the structure of the SPC.

So that is the first point.

The second point is that in other councils, and I will give an example of Fingal, who the chief executive will be very familiar with having come from Fingal, there are seven SPCs. And in fact when you read the titles of the SPCs they would be very, very relevant to us. "Climate Action Biodiversity and Environment." That's the first one. "Community Development, Heritage, Culture and diversity," the second one. "Economic Enterprise and Tourism Development," third one. "Housing" the fourth one. "Marine and Coastal Management" the fifth one. "Planning Strategic and Infrastructure Development," that is sixth one. And the seventh one is "Transport and Infrastructure Management."

Now as far as I am concerned, there are a number of issues that are not even mentioned in the list that is before us that should be mentioned, but also, fundamentally this is our call, this is our decision. And what I am proposing here today is that the whole question of how many chairs is tied into how many SPCs we're going to have, and also what the SPCs -- how they are going to be constituted.

Five years ago -- and I have the minutes of the meeting here if anybody wants to contradict me, I have them here. Five years ago we discussed the entire SPC scheme in the July meeting. It was put before the public for the public's commentary, et cetera. And then we adopted it. But on the first day we had to -- as members, those of us who were here that day, had to insist we wanted an extra SPC, and the chief executive at the time, you know, in theory had to agree to it. He didn't. We can decide it. So I want to propose, number one, that we have six SPCs, as we had in the outgoing Council; and, secondly, I want to propose as the second part of that
proposal that the make-up and, if you like, how they're actually going to be framed would be discussed with councillors and accepted and agreed by councillors before any decision is made on who are actually going to be the chairs.

And the final point I will make is this, and this is very important for every single one of the 32 members. We all know how important housing is in this constituency and in this county. The lack of affordable housing and the number of people on the housing list. Both. The chief executive in her wisdom decided a number of months ago, without reference to us, to change the structure of the management of the Council, and she has divided housing between two directorates. She has basically put Capital Housing with one director and Housing Management with Social Affairs in another directorate. I am completely and utterly against that division because we need to have a complete focus on housing as an issue that is going to face us for the next five years, and we're going to be accountable to the electorate for it.

So I am appealing to members, if you support what I am saying here, that we look specifically at the housing issue and say housing should be kept as one particular item on whatever SPC is designated for that. That is my proposal. And I wanted to get in early before we have who is chair of this and who is chair of that. We need to get our facts straight first and we need to get the foundation right. Thanks, Cathaoirleach, for the time

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are more than welcome.
MS PURCELL: Sorry, Councillor Behan, Cathaoirleach. Just to clarify, Councillor Behan is correct: an SPC scheme, a draft scheme will be drafted and brought before the members at the meeting on the 1st July for discussion and for agreement in relation to the titles and membership, and the make-up of the actual SPCs. That document will then, once you have agreed the draft, go on public display and will come back to the members then to be agreed and adopted at the meeting of the 2nd of September. So there will be two opportunities to discuss the make-up of the SPCs, title of the SPCs, the membership of the SPCs, how many should be on it and their remit.

Today the five titles are brought before you. It was proposed to establish them in order to actually get the draft commenced so that we could get the draft to the
meeting in July. And, as I say, there can be further discussion then in relation to the detail of it.

There is one change proposed in relation to the five titles that you have in front of you. "Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy Recreation and Amenity." So the inclusion of the word "biodiversity" that is the proposed draft which will be before you for much further discussion at the meeting of the 1st July.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. Councillor Fortune. Sorry, I beg your pardon.

MS GALLAGHER: Just in relation to the number of SPCs. Five years ago we came before you with five SPCs as well and there was a proposal to establish an additional SPC, which was the climate and biodiversity SPC. The Climate Action Plan has been developed. It is in place. So I suppose the work of that committee now is the implementation of that plan. So that we much rests with environment. If you look to other local authorities, you are looking at maybe four, five SPCs max.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: That's not true. There's seven in Fingal.
MS GALLAGHER: If you look at Kildare and -- if you look at local authorities similar to ours, you're looking at four or five SPCs. Five years ago there was climate action cries identified --

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: There still is.
MS GALLAGHER: -- and an additional committee was established. The Climate Action Plan is in place and the work of that group would be to now oversee the implementation of that plan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fortune.
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I support what Councillor Behan is saying. I think it makes sense. There's a rationale to it and a logic to it that I think is strategic and makes business sense as well.

I would like to make a couple of comments in addition to what he said, just very simple comments. The role of the SPCs, I think we need to -- this is our AGM, so I am putting it out on the table as part of the AGM. The role of the SPC is that I think we need to increase the meeting. I think they meet too infrequently. There's no way members at an SPC can recall what's happened the guts of three months previous, or whatever. I think when we look at the structures and the way we do the business,
because I think a lot of the SPCs are so important to Wicklow as a county.

For example, I would be quite critical of, we put a strategic plan there together recently. For example, there was all kinds of people, there was all kinds of entities involved in it, but no public reps. And we are democratically elected by the people. All the people in this chamber have spent the last $14,15,16$, maybe the two years going around knocking on doors and answering people's questions and explaining what they can do and what they can influence. So I think it is very, very important that we look at the way we do our business so as that there's more input from public reps. Everyone in this chamber are intelligent people with all kinds of skill sets and they're totally underutilised, and I would be advocating very seriously that we change our altitude towards all this

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, like previous speakers, I just want to bring people back to five years ago here when the now Deputy Stephen Matthews and Deputy Jennifer Whitmore were public representatives, the same as ourselves, Councillors, and we did work very hard at the time to branch out and to expand our SPCs into climate action and biodiversity. And everybody, every single person in the chambers in 2019 felt that was important, and we did expand to have a sixth strategic policy committee to incorporate that. And I understand that a lot of good work has gone on and that plan is now put together. By just find that everything is coupled in here on top of one another and there hasn't been any dialogue about it. And maybe that's because we're coming up to election time, not knowing who would be returned. But the reality is that we are all sitting here today looking at the break-up of the five SPCs. I personally feel that there should be more dialogue around them. There shouldn't be as much diversity thrown into SPCs. They're really important function of an elected member's role here. And I feel we're talking about getting Cathaoirleachs in here today and accepting what's been put in in front of us, yet we have no detail of what the management of that is going to look like. I don't know when you're going to get to discuss it, but I think everything is being very rushed here, and it is very unfair on newly-elected members to sit here and all it is is just words in front of them. You know, social development, housing and community. Housing is a huge, huge role in its own. Then we have "Climate Action, Environment, Energy Recreation and Amenity." Amenities, community
development, they should be all together, not thrown across transportation and climate action, rural development.

And I know we had a little rejig here through the chief executive in regards to the roles and functions of the directors of services, and it came at a time when, you know, we're facing into an election and people are finding their feet, but we still haven't had that sit down introduction to what the role is of each director of service is now, and I think that is a really important going forward, and not just for newly elected councillors, but for everybody. So some of these induction days that you're proposing happen maybe we should branch it out to all elected members to see what the role and function of the new SPCs are. Because as someone who is sitting here 15 years, it's not quite open and transparent to me. It's not jumping off the page. I know people resist change almost all the time. I am not resisting change, but I would feel that without talking to the members of that climate action biodiversity group, some of the elected members of those parties, Social Democrats, the Greens, that was instrumental in setting up that SPC, maybe if we could get feedback from the members of that to see are they comfortable with it now being consumed into reducing that SPC down to "Climate Action, Environment, Energy Recreation and Amenity." And if they are, well let us hear that they are happy with that.

That's all I am asking for. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Dermot O'Brien. COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think there's important and worthwhile conversations to be had about this topic, and there is something about how much we place a value on SPCs as a core element of our functioning democracy at local level, and I think when we have an opportunity to shape how our local democracy operates then we should take it and we should honour it with the type of dialogue that will bring us to a place where we know and agree, and accept, the number of SPCs that will serve this Council and serve the people of this county, and that we name them according to how they should be named.

For me, it's a red flag when I see Housing and Community together. And someone needs to convince me that they are together for a good reason because to my mind
they're two huge areas that merit being separated. And if I wonder how an SPC can function well with the tow of them in the same room and on the same agenda I would find it challenging. So I think there's really -- another thing I would say, Cathaoirleach, is that I do feel for the new members who are sitting here. And I have no doubt in my mind that there's huge expertise, huge insight, huge experience, to be brought into this conversation, and we should honour them by ensuring that they get to have a say in how many SPCs, how we name them, how we shape them, and I think that would be the best decision. So I support Councillor Behan's proposal.

I think even doing Cathaoirligh today for those we might be setting people up for disappointment or for confusion, but I think it is important to flag it and I think there's important conversations. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor. Councillor Peir Leonard. COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yes, I also think it needs reviewing. And I think that it is almost like blind voting here today. We have 11 new members in the chamber here and even as an existing member I couldn't find what the directors and who are the staff under Housing and Community and Social Development so that I could make an informed decision on which SPC I wanted to contribute to that's relevant to what I envisage as a representative of the people, and what outcome at the end of five years term we will be looking at. And I think that we need to efficiently organise our energy and make sure that we're not going to divide that energy into different things. It needs to be cohesive.

There's huge things missing on the list here. Like, we are an island nation and maritime and marine is not mentioned once on any of the SPCs, or agriculture. You know, we're a food-producing country and we need to make sure that we start the conversation -- we've had conversations about farmers and our coast, our whole coast, it's a huge economic opportunity as well, as nature restoration opportunity, and it's not here in the SPC. So I think, I would be proposing, you know, to go away, as Joe -- and to look at making the additional SPCs that are necessary to make sure that we have everything that we need there to have a good outcome after another fiveyear term. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: One more speaker. Councillor Lourda Scott. COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. The climate action SPC has
been raised a number of times. It is great to see so many people's interests in the climate action SPC and the work that was done in it over the preceding five years. That is really heartening to know going forward into this Council. What I would say is that I have asked already Lorraine to add the word "biodiversity" to better reflect the work of the currently named climate action SPC. Energy has always been a very important part of it. So yes, there's a couple of extra words there, but basically that SPC is still there. I do want to point out as well, one of the previous councillors referenced the amount of times an SPC meets. That surely is up to the Cathaoirleach of each SPC to arrange. The Climate Action SPC, we met five to six times a year due to the amount of work that we had. We could have met more frequently, possibly. And certainly, if that's what's required to be done this time under whoever is in the chair I would presume that would be done.

I suppose we have to remember it's not about the numbers of SPCs, it's about effectively getting the work of those policy committees done in the Council. And sometimes less is more. It may or may not be in this case, but sometimes less is more. Just because we have more policy committees and more meetings, it doesn't necessarily mean that the necessary work gets done. So just to bear that in mind.

I do have a question myself. I mean the committee that seems to have been switched from the previous Council's list of committees is the Community Culture and Social Development, and I am just wondering where -- is that all underneath the Social Development, Housing and Community title? If so, in which case, where is corporate state? So they are my two very specific questions for the executive. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have one more speaker and then I am going to invite the chief executive in. I want to welcome you here, Councillor Duddy. This is your first contribution.

COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. Thank you very much. Just on the subject of the agenda and those committees, I have to say I found it was just a dearth of information. You know, for what was effectively a job spec there seemed to be no specifics at all included in what these committees represented or any detail. And as a new councillor it's very difficult to understand what is what without that type of guidance. So maybe in the future if that type of guidance could
be provided effectively like a job specification that would detail all the relevant facts. Go raibh maith agat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. If you want to switch off your mic there. Thank you. I invite the chief executive in now.

MS O'GORMAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and thank you members for all of your contributions.

The SPC scheme is a matter for the members. It is a reserve function of the members to adopt, and in whatever format you deem. The purpose of having the items on the agenda today, it serves two purposes. Number one, we have to have a draft scheme in place. And in order to get a draft scheme out to yourselves and to public consultation we have to have headings for the SPCs. And the guidance that we have received from the Department is that the SPCs should reflect the directorates of the local authority, and that's what these SPCs do. Whether there is five, four, six, seven, whatever number, that is a matter for yourselves to decide, and, you know, as with the previous Council, you decided that you wanted six SPCs, and if that be the case so be it.

But the second purpose of having the Cathaoirligh designate listed on the agenda today is that we cannot form a corporate policy group without designated chairpersons of SPCs. So for the CPG to meet, as it is required to do, as a statutory committee of the Council, we do need designated chairs. There is nothing to say that come July when the draft scheme comes to yourselves for discussion, amendment, whatever, if there's a sixth or seventh chair, or ninth chair, they then get added to the CPG. That is completely a matter for your members. So nobody is trying to hoodwink, pull a fast one. This is a requirement to form the CPG and get the draft scheme in place. After that, it is completely and utterly a matter for the members.

A couple of other points that were raised. About frequency of the meetings, again, as Councillor Scott said, that is at the discretion of the SPC. So if you want to meet six times a year, nine times a year, that is completely up to yourselves with the Cathaoirleach of the individual SPC.

A question around induction training, and a very valid point I think, Councillor

Snell. That training is open to all. And I think it is timely given the restructuring that we have gone through in the organisation; to give an overview of what the different directorates do, who are the senior staff in it, and to introduce new councillors to the staff, but, more importantly, I suppose, give an overview of how we are structured.

Culture, Councillor Scott, sits with amenity in that. It is in that amenity space. And corporate estate is with corporate services primarily but for the, I suppose -- when I look at corporate estate, it is about the management of our own land bank, and that sits between corporate estate and municipal districts, and then our economic. So it is spread across a number of areas but primarily dealt with through our corporate function.

If there's any other questions, members. So I would encourage you to vote for designate chairs. Again, as I said, the scheme has to go to yourselves. It is for the formation of a CPG. That can be added to at your discretion. Thank you, members. MS GALLAGHER: Can I also just say for the elected members, each local authorities, all 31 local authorities are in the position that you are in today. All 31 local authorities are meeting for the first time to re-establish their committees post the Local Elections.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I want to welcome the clarification from the chief executive. It is our decision. I want to propose -- based on the logic that she has put about establishing the corporate policy, I think the handiest way that we do this is that we propose that there be six chair designates elected at this AGM, and then you can go ahead and have your meetings they can provide the scheme here.

So I am proposing that an additional chair designate -- or what do you call it? Cathaoirleach designate would be added to the list, so there would be six positions rather than five, and then they can move on. I don't want to delay the meeting any longer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The chief executive has agreed to that.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: That is fine.
MS O'GORMAN: If the members are in agreement, sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If the members are in agreement.
MS O'GORMAN: It is a matter for the members.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. Councillor Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I was simply going to second Councillor Behan's proposal before you put it to the members. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Can we go to the first one then if everyone is agreeable then?

MS O'GORMAN: Do you want to give a title to the sixth one?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Let's just say number 1 to 6 .
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Flynn Kennedy.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: That was my point. I think we need to know what each of the SPCs is going to look after before people can decide whether it is something that they would like to chair or not. So I don't disagree with Councillor Behan in terms of six SPCs, but I think maybe we need to come back to this item when we have details of the SPCs and what they're going to involve so that people can have a moment to consider them.

MS O'GORMAN: Could I propose, members, that you elect or nominate the five Cathaoirligh designate and if that changes and the SPCs change and you want six SPC, which you have agreed that you want, but when you decide how you want them formed through the draft scheme that we can add that sixth Cathaoirleach to the CPG at that time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Is everyone happy then to proceed?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: No. I propose six.
CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that has been accepted.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: No. I thought the chief executive said five.
CATHAOIRLEACH: No.
MS O'GORMAN: No. But we need to name. You have the sixth, what they are responsible for. As to Councillor Flynn's point that they have -- they understand what they're putting their hand up for.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that would make sense. That people can step forward to see what they are interested in. Councillor Edward Timmins.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Just to be helpful, you know, I think we're probably all going to agree that Housing is a standalone one. So I suggest that number 2 goes to Housing, and Social Development and Community is number 6. We can tweak them
later.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that okay, chief executive?
MS O'GORMAN: Yes, fine.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Kennedy? No.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: No.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Can we proceed then? Perfect. Thank you. So we will go to the first one. "Economic development and Enterprise Support," which is number 1.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I want to propose Councillor Fortune, please. COUNCILLOR FITZGERALD: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we need the microphones on? Do we have anyone else? Is that the full term or is it being split?

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I am proposing Councillor Fortune for the full term. If he makes an arrangement with somebody else in our group that's something that could be looked at later. But to speed things up, I am proposing for the full term, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to see what the other members are saying as well.
Councillor Timmins.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Yes, just for clarification, like should we be doing a tot on the number of councillors supporting different councillors for the different chairs?

MS O'GORMAN: We will.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Because it is done pro rata at the end of the day. Like, if there's six SPCs is that five councillors votes for one SPC?

MS PURCELL: No.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: How is that going to work?
MS PURCELL: The SPCs are a standalone. So each committee is a standalone committee. So we are taking each one individually. So it's up to yourselves to propose who is going forward. It is not -- the grouping system doesn't apply. We are saying that each one of these six committees are six separate committees rather than one group of committees. So if there are any other nominations for the chair of this Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC they should be put forward now.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So they have been split.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Is each one a democratic vote then?

MS PURCELL: Yes.
MS GALLAGHER: Unless there is any dissent.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Unless there is dissent, I am being told, it will go to the full floor.

MS PURCELL: It doesn't have to if there is no dissent.
MS O'GORMAN: Just to clarify, members: If there is only one nominee, a proposer and a seconder, they're deemed elected. There's no grouping system in operation. It's a straight vote for each of the committee. So if there is another nominee then it goes to a vote, as did the Leas Cathaoirleach and the Cathaoirleach did.

COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: So there's no grouping whatsoever then?
MS PURCELL: No.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: There's no grouping whatsoever?
MS GALLAGHER: No.
MS PURCELL: There's no grouping in relation to these particular committees. They're individual committees.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Councillor Timmins.
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Just from what happened five years ago, we split them pro rata based on groupings.
MS PURCELL: You didn't.
MS GALLAGHER: No, you didn't, Cathaoirleach. So to form a group you have to have a number of members for a committee. There's one chair for this member. So if you divide 32 by 1, it's 1 . So it's one group. You're one group of 32 . They're standalone committees. They didn't apply five years. It was a separate proposer and a seconder.

COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: So the majority here then could vote under -- 16 people could vote on their own six people each time?
MS GALLAGHER: I think you're complicating things, Councillor Timmins. The grouping system does not apply to the SPC committees because they're standalone committees. They're one chair for each committee.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I ask a question? Because the last time they were split, so how --

MS GALLAGHER: Yes. There is, in the guidelines the chair can hold the position for three years or two years. Five years ago that was decided. At this forum, at this point in time, as the chief executive says, if that's not in the plan today leave it. You
can decide yourselves. You can bring it back to the full council in two and a half or three years' time, just to keep things from being less complicated than they are. CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Bourke. COUNCILLOR BOURKE: If it is the case then I would like to propose Edward Timmins for this committee.

COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: I am interested in what the other groups have to say. I mean, I am suggesting maybe we have an adjournment to see if we can reach agreement on this. What do other Councillors think?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: That is fair enough.
MS PURCELL: Seconder for an adjournment.
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Yes, I would like to second that. I thought I would be very confused here today; it is my first day as Councillor, but I am looking around seeing 31 confused faces so I think an adjournment would be appropriate.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, in the adjournment, if the officials can be any assistance to you, please ask us.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I propose a 20 -minute? Half four?
(Short recess.)

MS PURCELL: We going to start with another roll call.
Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry. Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin? Councillor Erika Doyle? COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Here.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy? COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Anseo.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Here.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald?
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy? Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall? Councillor Miriam Murphy?
Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Anseo.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill? Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Present.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Present.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins? COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Present.

MS PURCELL: And Councillor Caroline Winstanley? COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Here.

MS PURCELL: Thank you. Councillor Jason Mulhall? COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Present.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry? COUNCILLOR BARRY: Present.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Here.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald? Councillor Pat Kennedy? COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Present.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy? And Councillor Gerry O'Neill? CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before we proceed I am just looking for a time extension to be proposed and seconded, so we can conclude the agenda. Councillor Aoife Flynn and Councillor Joe Behan. Thank you.

So we are going to move onto the appointment of Cathaoirligh designate and we are going to start with number 1, Economic Development and Enterprise Support." So I am opening up the floor then to a proposer and a seconder. Councillor Joe Behan. COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I propose Councillor Fortune.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Pat Kennedy.
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Do we have any other nominations? Okay. All agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

The second one we're looking at is Housing. Standalone housing. So bear with me one second. Councillor Neary.

COUNCILLOR NEARY: I would like to propose John Snell to chair the Housing SPC.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Welcome on board, Councillor.
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Thank you.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan. Councillor -- any other nominations,
sorry?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I propose Councillor Graham Richmond. CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Sylvester Bourke. COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Can we leave our microphones on? I am trying to get through this best we can. I would rather have a nice pace so we can get through it efficiently. We have two nominations there for the Housing SPC. Councillor Graham Richmond and Councillor John Snell. We can go to a vote. MS PURCELL: Are you both happy to accept the nominations? (Yes.)

So we have Councillor John Snell proposed by Councillor Ian Neary, seconded by Councillor Joe Behan; and Councillor Graham Richmond proposed by Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Councillor Bourke. Can you please say the name of the person you are voting for? So it is either Councillor John Snell or Councillor Graham Richmond.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, there seems to be a bit of confusion. It was mentioned before the break in regards to sharing of chairs, it hasn't been discussed certainly from the top table there. So if it is agreed to share the chair is that not a -- AND there is no other proposals.

MS PURCELL: Yes. If you are happy.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: If Councillor Richmond is in favour of that?
CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't think he is, to be honest with you, after the conversation we had earlier.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Oh right.
MS PURCELL: Are we having a vote for the full term?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. So we have two nominations.
MS PURCELL: Are we all agreed on that? We're voting for the full term? Clear? CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

MS PURCELL: And it is for the full term. So we have Councillor John Snell, proposed by Councillor Neary, seconded by Councillor Joe Behan, and we have Councillor Graham Richmond, proposed by Councillor Fenelon Gaskin, seconded by Councillor Sylvester Bourke. And if you say the say name of the Councillor that you wish to vote for please.

Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy?
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Councillor John Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present.
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?

COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall?
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy is not present.
Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Graham Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Councillor Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Graham Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: John Snell.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Councillor Richmond.
MS PURCELL: Fourteen in favour of Councillor John Snell, 16 --
CATHAOIRLEACH: There's two missing.
MS PURCELL: Yes. Not present.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Two not present.
MS PURCELL: Fourteen for Councillor John Snell, 16 for Councillor Graham
Richmond, and we have two not present. So Councillor Graham Richmond is the
chair.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Well done, Councillor Richmond.

The next, number 3: "Transportation, Infrastructure and Delivery of Emergency Services."

COUNCILLOR GLENNON: My recall last year was that the position of SPCs was proportionately given out to both sides of the voting in the chamber. Why is that not being done this year?

CATHAOIRLEACH: You will have to ask the Councillors for that.
MS PURCELL: Because it wasn't proposed.
MS GALLAGHER: It is a matter for the members.
MS PURCELL: It is a matter for the members.

COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Well, we understood when we went to talk we picked a person for half an SPC , being the chamber is split $50 / 50$, that we picked a person for half an SPC on all of the six counts, and now we find ourselves just being railroaded. I think it is wrong.
MS PURCELL: We can only go by what is actually the vote that was taken. It was made very clear there that it was for the full term not for a half term, and that is how people voted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Barry.
COUNCILLOR BARRY: I am proposing Stephen Stokes and Danny Alvey for the position of chair of transport.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Just nominate one.
COUNCILLOR BARRY: One, sorry. Stephen Stokes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do I have a seconder for that? Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: And is that for a half term or a full term?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: I am taking it for a half.
MS PURCELL: So it is proposed for a half term? Is that what you are proposing, Councillor Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Yes.
MS PURCELL: Is that two-and-a-half-year term or a three-year term?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Two-and-a-half.

MS PURCELL: Okay. So we have two-and-a-half-year term proposed by Councillor Barry for Councillor Stephen Stokes. I am sorry, who was the seconder? Councillor Caroline Winstanley. Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: I would like to propose Councillor Gail Dunne for a half term of Transportation Infrastructure and Delivery of Emergency Services please. COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I would like to second that, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Aoife Kennedy Flynn.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I would like to propose Councillor Danny Alvey for the second half of that term following on from Councillor Stoke's first half. CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Lourda Scott. COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Yes, I would like to second that proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is my understanding we have one candidate for the first half and two candidates for the second half. No?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: No, no, no. We have three candidates for half a term each. So there has to be a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: On the three.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: You call out the three names.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Perfect.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: And the person with the highest vote will be elected.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: And the person with the lowest vote won't -CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks for the clarification. We will go to a vote.

MS GALLAGHER: We're going to do the first term first, the first two and a half years first, we're going to vote. We have two nominees.
MS PURCELL: Have we two or three nominations for the first half?
MS O'GORMAN: One.
MS PURCELL: Have we only one nomination for the first half?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: One nomination for the first half and two nominations for the second.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is what I was saying.
MS PURCELL: So we have Councillor Stephen Stokes proposed for the first half and Councillor Gail Dunne and Councillor Danny Alvey for the second half? No? CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Snell.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. Just to confirm, I was nominating Councillor Dunne for a half term. I didn't specify whether it was the first half or the second half. As Councillor Glennon says, in the interest of transparency and wanting the electorate returned to this chambers, it would be done on fairness. And there was no mention of first term or second term. There's three nominations to chair a half term each. Never specified first or second. And I would like clarification in regards to the rules and regulations around voting on the first term or the second term.

MS PURCELL: That is what I want to clarify. Are all three nominations for a half term but not any specific half term?
(Yes.)
COUNCILLOR SNELL: But I think by dividing it and saying that one is for the first and one is for the second it's two separate votes. As far as I am concerned, it is one vote for a half term and there's three candidates put forward for a half term. It should be one vote. The person who comes out with the highest vote will end up having a half term, the person who comes out with the second highest will have the second half term, and the person with the lowest vote will be eliminated. And until I see something that would contradict that I believe we should have maybe a little recess until we get that information.
MS PURCELL: There's a number of ways we can have a vote. We need to agree that in advance so that everybody is clear on exactly how it is that we are voting.

So we can vote, and the way I think is simplest, is that you can vote for one person, and the person with the highest number of votes gets a half term; then we will have a second vote between the two who didn't get the highest two lower numbers for the second half or for another half term, and they can agree as to who is going first and who is going second.
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I would disagree with that interpretation. The interpretation should be that the two highest people with the highest amount of votes get a half term each in a three-horse race. That's the only way to do it that's fair.

MS PURCELL: We can do that as one of the options. As long as everybody is clear what they are voting on.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes.
MS PURCELL: It is a matter for yourselves to decide which way you want to vote. COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: That's the way it should be.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have any other members' input? Councillor Barry. Bear with me one second.

COUNCILLOR BARRY: Yes. Could I change my proposal?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
MS PURCELL: I propose Councillor Stephen Stokes for the five-year term.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: And I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: You're going to second that. Okay.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Can I remove my nomination for Danny Alvey for the second half, and just leave it as it is.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Your microphone is still on.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. So, look it, obviously it's becoming a bit farcical now unfortunately.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: And it isn't a good indictment for the next five years ahead of us. It really isn't. And I don't want to see this chambers being turned into some sort of a circus going forward. So I would urge the members to think about what yous are doing here.

I will also have to change what I proposed, and I propose Councillor Gail Dunne for the full term of the SPC on the basis that it's obvious that the group that's assembled themselves here quite hastily today want all the cake, and that is very disappointing.
(Hear, hear.)

COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Cathaoirleach, on a point of order. CATHAOIRLEACH: I am actually going to have to invite Councillor Dunne because he has put on his microphone. It is a queueing system.

COUNCILLOR DUNNE: I just want to thank Councillor Snell for his nomination. I am a numbers man. The numbers are not here. That's it. I withdraw my nomination. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Duddy. COUNCILLOR DUDDY: On a point of order. Once a motion has been proposed and seconded is it possible to withdraw it without a vote?

MS PURCELL: Yes.
MS GALLAGHER: The proposer can.
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: That's according to the standing orders, is it?
MS PURCELL: It is, yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor you're withdrawing? So at the moment we've only one candidate. You're withdrawing. At the moment we only have one candidate then.

MS PURCELL: We still have a seconder for Councillor Alvey. So Councillor Scott, are you withdrawing? Thanks.

At the minute we have one proposal for the five-year term, and that is Councillor Stephen Stokes, proposed by Councillor Mark Barry and seconded by Councillor Winstanley. Have we any other nominations or are we all agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed? Okay. Thank you.

Number 4 then: "Climate Action Biodiversity." Councillor Scott. COUNCILLOR SCOTT: I want to propose Councillor Doyle for the full term. CATHAOIRLEACH: That is Erika Doyle. Councillor Aoife Kennedy Flynn. Sorry, beg your pardon. Stephen Stokes.
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Go raibh maith agat, Cathaoirleach. I would also like to second that proposal.

## CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Snell.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: I would like to propose Councillor Peir Leonard for the fourth SPC, which is Climate Action Environment Energy. And obviously we would be looking to have a broader conversation around marine at the July meeting, to add that to this SPC. And while the numbers don't stack up, I still think that if we're going to play the game we might as well play it out and give some sort of respectability to, you know, due diligence and procedures and likewise. So I would ask people to put their name forward. Yes, the numbers don't stack up. But you'd want to be very careful what you wish for in life. Because we have to work together for five years.
(Hear, hear.)

There's a lot of positions to be filled here going forward. There's a lot of committees. There'll be a lot of debate. There'll be a lot of interaction. And it's always been based on goodwill and a good work ethic, irrespective of your political allegiance. And I would hope that that would continue into the future.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell. Councillor Pat Kennedy. COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: I would like to second Councillor Leonard's nomination for this SPC. I think she has shown a huge interest, in the length of time I have known here, in the environment, so I would be happy to second that nomination.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So we have two nominations then. Are both willing to accept the nominations? (Yes.) Okay. So we go to a vote.

MS PURCELL: So we have two nominations for the full term. We have Councillor Erika Doyle, proposed by Councillor Lourda Scott, seconded by Councillor Stephen Stokes; and we have Councillor Peir Leonard, proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Pat Kennedy. And this at the moment the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Energy and Amenity SPC.

Can you please say the name of the person that you are voting for?

Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Erika Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Erika Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy?

COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Councillor Peir Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn?
COUNCILLOR FINN: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present.
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall?
COUNCILLOR MULHALL: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Miriam Murphy not present.
Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Councillor Erika Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Councillor Leonard.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?

COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Councillor Leonard
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Councillor Doyle.
MS PURCELL: Sixteen in favour of Councillor Erika Doyle, 14 in favour of Councillor Peir Leonard, and two not present.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. And well done and congratulations to Councillor Doyle.

The next, number 5: "Planning and Rural Development." Councillor Graham Richmond.

COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: I would like to propose Councillor Edward Timmins. COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I would like to second Councillor Edward Timmins.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Pat Kennedy.
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: I would like to propose Councillor Patsy Glennon.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other nominations? Both accept the nominations?
MS PURCELL: Are they both for the full term?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
MS PURCELL: We have two nominations for the full term of the Planning and Rural Development SPC. Councillor Edward Timmins, proposed by Councillor Graham Richmond, seconded by Councillor Fenelon Gaskin; and Councillor Patsy Glennon, proposed by Pat Kennedy -- sorry, wrong name there, Pat, and seconded by Councillor Gail Dunne. Again if you would say the name of the person that you are voting for, please. So it is either Councillor Timmins or Councillor Glennon.

> Councillor Danny Alvey?
> COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?
> COUNCILLOR BARRY: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
> COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Councillor Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
> COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
> COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
> COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?
> COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy?
> COUNCILLOR DUDDY: My learned friend Patsy Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
> COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Councillor Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
> COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Councillor Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn?
> COUNCILLOR FINN: Patsy Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present.
> Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
> COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Edward Timmins.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
> COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Councillor Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
> COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Patsy Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
> COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Councillor Glennon.
> MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
> COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Councillor Timmins.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Glennon.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall not present. Councillor Miriam Murphy not present.

Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Councillor Glennon.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Councillor Glennon.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Councillor Edward Timmins.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Patrick Glennon.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Councillor Glennon.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Councillor Timmins.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Councillor Timmins.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Patsy Glennon.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Councillor Timmins.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Councillor Timmins.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Edward Timmins.
MS PURCELL: And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Edward Timmins.
MS PURCELL: Sixteen in favour of Councillor Timmins, 13 in favour of Councillor Glennon and 3 not present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Well, done Councillor Timmins.
Congratulations. The sixth SPC now is community. Can I open it up for nominations please? Councillor Stephen Stokes.

COUNCILLOR STOKES: I would like to propose Councillor Caroline Winstanley.

COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Silvester Bourke seconded that. Councillor John Snell. COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would like to put forward for the five-year term of this SPC, which I think is a vital SPC for people who would have went around the roads, knocking doors and faced the constituents in regards to community and social development, I believe we should open them up into recreation and amenity, and I don't think there is anyone better than Councillor Pat Kennedy to put forward for this position. So I would be nominating Councillor Kennedy. And not to prejudge any outcome on this vote, but if I could just say it is a sad, sad day that we have newly elected members and councillors who have been here for four terms on the radar who are so sickened with what's happening here today they have actually left the chambers. Having gone around and campaigned for probably months and months on time, they can't bear to sit in this chamber to see what is going on here. And I will say shame on the people behind this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Patsy Glennon.
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: I second that proposal for Pat Kennedy for this position. I think he's eminently qualified for it, more so than anybody else in this chamber.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have two nominations. Are they both accepting the nomination? Thank you. We will go to a vote.

MS PURCELL: So we have two nominations for the full term of what is currently called the Social Development and Community SPC. Councillor Caroline Winstanley, proposed by Councillor Stephen Stokes, seconded by Silvester Bourke; and Councillor Pat Kennedy, proposed by Councillor John Snell, seconded by Councillor Patsy Glennon. As previously, can you please say the name of the Councillor that you wish to vote for, either Councillor Winstanley or Councillor Kennedy.

Councillor Danny Alvey?
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: Caroline Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Mark Barry?
COUNCILLOR BARRY: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Joe Behan?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Councillor Kennedy.

MS PURCELL: Councillor Sylvester Bourke?
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Melanie Corrigan?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Avril Cronin?
COUNCILLOR CRONIN: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Erika Doyle?
COUNCILLOR DOYLE: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Malachaí Duddy?
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Councillor Pat Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gail Dunne?
COUNCILLOR DUNNE: Councillor Pat Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin?
COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: (Inaudible.)
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn.
COUNCILLOR FINN: (Inaudible.)
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Fitzgerald is not present.
Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Tom Fortune?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Councillor Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Patsy Glennon?
COUNCILLOR GLENNON: Pat Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Pat Kennedy?
COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: Pat Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Shane Langrell?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Jason Mulhall is not present. Councillor Miriam
Murphy is not present.
Councillor Ian Neary?
COUNCILLOR NEARY: Councillor Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?

COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Councillor Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Paul O'Brien?
COUNCILLOR PAUL O'BRIEN: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Gerry O'Neill?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I reluctantly voting here, you know.
MS PURCELL: It is either Winstanley or Kennedy, or abstain.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Or abstain.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: -- this occasion that Fine Gael, Social Democrats,
Labour, Greens, bag of liquorice, all sorts. It is a sad day for the chamber.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a vote?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I vote for Patrick Kennedy.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Perfect. Thank you.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Not that it'll do you any good.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Warren O'Toole?
COUNCILLOR O'TOOLE: Councillor Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Graham Richardson?
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Lourda Scott?
COUNCILLOR SCOTT: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell?
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Councillor Kennedy.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peter Stapleton?
COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Stephen Stokes?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Edward Timmins?
COUNCILLOR TIMMINS: Councillor Winstanley.
MS PURCELL: And Councillor Caroline Winstanley?
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Caroline Winstanley.
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Cathaoirleach?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we just wait for the vote to be counted first.
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: I beg your pardon.
CATHAOIRLEACH: You're okay. I just want to -- you're okay.
MS PURCELL: Sixteen in favour of Councillor Winstanley, 13 in favour of

Councillor Kennedy, 3 not present. So Councillor Winstanley.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Congratulations. Do you want to come in now, Councillor? COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Go raibh mile maith agat. CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead. COUNCILLOR DUDDY: Go raibh mile maith agat. I would just like to remark on, out of the six committees unfortunately there's a very clear gender imbalance being established as chairs of those committees. I think it is a great pity that the parties that have tied themselves together in the way they have are prepared to sacrifice equality on chairs of these committees in establishing these Cathaoirleachships. Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay. We will go to the next item on the agenda. It is item number 5: The appointment of three members in the Eastern and Midland recent --

MS PURCELL: No.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Item 4.
CATHAOIRLEACH: CPG, I beg your pardon.
MS PURCELL: I am going to take a moment, if the members will indulge me, just to see if all of the MDs are currently represented with the chairs of the SPCs. My head has been in votes, so I haven't been in the areas.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Unfortunately Arklow is not represented.
MS PURCELL: You're correct, Councillor Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes.
MS PURCELL: Arklow is not represented.

Now, in relation to the Corporate Policy Group, in accordance with our policy, the Cathaoirleach and the current Leas Cathaoirleach would continue for continuity purposes, and then there should be a representative from each of the MDs. As neither the Cathaoirleach or the Leas Cathaoirleach are from the Arklow MD we can refer to the Arklow MD for a nominee. We can refer it out to the district to come back to us with a nominee if the members are agreeable to that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we agreeable to that? That it would go out to Arklow. They come back to us. (Yes.) Okay. Thank you.

Number 5 then: "The appointment of three members to the Eastern and Midland

Regional Assembly." Councillor John Snell. Bear with me John, sorry COUNCILLOR SNELL: I would like to propose Councillor Gerry O'Neill. CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Could we have a seconder for that? COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I will second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe Behan. Thank you, Councillor Behan. Councillor Aoife Kennedy Flynn.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I am proposing Avril Cronin for one of the seats.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that? Stephen Stokes. COUNCILLOR STOKES: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor John Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: I would like to propose Councillor Joe Behan, please. COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Thanks, Councillor. I'm okay. No. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You're declining it. Thank you. Councillor Gail Dunne. COUNCILLOR DUNNE: I would like to propose Councillor Patsy Glennon. CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that?

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I second it.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tom Fortune. Sorry. That's three names. Any more? Agreed? (Agreed.) Thank you.

MS PURCELL: That is Councillor Gerry O'Neill, Councillor Avril Cronin and Councillor Patsy Glennon. And as pointed out there is a gender balance there. And I would like to remind the members of circular LG 07/2024 and the Local Government Act, paragraph 19.1, which all relate to gender balance, and a minimum target of $40 \%$ female representation is sought. I would like members to keep that in mind for each committee that you are nominating to. Some committees have very specific requirements, and when we come to them I will outline those requirements to you. CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. So we will go to item number 6 now. Item number 6: "Appointment of four members to the Regional Health Forum, Dublin-Mid Leinster."

COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I would like to propose Caroline Winstanley for one of the seats.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a seconder for that? Councillor Mark Barry. COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I would like to propose Councillor Joe Behan. CATHAOIRLEACH: Could we have a seconder for that?

COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Patsy Glennon seconds that. Councillor Neary, do you want to...

COUNCILLOR NEARY: Yes, I would like to propose Gerry O'Neill.
CATHAOIRLEACH: A seconder for that, please?
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Peir Leonard. One more. Councillor Pat Kennedy.

COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: I would like to propose Councillor Patsy Glennon.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a seconder for that?
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Joe Behan.
MS PURCELL: Any more nominations? Are all the nominees happy to accept the nominations? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. We will go on now to item number 7:
"Appointment of five elected members to the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board."

MS PURCELL: Before we start I would like to draw the members' attention to the documents that were circulated with the agenda: The Education and Training Board Act 2013 Local Authority Members Amendment Regulations 2024, the Education and Training Board Act 2013, the Local Authority Members Regulations 2019, the Summary of the Key Points on the Role of the ETB Members, and the letter from Minister Norma Foley in relation to local authority membership.
$40 \%$ of the members must be female and $40 \%$ of the members must be male. And I would also ask that you consider the criteria as set out in the Minister's letter when making nominations for nominees to establish a female members and to establish a panel of male members. You should consider, where practicable, persons who have governance and/or financial skills and capacity for appointment to the board. And the corporate governance suggests an upper limit of two full terms of office in relation to this. We have one member who has two full terms at the present. It is a matter for the members to decide on their nominees

COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I would like to propose Councillor Paul O'Brien.

COUNCILLOR ALVEY: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Councillor Alvey. Councillor Peir Leonard. COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I would like to propose Councillor Tom Fortune. CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Behan. Councillor Erika Doyle. COUNCILLOR DOYLE: I would like to propose Councillor Flynn Kennedy. CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we a seconder for that? Councillor Lourda Scott. Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I would second Councillor Kennedy.
CATHAOIRLEACH: We have a seconder. Councillor Gerry O'Neill.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I propose John Snell.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Joe Behan. So that's four, is it?
MS PURCELL: That is four.
CATHAOIRLEACH: We need a female.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I would like to propose Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a seconder for that? Councillor Melanie Corrigan. Any other nominations or is that the five? Okay. That's the five on KWETB.

MS PURCELL: All happy to accept the nominees? (Yes.) So we have nominated Councillor Paul O'Brien, Councillor Tom Fortune, Councillor John Snell, Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy, and Councillor Louise Fenelon Gaskin. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 8: "Appointment of five members to the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultant Committee. One from each municipal district." Do you want to refer these to the MDs?

COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: That is what I was going to ask. Could we refer to the MDs?

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will come back to the MDs. Thank you.
MS PURCELL: Is everybody agreed with that? (Yes.)
CATHAOIRLEACH: "Appointment of four members to the Local Community
Development Committee (LCDC)."
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I propose Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that? Councillor Graham Richmond. Councillor Orla Finn.

COUNCILLOR FINN: I propose Councillor Peir Leonard. COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded Councillor Joe Behan. Councillor Gerry O'Neill. COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Councillor John Snell.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Joe Behan.
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Councillor Orla Finn, please.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconder for that? Councillor Malachaí Duddy. Councillor Silvester Bourke.

COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that? Councillor Flynn Kennedy. MS PURCELL: We need four.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is five. Is everybody happy to proceed with five or four seats? Do we go to a vote?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: I don't think it matters, does it?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Well, we have five for four seats.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes, but --
CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: I don't think it really matters, does it? If there's five seats on that? Is it an issue.

MS PURCELL: It is. Because it increased previously from three to four I think following the last -- just give me a second to look at my notes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Finn, do you want to turn off your microphone? COUNCILLOR BEHAN: Tom, yours is on as well.

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Apologies.
MS PURCELL: Yes. It is very specific. We only had three members initially, and it was extended to four members. And in order to do that the LCDC had to drop an agency in order to accommodate a member. So it is very specific. So the actual number that is required is four. It's not open to us to nominate any additional. COUNCILLOR SNELL: And is there any specification in regards to geographical spread as it is an all-county committee?

MS PURCELL: No. There's no requirement. $40 \%$ gender would be desirable. But there is no geographic requirements.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Leonard.
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I think that it is important, as someone who has sat on that committee, for there to be a geographical spread because we need to ensure that all communities are regenerated equally, you know, the rural community. So that would be important.

COUNCILLOR KENNEDY: As the former chair of the LCDC, I think it is very important that there is a geographic spread right around the county of the four members. I think it is of huge importance, to be honest with you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we read out the five names and see are they happy to go ahead with the five, and then if we need to go to a vote? Is that okay?

MS PURCELL: So we have Councillor Melanie Corrigan.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy to go forward?
COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: Yes.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Peir Leonard.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.
MS PURCELL: Councillor John Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes.
MS PURCELL: Councillor Orla Finn.
COUNCILLOR FINN: Yes.
MS PURCELL: And Councillor Fenelon Gaskin. COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: Yes.

MS PURCELL: Do all five wish to be considered. We don't have the $40 \%$. It is desirable rather than -- if somebody dropped out it'd be easier, but we can go to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will ask one more time is anyone going to drop out? Councillor Fenelon Gaskin.

COUNCILLOR FENELON GASKIN: I will drop out.
MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.
MS PURCELL: Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: We might get home this evening.
MS PURCELL: So we have Councillor Corrigan, Councillor Leonard, Councillor

Snell and Councillor Finn.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you and well done all. Agreed? Okay.

I see here number 10: "Appointment of three members to Bray Area Partnership."
Does the Bray MD want to take this back -- and Greystones.
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: And Greystones, I beg your pardon. We will come back.

Number 11: "Appointment of three members to County Wicklow Partnership." MS PURCELL: Now in relation to this there is a requirement for a gender balance and a geographic balance, please. Geographic spread.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Flynn.
COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I propose Councillor Peter Stapleton.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that? Melanie Corrigan. Councillor John Snell.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: My understanding is that Councillor Miriam Murphy was on this the last time. The meetings are held in the partnership offices down in Arklow to accommodate her accessibility in that, and I would love to see that she be accommodated here today and put back on that committee. I know she's gone home very disillusioned, but I would like to see that it's the only committee that she did talk about going on with a number of political parties here, yous all know what I am talking about. So I would put her forward for that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a seconder for that?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Tom Fortune.
MS PURCELL: Is Councillor Murphy willing to accept that, Councillor Snell? She is?

COUNCILLOR LEONARD: Yes. She had asked me to --
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Bourke.
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: Could I add Councillor Graham Richmond, please, proposing that as a third one?

CATHAOIRLEACH: And seconder? Councillor Flynn Kennedy. That's the three.
Any more takers? Okay. And it's geographic.
MS PURCELL: So that is Councillor Stapleton, Councillor Murphy and Councillor

Richmond. We have geographic and gender. Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 12 is: "Appointment of two members to the Board of Wicklow Enterprise Park CLG." Will we take this back to the Wicklow MD? MS PURCELL: At least one needs to be from the MD. They both don't have to be from the MD.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to go ahead now and do it?
MS PURCELL: It is up to yourselves. If you are happy to send it back to the MD that is fine.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I think we should.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Sylvester Bourke.
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Graham Richmond.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Graham Richmond. Can we have a seconder for that?
Councillor Melanie Corrigan. Councillor John Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. Can we make a decision, either we are sending everything back to the MDs or we're not?

MS PURCELL: The reason that we're not in this case is because both members don't have to be from the MD. Where the members have to be all from one particular MD we are proposing it goes back to the MD. But in this case one member of the two has to be from the MD, so the other member can be from anywhere within the Council.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Correct. But the member that has been nominated is being nominated from the MD. So I could understand if the nomination was from outside of the municipal district, but it is actually not. And maybe it's by design or otherwise, but the numbers will stack up in the MD for them as well if that's what they're worried about.

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, if I just come in. The just retiring members were both on the Wicklow MD, am I right?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. Precedent is there.
CATHAOIRLEACH: We have one. Do we have a second? Will we discuss it at our own MD meeting? We will discuss the one appointment or are we taking one as elected now?

MS GALLAGHER: It is up to the elected members if they consider that. Unless there is a member from another district that wants to be on it.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes, and I concur with that. If the member that is being
nominated is actually from outside the district, as is part and parcel of what's on the agenda, I fully concur with that. That's no problem. If yous want to nominate somebody from outside the Wicklow MD, go for it. But to nominate somebody here when it is an MD issue who is from the MD. Councillor Richardson can go on it through the MD when we discuss it at the MD. I just think that it is a bit presumptuous to put it forward here. That's all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Richmond.
COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Sorry, I am quite happy for it to go back to the municipal district.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I propose, unless there is anybody interested from outside the MD we will bring it back to the MD? So if there is no interest outside the Wicklow MD we will bring it back there. Is that agreed? Perfect. Thank you.
"Appointment of three members to the board of the Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre." Councillor Flynn Kennedy.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thanks Cathaoirleach. I would like to propose Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a seconder for that? Councillor Shane Langrell. COUNCILLOR FINN: I propose Councillor Aoife Flynn Kennedy.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconder for that? Councillor Silvester Bourke. That's two. Do we have a third one?

MS PURCELL: There is no gender balance required but I would remind you of the $40 \%$ gender balance, and there's no geographic required but it is a countywide board. CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor.

COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: I nominate Councillor Mark Barry.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a seconder for that? We have the three. Any more? Okay. Thank you.

MS PURCELL: So that is Councillor Corrigan, Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Barry. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 14: "Appointment of three members as Wicklow County Council delegates to the Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)."

MS PURCELL: Just to say in relation to this, there is a gender balance required, one male and one female, and a geographic requirement.

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: I propose Councillor Joe Behan.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that?
COUNCILLOR STOKES: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Stephen Stokes.
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Councillor Avril Cronin.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have seconder for that? Councillor Langrell.
COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I want to propose Councillor Tom Fortune, thanks.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconder for that?
COUNCILLOR FINN: I second it.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Orla Finn.
MS PURCELL: Okay. So you now have four nominations. You have Councillor Behan, Councillor Cronin, Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Fortune and we have three -- so we have one female and two male.

MS O'GORMAN: Three males nominated.
MS PURCELL: Sorry, yes. So we have three males and one female. And we are required to have a gender balance. So if I could ask if all four, Councillor Behan, Councillor Cronin, Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Fortune, wish to be considered for this nomination?

COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: No, I am really interested but I don't want to confuse things. I would opt out in favour of Councillor Behan. It is a very important organisation, in my opinion, in light of the way you all know that I talk about councillors. That's why I'm interested in it. So the people that go there I would hope would be articulating the interest of councillors and making sure we get our powers back. That is my interest in it. But if it makes it easier for everybody and everything else I will opt out in favour of Councillor Behan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy enough to withdraw?
COUNCILLOR FORTUNE: Yes. I want to put that to the record. It is very important as far as I am concerned. I don't want anyone to be nodding their head and agreeing with everything.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Are the three councillors happy enough to proceed?
MS PURCELL: Okay. So we have Councillor Behan, Councillor Cronin and Councillor Kennedy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I ask those that have their microphones on to switch them off?

The next one is number 15: "Appointment of one member to the local Authority Members Association (LAMA)." COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Shane Langrell. CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that? I have forgotten you name? COUNCILLOR STAPLETON: Peter Stapleton.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I beg your pardon. I will get used to it. Any other nominees? No. Okay.

MS PURCELL: So it is Councillor Langrell for now.
CATHAOIRLEACH: You're happy enough?
COUNCILLOR LANGRELL: Yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: "Appointment of three members to the East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force. One from each of the Municipal Districts of Arklow, Greystones and Wicklow." Do we go back to the MDs on that? Yes. Okay.

Sorry, Councillor Snell.
COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes, thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just in regards to the East Coast Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, there is actually a meeting tomorrow morning, or Monday morning I should say in regards to the drugs task force. We have always found it difficult in recent years to get membership for this task force, particularly for the Greystones Municipal District and for the south rural constituency in around Tinahely, Shillelagh, Carnew, et cetera. It's a hugely important committee. It is hugely important that people buy into it and put themselves forward. I do actually think that it is time that new members, new blood comes on to a lot of these meetings. There's a lot of committees there that people are reluctant to put themselves forward for but play a huge role in regards of shaping the future of our own communities, whether it be rural or urban, and we all know that drugs unfortunately are the scourge of the country. So I am hoping when it goes back to the municipal district that people will put their hands up and will be anxious to get on the committees, as anxious as they have been today to get their positions. Because they do need buy-in from elected members and not just hearsay or, you know, telling people what they want to hear on their doorsteps; actually get out and roll their sleeves up and get involved. So when it goes back to the municipal district, I will just step back out of the way, because I am sure I will be knocked down with
people looking to get on the committee.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Snell, for those wise words. I'm sure they will be listened to. Do we are agreed that that's going back to the MD? Okay.

Number 17: "Appointment of one member to attend an annual meeting of Irish Public Bodies Insurance (IPB)." Councillor Bourke. COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Councillor Richmond. COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: I second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Melanie Corrigan seconds that. Councillor John Snell.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes, thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would like to nominate Councillor Gerry O'Neill, please.

COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I will second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Joe Behan. Councillor Graham Richmond. COUNCILLOR RICHMOND: Sorry, I withdraw.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor O'Neill, do you accept then? Gerry? Do you accept?

COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Perfect. Thank you.
MS PURCELL: So it is Councillor O'Neill for the IPB. Thank you.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 18: "Appointment of five members to the Wicklow Tourism Alliance. One from each of the municipal district." Go back to the MDs? Yes. Okay.

Number 19: "Appointment of two members to Bray Tourism from the Bray MD." Back to the Bray MD? Yes.

Number 20: "Appointment of one member to the Music Generation Committee." Councillor Melanie Corrigan.

COUNCILLOR CORRIGAN: I would like to propose Councillor Erika Doyle.
CATHAOIRLEACH: We have a seconder, Councillor Lourda Scott.
COUNCILLOR FINN: I would like to propose Councillor Peir Leonard for this.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that?
COUNCILLOR DUDDY: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have two. Any other recommendations? No.
MS PURCELL: Do you want me to approach and see if they accept two members? COUNCILLOR LEONARD: I think so, because the geographical spread is there. CATHAOIRLEACH: And if not, we can bring it back. Okay. So we will take it that the two are elected --

MS GALLAGHER: Well, we will go back.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Unless we hear anything different. Okay.

Number 21: "Appointment of four members to the Greystones Bray Cliff Walk." Do you want that to go back to the two MD? (Yes.) Okay.

Number 22: "Appointment of two members to the Bray Harbour..." Again back to the MD?

MS PURCELL: Just to clarify, sorry I should have said it earlier: Anything that goes back to the MD will be back on the agenda for ratification on the 2nd of September. Just to advise you of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 23: "Appointment of two members to the Ballynagran Community Liaison Committee. Two members from the Wicklow Municipal District." Will we go back to them? Yes.
"Appointment of two members to the Wicklow Local Sports Partnership." Councillor John Snell.

COUNCILLOR SNELL: Yes. I would like to nominate Councillor Neary for his first position.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I second that.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconder, Councillor O'Neill.
COUNCILLOR ALVEY: I would like to propose Councillor Barry.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a seconder for that? Councillor Dermot O'Brien. COUNCILLOR DERMOT O'BRIEN: I would like to propose Warren O'Toole.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a seconder for that? Councillor Joe Behan.
Councillor Bourke.
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I would like to propose Councillor Flynn Kennedy.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we have a seconder? Councillor --
MS PURCELL: Who proposed Councillor O'Toole.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Dermot O'Brien, and Councillor Joe Behan seconded it.

MS PURCELL: I missed that. Keep going.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other nominations? Councillor Flynn Kennedy. COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: I am just wondering is this one of the ones that we can ask the sports partnership -- I am sure more hands the merrier for them. I am not sure, Helen, if that can be asked? MS GALLAGHER: We can ask and bring it back. MS PURCELL: Yes, we can ask and bring it back.

COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: If other people are okay with it.
CATHAOIRLEACH: We can come back with that as well.
"Appointment of one member of Arklow Business Centre." Arklow MD? Okay.
"Appointment of two members to Greystones Harbour property." Can we go back to Greystones? (Yes.)
"Appointment of one member to Clermont Enterprise Hub."
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Graham Richmond.
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I propose John Snell for Clermont Enterprise.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Just bear with me. Councillor Bourke.
COUNCILLOR BOURKE: I propose Graham Richmond.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder for that? Councillor -- I will get used to names; I promise you. And Gerry, did you want to...
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Sorry?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Did you have a proposer, sorry?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: Sorry, yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: For Clermont?
COUNCILLOR O'NEILL: I was proposing John Snell for Clermont Enterprise.
COUNCILLOR BEHAN: I will second that.
MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, is there any other nominations?
CATHAOIRLEACH: Is there any other nominations? We have two there at the moment.

MS GALLAGHER: It is just, Clermont Enterprise Hub, I don't think there is
anything in the articles that specifies just one member. So just in Leonora's absence maybe we will look for two.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that okay? Yes. We take it with two and come back with that as well. Okay.
"Appointment of five members to the Disability and Inclusion Steering Committee. One member from each municipal district." Go back to the MD? (Yes.) COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Just a point of order. CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Kennedy. COUNCILLOR FLYNN KENNEDY: Just a point of order, Cathaoirleach, on this one. There was a huge interest last time round from some MDs in relation to this, and I think Bray MD had three seats on it, so just maybe if we could just bring back those interests from each of the municipal district, again it is another one where I don't think there is a restriction on it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will come back to the MDs. Okay. You're happy enough.
COUNCILLOR WINSTANLEY: Yes.
CATHAOIRLEACH: "Appointment of two members to the Committee for the Special Amenity Area Order for Bray Head." MD?

COUNCILLOR SNELL: All MD stuff.
CATHAOIRLEACH: "Appointment of two members to the Bray Local Drugs Task Force." MD? "Appointment of four members to Greystones Town Twinning." MD? "Appointment of six members to Greystones Community Affairs Committee." MD? "Appointment of three members to Dr Ryan Park Management Committee. Three from Greystones Municipal District." MD? "To consider the adoption of Wicklow County Council's standing..."
MS PURCELL: Just to come in on this. It is adoption of the Wicklow County Council Standing Orders and the Supplementary Standing Orders. They are as they were. There have been no additions or alterations from them. It is obviously subject to the amendment of the paragraph 24 in relation to the SPC titles. But everything else is purely as it is. There are no amendments. Just looking for a proposer and seconder, please.

MS O'GORMAN: Standing orders?
MS PURCELL: It is to consider the adoption of the Wicklow County Council

Standing Orders and the Supplementary Standing Orders. This is something that we do at the annual meeting every five years. There are no changes to the standing orders as they stand, as they have previously been, with one exception. The SPC titles will have to be included and amended. And that will be after the scheme has been adopted. There are no other changes. If there is a proposer and a seconder. CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer, Councillor Behan. Seconder, Councillor Fortune.

Number 35: "To agree a schedule of meetings for coming year. Copy attached." Councillor Behan. Councillor Flynn Kennedy.

The last is: "To set a date and time for meetings of municipal districts of Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow, to be held no later than 1st July 2024. Copy schedule attached." Councillor Behan, and Councillor Flynn Kennedy. MS PURCELL: Just before you go, just to remind you again about the induction training. You have received the dates in relation to that: The 25th, the 2nd and the 3rd. And also, just with your permission we're going to use your photos that you submitted for the ballot papers for the official purposes of the annual report and the website. I presume if you are happy to put them out there to the public you're happy to keep using them. If you have any objections let me know. And tea, coffee, sandwiches, strawberries and ice cream are available in the canteen now for everybody.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, members.
(Meeting concluded at 5:29 pm)

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