

Newspaper Article — The Wexford Echo — 16 February 2016

Date:	16 February 2016	Author:	Brendan Keane, The Wexford Echo
Forum:	The Wexford Echo — 16 February 2016	Status:	SUMMARY ONLY — original article copyright protected; retained internally

REPORT PARAGRAPH

At a full Council meeting on the 8th February 2016 the executives agreed to carry out a transparent investigation on how the Anne Street site was assembled by Wexford Borough Council.

EVIDENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

1. This article is the **media record of the Wexford County Council meeting of 8 February 2016** — the meeting at which the Council executives agreed to carry out a transparent investigation into the assembly of the Anne Street site, as described in the report.
2. The article records **Cllr. Deirdre Wadding's formal motion** at that meeting calling for the immediate release of all files and materials pertaining to the matter and for an independent, transparent investigation — establishing that cross-party concern was being formally raised at Council level.
3. Director of Services Tony Larkin proposed at the meeting that concerned councillors form a group to examine the matter and that he would present a report to the members and the people involved. This is the **direct origin of the four-councillor liaison arrangement** described in the report.
4. The article records CEO Tom Enright's public commitment that if a group waived their right to disclosure, the Council would **make the files open to everyone** — a recorded undertaking relevant to subsequent events in this report.
5. Director of Services Tony Larkin stated that the relevant files had been **'in the basement'** and that he **'would have an issue with these [files] being out in public'** — admissions directly relevant to subsequent disputes about transparency and file access.

KEY PASSAGES FROM OFFICIAL RECORD

"I would have an issue with these [files] being out in public"

— Director of Services Tony Larkin, Wexford County Council, as reported in *The Wexford Echo*, 16 February 2016

"I think people were fobbed off for a number of years"

— Cllr. Deirdre Wadding, Wexford County Council, as reported in *The Wexford Echo*, 16 February 2016

RELEVANCE TO THIS REPORT

This source documents the formal Council-level response to the concerns raised in the Dáil in January 2016. The meeting reported in this article is the direct origin of the investigation process described in this report — including the formation of the four-councillor liaison group and the agreement to make files available through the FOI process. The article also places on the public record specific statements by

Council officials — including the Director of Services' reservation about files being 'out in public' — that are directly relevant to the subsequent controversy about transparency, file access, and the adequacy of the October 2016 Review/Report. This source is not relied upon as proof of the truth of every statement reported, but as evidence of what was said at that Council meeting and publicly reported at the time.

Article: 'Total transparency from Co. Council', by Brendan Keane, The Wexford Echo, 16 February 2016. The article reports on the Wexford County Council monthly meeting of 8 February 2016. The original newspaper scan is retained in the internal evidence file and is not reproduced publicly due to copyright.

Statements and allegations referred to in this summary were made in the course of Dáil proceedings by the named speaker and are reported here as matters raised in Parliament. This summary does not adopt or assert those statements as established findings of fact.

This summary has been prepared for the purposes of the Martin Power public report on the Anne Street, Wexford site assembly. It does not make any legal finding. It identifies the source, summarises the relevant point relied upon, and records its relevance to the Anne Street Report for public-facing evidential reference.