# ORDI NARY MEETI NG OF W CKLOW COUNTY COUNCI L <br> HELD AT W CKLOW COUNTY BU LDI NGS, W CKLOW TOWN <br> On MDNDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 2018 at 2: 00 P. M 

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## GMEN MALONE STENOGRAPHY SERM CES

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CATHAO RLEACH I'11 just start with votes of sympathy. ME. GALLAGER: Yes, Cathaoirleach. For Maura Doyle, she's the mother of retired General Service Supervisor, Seamus Doyle, and for John O'Brien, father of Siobhan o'brien.

CATHAO RLEACH Any other votes of sympathy? No, okay, we'11 stand please, thank you.

## MDMENT OF SI LENCE

CATHAO RLEACH Okay, just before we go into the agenda, just a couple of things I'd like to certain7y
high1ight. The Pride of Place win for Rathdrum recently in the Pride of Place, that was a tremendous win, and also in the Business Enterprise Awards, Arklow was a winner and and Bray was a runner-up as we11. I think we need to recognise the type of work that has gone into, into these communities in certainly bringing about this result as we11. So I think that's very good for the county as well. C11r. Kennedy, did you want to come in there?
CLLR. KENEDY: Yes, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH oh please, yes.
CLLR. KENEDY: Just in relation to Pride of Place in Rathdrum, it's been a huge honour for the people of Rathdrum to be the first town in wicklow to win the

Pride of Place in the category of 1,000, 2,000 population, and it's gone down really really well. There's an awful lot of thank yous that has to go out in relation to Pride of Place. We're still on a high
in Rathdrum from it.

First of all, I would like to thank all the volunteers in Rathdrum who took part in making Rathdrum, bringing forward the win. I'd also like to thank my fellow councillors from the Arklow Municipal District over the 14:05 last number of years, so we're funding into Rathdrum to make it possible, and our administrator. When we were put forward for Pride of Place by Michael Nicholson and Teresa O'Brien, who has now moved to a different department, we didn't know what to expect, but we put a 14:05 lot of work into it.

I would like to thank Michael Nicholson, Director of the Community Section, along with Caroline Fox and Teresa O'Brien who put a lot of work into this. I know 14:05 Teresa moved on but she put a lot of work in in the early days to win this. But it was a full community effort in partnership with the County Council, and I just want to put that on the record to thank everybody, and as I said earlier on, my fellow councillors as CATHAO RLEACH The Cathaoirleach of Arklow, Municipal District Murphy?

CLLR. MRPHY: Yes, I'd just like to say it's great to
see -- doing so well on all these awards, Bray, Rathdrum and wicklow as shown in the last month or two. But again it's down to the volunteer and the hard work of the Council administrations. It has brought, I suppose, a highlight of what we have in our communities in the voluntary Section, Sports Sections and all the people that took time out to be part of the videos and highlighting exactly what we have under our noses. I'd certainly like to appreciate the funding that goes into these.

I think it's a way forward. I think it's a great profile for wicklow County Council and for the Municipal District themselves, so I'd just like to say thank you.
CATHAO RLEACH Yes, C11r. Fitzgerald? Yes, okay. Cl1r. Ruttle?
CLLR. RUTTLE: Yes, Cathaoirleach. It was a pleasure and honour as chairman of the SPC to be present in the City наll in Cork when the Rathdrum win was announced.
It was a great achievement and well done to all. we never underestimated all the great achievements through voluntary effort and combined with ourselves in the Council, Michael Nicholson and all his staff as well. It was a wonderful achievement and a great boost for Rathdrum at this time, coupled with the Avondale helpline as well.

I would also like to congratulate the wicklow Hospice
movement on their achievement, a win at the same event, to win a special award that night. It was a pleasure to be there and to recognise their achievement.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Okay, we'11 move on. Also in Item 7, that the Urban Regeneration Fund, we're going to have a presentation in regard to that where significant funding has come in, come in in regard to -- just hold on a second please, and significant funding has come in in regard to that as well. So we have an item on the, Item 7 on that and the presentation. C11r. Thornhill?
CLLR THORNH LL: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, (inaudible). CATHAO RLEACH Well you see the problem is up here I can't see, it's not indicated.
CLLR. THORNH LL: Yes well I apologise, I didn't realise that. I just wanted to, I would like to congratulate Mick Quaid, (inaudible) for their convention in the Druid's Glen, and also their -- they had great speakers there and it was a great boost to aid in wicklow and I think the wicklow County Council

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Terry $\mathrm{o}^{\prime} \mathrm{Neil1?}$
CLLR O NEILL: Yes. Just I don't know whether it's approach at this time but I'd like to propose congratulates to our fellow colleague here, Stephen Matthews, on his marriage to Erica yesterday. CATHAO RLEACH Do you want to congratulate or commiserate with him?
CLLR O NEILL: Ah sure, be optimistic, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAO RLEACH Be optimistic. Listen, I'd like to join with everyone here in wishing Cllr. Stephen Matthews well. He just got married yesterday. CLLR. RUTTLE: It's not often someone gets married in here.

CATHAO RLEACH Yes, al1 right. Okay. Right, we're moving on, right. Item 1 in regard to disposal of the freehold interest of land in Abbeylands in Arklow. C11r. Fitzgerald?

CLLR. FITZGERALD I just want to propose.
CATHAO RLEACH Seconder for that?
CLLR. MURPH: I'11 second it.
CATHAO RLEACH Yes. Is there any objections? Is that agreed?
FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, it's agreed.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Thank you very much. Item 2, consider -- Mark Devereux will give a presentation in regard to this, all right.

## PRESENTATI ON BY MR. DEVEREUX

MR. DEVEREUX: Okay, Members, the draft piles that you have in front of you, we circulated the minutes of the agenda, were put to you on the 11th June this year for putting on display. I had put up, this is my first
slide but this is the main slide really, is the process for adopting by-1aws. In June we, yourselves agreed to put it up on public display. We put a notice in and we gave all people who wanted to comment two months,
actually more than two months to comment, and we opened it them for consideration.

I can give you the detail. You don't need to know this, if you want I can go through this, the reason why the by-1aws, they're about waste presentation. They're about people being careful and good citizens about how they represent their waste in three streams effectively, recycling brown waste which is biodegradable waste, and then residual, as we call it, and there was anything that can't be recycled or composted.

So, we agreed, effectively the last item on that slide is we agreed that under our waste management plan which 14:10 was adopted by the regions but we were part of that adoption process a number of years ago that we would make by-laws around this. So that's the reason these by-laws are here for us. That's the process. We're at the point now where the yellow item there, which is approved by the members.

We advertise the by-1aws on the 12th September 2018 and placed it also on our website. We made them available at Pier County Buildings at the District, Municipal
District offices. They were also online on our website. Also the notice that went out and instructions to our colleagues in the District was to make a copy available to anybody who asked for it for
free which isn't the usual way. Usually we look for people to contribute, but we said let's make these free. So anybody who came to the District looking for copies or anyone who came to our own offices here, or if they went online they could download them from our website at wicklow.ie.

In the notice we invited submissions to my colleague, Teresa o'brien, CEO of Environment. We gave them up until the 23rd November 2018 to make comments or to make submissions. We only actually received one submission. It was by email into another colleague, a concern on behalf of a waste collection operator, Ray Houlihan, who works in the west and south of our county. He's concerned about people putting waste into 14:12 other people's bins. Regularly his customers would complain about a neighbour or somebody putting the, you know waste into somebody else's bins.

Now that's actually covered in the by-laws in that By-laws 6 imposes restrictions on how long people can leave their bins out for when they put them out the evening before effectively and collect them no later than the next day, which is not a huge restriction but it's enough that bins won't be out too long.

Also By-law 11, I've paraphrased it there for you. By-law 11(c) effectively allows the local authority penalise people who are caught putting waste in
somebody else's bin without their permission. So:
" Waste stored presented for the purposes of collection shall not be supplemented by waste added by until person until that person has been authorised to do so by the person storing the waste, by the househol der, or the person presenting the waste..." again the householders, "... or ot herwi se interfered by anot her person. "

Elsewhere in the by-1aws there's a methodology for us to impose a fine on, or a fixed penalty notice on anybody contravening the by-1aws.

So we can ask our wardens and our own staff to be vigilant about this when it's brought to their attention, as in the case of we'11 bring it to their attention. We'11 monitor it for instance if there's a problem, an ongoing problem with that and we can issue the notices.

These are the by-laws in summary. This is a list of the by-laws. They've all been, as I say been circulated and we've gone through them in some detail at the SPC certainly. So as I said, we're at stage, the yellow stage there approved by the Members. If you're happy with the version that was sent to you, and if you're happy to approve them, I'd like to recommend that you approve the by-laws as presented.

CATHAOI RLEACH okay. C11r. Behan?
CLLR. BEHAN Yes, Cathaoirleach. We11 I don't have a problem with the by-laws as such but I have a few questions.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. No, fine. That's fine.
CLLR BEHAN One is in relation to the fact that obviously there are a number of providers throughout the county now. Is it the case, as far as you're aware, that collections are being held on the same day in the same areas by whatever number of waste collectors are working? It probably applies maybe more in the urban areas than in the rural areas. But obviously there's a difficulty. You have bin trucks going through estates on different days of the week.

In my experience in Bray it seems to be that they pick the same day, but I'm wondering if you have any comment on that? Secondly, there is an issue with residents, and I'm not sure if it can be picked up on these by-1aws which is, when the bins are emptied, depending on who is actually on duty, sometimes they just throw the bin back in the middle of the road. They're not always put back on the footpath. They create a danger for motorists, and also a nuisance for people. You know when they're in the midd7e of the road people have 14:15 to get out and move them and so on.

Can some responsibility be put through these by-1aws on the waste collector to ensure that like the householder
has to present them properly, but that the waste collector should return them to the place from which they got them. If that is possibly I think it should be done.

Thirdly, again maybe it's not in the by-7aws but it's something that I think we need to address. There's a question there about people putting refuse in other people's bins. I've come across a case there recently in Bray where a skip, a massive skip was landed on a public road in a housing estate and material was brought from somewhere else by a van and dumped into the skip. It quite obviously was the case that such a large skip couldn't be put at wherever the work was being done, so they just used the public road space to do this. Now I thought there was a permit system that you can't put a skip on a public road. But again, is there anything in these by-laws that can address that or is that a different type of by-law?

The last point I'11 make there, I just want to reiterate that the Chief Executive last week has said, and he said on a number of occasions, that there is no prospect and no plans to start introducing charges for recycling at our recycling centres throughout the county. I just want to make sure that everybody understands that that is the case. That's the assurance we've got because there's a trend amongst some of the waste providers now to start charging for
taking recyclable material from kerb side. I do not want to see wicklow County Council going down the road of charging at recycling centres. So I think we got that assurance last week.

CATHAO RLEACH That is absolutely cast iron, c11r. You knew that last week. C11r. Blake?

CLLR. BLAKE: First of a11, you have addressed the issue in terms of the one submission you got from Ray whelan in the west wicklow area. The other thing, with regard to the, the (inaudible) collection was also an issue that we had here for quite a number of years. I'm just wondering has that issue actually been resolved on this occasion?

Secondly, the day collection, I think it's been
recommended now that it wouldn't be put out until, I think it's 6 o'clock, 6 o'clock the previous evening to do a collection. Has that changed from the previous or is there any other changes? Is there any changes that would apply to us that have taken place in these by-7aws that weren't there the previous month? CATHAO RLEACH Okay, that's grand. C11r. Mary Kavanagh?
CLLR KAVANAGH Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just, this is an issue that has arisen in the town here, and I've spoken to the gardaí about it. But we have a problem with an apartment block that leaves a number of wheelie bins on a very narrow footpath. Now there's a disabled person living across the road and she uses a mobility
scooter. She isn't actually able to use the footpath and she has to ask neighbours to move about six bins at a time.

The first thing is they're being left out for up to four to five days. The second thing is, I spoke to the gardaí about moving them and they said that, as they're not on the actual roads, the gardaí can't actually interfere because they're not causing a roadblock, but they are causing a mobility access problem for people, and also people with buggies and prams and things like that.

So, it's a huge problem, and I'm still working on it with some Members of the Council here. Disability officers are going to get involved in it and see if there's any law that's been broken there. But is there any way that bins can, you know, be -- they can't narrow footpaths to the point that it reduces access for people.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Nicola Lawless. CLLR. LAKLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just one general question, I don't know whether we can include this in the by-laws or not, in regards to the waste collectors, maybe under By-7aw 6 on their times and collection, that they actually don't come into the housing estates after 7. I've had lots of issues with trucks coming in before 7 o'clock in the mornings, and some of the waste collectors will say you can leave
your bin out from 7 in the morning, that it wouldn't be collected until after that. I find they're coming in very very early in the morning. So I don't know whether we can put some kind of, something in around times when they can actually enter into housing estates, due to noise pollution as well. I mean that's my on7y comment on that. Thank you.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Okay. I think that's it. Mark? MR. DEVEREUX: okay. C11r. Behan, I'11 go through the questions in order. The experience we have is that, yes, most waste collectors operate in groups. They're like herd animals. They all collect generally the same day. So for instance in Wicklow it's Tuesday, and they generally collect on the same day. That's experience. There's no specific regulation. That's not actually required of them, but they tend to do it anyway for convenience and also for competition. They all collect on the one day so that they can poach off each other. That's good for the competition. So yes, as far as I'm aware, it's the same all over the county.

Throwing the bin back in the middle of the road, that's actually the responsibility of the waste collector. These by-1aws are aimed at the individual householders and the template here is similar in every county. This 14:20 templates is pushed out by the regional location authorities, the shared service in there. We're all probably the same template and this is aimed at the householders.

There is a provision which actually relates to cllr. Lawless' question as well. Each of the waste collectors has a permit, and the permit while it's, permits are issued centrally by offaly County Council, but we all submit our observations on those permits, a bit like a planning process, and we have an opportunity to raise issues with the waste collectors. So what I'11 is I'11 raise that question -- your previous question and that question and c11r. Lawless' question with offaly because their permit, each waste holder, waste collector has a permit to operate and it would be conditions under that permit that would dictate things like the days they operate.

Also putting the bin in the middle of the road, while it is a local issue, the control of the operator is in their permit issue by offaly County Council. We'11 address that issue separately with offaly because I'm sure it's a problem in more than one place.

Using other people's bins and the skip, you're absolutely right. This is for domestic waste, these by-laws. They're all about people putting out their ordinary normal steams of waste. And the skip, taking up a space on a public road requires a permit from the Roads, Section of the Roads. As far as I'm aware the Road Section here issue those permits.

Also there's a question about parking because in Bray there's a parking charge. Usually what happens, certainly in my time in Bray, what we used to do is we used to get a fee up front for the whole day's worth of parking because they take up a parking space. But that's all matters by Roads, as far as I'm aware, and again I'11 raise it with colleagues directly.

The changes in recycling, I think the Chief Executive has already answer the question on that one. CATHAO RLEACH Yes.

MR. DEVEREUX: In relation to the bag collection, C11r. Blake, the waste collection regulations require all householders to use waste receptacles. The bags are effectively outlawed by those regulations. They are different regulations to these. But we're allowed give an exemption and we have approximately a thousand exemptions in the county where people clearly can't use a wheelie bin because their house is some hundreds or thousands, in some places a kilometre or more up a county lane away from where the bin is collected by the waste collector, or it's not practical in some cases like apartments and in smaller built up areas. So we have cases where we have allowed, and we have given an exemption.

We do have a problem, if you like, with collection of bags. It's not a good way of putting out your waste because there is potential for it to be damaged. What
we've done is we've issued derogations for a certain number of householders, a small number of householders by comparison to the county.

The question about the timing 6pm, things like the times et cetera in this are exactly as. In fact everything is exactly as. The word document I submitted to you on the 11th June for proposal to put on display, I haven't changed that. That's effectively what I'm recommending we approve here today. So there's no changes anywhere else in the by-laws through a woman I submitted to you in June.

The question about the apartment block, again, apologies, Councillor Kavanagh, but this won't resolve that problem necessarily because it's all about the types of waste and keeping it tidy et cetera. But what we can do, and I think maybe in the District, I'11 talk to my colleagues in the District and see if they can approach this as a roads matter, because if someone is blocking a footpath, we have powers under the Roads Act and the guards certainly would have powers under the roads traffic legislation, people blocking public footway and public ways. So I think we might return to that. I will go to my colleagues in the District and see can they return to that issue.

We'11 have a look, because we will be following up these matters once these by-laws are in place. It will
now become part of our daily work or our wardens daily work to check that waste receptacles are being put out tidy clean. There is a general concepts in here about keeping them tidy et cetera. I don't think it will extend to this particular case but we'll work with it and see can we come to a solution with that one.

But unfortunately it's not specifically in these by-7aws, and C11r. Lawless, to come back to your question, the waste collectors are regulated by the permits that are issued to the waster collectors, individual waste collectors. What we will do is we'11 review waste collectors' permits ourselves this week, and if there's an issue about timing, they can be brought to the attention of offaly when they review their waste collection, which is done on a regular basis.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Have we a proposer and seconder then?
MS. GALLAGER: we'11 go for a vote.
CATHAO RLEACH We need a vote on this proposal by C11r. Lawless. Seconded by C11r. Fitzgerald. Yes, that's all right. okay, we have to go for a vote on this, all right.
MS. GALLAGER Okay. C11r. Tommy Annesley? C11r. Joe 14:25 Behan?

CLLR. BEHAN For.
ME. GALLAGER C11r. Vincent Blake?
CLLR. BLAKE: For.
M. GALLAGER: C11r. Sylvestor Bourke?

CLLR BOURKE: For.
MG. GALLAGFER C11r. Tommy Cullen? C11r. Shay Cullen?
CLLR S. CULLEN For.
M. GALLAGER C11r. Pat Doran?

CLLR. DORAN For.
MG. GALLAGER C11r. Gail Dunne?
CLLR. DUNE: For.
M. GALLAGER: Cl1r. Pat Fitzgerald?

CLLR FITZGRALD For.
MG. GALLAGER Cl1r. Tom Fortune?
CLLR FORTUNE: For.
ME. GALLAGER: C11r. Christopher Fox? C11r. Mary
Kavanagh?
CLLR KAVANAG For.
MG. GALLAGER: cllr. Pat Kennedy?
CLLR. KENEDY: For.
M. GALLAGER Cllr. Nicola Lawless?

CLLR. LAVEESS: For.
ME. GALLAGER $\mathrm{Cl1r}$. Stephen Matthews? C11r. Mary
McDonald?
CLLR MEDONLLD For.
ME. GALLAGER C11r. Grainne McLoughlin?
CLLR. MELOGGLIN For.
MG. GALLAGER: Cl1r. Derek Mitchell.
CLLR MTCFEL: For.
MG. GALLAGER: C17r. Miriam Murphy?
CLLR MRPHY: For.
ME. GALLAGER C11r. Daire Nolan?

CLLR. NOLAN For.
MG. GALLAGER C11r. oliver o'brien? c11r. Dermot o'brien?
CLLR. D. O BRIEN For.
M. GALLAGER: C11r. Gerry o'Neill?

CLLR. O NEILL: For.
MG. GALLAGER C11r. Jim Ruttle?
CLLR RUTTLE: For.
M. GALLAGER Cl1r. John Ryan?

CLLR. RYAN For.
MG. GALLAGER C11r. John Snel1.
CLLR. SNELL: For.
MG. GALLAGER C11r. Brendan Thornhill?
CLLR THORNH LL: For.
M. GALLAGER: Cl1r. Edward Timmins?

CLLR TI MM NS: For.
ME. GALLAGER Cl1r. Pat Vance?
CLLR. VANCE: For.
ME. GALLAGER C11r. Gerry walsh?
CLLR. MALSH For.
M. GALLAGER Cl1r. Jennifer whitmore? cllr. Irene Winters? That's 25 For and 7 not present.
CATHAO RLEACH okay, grand. on to 3 no, the chief Executive's report.
MR. CURRAN Okay. Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just one or 14:26 two items. On the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, the fund that came through was for Bray which was 3.45 million for the public transport bridge which opens up the golf course lands. The Department have clarified
that once you get the 3.45 in 2018, there's a further 3 million then in 2019 which allows you to complete the project. Similarly in wicklow, it's 1.62 in 2018, 1.56 in 2019 and 0.53 in 2020, so that's Fitzwiliam Square and the library.

Arklow then is 1.64 next year, 0.608 in 2018 and 0.98 million in 2020. Again that's the public realm, the historic town core in the courthouse and the digital hub. So all three were very welcome. we'11 go through 14:27 them in detail actually later, I see here it's an agenda item.

The outdoor recreation footbridge linking the Avonmore Way to the Jubilee way came through as well. That's, it's half a million in total. The grant was about 4,000 . So again we'11 have to get work on that straightaway, and the same with all the other projects actually. when they give you the funding for 2019, you have to spend it in 2019, so we need to start, start straightaway.

The next round of the outdoor recreation grants will be in, early in 2019. So that will cover the five that we have in up to 200,000 , so we' 11 see how we get on in that. Similarly the next round of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, that will be out in January as well.

Just one other item from the Joint Policing Committee this morning, Arklow CCTV is being tendered at the moment. It was agreed to submit Blessington immediately because it's ready to go. Hopefully that will be improved by the Department of Justice before the end of the year, and that will be followed then by Greystones and wicklow respectively. I'11 take the rest of the report as read. If people have any questions?
CATHAO RLEACH Right, okay. Council Lawless?
CLLR. LAMLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive, for the report. Just a couple of comments and just a few questions just reading through the report if that's okay?
CATHAO RLEACH Yes.
CLLR. LAVZESS: So, just in regards to there was a mention of the Wicklow Commuter Survey, and I see the report will be ready for next month, so I'm just wondering will that, will it be presented then in February to us as Councillors just the review on that? CATHAO RLEACH Yes.
CLLR. LAVLESS: I'm glad to see that 6,800 people took part, but it would have been nice to see a bit of a higher intake from the public considering that the census is 21,000 commute out of wicklow every day. But 14:29 there was good advertisement around it and I know there was a good social media presence, $I$ saw it myself.

The other thing is, just under the rent, I noticed the
max rent, this is under Housing, received per week, and maybe I'm reading this wrong, it's €275 now. I thought it was 250 for wicklow. I'm just wondering am I correct in what I'm saying, and if so if it has gone
up, when did it go up?

Also just the grant funding for the Private Housing Adaption Scheme, you know we've 1.2 million and then the social is 650 K which is very welcomed, and I'm just wondering is that figure up or the same as last year? The Sonas facility as well, I see it's out for tender for a family homeless hub which is great news. I see also that the residents that would have been there, you know, are being accommodated as well. So I'm just wondering where we're kind of at in around that as well.

Then just a submission for the greenway for Blessington, I see that was due on the 30 th November, and again I'm just wondering how long until we find out whether we're successful on that. Then just the last piece, just under Heritage, just very welcome funding again under the SRF and the BHIS as well.
CATHAO RLEACH okay.
CLLR. LAVLESS: That's it. Thank you, Cathaoirleach. CATHAO RLEACH Okay. There's a lineup here now so I think it's good with the Chief Executive's report. There's a lot in it now so if people just be as brief as they possibly can in regard to getting questions and
answers and we'11 get as much information as possible. Cl1r. Behan?

CLLR. BEHAN Cathaoirleach, yes, it is a very valuable report. I've said that now on more than one occasion and long may it continue. However, they are two, two things in it that I just want to comment on. One is the absolutely shocking statistic that there are during this year 546 children living in homeless, or categorised as homeless in the county, and that there were 546 presentations at the desk of people who are homeless in this year to date. I chose the scale of the challenge facing us and I compliment the Housing staff led by the Director in what he is doing to achieve that, but there is quite obviously still a lot more work needs to be done on this. It is quite horrific that there are that many children categorised as homeless in our county at the moment.

The second point is in relation to Sonas. while obviously having a homeless hub is something that's to be welcomed, and we probably need more of them in the county, there is one issue that arises as a result of the change of status of that building is that we are going to lose our women's refuge from the county. That was operating as a refuge in Wicklow. There's only one 14:32 operating in the county now in Bray, the one that was originally established many years ago.

But I think, you know, we have a responsibility to try
and begin a process of establishing a second, or maybe a second and third women's refuge through the county to cater for the people who are still suffering domestic abuse.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Sylvestor Bourke?
CLLR. BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, as I mentioned last week, I was delighted with this that the Chief Executive and all his team and the various Districts have achieved (inaudible) for future development. But I was just puzzled there by one issue 14:32 which is the transport study that was promised for Arklow. Where does that lie at the moment because it was mentioned that was going to be part of the Urban Fund. So I'd just like an update on that please. CATHAO RLEACH Are you looking for more money for that, are you? Okay C11r. Timmins?

CLLR. TIMMN: Thank you, Chairman. Page 26, the Municipal Allocation Discretionary Fund, a couple of points on that. I'm falling very concerned that a lot of money is not being spent and hasn't been spent here to date, and I think even money from 2017, some of it hasn't been spent. I'm very concerned that this money does get spent eventually when the opportunity is there and it's not lost. So I'd like to put down a marker to say that all money that's allocated for the Discretionary Fund is carried forward into the following year.

I mean I'm particularly concerned that I have to
re-highlight the issue of lights. I put in for lights in 2017 and they're still not, still haven't been erected. I'd just be very concerned that we, it's great having this Discretionary money, I'm all for it, and you've done great work, Chairman, to make it happen 14:33 but we have to make sure that we actually spend it. CATHAO RLEACH That's right, yes. Right. C11r. Dermot O'Brien?

CLLR. D. O BRI EN Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a follow-up point from one of the items. We had our junior counterparts (inaudible) had their AGM in the Parkview Hotel in Newtown and just to celebrate, I guess, the success that 120 young people from all over the county gathered. Just to flag, I suppose, that their contribution ranges across, they contributed to the new CIPC plan. They contributed to the PPN work on wellbeing in communities. They had a rep from the Older Person's Council, so there's an ambitious notion that the trio of Councils might get together in the New Year. There's a big piece of work ahead of them in terms of exploring youth attitudes towards drugs which I think would be most relevant and interesting to the Members.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Gerry walsh?
CLLR. WALSH Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks to the Chair, the CEO for their comprehensive report once again. Just a couple of issues, the first one on Housing. Again, the total reliance on HAP, RAS and Part 5's to meet our house needs. 901 I think on the

HAP and 437 on the RAS, whereas our provision is going to come up with, I think, 375 social housing.

The Department are paying, $I$ think, 28 miliion out monthly now just to service HAP. Just an item that I managed to overhear on the Joe Duffy show during the week where I didn't realise was the case, if the tenant doesn't meet their payment or monthly payment in relation to HAP, the landlord doesn't receive their's which leaves him in a position of failing to meet other, further mortgage repayments et cetera. That's something maybe to, that programme, listen to that programme. It certainly wouldn't entice potential landlords to engage with HAP, but disappointed to hear that.

The other thing is I look forward to hearing the results of the Commuter Survey that C11r. Lawless has already referred to. The outdoor staffing issues, I know it came up there last week at our public meeting and Cllr. Timmins also was there. Projects that we've agreed and agreed for funding at local Municipal leve1 not, you know not being carried out and completed. As a result there's a shortage of staff. I know you referred to this last week, staff will be taken on a temporary basis. The unit on the ground, they don't know, they don't have the practicalities of that. Right.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Kennedy?

CLLR. KENEDY: Cathaoirleach, just thank you, Chief Executive, for the report. It is a very valuable document and I very much welcome it every month. Just to say just on page 4 under social housing supply programme, I see Avondale -- run 20,000 there and I know there was letters of offer went out to some people last week. I just want to congratulate Joe and his team for bringing those houses in on time. Twenty families will have a house for Christmas. Joe, you and your team have made a very happy Christmas for twenty families. So I just want to thank you and extend that on to your team in the Housing Section. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay C11r. Fortune?
CLLR. FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, again, you 14:37 know, it's a good report as usual. Very detailed, very informative. Just a question there, the National Housing Strategy for Persons with Disability, basically a couple of people have asked me questions about it. What progress are we, is the local party making, the implementation of that? My understanding is it has been extended to 2020. But it's a very important area and maybe just give me an idea of what our innovation plans are?
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Counsellor Mary McDonald?
CLLR. MEDONALD: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, for the report. I've just a question around the HAP inspections. Perhaps Joe can answer it. Just where are we on our time frame for the inspections? I know
it says the applications on the book that it would be inspected within, I think it's eight months. There are a couple that have gone over. I know eight months is not a long time for all the work that has to be done but eight months for people living on HAP to be told that they have to move again is quite a long time. I was just wondering if we could have an update on where we are in the inspections and how close to that inspection time that we actually are.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, grand. C11r. Miriam Murphy? CLLR. MRPH: Yes. I'd just like to bring up one or two issues there as well. First of all I'd like to acknowledge in the chamber here today is actually International Person with Disability Day. I think in acknowledgement of two other Councillor Members bringing up disability issues, I think it's brilliant see to see that because a lot of disabilities aren't being highlighted. I would just like to acknowledge the work that the County Council has done in the area of disability. As some political line says, a lot done but a lot more to do.

CATHAO RLEACH where did you get that from now? CLLR MRPHY: I just learnt it off. I'd just like to welcome replacement of Laura (inaudible), part-time Disability officer here with the Wicklow County know from my end it's been a very very slow progress. It's a very detailed document. I know they had a meeting last week here, and I wasn't able to attend it,
but it is a very slow, slow process. It will be interesting to see what the end result is. My view is what will be on paper is not the true reality or the reflection in everyday life for people with disability trying to get housing.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Gerry O'Neil1, then C11r. Blake and then we're going to --

CLLR. O NEI LL: Yes, thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just to find out, it's not great reading on the Housing issue. It's not great reading for west wicklow or Blessington especially. In ten years, in ten years we just got one house in the pipeline. I know there's a huge problem there as regards sewerage and how we're knitted into Kildare as such. But it's a major issue in the Blessington area. But to see one house commence this year, you know, in the whole of Blessington and the hundreds of people on the housing list, you know. I don't know what sort of shortcuts in what we can do here. But at the moment now there's objectives in in the upgrading of the sewerage which means this is being 14:40 kicked down the road again until another 12 or 14 months, you know.

So, I'd just like to put on the record, you know, we're one part of the world we don't have emergency accommodation. If it does happen that someone goes homeless or whatever, you know it's either Dublin or the east of the county. So I'd like maybe some sort of consideration to be put into an emergency unit in west

Wicklow because I know for a fact, and my fellow Councillors know that it's a problem that's getting worse as the days go by.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. C11r. Blake?
CLLR. BLAKE: Just briefly, I know the Blessington Greenway has been mentioned already, but there's another thing in Blessington as well, Glen Ding Estate and the completion of it and the legal implications of it or the legal process proceeding there where actually are with it. Finally, $I$ know that a small number of vacancies are countywide insofar as the number of houses. We actually have it there, but we have two long-term vacancies that are (inaudible). Thank very much.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, grand. Chief Executive?
MR. CURRAN Okay. Yes, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to the commuter survey, we are, or the consultants are collating the results at the, so that's going to be very useful in terms of a profile of who's driving in and out of city every day in terms of their qualifications, where they're going. The ultimate aim of course is to have opportunities for them within Wicklow. We've 6,800 , it was a good response. We're happy enough with that. It's 7,000 out of 21,000 almost so it should give us a good representative sample of what's happening out there.

In relation to the rent, I'11 ask Joe to come back in $n$ on the housing ones in a minute and the Private Housing

Adaptation Scheme. It is up. The Sonas, I take your point in relation to the women's refuge, we'11 certainly have a look at that. It's good to have the Sonas back in use. It is being, it's being tendered at the moment. The Cold Weather Initiative will be back on Monday, the 10th December. Again that's being overseen now by Bronagh O'Brien from Dublin Simon who is looking at the staffing, getting out of the building et cetera, right, at the moment.

C11r. Bourke, in relation to the transport study, yes, that's one we need to continue to push for. We did very well comparatively with the rest of the country. But the transport study was, I think, 400,000 for the study itself and it had 14 million of schemes after that, which would be the town centre and the links from north and south from the action area plans areas.

So look, we'11 continue to push for that. We were hoping to get it actually because if we got the funding for the study, it would have meant that the funding for the roads -- but what they'11 do now with schemes like that is come back and talk to us, talk us through them and see can we improve them. It will be open up again in February. So we'11 try and improve that and get it back in. So that's an important one.

Just in relation to the Municipal allocations and the staffing, the add has gone in actually this week in
relation to recruiting of extra outdoor staff, and we will have a facility next year, as I said at the budget meeting, to take on people on a temporary basis if the area engineers wish to do that rather than giving work out to contract. The option is always there.

There was some problems with ESB Networks in terms of delays, and again, we're going to follow up on that in terms of the lights in particular. There is mention at the budget meeting, the plan now in any case is to replace all public lights with LED lights, one big scheme that's going to cost 8 million, again over 2019, 2020.

Just C11r. O'Brien, in relation to the RAS and HAP, I think they're needed at the moment. Our target is 1,400 units between now and 2021 in terms of direct build and Part 5 and the affordable housing bodies. It's a cost of $350 \mathrm{mili} i o n . ~ I t ' s ~ v e r y ~ s i g n i f i c a n t . ~$ But HAP and RAS are absolutely necessary to fit the demand that we have at the moment, and it suits a lot of people to be accommodated in that fashion.

Just in relation to the Housing Strategy for Persons with Disabilities. Again, I'11 ask Joe to come in on that, but we have strengthened up our building control section now, so obviously building control is a big part of the whole disabled access. We've more money for the adaptation grants and we have a number of
one-off units that were done ourselves for people with disabilities.

Similarly then I'11 ask Joe to talk about West wicklow, but there is schemes coming through in Blessington and Baltinglass and Tinahely in Carnew. Again, they'11 all be coming to the Baltinglass Municipal District for Part 8 approval over the next number of months.

In relation to the Greenway, yes, that application was submitted, very strong application again. They're talking about the first quarter of next year they'11 let us know. There's a lot of competition again around the country but we'11 just have to wait and see. CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Joe?
MR. LANE: Regarding rents is going to be the first query. Yes, after the amalgamation of the four Town Councils, we ended up, there was four rent schemes. That was broken into two. So there's Part A, Part B. Part A is the main county. Part B is Bray. The maximum rent in Bray in 275 . The max rent in the county is not the same. So that's where the gap is. CLLR. LAVLESS: That's perfect.

MR. LANE: Okay. Homeless, yes. Homeless, yes, still challenging. Yes, there's people presenting. The numbers in emergency is way down, and for any presentation is the amount of people who subsequently go into emergency would be very low. There's a whole load of -- for that but mainly that is the work from
the Homeless Section, from all the others in the Section.

Homeless HAP is an important part of that in that it does give us an opportunity. So yes, there are people in emergencies kept to a minimum. There's a whole lot of others. We again, as I said last week, people need to present early and it allows us to get into solutions rather than emergency solutions. But yes, it's a national thing. It's not anything anybody wants to be at.

The Sonas facility, look, we're holding it as homeless. It's switching across to a family home. Now, the facility, the Sonas facility was a refuge. It's now going to homeless hub. We don't have -- as I can say about the thing, we'11 keep, we'11 keep engaging with approved housing bodies, as we have been, and they are providing all other stuff.

HAP in general --
CLLR. BEHAN Can you ask the Director, do you fee1 we have a responsibility to people who are battered at home as a result of domestic abuse? Have we got any responsibility to try and ensure that there are additional facilities for women mainly who are victims of that, or are we saying it's nothing to do with us. There's one in Bray. Someone else can provide it. I just want to know, what is the policy of the Council to this?

MR. LANE: Well we always engage with -- this is, the Sonas facility or the history behind that you required, we're required to have another solution. We engage regularly under the CAS programme something outside the (inaudible) bodies to attempt to address those issues. So there is, every so often we send out, we send out approved housing bodies to see is there anybody who can partner just to deal with refuges, okay.

HAP, yes, it is part of the, as the Chief Executive said, it is national policy that HAP is an integral part of the social housing suite of options. As I said a couple of minutes ago, the homeless HAP did allow us a lot of solutions for the homeless issues. Yes, we should be inspecting within eight months. We probably are in breach of that in certain cases. If there's particular cases come back to us. we'11 inspect. There's absolutely no problem with that. We can move stuff around. We're expecting across a lot of categories RAS, HAP and private renting, and sometimes we're probably stretching the -- so come back to us if there's any particular issue on that.

Blessington, look, we agreed a scheme of priorities here twice in the Chamber, and we'11 come to them as quickly as possible. The first phase, yes, there was no sewerage in Blessington and we worked through a scheme, our scheme of, the schemes we had here. we had the ones in the (inaudible). We've spoken to you and
we would aim to get them going the minute there's a sewerage scheme becoming likely. But as we said, we have ones in Carnew at the moment. We have ones in Baltinglass, and Blessington is on our radar but there's no point until that sewage issue is sorted out. 14:49

We have, as you're aware we have, still try to get a universal design for houses, and we still have been with the Department. We get them on an odd scheme, we don't get them on all schemes for disability. We have, 14:49 on all our schemes we there improved significantly. There's a lot of smaller units and there's a lot of disability access or easier ones. All our schemes at this stage have some form of either smaller apartments or own door access and that helps to a point. We are aware of it.

G1en Ding, we're -- the current ones are scheduled to complete in January. $60 \%$ of the estate will then be complete and the contract for the remaining $40 \%$ will be 14:50 tendered also in January. I think that's it.
CATHAO RLEACH okay.
CLLR. FORTUNE: C11r -- was asking have you national housing established for people with disabilities? (Inaudible).
MR. LANE: I'11 have to check on that one. I'11 have to check up on that one. I'm not familiar -CATHAO RLEACH Check up. we'11 get back to you on that, all right. Get back to you on that, okay.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yes.
CATHAO RLEACH Right. We're on to the 4, the estates in charge. I want to, obviously a proposer and a seconder for these. Now there's 16. 16, we'11 go through them one by one. If there's disagreement on it 14:51 we'll go for a vote. But I think, I think it should be said that there's 16 estates. It's very welcome to be brought in charge on. This doesn't happen overnight. There's a lot of work gone into them to bring them to this type of level, so I'd like to pay tribute to the Planning Department and all the people that worked bringing these to this situations. Now Item 1 there, cllr. Fitzgerald, did you want to come in there?
CLLR. FITZGRALD I'm coming in later.
CATHAO RLEACH Pardon?
CLLR FI TZGERALD I'm later.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Kennedy then, is it?
CLLR. KENEDY: Sorry, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH No, okay. No, sorry, we're going to call them out. Right, okay. Phase 1, sorry first one Ballycrone Manor, Kilcoole. Proposer and seconder? CLLR LAVEESS: I'11 propose it.
CLLR FORTUN: Just before you propose it, is that estate finished because that was an estate that wasn't totally completed. So is that in (inaudible)?
ME. GALLAGER: Yes, that's the report here. CATHAO RLEACH Yes, that's it, yes.
ME. GALLAGER It's taken in charge the following houses estates in accordance with the attached report.

CATHAO RLEACH Yes. well it must have met the criteria for our people to recommend it, Tom.

CLLR. FORTUN: All right, okay.
CATHAO RLEACH A11 right, okay.
ME. GALLAGER: C11r. Lawless. Seconded by?
c11r. Lawless, seconded by c11r.
Mitchell. Okay. Is that agreed?
FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. 2, Burkeen.
CLLR. DUNE: Proposed.
CATHAO RLEACH Proposed by C11r. Dunne. Seconded by? CLLR. S. CULLEN Yes.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Shay Cullen. Is that agreed? FROM THE FLOOR: Yes, agreed.
CATHAO RLEACH Fine, okay. 3. Carrig Mill,
Greystones. Proposed by, Cllr Grainne McLoughlin, seconded by Gerry Walsh.
CLLR WALSH Sorry, Cathaoirleach --
CLLR FORTUN: The residents have been on to me about this. They are not happy that this estate is taken in
charge because there's a number of works not completed as far as they're concerned. They have written, they have written in to the Council on the matter asking would I speak on it today because they are concerned that everything hasn't been done. There was a couple of things done there very recently but there was a list of things outstanding. But they're of the view it's not finished.
CATHAO RLEACH Sorry, we'11 just get somebody from the
planning --
CLLR. FOX: Chairman, can I ask --
M. GALLAGER: We'll come back to that one.

CATHAO RLEACH Sorry, go ahead.
CLLR. FOX: Just to extend on, from what C11r. Fortune
$14: 53$
said. If there are works that are not completed and we take them in charge, is it then the responsibility of the Council to finish the works? obviously it's desirable that the works be finished first.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. Al1 right, okay.
UNKNOWN SPEAKER: On Carrig Mill, there are some minors works to be done but the bond will cover the mino9r works that remain.

CLLR. FORTUN: okay, Sean, and can someone, someone write back then to the residents and just confirm that to them?

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Walsh, did you want to come in there?
CLLR. FORTUN: There is concern, you know.
CLLR. WALSH Yes. Similarly to cllr. Fortune's
comments there also about the residents in Carrig mill, I was up in the estate there recently and there are a number of outstanding issues that I'd like to have addressed. They weren't, they weren't totally au fait with the taking in charge process. I know there was an 14:54 advertisement back in the wicklow some time ago, but nobody saw that so it's come as a bit of a surprise to them. But they would like it guaranteed that these outstanding issues will be addressed after this process
has gone through, through the Council or through whoever. The bond is being held over so they would like a commitment.

CATHAO RLEACH Yes, okay. Sean, do you want to come in there?

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes.
CATHAO RLEACH yes, okay, just a second.
UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yes, the bond recovered that.
CATHAO RLEACH The bond recovered that. The works will be done. The works will be done to complete it. Now listen, I'm going to put this off if nobody is happy with that. Sean says, the Director says the works will be done. The bond there covers that work anyway, right.
CLLR FORTUN: All I'm asking is, if that's the case then, can the residents be written to and told that's the case because $I$ can tell you for a fact up to two days ago, they're not comfortable with the estate the way it is.
CATHAO RLEACH If people are not comfortable then we'11 put it off then, right.
CLLR FORTUN: Maybe you should put it off until the next meeting.
CLLR S. CULLEN Yes, but that's that particular one, Chairman. I don't think we should be putting off the 14:55 rest of them.
CLLR FORTUN: Ah, no.
CATHAO RLEACH No, no. No, no. C11r. Walsh, did you want to come in?

CLLR WALSH I spoke to one of the residents actually at lunchtime and explained to her where we were at. So the message I was getting, if there was a guarantee that these issues would be addressed going forward -CATHAO RLEACH Yes, there is a guarantee.
CLLR. MALSH Yes, I'm just explaining.
UNKNOW SPEAKER: There's a list of works. Most of them are completed. The ones that are not completed can be paid for out of the bond.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. Can I take agreement on that then?

CLLR. FORTUN: well I think from my point of view based on the conversations I've had with people there that I'd be more comfortable if we made sure this was -- I take your word, sean, that the bond is there to cover. I know for a fact that they're not happy as an Residents organisation.
UNKNOWN SPEAKER: yes, sure defer it so.
MS. GALLAGER: Okay, that's Carrig mill deferred.
CATHAO RLEACH But the works, the works may not be done by next month. But anyway let's -- okay. I mean, okay, we'11 defer it, right. 4. Cherry Glade, Delgany. Propose and second? Nobody there? we'll defer this as well.
CLLR MELOUGLIN No, I'm happy.
CLLR. MTCHELL: I'11 second that.
CATHAO RLEACH Yes, c11r. McLoughlin and c11r.
mitchell. Is there agreement on that?
FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay, grand. Thank you. Cherry Hil1, Delgany. Proposed and second, Gerry walsh, seconded by Nicola Lawless. Everyone happy with that? Grand. Thank you. Churchfields, Delgany. Proposed and seconder? C11r. Walsh, C11r. Mitche11. Yes, everyone happy with that? okay. Cluain Ard, Arklow.
CLLR FITZGERALD I propose putting 7 and 8 together there.

CATHAO RLEACH Proposed C11r. Fitzgerald, seconded by C11r. Bourke. You second 8 as well, would you? Is there agreement to that, 7 and 8 ?

FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.
CATHAO RLEACH Grand. Thank you. 9. Glendale in Delgany. Proposed and seconder? C11r. Lawless, seconded by? Anyone? Glendale in Delgany. Cllr. McLoughlin. Everyone agreed with that.
FROM THE FLOOR: Yes.
CATHAO RLEACH Glenkeen in kilcoole.
CLLR. MLLOUGLIN Can I ask where is that? Never heard of it.
CLLR. FORTUN: Is that a correct word or is it a typo. MS. GALLAGER: There's maps to the back of the report that you were circulated with.
CLLR. LAVZESS: Gráinne, you weren't the only one, I didn't know where it was either so.
M. GALLAGER There's a location. Glenkeen, kilcoole, there is it.

CLLR. MELOUGLI N where? At the entrance to the -it's only three houses, way down to the nursing home.

CATHAO RLEACH Everyone has got this documentation now, you know what I mean like. kilcoole is not that big a place. Come on, come on.
M. GALLAGFR: It's beside Rockchape1 Mews.

CATHAO RLEACH If it was in Bray I can tell you I'd know where it was, I'11 tell you that much.

CLLR FOX: There mustn't be any complaints, Chairman. CATHAO RLEACH No, there's no complaints. Do we have a proposer and seconder? Right, C11r. Kennedy and C11r. Lawless. Okay. Is that agreed?

FROM THE FLOOR: Agreed.
CATHAO RLEACH Right, okay. Right, Haze1 Hill. C11r. Kennedy. Who's seconded it? Hazel Hill, Annacurragh. CLLR DUNE: Second.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Gail Dunne, yes. okay. Is that ${ }_{14: 58}$ agreeable? okay. Marlton Hall in wicklow. Yes, cllr. Gail Dunne, second by Shay Cullen. Agreed? Okay. Rathluain.

CLLR. TIMMS: Proposed.
CATHAO RLEACH Proposed by C11r. Timmins, seconded by Cllr. Ruttle. Riverview Heights in Arklow. Proposed by C11r. Fitzgerald, seconded by C11r. Bourke. Now, Rosehill in wicklow. C11r. Dunne, cllr. Shay Cullen. Winetavern Manor, Stratford-on-slaney. Cllr. Timmins and C17r. O'Neill. Right. Okay. Thank you very much. 14:59 we'11 bring the other one back. I don't know how long it will take but as soon as it's completely anyway we can bring that back, okay.

Now, Number 5, to receive a presentation and a re refurbishment of the Council Chamber. Andrew Macken will do that, and the Chief Executive.

CATHAO RLEACH Yes. Andrew will just give you a presentation. There were two projects that we wanted to do to the building here. One is a one-stop shop, a state of the art customer care centre outside here that as much of the customers' businesses as possible would be dealt with at one point of contact. So somebody coming from front desk, as much of their housing issues 15:00 as possible and people from Housing would be transferred down here could be dealt with without going upstairs. There would be state of the art meeting rooms built as well that people would go into, the same as planning, the same as all the other services, that we'11 have experienced staff, maybe five to six staff there that would deal with as much as possible.

They'd also have a customer relationship management software system that everything is tracked, that when post comes in or when queries come in that they're tracked. They go to the area engineer and stays open until something is closed.

So, that's something I want to do in the building here. Similarly the Chamber, when it was upgraded four years ago for the increase number of councillors, I don't think it was done in a way that best suits a modern chambers. Now Andrew will give a presentation on how
we can improve on that. But I think it's important that we, we have a look at that as well, Cathaoirleach. CATHAO RLEACH okay. Andrew?

## PRESENTATI ON BY MR MACKEN

MR. MACKEN So the proposal here is to do two projects together. One of them is to refurbish the Chamber and to also tender out for the work to upgrade the foyer in the building. Our proposal here is, these are just some reference images from other County Council offices around the country. The proposal in the ethos here is to refine and improve beyond the existing Chamber, upgrade with fit for purpose IT and AV and it's a kind of lasting investment to last for a full generation.

The existing Chamber, as it is at the moment, we propose to actually extend the Chamber beyond the confines of what we have at the moment. So the dash line there that you see in the circle is the line of the cladding here. So we would basically push out two and a half metres in this direction, and we would create a gallery for staff members to be seated up here.

So the number of pub1ic, the public gallery at the moment which has seating for staff would actually increase. We'd have 11 more seats for Wicklow County Council staff to be seated in an area here that went
back on to the (inaudible). There would be a disabled ramp installed in this area for disabled access to the podium which would be pushed back into the new extended area. The layout of all of the Councillors' desks would be in a kind of a three, three array arrangement with three steps. So the --
CLLR. MELOUGLIN Sorry, I beg your pardon, you're pointing to a screen and we can't see what you're pointing to. Maybe if you could point to this screen so we know what you're referring to. I hope you don't mind me saying it.

MR MACKEN Yes, no problem. So the area shaded here is beyond this wall here, pushing out two and a half metres, yes. All of this is new. All the blue area, all the grey area is new, and it's going to fill in what's an outdoor area at the moment adjacent to the glass -- that we have outside.

The key change here is the joinery in the centre of the room. It will be a different arrangement. It will be three kind of boomerang shapes going back but they will be raised. So one step up to the middle row here, and then two steps up to the back row. So the whole back of the room will be raised for better viewpoints of the podium. The podium will be centred all the way out to the corner of the room. It will be just shy of the fire exit around the side, with disabled access being provided here. You will see a ramp around this new seated area for staff members.

A lot of what's actually here can be retained such as the cladding, the chairs, and the IT upgrade only happened four years ago in 2014, so it just needs some additional external speakers to add beyond that. So a lot of what's already here is going to be retained.

Then there's some remedial work required to the leaks that have happened to the (inaudible) around the back of the room, and other items to be retained can be the cladding that's on the outside of the building as the building can be removed and actually replaced. So, yes, that's it for the chamber.

The second part of the presentation is proposed refurbishment and improvement of the foyer. Civic hub is a term that's really being used in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown. So the team from here went out to Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown and we met with the architects there who did the design work inhouse. They did a
great job to create a new fit for purpose Customer Care Unit with the lobby there.

Lorraine led a Steering Committee here utilising all the Heads of the Departments over a period of time to propose a design brief which will form the basis of this project. We are not going to do the job inhouse. We propose to tender the project online using e-tenders for a specialist consultant with specific commercial
fitout experience to take the job from tender stage through to completion. They would lead a multi-disciplinary team. They would need an architect, NEP and there would be structural engineering required for that.

Here are the key points, abridged key points of the brief required, so, you know, just to break it down. The Customer Care Unit is really, it's sort of the reception as such, but it's to be laid out in such a way that it's more fit for purpose and a more open approach than what's there at the moment, but security is still to be retained.

There's a planning desk which is to be extended. we'11 have a separate planning counter and it will have the interactive, two interactive planning work stations, which is Item C, the planning desk interactive. Private meetings spaces will be created in the kind of far corner of the room near the car park side. Breakout spaces from the existing meeting rooms over at the side of the room. Improved waiting area with IT, where there's actually a docketed waiting list. Some of the counters that are in the corner here, the far corner of the room where the cash desk is will be retained.

So you can see here these zones, A, B, C, D, E, F are improvement on what's there at the moment. But the
proposal is a full refit of the room, including the flooring and the ceiling. The IT needs an upgrade on that part of the building. The G1 area which is the motor tax counter is actually to be retained as a cash counter. Here are just some suggestions for the potential designers to retain finishes, and here's the proposed costs that are inhouse QS projected including contingency. So 1.02 across the two projects which wouldn't include fees. okay.

CATHAOI RLEACH Okay. Any questions -- sorry, just one 15:07 sec there. C11r. Behan first and then C11r.

McLough1in. C11r. Behan?
CLLR BEHAN Well, Chairman, I don't know about everybody else but this has just come out of the blue to me here. I saw it on the agenda on Thursday.
Obviously somebody has been working on it, but certainly didn't ask my opinion as a Councillor, and maybe other Councillors were consulted. The staff were consulted, that's great. Maybe the Cathaoirleach were consulted. Certain7y this Member wasn't consulted, about either Part A or B, and I want to say something about both if I can. I presume I can, can I? Can I say something?

CATHAO RLEACH or course you can. CLLR. BEHAN Yes, okay. In relation to the first part, which is the Customer Service area, I've heard about the Dun Laoghaire system, and from what I hear it's good because there's a kind of a tracking system when people go in and they make a query or they have a
complaint or they have an issue, whether it's Housing, Environment, Planning, whatever it is, it's supposed to be followed through to completion, and the chief Executive said that.

Now that's great if it happened. I'm far more interested in how you're going to guarantee that these queries will be addressed up to completion. That's not going to be addressed because the furniture is different. It's going to be addressed by how many staff are going to be dealing with it, what the level of knowledge of staff is going to be et cetera. I'd like a little bit more detail on that for the start.

Secondly, what happens to the Municipal District
offices? Are we saying by looking at this that effectively the Customer Service areas in Arklow, in Blessington, in Greystones and in Bray are going to shut down and that everybody will have to go to Wicklow if they have a query? How is that going to be addressed, because if that is the case I'm completely opposed to that because that basically just means doing away with the last remnants of the Urban District Council in Bray which may or may not be the agenda of some people in this building, but it certainly is in mine.

The second point is that in relation to the remaking of the Chamber, what $I$ see here is a few extra seats for
the staff, a disabled access, which I think is absolutely warranted and necessary, and very few extra seats for the public. Nothing about the press or media coverage of meeting. Nothing about the fact that up to a number of years ago we were broadcasting our meetings live on our website, and people throughout the county, throughout the world could follow what we were doing if they had an interest in it, and that was stopped because there was no funding. we couldn't afford it. Now we're going to spend 1 point, whatever it is million minus fees, so add the fees on top of it. I'm sure we're talking about 2 million at least to get a few extra chairs for the staff, a disabled access and a swanky new customer service area that may or may not result in better returns for the people that we represent who are the taxpayers who are paying for this at the end of the day.

So, first of all, Cathaoirleach, who makes the decision on this? Is it going to be our decision finally on whether any of this happens? Secondly, how will it affect the Municipal Districts? Thirdly, what's happening about the internet broadcasting of meetings which were supposed to be designed to allow the public to see what we were actually doing? Fourth1y, is there 15:11 not a cheaper way of getting a few extra seats in for the staff and allowing more members of the public to watch the meeting without spending all that money? CATHAO RLEACH A11 right. C11r. Miriam Murphy?

CLLR. MRPHY: Yes. Just an issue, I was never asked either, but that's beside the point. I'm just wondering why there is steps anywhere mentioned in the design. I think it should be access for all in any area. I just don't want specifically, if I'm here next 15:12 year or not, that I'm told where to sit. If there is access I want to be accessible to any area of the room. CATHAO RLEACH Okay. That's fair enough. C11r. Ryan? CLLR. RYAN Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I do take C11r. Behan's point about the lack of involvement in the creation of this plan. I mean Councillors are obviously an important part of this Chamber. So I do thinking it's important that any decent plan is co-created by the people who will be affected by it. I think that's pretty important, and like coming and just 15:12 presenting is to me too late. I think it's important that the people, it's there for people who are actually having to do their business in this area.

Mind you, I do, I don't, ever since the Council Chamber 15:12 was reconstructed, this idea of having people, just seeing the backs of them, some of them you'd be happy to see the back of them. I'm only joking.
CATHAO RLEACH I know exactly what you mean.
CLLR. RYAN So I do like the idea of actually having the three, three lines and actually -- but I can't exactly imagine what, you know how high, how that will affect the public and them viewing over. So, it will be nice to kind of see that.

I think the customer care area is, it's something, I mean like for people who haven't been to Dun Laoghaire, I'd recommend that you do go to Dun Laoghaire. Just from the very second you're even walking by on the pavement, you see the big video screens inside which are actually showing what Dun Laoghaire is doing all over, and it's really impressive because it gives you a great sense of things are happening in Dun Laoghaire. There's a good news piece and it's coming out and it's broadcasting out to people who maybe never go into that building. So that number one is really important.

But when you go into the building then, it's not like a reception area. I think you used the word 'hub' or something. It's just amazing. It's huge, and huge video screens again, because that's the way people are communicating nowadays and very clearly telling people what's going on. There's an enterprise hub in that section too. So straightaway you get a general overall impression of the Council before you even start to interact with it, that they're absolutely on their game, and that's really important.

The CRM system, I think it's something that's absolutely essential and I think it will be brilliant to actually have something like that so that we can actually track. I think it's also important that there's some form of feedback, you know, when you're
going through Dublin Airport or any place like that where you're able to give a form of feedback as to what your interactions were like, and that's made really easy for people to do. I think that's really important that we do that. But I would love to see a little bit of opportunity to actually connect with that.

But also by the way if we're doing this, I think around the building, like up at the canteen, I also believe that there should be some video screens which allow people to actually know what's going on in the Council because that loop to, you know, however many people are actually in this organisation right now, it's something that's really important that people are kept in touch as to what's happening, and I think it would make it better up there too. So thank you.
CATHAO RLEACH C17r. McLoughlin?
CLLR MELOUGLIN Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I actually welcome this because I don't think this room is fit for purpose. I do think it needs to be done. It needs to be refurbished very quickly. I actually don't mind somebody coming up with an idea and then we can look at it and discuss and change and whatever. I think if you had come to us and said, okay, we want to put together a plan for the Chamber, God knows what we all would have come up individually, you know. So at least we're starting with somewhere. We might like it or dislike it but we have somewhere to start from.

I personally would like to see this design have gone out to possibly tender with three, with three architectural companies coming in to see what they could come up with because it's perhaps, I'm not an architect obviously, but perhaps they could come up with something different.

I totally agree with the proposal for the lobby. The idea of a hub, I've been around the country, visited al1 sorts of chambers and town halls and County Council, and really wicklow is definitely not fit for purpose. It's depressing when you come into it. It's not how a modern Council should operate.

So I welcome it. I'm not sure looking at that plan that's the best plan, but I'm delighted that there's plans to do it. But one thing I would ask is that the IT, the whole system of communication is really (inaudible), that we get the very best state of the art, and the two meetings rooms that we have, that they're looked at in this plan because the IT and WiFi, whatever, is just really appalling. So if we're going to do the ground floor, the two meeting rooms on the ground floor should be included as well. Thank you.
CATHAO RLEACH Cl1r. Oliver o'brien.
CLLR. D. O BRIEN I must say I'm rather comfortable in the seat I'm in at the moment. I'm very happy with the layout of the Chamber at the moment. As I say, if you look up there, the design, you will be looking at the
backs of an awful lot of people. There are actually only four people I can't see in this Chamber here that have their backs to me. I'm actually very very happy with the design. If we could improve it slightly that we could see all the faces when we're talking, I'd be very very happy with that.

The one thing I'm not happy with is spending over 2 million euros at a time when we have other far more pressing -- I think a very bad message would go out to the people in relation to homeless people, in relation to housing, whoever, spending money on updating our Chamber. A lot of work has obviously gone into this, you know what I mean, and work is money. So if you're working on this at the moment, there's a lot of money being put into it as well. As I say, I think I've made my points very clear.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, grand. C11r. (Inaudible), very quick.
UNKNOW SPEAKER: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I'm just also concerned about spending money on this at a time when there are things like for instance roads we've planned to build since 1989 in Greystones that we haven't built. I have an open mind on the hub concept. I haven't seen one. Possibly it could be good, but I'm 15:18 not sure. But I don't really think we should spend quite a large amount of money on our own seats and things here. It seems to work, this room, and I don't see a need for spending quite a large amount of money.

CATHAOI RLEACH Okay, C11r. Bourke?
CLLR. BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, thank you. Two questions there. First of all, what budget is this coming out of? There wasn't mention in the budget for this, where it's coming out of it. Is it further budgeting or is it --

CATHAO RLEACH okay, we'11 get that for you. CLLR. BOURKE: And secondly, if we are going to go ahead with it, I propose that we make it a Part 8 process and let the public have their say. Taxpayers -- it's a million euros at least.

CATHAO RLEACH The pub1ic will have a say in May, right, that's when they will have a say. No, but I'm just saying the public will have their say in May. That's when they have their say.
CLLR. BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, are you making this an election issue?

CATHAO RLEACH No, no, absolutely not.
CLLR. BOURKE: It sounds like it.
CATHAO RLEACH The pub1ic have their say every five years by the way on the performance of Councillors, so anyway. Right, C11r. Fortune?

CLLR. FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Look, I think, what I would say objectively, if you were to rank the chambers or buildings generally of the in, if you put them into four divisions we're probably in the fourth division. I think the layout of the Chamber, we said this way back five years or more ago,
having some of us stuck in the pit, you know where I have John Ryan kind of making comments behind me but I can't see him here. But the key --
CLLR. RYAN Is that the inner sanctum?
CLLR. FORTUNE: Ah no, you're in the middle of that. CATHAO RLEACH Ah now come on, come on, be serious about this.

CLLR. FORTUN: The real important thing for me, Chair, is the communication part of it. I think the general public, they need to make massive improvements to assist the public. There are things in this that he does that. I think that's very very sensible. Also on the public coming into the Chamber, I don't think we should be hiding them down the back. I think they need to be up where they can see what's going on. Now this sense from what we have laid out here, they may be here. They may not be able to see whatever is happening.

But, as I say, I don't know what it's going to cost. I 15:21 don't know where the fund is coming from. I'm sure this kind of a fund surely comes from somewhere where it's not, it's not available to the Council to run its day-to-day business I would assume.
CATHAO RLEACH All right.
CLLR FORTUN: So I think that's an important point to clarify. But I think there is absolutely a need to have a situation where the public can come into the say reception area and be greeted in a, you know by
somebody there. They haven't got to go to a window and queue up and things like that. I think that's all very good, and especially in the world where we're living together where there's fierce pressures on housing and all kinds of stuff, I think people have to be treat in a really really proper way.

So from that perspective I think the kind of structure that we operate in leaves a lot to be desired, and I certainly would like to see improvements in it. CATHAO RLEACH Al1 right. C11r. Mary Kavanagh? CLLR. KAVANAGt Thanks, Chair. we had a budget meeting there and there was no mention of $i t$, so again I would like to raise the question of what budget is this coming out of. It seems to be just sprung on us all of a sudden. I'd just, I'm not familiar with other County Councils, I haven't been in them, but I have seen from, you know, television, the Dáil and the Senate layout and we always have different sides. They're able to look at each other. I think it's very important.

The design of this building is round, I'm sure that's for a reason. we're going to end up with a situation where it's more like a kind of a theatre style thing that people are able to look at each other as they speak, and to be looking at the backs of heads if you're in the back row, as C11r. Murphy pointed out,
steps? Steps in an area that we're trying to have wheelchair access, that doesn't make any sense at all. Again without the elevation, some of us won't even be able to see over the heads that are in front of us.
so, you know so that's --
CATHAO RLEACH Al1 right, okay. C11r. Timmins?
CLLR. TIMMS: Thanks. Chairman. It's the first I've seen of this as well by the way. My immediate reaction is a million euros seems a hell of a lot to spend on what doesn't seem a massive improvement. I'd also like 15:23 to see more emphasis put on developing municipals offices as Cllr. Behan referred to. We don't want to see them get left behind. I mean it's all right having a nice fancy counter down here in wicklow if people from the other side of the hills are never going to see 15:23 it. So it's irrelevant. I think it's a hell of a lot of money to be spending for what I would say a limited benefit.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. C11r. Shay Cullen?
CLLR. S. CULLEN Thanks, Chairman. First of all, I
would like to compliment the Chief Executive for bringing this forward. I think it shows vision for the future. I think there's no doubt that the foyer area, reception area of the Council needs, needs an overhaul. I think it doesn't, you know when you walk into this building it doesn't inspire you with confidence certainly from the reception area. So I think anything that will engage the public and bring this Council forward I think has to be welcomed.

I suppose, you know, on the negative side, you know, a million does sound like a lot of money. I know suddenly it's gone to 2 million with some Councillors here. But certainly 1 million in my opinion seems a lot of money. But I would certainly concentrate the efforts on the foyer reception area more so than the Chamber here. But I would like to maybe see more plans for the Chamber, you know. We're getting an idea today but, you know, I think they could maybe be improved. That's my professional opinion on it.

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Thornhill?
CLLR THORNH LL: Yes, Cathaoirleach, go raibh maith agat. Cathaoirleach, I would just like to say, I would agree with the cllr. O'brien from the point of view like, the amount of money that's being spent on this. I would say the amount of money that would be spent on this Chamber here. I mean as far as I'm concerned, I'm only here four years now, this Chamber is fine. There is nothing wrong with it. I mean change for the sake of change. I mean what type of message is this sending out to people?

I mean I would concentrate, as C11r. Behan was saying, on the main part of the building where people come in and make that more attractive and functional. I would put most of the energies into there, but as far as this Chamber is concerned, it's fine. I'm quite happy to have cllr. Ryan behind me in any case.

CATHAO RLEACH Just in regards for my own point of view, I think anyone that thinks the foyer out there is acceptable in the modern day is absolutely off the wal1. To treat people the way, you know, people are treated in regard to, out there is just scandalous now. 15:26 We get an opportunity to bring out the foyer to treat people in a proper manner, and an up-to-date manner as well, and build in the communications and setup in there, and have private rooms for people for consultation and all, I think it's absolutely dreadful that people would even think that that's okay in this day and age.

In regard to this Chamber here, I mean if we want to stay in this Chamber like it is, fine, but I mean the meeting rooms out there where the Councillors meet are an absolute disgrace. They're freezing cold, no matter when you go in to them. No properly heating in them. Communications are poor as well. If Councillors want that type of treatment for themselves and don't respect 15:27 enough themselves in their own work, it's bad form as wel1.

Now I think this may be or may not be the ideal setup, but this was brought before the Protocol Committee, so
it's not just the first time. It's the first time that, and the CPG as well in regard to this. It was an idea that was brought from the Executive in regard to providing these type of services to the public and to
provide these type of services to the elected 32
Members of this Council as well, you know.
So $I$ mean it's all about the services that are provided for the Members of the Council as well as the Members of the Board, you know. I don't think we should demean 15:27 the role that Councillors play in this either in regard to that.

As regards to public, I think it's absolutely essential that there should be improvements in conditions in there. Like what C11r. Behan said, I can't see why this would demean any services that are provided in the (inaudible). I certain7y wouldn't be happy if that was the case either. So I'm going to let in Lorraine first in regard to the lobby out there and then I'll let the Chief Executive in them to finish it off, all right. MS. GALLAGER: Yes, Cathaoirleach, thank you. People who have been here a long time will know that this building goes back to 1977. If anyone can remember, the reception was at the foot of the stairs outside there as you go up to the Law Department. There was extensions to the building, two extensions over the last two decades, and the reception areas now are located out to the right. It hasn't move on in any shape or form really since that time. We have to look at how we are delivering our services to the public.

So what we're looking at is a customer focused care unit that will staffed by the highly trained customer
focused staff consisting of about five people, overseen by a manager, looking at how we delivered our communication and our services, the services that we provide both through the Municipal Districts and the county buildings here to the public.

We've upgraded or we've completed our new website, our new portal. We're in the process of completing our communications plan and how we deal with our customers on social media, and the information that we provide to ${ }_{15: 29}$ them.

What we're talking about here is, and the chief Executive put together a customer care working group where all of the departments of the Council looked at, well what services are we delivering to our public that we can deliver from this Customer Care Unit by highly trained staff, that each member of the public when they come, either if they do it online or whether they come in, they deal with it on the telephone, whether they come in that they will be dealing with a front line staff that will be able to give the answers and to deal with their queries efficiently and effectively.
so we looked at, you know, what services we provide greatly enhance the whole area there to like what they have in Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown County Council, a civic hub where there is a team of people ready to deal with
queries, and looking then at how, when a customer comes into the county buildings, if they want to talk to a member of the team in a private confidential way that there will be hubs or seating areas where, like you have in a bank or any other organisation that is dealt with privately and confidentially.

In relation to the whole area of realtime captioning here, we have gone out to the market to look at how we can bring realtime captioning back into the Council Chamber. That's being discussed with the Protocol Committee and we'11 be looking at that and hopefully be in a position to bring that service back in the New Year.

MR. CURRAN Yes, thanks, Lorraine. I just want to
compliment Lorraine on the work she has put in with the Customer Care team in coming up with what would be the ideal way to treat the customers that come into the building. Similarly with phone contract, that that would use the customer relationship management system as we11.

The same would apply at the Municipal District offices. There would be no diminution whatsoever in the services that are provided. But when somebody comes to the Municipal District, they would have the same type of system. If it's a road opening licence for instance, there would be a workflow. They'11 log on to customers' details. That will then forward
automatically to the area engineer or to the GSS or the clerical officer and come back, so everything is captured, that's the whole point, but in the Municipal District offices and then the main offices here.

The meeting rooms, I think the Cathaoirleach mentioned would be done as part of a scheme. He didn't include it there now but an upgrade of the meeting rooms, bring them up to building rate standards. That would be part of it.

In relation to the Chamber itself, again a number of Councillors have raised the issue of the inner area and it's unsatisfactory. Now is an opportunity to make the Chamber more like the modern chambers that we see around the country. There's no space generally. It's more space at the top table for directors of services, when we have people coming up and down, and then improved audio visual facilities.

By the way we haven't designed it. I know the Cathaoirleach said it went to the CPG for comment, it went to the Protocol Committee, but all we have here is indicative designs. We are appointing an architect led design team to come up with the design so there's loads of time to feed into it. The Part 8 will give the indicative design, but the detailed design is yet to be fitted out for both schemes, so there's loads of times for consultation.

Just in relation to the, the 1 million cost estimate, we have a fund that was used. Now we haven't done a whole lot in the last number of years that was done to upgrade the building. There's 100,000 put aside.
There's a capital code there, 100,000 put aside each year, so the same would apply. We wouldn't be increasing that 100,000 in the revenue account. So that would stay, so it will take approximately ten years to pay off the work. As Andrew said, it's once in a generation. It will last a generation, both projects, both here and the customer care centre outside

Just in terms of the -- yes, I think that covers it, Cathaoirleach, unless Andrew wants to -MR. MACKEN Cl1r. Murphy asked about access for all and how the room is being provided up. So the proposal here with the raised ceiling would generally be in line with auditorium design for theatres as you mentioned, but actually that is the design intent for sight lines, not you know, where everyone is at seated level, and would be compliant, this design would be compliant with the building regs as it is at the moment, okay. MR. CURRAN It is going to Part 8 so the decision ultimately comes back to the Members here.
CATHAO RLEACH okay.
CLLR BEHAN Cathaoirleach, just in relation to the facilities for the press, where will the press be? I
mean I think what they have is outrageously bad as well. They can hardly see what's going on. The tiny little desks in front of them, even from the point of view of putting laptops on, is there a particularly designated area for the press there?

MR. MACKEN Well, no, the press would stay where they are but there's an opportunity by moving the seating across to improve the desk facility in front of the -CLLR BEHAN Okay. well look it, that's, I'm not blaming you but the press can stay where they are so it doesn't really matter. The press are at the moment the only way people in this county find out what's going on in here. So I think they need to be treated with a little bit more respect as well, no matter who they are or who they represent or what body they represent.

The other thing is that if there's going to be raised seating theatre style, unless you're going to raise the public seating higher again, how are the public sitting behind high seats --
MR. MACKEN well it's --
CATHAO RLEACH Sorry, wait there.
CLLR BEHAN Sorry, Cathaoirleach, thank you.
MR. MACKEN They will be basically two steps. So the first curve with the Councillors' seats is level with the floor as it is at the moment, and then the second one is 150 m 7 higher, and then the third one is 150 ml higher, but that's as high as you go at 300 ml higher. so the whole back of the room would raise and be level
with the back row of Councillors, but it wouldn't be higher again. There's not a third step. But it would be higher than it is at the moment.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, C11r. Fox, do you want to come in?

CLLR. FOX: Thank you, Chairman. Just obviously my biggest concern is the cost. I think there is merit in a more modern chamber and certainly (inaudible). Just you said that the projected cost didn't include fees, is that correct?
MR. MACKEN No, but we would accept $15 \%$ for fees. CLLR FOX: 15\%. If the tenders come in above projections, will the Councillors have an opportunity because obviously the Part A will be passed, if the Part A is passed, and then the tenders go out and the tenders come in above the projections, will the Councillors have an opportunity to make a comment or design whether to proceed or not? Thank you, Chairman. MR. CURRAN we can bring that back. You know they may come in below the projection as well. We can certainly 15:36 come back if there's any, any variation on that, and you can always scale it back if necessary.
CATHAO RLEACH So just from my own point of view, in regard to making presentations, what we have at the moment is not really acceptable as such. I'11 just say 15:36 in regard to that, the new plan or the proposed new plan, now there could be variations on this as well because this is only a budget that's being brought here. There could be variations on this before it's
brought back to the Council.
Just in regard to making presentations, I think it's unsatisfactory when you're up here that people are making presentations down there, and screen wise and all. Could you maybe deal with that?
MR. CURRAN Yes, absolutely. We'11 take the suggestion about the press area and about the presentations, and any other ideas that people have let us know and we'll take it on board because it is the very start of the design process really.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Sorry, just wait there now.
Cllr. Miriam Murphy?
CLLR. MRPHY: Yes, I just want to highlight as well if there is, I suppose, work going to be carried out in the foyer that the toilet facility for people with disabilities is a disgrace out there. That needs a major consideration. It needs to be enlarged. It needs to be upgraded to the highest maximum level. I think that is a priority.
CATHAO RLEACH Absolutely, absolutely. C11r. Bourke?
CLLR BOURK: Cathaoirleach, just I'd like to propose that you would, the manager would consider splitting the project so that the costing of the upgrade of the foyer area be separated out from the cost of the upgrade of the Chamber because Members may want to with another project. It might be more helpful to getting it sold over the line.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Winters?

CLLR. WNTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'd just like, I suppose, for it to be borne in mind that there are more disabilities than just mobility.
CATHAO RLEACH That's right.
CLLR. WNTERS: Every time someone makes a presentation down there, there is no microphone. It's almost, I'm very lucky that I sit up here. I have said probably every month for a year and a half to two years that I am hear impaired. There is absolutely no provision made for somebody who has a hearing impairment in this particular Chamber. So if you're going to do a lot of work, try and do it in such a way we can actually hear what's going on.
CATHAO RLEACH I was going to bring that up as well. The sound is particularly poor. Even up here at times if people aren't talking directly into the microphone it can be particularly difficult as well. So I'm just saying, in regard to this Chamber like there will be a proposal brought back again to the Councillors in regard to this. we'11 have another opportunity to have

CLLR. SNELL: Yes, thanks, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH Briefly please.
CLLR. SNELL: Yes, I did raise my concerns at the CPG just in regard to costs. But the reality is that, you
know, money will have to be spent. If people just look up over their shoulder they'11 see that the ceiling is falling in on this building as we see here today in two places. People made reference to the media. The roof up over their head at the moment is falling in, the same with the general public up here on the right-hand side. So, you know, while everyone has found a conscious in regards to the amount of money that's being spent, the reality is I think this Chamber is under utilised. I believe that there should be more meetings held in here such as another -- but there is, the SPC meetings could be held here and other meetings within the staff themselves should be held in this Chamber to utilise it more so and make more space, to branch that out so we can accommodate the public in a better manner in regard to giving them a good service. Preplanning meetings, housing issues, a lot of is sensitive issues that shouldn't be conducted the way they are, through no fault of anyone. But we do need to upgrade the foyer a hundred percent.

In regard to Councillors here talking about the cost, yes, we share their concerns but we sat here last week about 102 million of a budget and people hadn't a question to ask. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. McLoughlin?
CLLR MELOUGLIN Just very briefly, I do think it's, which I have already said it's important to do this up and the lobby, but I think the areas where all the
staff here work just needs to be looked at. It is so depressing going along those corridors, and it must be the same for staff and they are certain colouring, colours, paint, whatever, you're supposed to use for wellbeing of staff. I do think some of the staff in this building are working in the most awful rooms, and I haven't seen them, that's been painted in years.

So I think if we are looking at doing the place up for ourselves and the general public, we should be cognisant of the staff and some of the conditions that they themselves are working in which are just not acceptable in my opinion.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. we'11 be back to you then in regard to this, all right. okay. Now, 6, this is an item, cllr. Fortune wrote to be about and asked for it to go on the, go on the agenda today. I think it's an important item from our point of view to make members aware, if they haven't been aware before, in regard to what's happening across the water from us as well.
Cl1r. Fortune, do you want to come in on this please? CLLR. FORTUN: Yes. Thanks, Cathaoirleach, yes. I became aware obviously a week ago that there was a plan proposed for a nuclear plant across in Anglesey in wales that's basically, if you take the wicklow coastline it's literally, on a windy day you can nearly throw a stone across. I just think that is probably in my view, probably the most serious issue to come before us in a long number of years. I would think that it's
very very important that the local authority would look at this and come up with an objection to it. Also we got to take on board that there's a good likelihood unless Brexit disappears that the UK will exit Europe. That means that there will be certainly a 15:43 diminishing level of communications. Also I think we just need to be cognisant if you go back to the Chernobyl problem, I mean I'm led to understand that, and Helen Hoyes wrote to us all as we11, and she makes a very good point, one of her points that she makes is that radioactive particles were found in Galway, Mayo, sligo and waterford, and were found in food stuffs and things like that.

So if we're going to -- if something can be on our door 15:43 step we've no control over it. That's very very serious. There was an incident in Japan back in 2011 where a nuclear plant because of an earthquake basically burst and there was 3,900 people affected directly by the outflow from that, apart from other areas. So I really think that this is, maybe it's too important to, we've got to have, I think, submissions in by the 26th January. It's probably too important maybe to have it rushed through today in 20 minutes or half an hour. Maybe the CEO will convene a meeting of us a11 and maybe bring on board people of expertise who have better opinions or more knowledge than we might have collectively around the table to address it.

But I do think, and I feel extremely strong about this, I think this is one of the most serious issues presented to us in a long number of years and we cannot just sit back and let it have a free run. So I would propose formally that we have a proper meeting on this as soon as proper for everybody so we have proper research into it. Bring in maybe proper people to talk about it and bring in the necessary expertise to put together a submission that really details the real seriousness of this particular proposed project. CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Lawless?

CLLR LAVLESS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. when I noted this on the agenda, I actually contacted our counterparts in Holyhead and I just have maybe a little bit of information that might be actually quite useful, just kind of what's actually happening over there and considering that it's only a couple of miles up the road from where they are.

So obviously this new nuclear plant is replacing the original one that was there and that's stopped production about four years ago but it's still in the early stages of decommissioning. The new plant is broadly supported over on the island as well but this is due to the job creation. They're going to create thousands of jobs over there over the next ten years.

The opposition obviously over there is due to safety concerns and the nuclear waste legacy as well that has
been left, that will be left behind. They're looking at about 8 to 9,000 people will be coming over there as well to work, which I've mentioned earlier on. There will be new accommodation being built. So the Council, the County Council over there have given planning permission for the whole area that's being built on to be cleared and actually ready for work. The whole application is at an important stage with Consent orders have actually been submitted to westminster government for them to decide to give consent on the plant. All stakeholders, supporters, objectors have lodged their various responses which will be heard at a full public inquiry prior to any decision being taken by the government.

Also as I say, I've mentioned before, there is questions around the safety records as well of the plant. But there is difficulties as well with the main designer, Attache, and I don't know whether I've pronounced that correctly because my Japanese wouldn't be very good. There's issues around funding as well and they're looking for funding from Westminster for this particular power plant. But Westminster do not use public funding for new nuclear power plants.

So I suppose it's just a little bit of background information what's actually happening over there. This is Holyhead that I was liaising with, just to give Councillors a little bit of background in what's going
on this. But I would agree with C11r. Fortune, it is a major concern, nuclear power. If there is a devastation like Chernobyl and, I can't think of the other one, the one in Japan as well.

But there was submissions. There was a stage for submissions earlier on. I know ourselves, Sinn Féin, we put in, Brian Stanley put in submissions on our behalf. But I would agree with Tom, we need to be putting more submissions in this and we also need to open up talks as well with other counterparts across the water in wales as well from here.

CATHAO RLEACH A11 right. C11r. Mary Kavanagh?
CLLR. KAVANAGt Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I've been 15:47 contacted by a number of people since this became common knowledge. One of the things that was sent to me was Tipperary Council have, they're being invited, the people from Tipperary -- is everyone listening to me there? Sorry, the people living in Tipperary have been invited by their Council to make submissions on a proposed nuclear plant in North wales. It's under the provision of the 1991 United Nations Convention on environmental impact in a transboundary context. Basically they have until January 2019, I just want to see -- yes:
"A member of the public may make a written submission or observations in rel ation to the potential
transboundary environmental effects of the project by sendi ng themto his or her local planning authority to be recei ved by close of busi ness on Friday, the 25th J anuary 2019 at the Iatest."

I'm just wondering if wicklow should also offer people of wicklow Council the opportunity to do that as well? And could I had propose that?
CLLR. FORTUN: No, we are doing that.
CATHAO RLEACH Just a sec, C11r. o'brien, and then
we'11 go to the Chief Executive.
CLLR O BRI EN Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I think just again I agree with what C11r. Fortune and C11r. Lawless said. I think it's worth noting that the parent company, Attache are a Japanese company. There has been no nuclear power work that's happened in Japan since 2011 since the Fukushima, which is the most radioactive place on Plant Earth. So it's almost like they've outsourced their problem to another part of the world where they're going to have to suffered the
consequence. So, you know, if we're doing a risk assessment on being across the water from a facility like that, I think we need to have our say on it.

CATHAO RLEACH Cllr. Mitchell?
CLLR. MTCFELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I
don't think we should adopt an absolute (inaudible) absolutely against this. I think first of all our -with Holyhead. It is good for saving carbon and nuclear power. It's actually very expensive to produce
one of these plants. But I think we should ask the Nuclear Energy Board, which we have one in Ireland, as to what their attitude is and what sort of things they think should be put in to minimise any risk that's from this, and I think that's important.

I also think we should remember ourselves that we are twinned with Hainan in China. Hainan has the world's third largest nuclear missile submarine base in the world who would be very -- these missiles would be capable of spreading radiation all over the whole world. So we can't just adopt a complete anti-nuclear stance while at the same time twinning with a region in China which is particularly involved in the nuclear business?

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Chief Executive?
MR. CURRAN Yes. Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is on our website and we will be taking submissions from the public and passing them on to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. They've received notice from the UK Planning Inspectorate in relation to the development consent, and the proposed development consists of permanent and temporary works in the marine environment, offsite power station facilities, including control centre, laboratory, emergency equipment garage, associated offsite development comprising of work or accommodation et cetera.
"The devel opment is subj ect to an envi ronmental i mpact assessment procedure, and the UK PI anning Inspectorate has identified that proposed devel opment has potential transboundary effects on the envi ronment in Irel and. Accordi ngly they' ve invited Irel and to undertake a transboundary consultation in respect of the envi ronmental information. It's currently, the UK Pl anning Inspectorate is currently examining the devel opment consent application and the proposed devel opment.

So, a member of the public may make a written submission or observation in rel ation to the potential transboundary envi ronmental effects of the project by sending themto his or her planning authority..." that's ourselves, "...to be recei ved by cl ose of busi ness Friday, 29th J anuary 2019 at the I atest. Submissions or observations should not be made to the Department of Housing, PI anning or Local Government."

So again we'11 pass all that information back to the Department who will be replying back to the UK Planning Inspectorate.
CLLR. MELOUGHIN where do we find it?
CATHAO RLEACH Sorry, sorry, wait there a second.
MR. CURRAN It's on our website, it's on our website. Certainly we could write to the Nuclear Energy Board, absolutely, and get their opinion on it. There is a Planning SPC coming up. So I suggest maybe it could be
discussed at that. Again if the Council here want to make submission or the Members of the Council or members of the public, they can do so through the Planning Department.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, C11r. Fortune? serious that to just treat it and hope it will go away. We need something really serious on this.

I would also ask that the mail that Helen Hoyes sent to
us all, she made her, her concerns were, they're very very good point. I'd like to have those recorded in the minutes of today's meeting because I think they, they pick up the whole thing very very well. But I think we need to act on this and put in a really really good - because some of this, I'm not an expert in nuclear power or that but we can get people surely through the, our executive powers and everything else to help us put this together properly and go in as a team on this. That's what has to happen, and I formally propose that to the meeting.
CLLR. LAVEESS: I '11 second that proposal.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. Just in regard to this, what C11r. Mitchell was saying is right. I'm not an expert. Nobody around this Chamber to my knowledge is an expert ${ }_{\text {15:54 }}$ on nuclear power. I think we should get the information and certainly we should get the information from our own department in regard to bringing us up-to-date on the actual dangers that could pertain to this going in. Remember there has been one there all along. Remember I suppose there's very little we can do to stop this.

But I'd prefer a situation where we would go to our own department, I think it's the Department of Housing, Eoghan Murphy's department, and ask them for a risk assessment in regards to Ireland on this. I'11 put it on the agenda then in January and we can discuss it then in January when hopefully we'11 have more
information in regard to the risks that might be available for that, if that's agreeable. All right. okay.
CLLR FORTUN: Chairman, I requested that the letter we got from, the mail we got from Helen Hoyes, that the ${ }_{15: 55}$ content of it -- our concerns should be listed in the minutes of today's meeting because I think they're very serious.
CATHAO RLEACH okay.
M. GALLAGER well they wouldn't normally include a document that's --

CLLR. FORTUN: No, I'm asking for it.
M. GALLAGER: No, I'm just saying we wouldn't, no. No, it wouldn't be normal.
CATHAO RLEACH We haven't really discussed it.
M. GALLAGER It's not in accordance with protocol.

CLLR FORTUN: But I'm proposing we do.
CATHAO RLEACH No.
MS. GALLAGER: But Members haven't read the --
CATHAO RLEACH No, listen, Cllr, I'm going to get the
information available from our own department in regard to this pertaining to the risk in Ireland. We can discuss it then. I'11 put it on the agenda in January, and the Members can decide then whether that information could, but I think to take a decision on it ${ }_{\text {15:55 }}$ without having full information on it is wrong. I'11 try and get as much information as we possibly can in regard to that.
CLLR FORTUNE: We11, Chairman, I'm sorry --

CATHAO RLEACH A11 right, you don't agree with me, that's fine, you know.

CLLR. FORTUNE: No --
CATHAO RLEACH I think it's a reasonable thing to do.
CLLR. FORTUNE: That's beside the point.
CATHAO RLEACH It's not beside the point.
CLLR. FORTUNE: The point I'm making is, we need to have a plan in place, a Plan $B$ rather than wait for Eoghan Murphy or someone to come back to us and give us what they think. He'11 have to go on -- we know what the issues are. There are people in this county that can help us and I'm asking that the Chief Executive put something in place where we can all, as collective, put in a proposal against this particular project because this, as far as I'm concerned, is a dangerous project. It's a dangerous project to Ireland, particularly to wicklow and the east coast --

CATHAO RLEACH Listen, we may come to that conclusion, but we'11 only come to that conclusion when we have more information as far as I'm concerned on it. Right. 15:56 CLLR. FORTUNE: well this is an emergency, that's my view.

CATHAO RLEACH Right, okay. 7 is presentation, Margaret, Margaret Hartnett. The Urban Regeneration Development Fund.

## PRESENTATI ON BY MS. HARTNETT

ME. HARTNETT: So I'm just going to give a brief
presentation on the Urban Regeneration Development Fund. Just a bit about the background of this funding. It's coming from Project Ireland 2014 national priorities. As you can see there it's coming from the national strategic outcomes and priorities of the national development plan.

So just to go through some of them. There's ten kind of national strategic outcomes and ten strategic investment priorities. I suppose just to go through a few of them. Compact growth, enhanced regional accessibility, strength and rural economies and communities and sustainable mobility.

Then just go on to the rural side of things, the strength in rural economies and communities, and 1 billion world development fund is going to be there to promote rural renewal to enable the town, villages and rural areas to grow sustainable, and support of the strategic objectives of the National climate Framework.

Then to move on, then the one that we're more going to deal with today is the Urban Regeneration Development Fund, the URDF. It was established to support more compact and sustainable development throughout the regeneration and rejuvenation of rights, five cities and other large towns in accordance with the National Planning Framework and NDP.

The URDF has an overall allocation of 2 billion up to 27 and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government will have the responsibility of implementation of the fund with initial allocation of 550 in the NDP to 2022.

I suppose the two categories of funding that we're talking about here are the, under the funding is Category A which are ready-to-go proposals, and they have to be initiated in 2019. Then Category B, proposal that will require further development. So in our applications that we made, we had a mixture of Category A and B projects. As you can see there that's the list of the projects we submitted; regeneration Bray Harbour, infrastructure, development at fast flow and Dublin Road road improvements, Bray public transport bridge, wicklow town centre renewal, Wicklow town Fitzwilliam Square and library refurbishment, abbey Court regeneration in Arklow, Arklow transport plan in Arklow History Quarter regeneration.

So the successful projects that received funding; Arklow, Bray and wicklow towns will see an allocation towards the following schemes, 1.6 for the Arklow Historic Town Core, 1.6 for the Wicklow library pub7ic transport bridge. So the total for 2019 is 6.7 million. This funding, some of the schemes will roll on until '19, '20, '21 and the funding will roll over
into 1920 as needed.

So just to compare the combined rural and urban funding, if the compare it to the kind of surrounding counties, Wicklow got 6.721, this is for 2019. Just if 16:00 you compare to some of the surrounding counties; Kildare, 3.5; Carlow 948; Wexford, 2 million and Meath, 6.8. So it's competed very well with the surrounding counties, so that's good news.

Then just to give you a brief kind of rundown of the three, the three projects. The Arklow Historic Town Core, it's basically we design -- I'11 just run through the objectives, funding and timelines for the three projects and just show you a couple of the layouts that we have. The objectives of this as redesigned the public realm within the Historical Centre of Arklow, enhance landscape public space, bicycle parking and enhance bus stops.

## Renovation of the exi sting courthouse.

To make proper provision for the Court Services and to provide a digital hub service, space, sorry. So the funding that we sought for this is '19, 1.6. It will fun into ' 20,608 , and ' 21,98 , just to finish it off, and $25 \%$ wil1 local authority match funding.

So just the timelines there, we just need to get
detailed design carried out of the public realm and the courthouse, so the intention is to carry that out in Quarterly 1 of '19. Get our tender documents together and contract a procurement in Quarter 2 of 2019. Start construction in Quarter 3. We reckon, rough estimates so that we'11 have six months for the courthouse refurbishment and the 9 to 12 months for the public realm. So the overall project should be completed mid 2020.

So then I've just attached a couple of layouts. That's just to give you an idea that that's the area we're talking about, the Historic Town Core. That's just the layout of the -- yes, that's just a kind of visual representation of the courthouse and the public realm in front of it.

Then the next one is just a first, proposed first floor plan, so just gives you an idea of what the layout would be of that. Then the next layout is just an overall plan of the area. So that's the public realm as well outside the church and then outside the courthouse. So we'11 have two projects, the courthouse -- yes, that gives you visual representation of it, the courthouse and the public realm.

So then moving on to wicklow town. We have two projects, the Wicklow library refurbishment and Fitzwilliam Square. So the library is a new modern
public library facility. It will function as a communication hub and will incorporate county archive, genealogical services and local studies facility accessible to all, provide a permanent town for wicklow County Council's local studies, and the facility provides public access to material such as parish records or else maps and books and journals of interest to community.

This is just other elements that will be incorporated with the final library design, an adequate area for book and other printed materials, naturally ventilated spaces, naturally lit spaces, reading room with 25 stations with WiFi and IT, vision of 10 PCs for public use, and there will be a shared informal reading area at the entrance level.

Just on the timelines for that, we're looking at December '18 for completed tendered documents, January 2019 going on to tender with those documents.
February, we should get the tenders back. March 2019, commence and be notified to the building authority, and March -- we reckon, we consider that the construction wil1 take about ten months to complete the scheme, so hopefully it should be completed February 2020.

Then the project in Wicklow town is Fitzwilliam Square. Probably a lot of you know the objectives to this one. It's to create a multi-functional space within wicklow
town that would improve accessibility, enhance the public realm and presentation of the town centre. There will be major benefit to the town centre. It will improve access, creates a better and more attractive public realm and more commercially vibrant town centre. The lower side of the square will be pedestrianised and it's proposed to make Bridge Street one way which will enable to wider the footpaths around that street.

So the timelines for that one are the detailed design complete for that scheme so the tender documents, we're going to be getting underway with that and they will be completed February '19. We'11 procurement of contractor, hopefully have one appointed by May '19 and then we'11 start after the tourist season so it will be September '19. I reckon it will be March 2020 by the time that will be finished.

So then just a couple of layouts. This just gives kind of what it looks like at the moment. So that's the plan of what we're looking at. So just it's kind I suppose narrow footpaths, existing railings in wall in need of repair and restoration, and existing trees need to be removed in order to protect the wall and railings.

So then the proposed plan is the next one. So it just gives kind of the layout, the visual layout of what it
will look like, and just a couple of elements, shared surface in from of, on that street on the lower side of Fitzwilliam Square. It is will be shared. Pedestrian, cycle way and delivery access for that. There will be widened footpaths and there will be lower public performance area with seating at the lower end in the park, in the park itself. There will be integrated seating and planting throughout the scheme as well. Then just a couple of views there. That's the view from Abbey Street of the existing and what it will look 16:05 like once we are completed, and that's just another visual of it as well.
so the funding total for the two schemes -- sorry, that's another layout, just to show you. In terms of
detail design that's just an engineering drawing. Just the one further back, that's just an engineering drawing of what the scheme will look like in terms of the footpath improvements and that.

Then just the two schemes together, the funding total, '19 is 1.6. 2020, 1.5 and ' 21 is 532 . Then there's 25\% local authority match funding for that scheme as well.

So then the third, moving into the Bray is the Bray public transport bridge. This is a new bridge over the River Dargle. It's an essential links between the developing lands and former Bray Golf Club and dart
station. This bridge has received planning approval but it's not yet been built.
So just to give you the, hopefully you can see those kind of plans. It just kind of gives an overall match map showing the Dublin Road Improvement Scheme which is 16:06 one as well we've put for under Category B. But the Bray, that Bray bridge is an essential link for the public transport link and open up those lands. So that's just another layout as well showing the former golf club lands, the dart station and the transport bridge.

So these are just a couple of pre-preliminary drawings that we have of the bridge. That's the elevation of it and that's the typical cross section. So in that you can see it's kind of got two lanes for buses is what it will be, and then further on down the line they run with the Luas, whenever that comes $i n$.

So the section between the new bridge and the dart will
also be designed and lands acquired at the same time as the bridge, detail design because that link has to be provided as well between the bridge and the Bray dart. we reckon this scheme along with the Dublin Road Improvement Scheme, which is an important one as well
and will benefit the surrounding lands in terms of opening up land for housing. we reckon that figure there with Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, they're involved on the other side of that as well. So it will open up
residential units and commercial development.

So in terms of the funding for that scheme, we're talking about 2019, 3.4, 2023, and there will be $25 \%$ development match funding on that scheme. The timelines for that, we're saying first quarter '19 to appoint a design team to complete the design of the bridge and the link to the dart. Second quarter '19 will be prepare contract tender design. Third quarter will be procure the main contractor and select a contractor. Then fourth quarter to the third quarter '20 construction and bridge complete.

So then just moving on to the Rural Regeneration Funds that we submitted. The Baltinglass Category 1 project that the public realm enhancement to the town centre. Rathdrum's Category 2, provision of an update, provision of an up-to-date community and enterprise centre, and Kilcoole was Category 2 as well, public realm planning for town centre.

The announcements will be made in stages. The first stage was November 23rd 2018. There will be another, we reckon there will be another announcement on those rural applications. So that's the end of the presentation if anybody has any questions?
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Grainne McLough1in?
CLLR. MELOUGLIN Thanks, Margaret. I mean we have to welcome it and isn't it great to see that wicklow is
getting, is up there with funding for once, you know, and I'm really pleased about that. Just a couple of concerns. when we're putting in for all of these, all of these are worthy so I'm not taking away from the worthiness of them, I fell there wasn't enough communication with the Municipal Districts as to what do they want seen, what projects do they want seen and we weren't really part of that process. If you take for example the one that went in for the kilcoole public realm plan, there has been no, no public discourse about that at all, what sort of public realm plan did the town want? where did they want it? How did they want it? So I fear that, you know you might go ahead with projects that maybe the people themselves mightn't even want. Now all the ones you've said that we've got funding for are great but I think we just need a bit more communication.

Secondly, you know I'm never a hundred percent sure what are we allowed to actually apply for funding for? For example, I would have thought in this urban Regeneration that the main street in Greystones which hasn't been touched in 35 years, 30 to 35 years is in an appalling condition with overhead wires and everything, that could have been in this, and I heard through the grapevine, oh maybe it's not. But I don't know. I think maybe a little bit more information back to the Councillors on what we can and can't do because particularly in Greystones, or in Greystones, Delgany,

Kilcoole, we are, we do work together. So if there is something that we feel could be applied for, we could work on it.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Gail Dunne, then c11r. Shay Cullen?

CLLR DUNE: Thank you, Chairman. First of all I'd like to thank the Chief Executive and the staff of the Council who worked very hard bringing this funding to the county. I know many hours spent late at night preparing the document. So I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank the Chief Executive and the staff.

Obviously we're delighted to get this funding. It's funding that was badly needed on a couple of projects that have been put on the long finger. The library especially I think through Michael Nicholson we bought the library. It was a leap of faith and now it looks like it's going to come to fruition. I think it's great to see, we need a library so badly. You know we're a small little library and this will bring us up to the standard that is around some of the other towns within the county.

Fitzwilliam Square again, it was at the time was a problem but we've re-looked at it, re-organised a plan for it and the people in the town, I think, are genuinely excited to see this project going ahead. So I'd just like to again congratulate all of the staff, the Chief Executive, Director of Services all involved
in this. I think it was a great day for wicklow. Thank you.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Shay Cu11en?
CLLR. S. CULLEN Chairman, I want to echo those sentiments of C11r. Dunne. I suppose first of all it's 16:12 great for the investment in the county as a whole but in particular for wicklow town. Wicklow town has endured certainly a lot of issues over the last, well the last few weeks with the imminent closure of the Grand Hote1 as a hote1, and certain7y this investment is timely.

I suppose first of all Fitzwilliam Square has a chequered history with regards to planning but thankfully through the Municipal District level it is, agreement was reached on the planning situation and certainly this funding is very welcome. Wicklow town certainly needs an overhaul and this is in my opinion the start.

With regards to the library facility, again I just want to pay tribute to Michael Nicholson on this. He showed great foresight in acquiring the building that is to be pro posed for the library. Obviously it's fantastic that the funding has come through for this. But I suppose I just want to say, I hope this is only the start for wicklow town. There's huge investment needed. I know we've had debate after debate about the courthouse reopening and hopefully that's something
that will happen in the near future. But, you know, we just need to focus our efforts in my opinion on wicklow town as a county town and it certainly needs investment in the coming years.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Derek Mitchel1.
CLLR. MTCFELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, I think this, well this large investment in the county is very welcome and I think Bray public transport bridge is useful, but there will be a need for further public transport corridors through the south. I think this concerns only the north of Bray station.

But I would just like to say, I would hope that this does not take all the management sources of the Council in dealing with this from dealing with the Delgany Blackline Road which has been planned since 1989, and I hear nothing about it. I wrote to the Chief Executive a couple of weeks ago but I didn't get a response, similarly with the Director of Roads a few months ago. I can't find out really what's happening. I can't find out whether there is a timetable for it. There seems to be a timetable her for these more recent projects. I think it's absolutely vital this is done.

The vast expansion has taken place in Greystones and we need this project planned properly. we need proper staffing of it. we need a proper timetable, which every time I enquire about it, we seem to hear, oh we just did another stage, but actually that stage was
never thought of this before. It seems to be lots of extra stages going in. I'm anxious, and I think all of the Greystones Councillors are anxious that we get this built.

CATHAO RLEACH Okay. C11r. Fitzgerald, and then C11r. 16:15 Fortune. I'11 finish with Cllr. Blake then. We've two more, we've two more presentations to make before 5 o'clock. Thank you. Cllr. Fitzgerald?
CLLR. FITZGERALD Does that mean I've to rush then? CATHAOI RLEACH No. I know, I know you can take the hint, Cllr, that's why I'm saying it to you. I'd be accused of all sorts of other things if I said it to anybody else.
CLLR. FI TZGERALD: Over many years Arklow has gone through difficult times. I was more than delighted to hear of the allocation under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund. Can I say we, the Councillors, if I can speak for the Councillors, were kept informed at ever stage of this application. It went out to the public. The public gave their views. Some of them were taken and some weren't. I mean together when we get the funding for the proposed pottery development, it will certainly -- I mean there is exciting times ahead for Arklow with the proposed Data Centre, the proposed Primary Care Centre, with questions marks against both.

Look it, I believe 95\% of people of Arklow support this. Some people have issues with parking, whatever.

But I have to commend the officials, and I'm not going to get into names, but the officials who worked tirelessly on this project, who gave up their time. Some of the officials, and some of them are here, Michael Nicholson and Glen, they're on the, our town team, and other members of staff, and they certainly gave more time than was necessary. I have to say I am absolutely delighted. I was delighted last week to hear of the funding they've given to Arklow, and the rest of the county. I have no issue with that either.

I think it was great for Bray and for wicklow town. But it's a huge, it was a huge day for me as a Councillor because I've gone through rough times over the last 20 years when we had no money for anything. You couldn't get a road done. You couldn't get a pothole filled, and now we have 1.6 million, and please God into the future, we'11 have further funding coming to the Arklow area.

So I welcome the funding very much. It is a positive step. The Urban Regeneration Development Fund is said to bring life back into many towns. we all read the papers last week where towns were dying on their feet throughout the country. Certain town where people were, there were shops closing. We agreed I think in the budget book that Arklow have the most, the highest number of vacancies on the main street. That's starting to improve as well.

So I sincerely believe there's exiting times ahead, I'm just speaking of arklow, and into the future. I welcome the assistance that the Council officials, and I keep stressing this, gave at the time and therefore that was put in to getting this funding.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Fortune, the C11r. Blake. CLLR FORTUNE: Yes, I think it's fantastic that we're get this kind of funding in, and long may it continue because we have a fantastic county. This is only going to add value to the county in every way. It's going to make our tourism even better, so it's to be welcomed.

My comment though is in terms of the public realm project that I hope can be fast tracked. In light of that monstrosity of a proposal that's in the Board at the moment for the centre of the village, hopefully sense will prevail and will be at least referred back maybe to the county for us all to consider it properly. I also welcome the CEO's submission, and obviously the Director of (inaudible) involvement as well in that and the local engineer, Rory in Greystones because we need that kind of input to hopefully ensure that sense can be delivered on this because it's just going to destroy the place.

So the public realm project obviously will add value to the place. So I would say that looking at what's going on the bigger picture, if the public realm project
could be fast tracked if necessary if it's required, it happened in that way.
CATHAO RLEACH Right, okay. C11r. Bourke?
CLLR. BOURKE: I'd just like to welcome these projects again. I think it's going to be terrific for the county. It's very exciting, and think about the employment it's going to generate throughout the county and beyond. It's great news. But Margaret didn't mention in any of the applications that she was looking for funding for the Greenways. A lot of people are really hopeful that you will be able the Greenway Project between Arklow and Shillelagh and the other ones as well that you've been working on. Is there any chance you could give us a quick update on the project funding?
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, just briefly for my own point, I'm talking on behalf of the Bray managers as well, that they're happy, absolutely delighted with the funding which will be well over 6 million, 6 and a half million for a new bridge which will be the start of development down in the golf club lands. when you consider the start of the golf club lands, you can see an application in for, for the old -- site in Bray. You've got the Florentine Centre moving very fast, and then we've got a new health centre going into the town as well.

There's very significant positive developments in the town, and I think this is only the start of very
significant developmental and improvements in Bray. Certainly in the next ten years $I$ think the town that we see now will be totally different than the town we see in ten years' time because it's certainly on the up. With the amount of very significant investment coming in, I think it's only going from strength to strength.

Margaret, briefly can you just come in and just there's a couple of queries there in regard to that, if you answer them. We've two other presentations that I want to get through before 5, right. Okay, thank you.
M. HARTNETT: Sorry, just to, like just on the rural, Deirdre normally would be able to -- this better, but on the rural kilcoole, the Category 2, I mean that will have to go through Part 8 anyway, won't it? It's not a ready-to-go scheme.
UNKNOWN SPEAKER: It's a pipeline project which is why we haven't heard about it yet.
MS. HARTNETT: Yes. So there's still room for, for plenty of comment on that before it goes through, you know it hasn't gone to Part 8 yet. Then on the Delgany to Blackline Road, we've done a preliminary kind of layout design. We had a consultant looking at it before but they've done a preliminary assessment of it. 16:21 Atkins did it. But we're about a week away from a framework, setting up a framework for consultants and we're doing up a scope at the moment so that immediately once that's set up we can, we can go out to
tender and get consultants appointed to finish off, the Delgany to Blackline Road. So we should hopefully be able to get a new timetable then on that, once we've then appointed.

FROM THE FLOOR: When can we get a timetable for the whole thing?
MG. HARTNETT: well we should have, I'd say the framework will be in place in about, I'd say the beginning of next week. We'11 have our scope ready to go out immediately to go out to tender. So there will probably be a couple of weeks for them to price that up. So you are probably talking about the beginning of '19 before you have somebody appointed for it. You will get a timetable from, you know we'11 set up a timetable --

CATHAO RLEACH There's movement on that, yes. FROM THE FLOOR: But it has to go to Bord Pleanála for CPO's and stuff.
MG. HARTNETT: oh yes, sorry, but this is --
FROM THE FLOOR: But have an overall timetable.
ME. HARTNETT: oh we'11 give a -- yes, once we have that, yes.
CATHAO RLEACH okay. All right. okay.
MS. HARTNETT: Then on the Greenway funding, you see we're going to go in for the Greenway on the know the Greenway funding, the strategy funding for that scheme. This is where we need to have planning in place for that scheme and I suppose we want to have all
the landowners, you know agreements done. So that will be going into next year's funding application in November. We've been told that will be run again next year, you know.
CATHAO RLEACH Al1 right. Chief Executive, do you want to say anything?
MR. CURRAN No, I think that covers it. CATHAO RLEACH okay.
MR. CURRAN Like with the urban ones, they were put in in a very short time frame actually and there was a lot of work done to get them in. But if Councillors have any ideas, you mentioned Greystones there, let us know now so that we're ready for 2019. Similarly, with the kilcoole one, it is actually a very good submission but it's Category B and it will involve a detailed design and consultation. Now we should hear early in the New Year in relation to that. We'11 be hopeful enough because it is, it's a strong submission.
CATHAO RLEACH Just in regard to this, a huge amount of work, I don't think Councillors realise how much work the Executive put in to making these applications, and it's the first time that we've outgunned a lot of our neighbours around the greater Dublin area in regard to funding as well. So obviously, hopefully this is the start of proper funding that we get for this county, and it's very significant funding. I think on all our behalf I think we have to acknowledge the work that went in in a very short period of time to make this the success that it is, yes. Okay. Grand, okay.

Number 8, to ratify C11r. Mary McDonald to the Regional Drugs Force. Proposer? Dermot and, C11r. Kennedy and C11r. o'brien, yes. okay, is that agreed? okay. 9, okay? Dona1?

## PRESENTATI ON BY MR O KEEFFE

MR. O KEEFFE: Good evening, Councillors, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to present today on Digital Strategy that we're working on. So, endless opportunities in digital.

So, what is a Digital Strategy, I suppose is the place to start. So a strategy, a Digital Strategy lays out the fundamental step to he1p reap the full, help reap the full rewards of a digitally enabled society. It sets out a vision to facilitate development of broadband and telecoms infrastructure. This sets a vision to grow our local digital economy, a vision to increase our awareness benefits of digital technologies through engagement, integrate online services and support, supports for citizens, and a vision to transform to a digitally enabled County Council.

It will mainly consist of a digital strategy report based around four main themes, which I'11 go into 1ater. An implementation, action plan which will have objectives, actions and a time scale. It will consist
of, or follow an overall road map. So the action plan and the strategy report will have like, I suppose, a monitoring plan in place to -- its successful outcome.

So why a Digital Strategy? Digital technology is changing the world by transforming how we find information, access services, how we work and how we engage and communicate. The National Broadband Plan, if it goes ahead, is the largest infrastructure investment ever undertaken, or could be ever undertaken by the State and must be prepared to make best use of its potential.

The economic benefit is clear. A digitally enabled economy and supports, governance cannot be ignored. $80 \%$ of our GDP is reliant on digitally, being digitally enabled. In order to be able to facilitate how citizens, community groups and businesses need and want to interact, we must make plans now to transform to digital era.

So progress to date, I suppose earlier in the year we set up a Digital Strategy Steering Group. There was a digital readiness assessment undertaken in conjunction with the Department of Communications and the
Department of Rural and Community Development using a consultant, specialist consultant. It was based on (inaudible) and local authority, I suppose, information.

The National Broadband Plan then Department met the teams, came down and met with the Council Management team here in July to update on the MBP's progress and digital strategy importance. The digital ready assessment results were received back from the Department in Q3 2018. We had workshops and there was guidelines from these workshops released in September. working groups were formed under each team that have been selected. Chairs have been selected for each team 16:28 -- principle and the initial meetings are still ongoing. The public engagement process has commenced, including presentation stakeholder groups. There will be a public workshop and online survey in Q1 2019.

So additional Digital Strategy workshops and engagement with the Department's consultants will also, wicklow has been allocated some more basically expertise from the consultants upon application.

So the overall road map sets out obviously, it sets out our context, our current context which I'11 go into in more detail later. The engagement process is ongoing at the moment and the vision that has to be set is through the thematic pillars. So the first three steps 16:29 in the road map are kind of interlinked and in progress. The drafting implementation and monitoring then is kind of the second phase of getting through to road map.

On public engagement then we are undertaking, we need to gain valuable input from citizens, from business groups. As part of the engagement process stakeholder meetings were undertaken. That's myself presenting or meeting with say age friendly networks, PPN et cetera. We have released some information through digital media or through corporate state on updates and funding and things like this. Public workshops and online survey then in 2019. and culture digital pillars. Then we have performed well, or there is good infrastructure in place as regards digital skills and innovation and entrepreneurship. But there is some work to be done
there to totally complete to best practice.

On the Digital Strategy report then, the report will set out Co. Wicklow's digital context, engagement outcome. The vision outlined the thematic visions under forming teams, digital infrastructure, digital council, digital economy and citizen smart. So to create the vision and develop our objectives and actions through public engagement and our working groups.

So the themes of Digital Council, they'11 support the ICT strategy, tourism strategy, Municipal Districts, LAPS and LACP. Increase online -- I suppose these are outline kind of objectives at the moment but these have to be agreed through the working groups. So increase online services availability with integrated E Services and applications.

Digital economy, to have more business people trained in specific skills they need to exploit the digital economy in the business context and the LEO is already doing work in this area, good work. Support digital innovation and screen film industry with providing digital tech spaces.

Then Citizen Smart, to stimulate demand increase, awareness of benefits of digital technology online services for citizens. Support digital skills,
training, education for citizens to create digital equality.

I suppose digital infrastructure is one of the main issues that we come across or that would be brought back to me through engagement with Councillors or through engagement with the public directly. Under the working group, we've met a few times but some of the work that's going on at the moment, there's funding being put in for free public WiFi under EU WiFi for EU, ${ }^{16: 33}$ the EU Commission. There's four applications, and we should hear back in the next three weeks on those fours applications.

Bray Municipal District are commercially funding WiFi, free public WiFi, and I think David Ford is meeting, has mainly run with that and is working in the background with local business groups. Arklow, wicklow main street currently have, well Arklow at the moment has virgin Media providing free public wifi on the main street, and the same will happen on Wicklow main street in the coming months. We're hoping to talk and expand those projects further on main street at the moment. I think it's planned for one access. There is only one access point but we're hoping to improve that to a larger extent basically on the main street.

Digital hubs. We've one funding for information portal in the foyer County Buildings which will have to be put
in fairly soon because the funding is expended this year. There's 12, I suppose, rural community access called SCAHs. They're part of the National Broadband and they're the first priority. Once the National Broadband is going ahead, this is to give, this is to give rural communities who are lacking in broadband services on the premises access to high speed broadband through rural community hubs.
we obviously have 13 libraries with free online services and there's other projects ongoing in Baltinglass, Arklow. Then there's talk of digital hubs in wicklow town and Rathnew.

Fixed fibre network then. I suppose the National Broadband Plan State intervention is in the process. We're meant to hear about the finalisation of that through government in the next couple of weeks. At the moment there's a huge investment being undertaken by Eir, Open Eir Networks. They are within a commitment ream to supply 300,000 houses with rural, rural broadband, and they're going to hit their target in, I think May/June 2019, slightly behind the end of the year commitment agreement, but there has been storm delay, storm delay issues, and that has delayed it.

Cabinet and copper upgrade also by Open Eir. There was announcement last week, 1.4 billion $I$ think it was, to upgrade cabinets. There's 10,000 cabinets across the

Open Eir Network nationally. 9 and half thousand of those are fibre enabled and 500 are not. That is causing issues in the States in urban areas. So they will be upgraded under that, under that funding, and also they will be upgrading copper wire from those cabinets to premises to give fibre to the home. So that is, that has been announced last week.

Virgin Media have invested approximately 10 million in infrastructural projects in 2018 and '19, mostly in Arklow, wicklow and Rathnew. There is a representative from Virgin Media has been speaking with Greystones Municipal District in the recent weeks with regard to design plan for Greystones. SIRO have presented to the Council on their plans but they have not responded to correspondence of late for an update.

Mobile infrastructure, we've had vodafone in on a few different issues with regards, there's one pilot project on the N 11 . They put a mast in at Junction 8 to provide better coverage in Kilmacanogue village and along the nation road. It's in conjunction with $I$ suppose, it's project using I suppose Council or local authority owned land. It's a co-location project so vodafone, Eir and Three infrastructure will be on the mast, and that is hopefully the way forward from now on, so that's with any mast.

On nation broadband high speed broadband in Co. Wicklow
currently, I see the progress from Q1 2017 has been monitored by the Department with an update to Q3 2018 just recently released last week. The big area obviously is the amber area. It consisted of around 20\% of premises in Co. Wicklow, 14,000 and so premises. 16:38 You can see on the light blue area which is the Eir 3K Project where there's almost 5,000 houses planned at the start of the process in 2017 with 1,700 or so left to the end of May/June to look for completion on that project. That's increasing the blue premises commercially operated. So, you can see it's gone from 44,000 up to 48,000 , mainly due to the light blue area, Eir 300 Projects, also with further development and the building. I suppose in the blue zone there it's in urban areas.

The total number of premises in Wicklow in the bottom 1eft-hand figure, 67,000 premises, that's just East Carlow as well. That will have slightly less I suppose on average access to obvious7y broadband, so that's why 16:39 they're $23 \%$ rather than Co. Wicklow which is $22 \%$.

A11 information is on the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment website. There's also just to finish, there's a national digital strategy for consultation, and that's progressing as well which will feed in which is where our local authority or our county strategies will feed into also.

That's it.
CATHAOI RLEACH Okay, C11r. Mitche11?
CLLR. M TCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH Listen, I'm going to put off the next one until next month because we just don't have enough
time. It's after lighting up here in regard to Members who want to come in. C11r. Mitche11, go ahead, yes?

CLLR. MTCHELL: Yes.
CATHAO RLEACH I'm sorry about that to Liam
Fitzpatrick.
CLLR. M TCHELL: Just the National Broadband Strategy is always spoken of as a rural thing. It seems to be the general assumption that in urban areas you can get broadband, but certainly in Greystones, where I am, my area and you can on7y get about 2 megabytes, or
whatever it is, service, and I think the area of Kilcoole which is similar. It's impossible to know what areas are like that but certainly that's my experience. But it doesn't match what we're told when we're told that the urban areas have been fibres for houses or something.

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Behan? If everyone is brief now because this has to be finished by 5 o'clock. Cllr. Behan?

CLLR. BEHAN Chairman, it's an important issue though so I think you're right to give it time, and I'm not going to be rushed.
CATHAO RLEACH There's seven or eight people after you, C11r Behan.

CLLR. BEHAN Yes, that's fine but I asked for this to go on the agenda, Cathaoirleach. It is an important issue for people. As C11r. Mitchell has said it's not just --
CATHAO RLEACH Move on please.
CLLR. BEHAN If I could just continue on, it's not just, it's not just a rural issue. I want to ask specifically in relation to Knockmore Estate in Arklow, and also Kerville Hill in wicklow town where in fact in Kerville Hill, one cul-de-sac is on rural broadband and the other is on high-speed broadband. Do you get involved in those issues or can you advise people who are stuck, particularly people who are trying to work at home. One of the most frustrating things for people is when they're trying to work from home, when the Chief Executive talks about people working from home, not clogging up the roads and so on, working in Wicklow, very often people who have their own business cannot work from home because they don't have proper broadband connection. It is not restricted, as C11r. 16:42 Mitchell said, to rural area. It's also in what we would consider to be urban areas. Can you please comment on that? Are you aware of those two problems?

In the case of Knockmore, it was originally because there was a dispute between this Council and Eir over the replacement of a cabinet. If that is the case, can that not be resolved so that those people can be assisted?

CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Ryan?
CLLR. RYAN Yes. Okay, I thought there was going to be war there actually when you put off the GDPR presentation. By the way I'd like to say congratulations on your presentation because it's not often we actually in a presentation here in wicklow we get told --
CATHAO RLEACH I don't like officials waiting, to waste the time waiting for two hours and then not giving a presentation, you know what I mean.
CLLR. RYAN Yes, I know that, but it's not often that we get told how many swipes there are on Tinder in every minute, so congratulations for putting that into your presentation. But just, did I get it right by the way that you said that the information portals have to be put outside in the foyer this year or we lose the funding because if that's the case we do need to put them up and make that happen, but what goes up on those is critically important. That has to be really good content. So I don't think that aspect will be rushed. If it means rushing to get them up, we11 do that and spend the money before we lose it.

With regard to Claremont, just as a digital hub, obviously there has been talk about that for quite a
while. I think if it is, it's, you know, part of the future strategy in terms of the likes of creating a shared working collaborative area for wicklow to stop people having to trave1 to Dublin on the road. But
like that's going to take a large investment, just to get an insight into how close or far we are away from actually making that a reality because I think it's really important.

Then just finally, you know when broadband comes into a particular area, do you have any figures as to the uptake, because I know around the country there has been a lot of issues made that broadband has been available but then the uptake has been really really poor. Thank you.
CATHAO RLEACH C17r. Miriam Murphy?
CLLR. MRPH: Yes. As C11r. Behan has brought up the issue, in Arklow one housing estate is a saga. It's just an ongoing saga. I suppose like the issue, there just seems to have been no result or no answer. So that needs to be put back on the agenda as a priority.

Also I jus want to know, in new housing estates and new planning with Housing and social housing, is there infrastructure included in that, that when that estate is finished, whatever, that in another year or two that it's not being dug up again for to put, you know, infrastructure into it because that has been brought to my attention a few times.
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, that's grand. C11r. Gail Dunne? CLLR DUNE: Thank you, Chairman. Yes, just following on from that, we have a problem in wicklow town as well. Basically new footpaths were put in, and then
within maybe six months, six to eight months with the problem that they had to be dug up again. I don't know whether it's a planning issue or not but maybe (inaudible) should be now put into these footpaths so it shouldn't have to be dug again. It makes more sense, it really does.

The second thing, just about Virgin Media in wicklow town, I felt, and I know other Members of wicklow Municipal District felt that the work they carried out 16:45 was not up to standard. We also felt that they just arrived on the day. They said they had a procedure where a letter was sent out or people knocked on the door to let people know they were coming. People coming out of their houses and couldn't get out of their driveways. That a11 happened and there was murder in Wicklow town. So I think there has to be some sort of structure that people need to know when the works are being carried out. Thank you, Chairman. CATHAO RLEACH Okay, grand. C11r. Walsh?
CLLR. WALSH Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks, Donal, for the presentation. Just a couple of points there. Firstly, the Eir 300K Project is finishing in May/June which is good. I assume they delivered there. Again a question mark over the uptake there. I heard a comment 16:46 there on some radio programme yesterday the uptake mightn't have been what it was, or what they thought it would be.

As well as that, there's a lot of frustration there. The way that was mapped, people, you know, in close proximity to the houses that are supplied are missing out, just I'd like to mention by a couple of hundred
yards.

The point of the ten million contract there for virgin Media in relation to the cabinet copper upgrade, I know a couple of the housing estates in our area, and I happen to live in one, that needed, badly needed upgrading. I think you're aware of that, Donal. So I wonder would that, and the likes of these estates. of course a lot of this is dependent on, on the National Broadband Plan coming to fruition. It's 3 billion we're talking about. So again, the cost of delivering that is strictly to some isolated area. It may be cost prohibited but that's for another date. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.
CATHAO RLEACH C11r. Dermot $O^{\prime}$ brien and the last one, cllr. McLoughlin. We're going back to Donal then. Is 16:47 that okay?
CLLR. O BRIEN I don't need to reiterate how important this is for the county but what I would just throw in, the importance of including young people in the development of the strategy and almost coming to fundamentally important to the future of the Digital Strategy because it's them that we want to not be leaving the county on buses and getting stuck in
traffic. It's them we want to be staying in wicklow and be inspired and have the capacity to run their own business and to do their own work. So I think embedding young people in the whole architecture of the strategy is particularly important.

CATHAOI RLEACH Thanks. C11r. Grainne McLough1in? CLLR. MELOUGLIN Yes. Thanks, Donal. I think it's really important, Donal, that when we are getting any of these companies to install WiFi or broadband in any areas that they should -- and I'd like to see this actually in the strategy, that they should be made finish the job. what they've been doing is going in piecemeal and picking out the big estates that are nice and easy. We have a situation in Kilcoole where you have one estate in the centre of the town and all the estates around have WiFi and the one in the centre has two.

I mean so, I think that if they are going to get the contract from Wicklow County Council to open up the roads and whatever, they should be told, you can't just pick. You have to do the whole lot, because we've large spots of dark blue on the map and there's pockets in there that are not even pale blue.

The upgrading of the cabinets, are you including those areas like say Wellfield in Kilcoole that didn't get upgraded and that they would be going into those smaller houses, is that what you mean by the upgrading
of the cabinets?
CATHAO RLEACH Okay, Dona1. Now, you be brief. MR. O KEEFFE: I suppose as regards the urban area, we'11 start there with, we're mapped in the blue area. I have had representations, several in regards to estates, full estates or one-off houses in urban areas with blue maps that haven't access to possibly broadband.

I suppose the mapping process was undertaken in order to, and it's been knocked down due to the tendering process. So it can't be changed to become more accurate at the moment. But we have been, I have submitted any issues that I came across, and after speaking with the, $I$ suppose telecoms in the area and looking at their infrastructure of the area, or speaking to them on their designing plans of their infrastructure investment plans in those specific areas, if there doesn't seem to be anything happening, then the representation was made to the Department, which will then once the process is over will bring blue mapped areas or premises that are not receiving high speed broadband back to the National Broadband Plan State intervention, basically into the amber zone. So that is where that is.

So, the mapping process, the way it worked back in 2014/'15 was basically, was undertaken to get into the process, and the blue areas were based on commercial
companies who indicated where they were going to provide a service. So there was no commitment agreement or there was no contract there for them to do that. Unfortunately it was a massive oversight perhaps on the part of the Department and the government.

Regards specific areas, every area has its complexities with regards conducting and the works required and the investment required. Any of these blue areas are commercial, commercially operated areas where it's up to them to invest up to a company and to see a return on it. So you're talking, you're asking I suppose in regards, my influence on that, I have met with and spoken regularly on issues like Knockmore in Arklow, I think Redford in, and other locations in Greystones. I can ask for them to prioritise their investment in those areas but it is a commercial investment, I suppose, option by them to see a return.

So, any areas where there's cabinet issues. The Department of Communications have made representations and held direct meetings with Open Eir as regards the cabinets. They had a cabinet page programme over the last number of years. They basically pulled money from that programme, put in money to the Eir 300k world promises to upgrade those cabinets over the past. But the recent announcement last week that they will upgrade those cabinets and they will upgrade from the
cabinet fibre, take out copper and put in fibre to, I think, 1.4 million of 1.6 million people served under those, I suppose in that people who have that infrastructure on the premises. Now I don't know the time scale. They weren't clear on that. But that's what Eir are planning to do on those areas.

Yes, on ducting in general, $I$ suppose the National Broadband Mobile Phone Task Force has been rocking with a co-development group. One of the subgroups, or one of the key actions within that was to, I suppose, design ducting that was inter, I suppose going to be used by all the fixed fibre network providers. So at the moment there's three fixed fibre network companies in Ireland. There's virgin Media, open Eir and SIRo, and possibly in the near future there's going to be a NBP company. That's to be setup.

So that design, that co-working group has set out design and it's almost finalised. I suppose ducting and the breakouts from that on the manholes are all going to be designed and agreed with by the telecommunication companies. So any future greenfield developments should be installing that as standard service provision.

On the information portals just quickly, the funding has been drawn down, has been submitted to draw down that funding. I suppose we've, we've spent money and
the money was won through a specific project called 'Where in wicklow'. It's kind of basically an information mapping service. So that will have to be the key content for the information portal but we can have other, other information on it as well. So we have, we are in the process of buying kiosk software and interactive touchscreen. It's going to be delivered tomorrow, and then it's a matter of installation and I suppose working with the software as well. Work with that has to be undertaken to finance that. Paddy, the GF officer, is the project lead on that project, Paddy Flaherty.

As regards Claremount, the master plan, just from talking to, I wasn't really involved at all, unfortunately funding wasn't won, as it were, for that recently. I suppose funding could be put in for that again in the future or (inaudible) for 2020.

Regards uptake on, the figure $I$ heard with regards to
uptake from the Eir 300k project was $16 \%$ of house premises passed, but I'm not too sure if that's, how accurate that is or where that came from. So that would just show you that perhaps is this, is this a major issue as people may feel for rural communities?
I think it is, but why isn't there an uptake there. I would see that $16 \%$ as not really reflective because people are in contracts perhaps with mobiles or satellite companies. So, I know commercial companies
work on an annual, a year basis. They would need a survey on uptake, not after a short period as has been the case so far.
New planning infrastructure, again Cllr. McDonald I think was asking, and Gail, ducting. Personally I think any ducting infrastructure or any path upgrades should perhaps including the ducting within that but I think that's something that has to be discussed with Planning and Roads and seeing how that works.

Yes, I suppose other infrastructure issues, if there are estates that you know of, you should email myself or email broadband@dcc -- or sorry, the broadband. I can send on the email address to send on basically to make representations to the Department in order to get blue areas open areas, or blue zone premises back into the National Broad Plan and into amber zone areas. So the State will provide service through the National Broadband Plan.

Free public WiFi. On that issue, could I just on I suppose, on provision of free public wiFi where commercial conditions come in and $I$ suppose it's not really a regulated thing as far as I'm aware of, but if a company comes in for free funding and we're talking Municipal District and work through where to put it and where the best areas are, are to serve for public benefit. Personally I would rather they come up with an overall plan for the whole of main Street and work
towards that rather than maybe just selecting certain areas. I'm not sure if I've addressed all the issues. CATHAO RLEACH Okay. Grand. okay, Lorraine wants to come in with a couple of issues.
M. GALLAGER: Just a couple of things, yes.

Cathaoirleach, throughout the year the minutes of the Protocol committee would have been circulated amongst each of the Members. If I can have a proposer and a seconder please.
CATHAO RLEACH Proposer and second, Protocol? C11r. Ryan and Sylvestor Bourke, that's fine.
M. GALLAGER: Also the minutes of the CPG would have been circulated to the Members periodically during the year. Could I have a proposer and a seconder?
CATHAO RLEACH Yes. Sylvestor and I'11 second it.
M. GALLAGER: C11r. Bourke. Thank you, C11r. Vance, thank you.
CATHAO RLEACH okay.
MS. GALLAGER: Just to say that the January meeting will jump from the 7th January to the 14th, just to
allow for the christmas period if that's okay, Members. CATHAO RLEACH Yes, Protocol is here now, 5 o'clock.

All right, thank you.

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