

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
SHORELINE LEISURE CENTRE, GREYSTONES, CO WICKLOW
ON
MONDAY 15TH JUNE 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Elaine McCarthy

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you could find your names and sit down. Before we start the meeting properly I would just like to say that there is an echo and it is really important if you put your hand up that you wait for me to call your name so they can switch on your mic, if I say your name they will switch on the mic, it is important that you speak into the microphone because other than that, people will have no idea what you're saying.

And also before we start I would now like to say I've always wanted to invigilate a Leaving Certificate so if you take your papers out and they will be passed out in a minute and when we sound the bell you can turn the papers over and we'll start. First thing on the agenda this evening is vote of sympathy so Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes Cathaoirleach, for John Munnelly father of Ian, Bridie Cardiff former Director of Wicklow Enterprise Park. For Bridie Cussen father of Ned and Damian Cussen. For Mavea Adamson sister of Peter Lawlor.

And for Christina Lily Keogh mother of our colleague Gary Keogh and Michael McGovern father of our retired colleague Frank McGovern.

CLLR BLAKE: On behalf of myself I would like to offer sympathy to Mags Murray Chair of Lama a Cork woman, member of Fingal County Council until last year and Chair of LAMA until last year and stood in the last local elections and to her family and to her husband, daughter, two daughters and her son, and brothers and sisters, I would like to pay our sympathy to her, she was a great woman to speak. She had a word for everybody, she certainly wasn't one of those people who ignored you, she didn't ask political affiliations in any shape or form, family big loss and LAMA, her contributions she made there is large so, so to her family our sincere sympathy

CLLR TIMMINS: Propose sympathy to Irene Gillis former MEP that represented Leinster.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I would like to be associated with the condolences, to all of the people but in particular to Mags Murray I worked and served on LAMA with her almost ten years, and she was a very

vibrant and energetic lady and she'll be a huge loss to her community, she was a fantastic local representative.

We stand.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Oh, Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I'd like to propose a suggestion of expenses of standing for Irish Water refusing water connections in Newtownmountkennedy and Wicklow Hills Development of the issue is now in the town there is a lack of water storage and not a lack of water supply. Permission has been granted to developments for a temporary reservoir as part of the Wicklow Hills Development.

Irish Water want a more long-term reservoir solution to be built at Newtown at a cost of €8 million with no timeline given. The issue will affect all developments in the Newtown, Kilcoole area and if not dealt with now Irish Water need to engage with developers to resolve this issue. We cannot allow building and the completion of houses to stop particularly when we're in a housing crisis. Solutions need to be found, and fast, and

I'm calling on Wicklow County Council to engage with Irish Water and if necessary, to arrange a meeting with the elected members of Wicklow County Council to deal with this matter urgently.

CATHOIRLEACH: OK. Are members, - sorry, Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: I'll like to support the proposal there. This has serious impact on proposed developments in the area and not alone for housing development but could have possible potential for employment, lands there in the area as referenced by Cllr. Cullen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll take it at 4.15, are people in agreement? OK 4.15. Item one on the agenda. to confirm. I just want to take apologies for the meeting. From Cllr Miriam Murphy. She sent me a lovely message personally this morning as well. OK, and item one on the agenda, to confirm and sign the minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 25th of February.

Proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, and seconded by Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

Agreed?

OK, item two, to confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 2nd of March, proposed by Cllr Vincent Blake and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR BLAKE: Just where we had a very good presentation from Airtricity in that particular meeting and it was agreed at the end of the meeting they would come back in the next few months and give a follow up on it. I think most members of that meeting were concerned about the level of lights throughout the county that were out and before we head into another winter it would be important to come back in September/October, give us an update where we are with the LED aspect of the whole thing. So, I think it is a very important meeting the day they were there, and I think it would be equally as important they come back to us September/October and give update as to where we are with it.

MS GALLAGHER: They have been in touch throughout the last couple of months and they're very ready to speak with the councillors again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item three, to confirm and sign

the minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Friday 29th of May 2020, shortest meeting we've ever had. Can I have a proposer or somebody who was at it, Cllr Joe Behan and seconded by Shay Cullen. And you'll have to excuse me, I have new hearing aids last week, and the feedback at the moment is just - I'm adjusting, OK.

OK, number four, to consider the disposal of all of Folio. WW3817L - Co Wicklow being the property known as 32D Ledwidge Crescent, Bray Co Wicklow to Ms Shirley Vij, 36D Ledwidge Crescent, Bray Co. Wicklow. Can I have a proposer? Cllr Anne Ferris and seconded by Cllr Joe Behan.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed.

So, five: To consider the disposal of all of Folio No WW344L being the property known as 46 St Peter's Place, Arklow Co. Wicklow to Mr David Doherty and Ms Bernadette Doherty, 46 St Peter's Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Tommy Annesley.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you. Number six, to consider the disposal of 0.0049 hectares or thereabouts of land in the townland adjacent to 32 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wickow to Ms Audrey Collins, 32 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow. as previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Anne Ferris and seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And item seven. To consider the disposal of 0.0017 hectares or thereabouts of land comprise in Folio No WW2882L - Co. Wicklow being a strip of land adjacent to 5 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co Wicklow to Mr Fergus Ryan, Legal Representative of Ms Carmel Ryan of 5 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co Wicklow. As previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Gerry Walsh, and seconded by Cllr Tom Fortune.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number eight, To consider the disposal of 0.0094 hectares or thereabouts of land being a plot of land to the rear of 4 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Mr. John Butler and Ms Maureen Doran, Personal Representative of Ms

Teresa Butler of 4 Connolly Square, Bray, Co. Wicklow. As per noticed previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and Cllr Joe Behan.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed.

>>: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number nine - To consider the disposal of 0.192 acres or thereabouts of land situated at Villa Mena, Dunbar Park, Wicklow Town by way of Fee Simple to Mr Ciaran Kelly and Mr. Aidan Kelly, Legal Representatives of Mr Patrice Kelly of Villa Mena, Dunbar Park, Wicklow Town. and proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, and seconded by Cllr John Snell.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed?

>>: Agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number ten, to consider the disposal of 0.0104 hectares or thereabouts of land comprised in Folio No WW4484 Co Wicklow situated at 6 Lourdes Crescent, Aughrim, Co Wicklow to Mr Kevin Byrne and Ms Melissa Byrne, 6 Lourdes Crescent, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow.

As previously circulated, proposed by Cllr Pat Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed?

>>: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number eleven. To consider the disposal of all of Folio No WW2211L being the property known as Cnoc Rua, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow to Mr Finbar Mulligan and Ms Joanne Fox, Cnoc Rua, Hollywood, Co. Wicklow. proposed by Cllr Patsy Glennon and Cllr Edward Timmins.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed thank you?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item twelve. To consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest of the piece of plot or ground with dwelling house known as 37 Wolfe Tone Square East, Bray, Co. Wicklow to Mr Michael Barry and Ms Ashling Beirne, 37 Wolfe Tone Square East, Bray, Co. Wicklow. As per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed?

Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number, item number 13, to consider filling the vacancy of the Chair of the

Climate and Biodiversity SPC created by the election of former councillors Cllr Jennifer Whitmore and Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann. And Cllr Tom Fortune and sorry ...

MS GALLAGHER: I have e-mail here to read out. Yes Cathaoirleach, I have e-mail from Cllr Tom Fortune, on 27th of March advising the technical group completed a voting process to select the two Chairs to share the Climate and Biodiversity SPC and the group have selected Cllr Rory O'Connor sharing first-term and Cllr Lourda Scott the second.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I'm proposing that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder, Cllr Peir Leonard I need actual glasses. Agreed. Item fourteen, to consider filling the vacancy on the Eastern and Midland regional Assembly created by the election of Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I received e-mail from Cllr Tom Fortune on 27th of March the group have selected Cllr Tom Fortune for the regional authority. The Midland Regional Assembly.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, proposed by Cllr Mary Kavanagh. And seconded by Cllr Rory O'Connor.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item fifteen, to consider the filling of the vacancy on the AILG arising from the resignation of Cllr Rory O'Connor.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, Cllr Rory O'Connor has stepped down and the proposal is for Cllr Joe Behan to replace him as the AILG rep, again e-mail received from Cllr Tom Fortune on the 26th of May.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer?

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed Cllr Mary Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr Tom Fortune. Thank you is that agreed? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 16, to consider the filling of the vacancy on the Wicklow County Council Protocol Committee arising from the vacancy created by the election of former Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann.

MS GALLAGHER: Could we have a proposer?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I put forward Cllr Lourda Scott for

the position.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we have a seconder?

MS GALLAGHER: For the Protocol Committee, Cllr Lourda Scott is on the protocol committee, it would normally be to ratify if Cllr Erika Doyle we placed Cllr Stephen Matthews and Cllr Jodie Neary replaced Cllr Jennifer Whitmore so that would be the normal course of events. Is Cllr Erika Doyle here?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune. Do I have a seconder for Cllr Erika Doyle, from Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you is that agreed?

>>: Agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 17, to ratify the appointment of Cllr Erika Doyle agreed by the Bray Municipal District members to the Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee arising from the vacancy created by election of former Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann.

MS GALLAGHER: This was considered by the Bray MD, so, proposer?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed yeah. Ms Lorraine Gallagher Cllr Pat Kennedy and seconded by?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien and ... Cllr Grace McManus. Sorry, you're just out of my line of vision.

MS GALLAGHER: That's agreed? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To item 18 to ratify the appointment of Cllr Erika Doyle agreed by the Bray Municipal District Members to the Greystones/Bray Cliff Walk Management Plan Sub-Committee arising from the vacancy created by the election of former Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann.

Cllr Anne Ferris and Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy is that agreed? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To ratify the appointment of Cllr Erika Doyle agreed by the Bray Municipal District Members to the Special Amenity Area Order for Bray Head Committee arising from the vacancy created by the election of former Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann. Proposed by Cllr Melanie Corrigan and seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy is that agreed. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To ratify the appointment of Cllr Erika Doyle so the Planning and Environment SPC arising from the vacancy created by the election

of former Cllr Stephen Matthews to Dáil Eireann, proposed by Cllr Dermot O'Brien and seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed.

>>: Agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CHAIR: To ratify appointment of Cllr Jodie Neary to the Climate and Biodiversity Action SPC arising from the vacancy created by the election of foreigner Cllr Jennifer Whitmore to Dáil Eireann.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Lourda Scott and seconded by Cllr Mags Crean.

Is that agreed.

>>: Agreed.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 22, to consider the adoption of the Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Port Explosive Bye-laws 2020, and I think we'll have a presentation. Breege Kilkenny.

>>: Merlin has difficulty, he just texted me there now, he will be here in ten minutes so if you want to perceive to 23. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 23, to receive update on Wicklow County Council Covid-19, and we'll have Frank Curran.

MR CURRAN: Just as I said when we had Teams meeting a few weeks ago it has been unprecedented challenge for the staff of Wicklow County Council since the first case of 27th of February. But there's phenomenal goodwill across the organisation, indoor and outdoor staff, health and safety has been our number one priority in terms of good hygiene practice, additional hand sanitizing and physical distancing and as people return to work we have a suite of standard operating guidelines indoor and outdoor staff will operate with, and it is important we have that. We have a safety committee established and safety reps indoor and outdoor and Covid-19 compliance officer and number of inspectors that are numbering that everything is done in accordance with those standard operating procedures. And we've looked at all the offices in terms of the two metres distance, so that when people are in there is full physical distancing. We've had a crisis management team that's been meeting on a regular basis, daily initially and now

at least weekly if not twice weekly, we have business continuity plan that's changing as we resolve. At the moment we have about 50% of staff back, the rest generally working from home, the planning counter is open on appointment and planners come in once or twice a week, get the files and deal with them generally at home. Now and that's working out fine because as you know there is a break there for six weeks in terms of planning and statutory timelines, but we'll be ready to go when the time comes.

The end of June we will open the other departments on incremental basis, probably initially on appointment-only and we might try to bring that back to 22nd of June and then on the 20th of July, we will look at full reopening, I would like to compliment Lorraine and her team throughout the Covid-19 experience in terms of getting the message out to members and general public on what was happening. We had group that consisted of ourselves, represented by myself and Gardai Coilte National Wildlife Services, we looked at carparks, beaches and toilets and you know they're mostly open now, and we didn't make a decision not to open

the Bray to Greystones cliff walk because you couldn't get the physical distancing on that, but we'll review that as things go on and maybe in 20th of July you'll have a full reopening, but beaches and toilets are all open but will be watched and that group meets on a regular basis.

We had the community forum as well, which chaired by myself, we had representatives from the PPN from County Wicklow partnership, County Wicklow volunteer centre, HSE, Local Link, an Post, HSE, Alone and Citizens Information Centre, the Cathaoirleach was on it as well and the big one there was the community support helpline, and I'd like to compliment the staff in that over the course of a weekend and took calls of anybody who needed, e-shopping delivered or needed assistance in regard to medication or any help that group could provide, there was meals on wheels, and volunteers provided PCs and laptops and things that people that needed it had so a huge amount of volunteering around that, it was useful. Also, just on the CCD side, libraries are open on Click on collect and pretty much ready to open now and I know centre Government want us to open on a trial basis, we will

open one in Municipal District, so that people with browsing and that can happen from next Monday. Housing of course has been busy, needless to say we've been dealing with rents so people who got a reduction on income could contact with us and got corresponding reduction in rent. People with Covid-19 payments we organised rent, new houses came on in Farrenkelly, Whitehall and Baltinglass and PPE houses coming through in Wicklow. HAH and homeless, HAP were busy throughout, we had a number of self-isolation units set aside should we need them for either people who needed to self-isolate but couldn't for our clients and travellers and et cetera, and did a lot of work over traveller halting sites in cleaning and providing sanitary facilities. The Cold Weather Initiative had to have a new operating model, opening hours were extended, sanitary facilities from improved, modifications to improve temporary, and dinners were increased for weekend, and plans to relocate to a more suitable facility where 24-hour accommodation would be provided environment section busy, civic amenity sites stayed open throughout which is useful. And roads are back

fully now, they were on an emergency basis, during the lockdown, and water continued the whole way through, similarly with fire and civil defence, they did a lot of work in meals on wheels and made equipment available to people but did a lot on that, Local Enterprise Office huge increase on workload because of the grants and Trading Online Vouchers, we will go into detail because it is important people are aware of what is out there. And the restart grant, we'll give presentation on how it works et cetera, a lot of the work on finance section in terms of the mortgage waver, commercial rate waver, on the commercial rates waver we will get compensation from Government for businesses that were forced to close for three months, so that is welcome.

But, we have made a case at national level all the local authorities in relation to businesses who are badly affected who may have difficulty in paying rates, we have made that submission, we will make a submission in terms of direct costs that were forced into paying due to Covid-19, for instance providing PPE, providing laptops for people at home, work with the Gardai in terms of carpark and

HSE, in terms of developing testing et cetera. So we have built up a bill there looking to be paid by the government and made another case in goods and services, so the loss of income due to parking and rents, planning fees et cetera, so, now again those submissions have gone in, and Brian will go through more detail shortly. In terms of Wicklow Tourism, we met last week, and we're doing a survey at the moment in terms of who is going to come back and when. Now, the two/one metre debate a lot will depend on that, as soon as we get it, we'll do a marketing campaign that Wicklow reopened, particularly for the domestic tourists and we'll try to get a marketing campaign around that. Bray MD have reopening committee which is useful, it's got Cathaoirleach, Cllr Anne Ferris and a number of others working with the Chamber of Commerce in relation to the supports that are there, what we can do in terms of widening footpaths et cetera so we will do that in all the other towns to link in with the business community and provide as much support and help as we can.

The NTA have looked for proposals, in terms of in the towns in terms of widening footpaths, providing

cycling lanes, narrowing the lane with reduction to one way and they're saying stuff that will help business come back from Covid-19 and also stuff we want to try on a trial basis. The engineers have come up with suggestions that go to the NTA, who will turn them around in terms of funding, we contain the number of elements implemented without going to the perspective municipal district, we will go back to them with proposals on what we do in terms of widening footpaths, narrowing the road and possible one-ways et cetera.

We're looking at the area of outdoor seating in terms of having a scheme in place that doesn't go down through the full planning route that takes at least six to eight weeks that we're looking at a scheme that we'd waive the charge between the end of June and September, and that would come into planning as usual but goes straight to Municipal District and they would liaise with the applicant and turn it around quickly. The engineers working on now what we need in terms of people with physical disabilities and buggies, so we have standard guidelines and we'll finalise that quickly.

Cathaoirleach, the construction needless to say

restarted on pretty much all housing schemes, Wicklow library, Kilmac safety works, N81, the roadworks programme is back up and working as well. So, what I might do is ask, to cover the LEO stuff and Bryan to cover the finance stuff and then take questions if that's OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vibeke Delahunt.

MS DELAHUNT: Thank you very much, can you hear me? I'm, if you can't hear me raise your arm and I'll speak up a bit. So, my name is Vibeke Delahunt I lead the Local Enterprise Office Wicklow team based in Wicklow County Campus Rathnew, and I'm going to tell you a little bit about the business supports that we have on normally in place, but in particular the Covid-19 business supports that have been rolled out in the last ten weeks. I'm conscious that I haven't met all new councillors before or you might not be completely with what the Local Enterprise network in Ireland provide, so, if Mick, you wouldn't mind bring up the next slide There you can see the Local Enterprise Office is basically a first-stop-shop for new and existing entrepreneurs and business owners, usually our remit is for businesses, micro-businesses under

ten employees, we provide signage support so when business owners come into us, we will inform them of the supports that we have available but also that are open to them through other agencies, development agencies, training programmes and so forth.

So, we really are the first place for new start-ups and existing entrepreneurs to come to give you a feel for the landscape. Since 2014 the Local Enterprise Offices are embedded in the local authorities, and there is a network of 31 Local Enterprise Offices throughout Ireland. But, the bulk of our funding would come through the Department of Business enterprise and innovation and is channelled through our LEO unit sitting within Enterprise Ireland so we share a lot of our procedures and our guidelines with Enterprise Ireland as well as our commission and vision. Just so that you kind of have that background. We also have protocols in place, you saw that in the last slide with different agencies that we share information with and we actively promote and work with, so I'm talking about the revenue the Department of Social protection education

training, skills net in particular with micro-finance Ireland, I will also tell you that later, the credit review office, fault that Ireland, and so forth.

So, on that slide there you see as I said there's 31 Local Enterprise Offices throughout Ireland. One in each county, typically and then there's a number throughout county Dublin in Dublin city centre, and our nearest one would be Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, south Dublin and Wexford as well as Kildare on the other side so we work closely with all of them and we have regular weekly calls with regional committee to make sure that our approach to our support is exactly the same throughout the network.

And also, weekly calls into the department, in particular in the last ten weeks so that we can keep the finger on the pulse and report back what works where there is issues and what we hear back from our clients in particular, issues they're struggling with, for instance, insurance, working with the banks, trying to access funding and so forth.

So, I've brought with me, two-page sheet but 40

copies of them, can you find this on our national website which is called

LocalEnterprise.ie/response, which is where the Covid-19 business supports are listed.

I have copies with me but Gillian will circulate them to you so you have a soft copy in your office, you're working with constituent clients if you want to let them know what is out there for them.

Everything I talk about today is on that sheet as well.

So, there's the brochure there and the next slide there. So, to start off, some of the supports the soft supports that are there, we're running all the time are mentoring, programme and a training programme, so we specialise in running very specific short-term courses, they're usually not accredited, they're highly subsidised and delivered by experienced trainers who are entrepreneurs in their own right. Normally we do that in small groups in our training room in, on the campus

We've moved all our training on-line, through Zoom or other suitable platforms and all our training is free now.

I'm going to tell you more about training in a minute, or actually you see there a list of all the train supports that we normally offer but in particular in the last ten weeks we've had about 13 extra courses, now most of them are half-day or full-day, and sometimes a little longer, in particular responding to the Covid-19 crisis, so you see courses such as leading your business through Covid-19 how to deal with cash management and pairing back overheads and battening down the hatches and trying to survive.

Then we had a webinar on opportunities for food producers how to move business on-line, and so forth, I'm not going to read them all out so you can see them, this is quickly evolving situation as you know, and our clients there's been a huge appetite for on-line training so, courses we put up they get booked out overnight and I just put figures in there to give an idea what that meant in terms of how busy we have been, 13 additional courses in ten weeks, normally we run a summer spring/summer and autumn/winter programme and about 13 courses would be within that programme so we've responded to the needs of our clients, and

we're trying to put on as much as humanly possible and that resulted in over 5 getting on-line from the middle of March.

Normally we don't have a big budget for this, so it is typically ring-fenced for our clients that are eligible for grant fund and with that, I mean businesses that are either manufacturing or in an internationally trade and service, which is quite rare but we think tech business with on and so on, so we're looking to up to 50 employees and all sectors, that resulted in 67 mentor sections being put on in the other supports. Normally in a year, we assign about 76 mentor sessions so again, it goes to show how busy we have been.

And all that mentoring is free, and it all takes place on-line.

So, while we are considered a critical service, and most of us have continued to work in our offices, because we just get more done that way, the actual walk-in office is closed and all our meetings and training is has moved on-line overnight.

Then to move on to the Business Continuity Voucher, this is a new scheme that was announced the end of March by our minister. It opened the beginning of

April, so the Business Continuity Voucher has been proven extremely attractive and popular with businesses and as I already mentioned earlier, our remit is usually to businesses under ten employees, for the business continuity voucher, businesses up to 50 employees could apply for it.

And in all different sectors from hospitality to tourism to professionals, retails, businesses that normally we can offer soft support to, but wouldn't generally be eligible for our grant supports.

So, the business continuity was basically, a voucher for up to €2,500 in consultancy to help put together a survival strategy for businesses so businesses that were impacted, and had to pivot or had to try and get support or get advice on how to deal with staff, so HR issues, finance management issues, how to work remotely, how to move a whole team on working remotely so, what does that mean in terms of ICT. So, by the time this scheme closed on 15th of May, we received 300 applications and a team of us within our six-person team have been working away through the applications, making contact with each applicant, doing diagnostic with each of them and arrange supports that are there.

So, all of these have now been contacted but there will be many months actually administrating this scheme and reporting back to Enterprise Ireland on it.

254 of the applicants have been approved for the actual voucher and this carries a cost of 373,000 in addition with what we would normally do, this is a completely new scheme, at the beginning and end, it is closed now. And we are awaiting the funding from the department to move along and pay third party consultant within the scheme.

A new or scheme already in place, you would have heard it before, you were probably aware of it, it was called Trading Online Voucher, so this has become extremely important now because what it was, for the last four years is voucher up to €2,500 in support to pay web designers or digital marketeers to develop your business website and incorporate e-commerce payment options, booking systems, a shop front and everything and so forth, so, their expansion of Trading Online Voucher scheme was announced early May and matching funding criteria was changed so up to that moment it was 50-50 situation, 50% was paid by the client and 50% they

would claim back. Now it is gone up to 90%, so €2,500, so the client is paying 270 themselves and also, businesses can apply for second voucher so that was a new element as well. Again, this is a very, very attractive offering and resulted in a very large volume of enquiries, e-mails, calls, from base businesses applying again, wondering can they apply, are they eligible and everything else and up to now, 70 applications have been approved and letters of offers have been issued to them. We have another 100 applications on our desk, that were in the process of assessing and we have to budget for to approve as well.

And we have gone back to the Department of Communications who fund the scheme looking for further allocations for the rest of the year. This is, this scheme, is embedded within the national broadband strategy so it is an important scheme and I have to say, many of our clients, you know, feel the urgency to move on-line thousand, this is the way they should go and could be a vital lifeline for them to continue trading and have some income while they're pivoting or getting ready to reopen. So, there's urgency about processing these and

again, there's a real pressure on the team to keep all this moving.

Just to tell you a little bit about the criteria there, the next slide please Mick, so a business to be eligible, this scheme is targeting existing SOBs, have been trading for ten months, and have turnover of less than 2 million and attend a seminar before they can apply.

Now this is just a short half-day seminar with very important tips to make sure that they seriously consider all the implications what it means to trade on-line, it is not about having a website, you have to have the resources, you need to keep the website up-to-date. And you need to have procedures in place to help you with on-line orders as well. So, there's a lot more to it, and we want to make sure that when our clients apply, they do it properly and get value for money from the web developers as well.

Another support that was already in place but was changed for Covid-19 is the micro-finance finance loan, it will be on the next slide. So, micro-finance Ireland is an bank that provide loans to small businesses under ten employees who have

been refused funding from their pillar bank and we've been working with micro-finance Ireland for many years. We provide mentor support for any clients who want to apply for a loan in terms of helping the mentor will help them with filling in the applications, preparing the financial projections and making sure the application is a very best it can be to be successful and approved. The Covid-19 business loan on offer by micro-finance Ireland is extremely attractive. It is interest-free and every payment free for the first six months but as I said, businesses will have to approach their own bank first for a loan and it is only if they're turned down and they can't access funding through their own bank they can consider applying for this business loan. This business loan has been improved, to 50,000 per application. And the interest rate has been lowered so it is typically an interest rate of 5 had 5% but any client avails of the mentor support through the Local Enterprise Office can avail of 1% reduction in the interest rate so it is 4.5% then.

And again, this has resulted in very considerable

amount of inquiries, people who want to know what it is all about, are they eligible?

And can they work with the mentor?

It is kind of a mixed response I have to say, not each business has the appetite to apply for further loans, they're not long after paying off loans or just not sure if they viable into the future. So, in many cases, we would appoint a HR or sorry finance mentor to work with them first, to go through best case and worse case scenarios of financial projections and see how that works for them before they make the decision. So again, it is a very good scheme, but it is a lot of additional work comes along with the scheme.

And then, I already mentioned, we have each Local Enterprise Office have their own website but we have a national website called Local Enterprise/response and that's where all the Covid-19 supports are listed but this is also, a very important hub with all sort of expertise and guides that businesses can tap into. Sorry I've just jumped ahead of myself, the slide that you see there, is all about the grant supports that we have in place all the time.

But as I said, these are eligibility criteria around these, so these are primarily for business that is make something, whether it is a physical product, or a food product, it has to be something unique and innovative so there's no displacement or businesses that are have the potential to trade internationally in the services sector.

And for those we have a feasibility study grant which is exactly what it says on the tin it is to explore a business concept, that could be for a new start or existing business, and it is up to 50,000 euros in match funding, and it is to see if that concept is viable and to do market research, maybe come up with a prototype that kind of thing.

And then, we have other supports called priming and business expansion grant. These - the priming began is for businesses who are in existence under 24 months, and business expansion grant is for businesses over 24 months, it is essentially the same and the focus is growing on the capacity of a business and creating jobs at all times so when the applications are assessed by evaluations committee, which is chaired by Frank Curran, due diligence will be done and it will be looked at what

the value added value is to the business but value of money of each job that will be created through the intervention.

So, there's considerable work involved in our business advice working with clients preparing the application and then being going forward to the evaluation committee.

Other programmes we're running is the Lean Programme, it is about the lean principles which is a Japanese business model, that really looks at how businesses can work more efficiently and effectively and there be, reduce costs and become more competitive.

So, on any given year we would run one programme during the year with about eleven or twelve businesses taking part. Again we accept businesses over ten employees, and we've been seeing absolutely fantastic results of up to 40% in reduction in costs on particular projects that the business would have tackled with the consultants so it is a very good scheme, and unfortunately some of the people that had signed up at the earlier in the year had to pull out due to Covid-19, other businesses have expressed an

interest, so we're still running a full scheme. Then the agile innovation fund comes into its own right now because it is all about funding enough businesses that are pivoting innovating and what we're seeing is that a very high percentage of our portfolio clients are doing that right now. They're looking at new revenue streams and how they can ensure their business survival. So, agile innovation funds are coming into on its own. And just to highlight that we have Network of Entrepreneurial Women to support them as it is well recognised female entrepreneurs need to be supported more and to really helped along more so than male entrepreneurs so we have this Network of Entrepreneurial Women, they normally week bimonthly, now we're meeting every month through Zoom and very high interest and take-up on that. If you weren't aware of it, please let your clients know our next meeting is on the first of July. I mention it had earlier the central website LocalEnterprise.ie/response it is like a library of on-line resources so it is sector-specific information. There's the library from Enterprise Ireland that clients can tap into through that,

there's a HR guide, we're delighted most of our webinars are available now, but other resources so the return to work safely protocol, we keep any of the National Standards Authority of Ireland guidelines are there, and they've come up with really good booklet that are sector-specific. So, that is an important hub to clients and business owners can happen into in their own time.

And the next slide shows a little bit of that.

So, maybe just to let you know, we did a survey in April, amongst our portfolio clients to see how they were affected, who was still trading and we found that of the responses, 25% of businesses had completely closed. 10% were busier than usual. 14% were working away as normal and 51 working in a reduced capacity. This is April, we're looking to do a similar survey again just to get an idea of where our clients are at and how we best support them.

But as you can appreciate, we are a team of six, we have been extremely, extremely busy and we will be for many months to come to support our small entrepreneurs and SMEs, within County Wicklow. Right now, and in many months to come.

That's just one slide with additional supports, that were announced on the 2nd of May. Not all of those are relevant to the LEO so I won't go into them. You see the restart grant, our head of finance, Mr Brian Gleeson will talk about that next. I will be happy to take questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to?

MR GLEESON: Just to do a short presentation on the financial impact that Covid-19 has had on the Wicklow County Council budget which is quite significant. I'm going to discuss four major areas income reduction, additional expenditure, Government compensation, and number of financial support schemes we've implemented due to Covid-19. I'll move on to the next slide.

This slide outlines the income collection in relation to commercial rate.

The rates income for the annual budget represents 32 million, that's 28% of the overall budget so as you can see, that's extremely significant. The table there, provides analysis of the commercial rates receipts to the end of May, and compares it to 2019, so as you can see, 2019, we had taken in

10.4 million which was 37% collection rate and up to the end of May, 2020, we've only taken in 4.5 million and that's a collection rate of 20%.

So, we're down cash flow terms nearly €4 million in a year and obviously as I said the collection rate is even lower because of the fact that the overall annual demand for the year is up 32 million versus last year was 28 million. So, it is quite significant the impact.

Additional analysis we did in relation to our different rate payers and the impact that Covid-19 will have on them, we've estimated nearly 60% of the rate book value 32 million will be impacted in various degrees, that means some businesses there have closed fully over the period restriction period so that's impacted 100%, others stayed over but turnover would be dropped considerably so there's varying degrees, but as regards the overall value we see maybe 60%, that would be impacted, we are making assumption our global utilities which will cover the likes of ESB networks, Irish Water, and amounted to 6.4 million that's assumption is made by all local authorities going forward.

The next major collection area is on housing rents.

Our annual budget for 2020, is 17.2 million, this represents 15% of the overall budget.

The analysis in comparison to last year, shows that up to the end of May last year we had 5.6 million collected, 39%. This year we have 6.3 million collected which is 37% so. While we increased, our collection in value, we've gone down a collection due to the fact that the budget was increased from 14.6 million last year up to 17.2 million this year, following the rent review that took place in the latter half of last year.

The full impact of Covid-19 on rent collection isn't known at this stage.

And that's likely to do with the Covid-19 pay subsidies, so, ...

If we look at while the receipts are up 6.3 million, basic extrapolation over twelve-month period of that figure would bring it to 15.1 million which is 2 million short of the budget so we expect to be significantly Down Under that particular area.

Next slide this is to highlight other income reductions that have also been impacted, and obvious one is parking.

We're down year to date 400,000 while parking

wasn't suspended it was illegal parking enforced and no real enforcement for any sort of parking over the restriction period so that's dropped considerably.

Road opening, income has dropped obviously with the lack of activity obviously now with the resumption of activity in this area and project work, this will start up again. However, there will be delays in projects and slowdown as projects come to terms with new procedures that are being put in place in line with Covid-19 measures is a planning, extension of the planning application period effectively suspended the process and while the planning office is back open for the public since May 25th this is on appointment only and there's basically represents a gradual return to normal levels so we're already down nearly 170,000 year to date on planning receipts so with further slowdown, albeit applications will be coming in, we see a considerable under collection in that area.

Civic amenity sites are down 14,000 a year to date. Litter fines, obviously restrictions on enforcement and court activities, seen reduction

here, 11,000, other recreational income, that would cover franchises of Brittas Bay and Glendalough, they were shut, and for a while there and will be reopening so we should get money in there.

Harbours with reduced activity, the income has gone down there, we're under budget by nearly 88,000 and Wicklow County Campus, 38,000, obviously our main tenant in Claremont is Carlow IT and with lectures being suspended, that's not in use at the moment so we will be in discussions with them with regards to their future plans, so as you can see adding up those particular areas we are nearly a million Euro-on projected income on the end of May so that's significant.

If we move on to the next slide, please. We're incurring additional expenditure, unbudgeted expenditure on Covid-19, we set up a specific job code to record this expenditure, costs incurred relate to PPE, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, traffic restriction works in conjunction with Gardai, we have seen works done with Sally Gap and signage, constant signage requirements the most recent would be in relation to the reopening of the

playgrounds. Emergency accommodation works, bulk of the expenditure would come in under this heading of housing.

We're also, indicators to measure social distancing, building works in the county council offices, such aspirer specks screens separating staff et cetera.

And also cleaning products and additional IT services as well to address the remote access working requirements for staff, who are working at home so additional licenses and hardware.

So, I suppose on the plus side the department are allowing recouping of emergency re-let works and amount of 12,500 per annum depending on the works done, so that's a positive. And move on to the next slide.

Government compensation, obviously this is going to be the key, can you see from the previous slides that the amount of money that we're leaking is hugely significant, we need Government support in this area.

The Rate Waiver Scheme was announced in May in relation to covering 260 million from April to June for businesses that's closed as Chief Executive

mentioned earlier, an additional proposal has gone to Government to cover businesses that have been impacted but stayed open and also address support for the post-June period so that area is being looked at and in line with the phases of the road map.

A further submission has been made through the CC finance committee, to the department and deeper in relation to goods and services income losses, and in the areas that I've outlined such as parking, rent et cetera.

So, that's under consideration at the moment.

After that, there will be a commission will be prepared in relation to the expenditure that's been incurred, I suppose these papers and submissions that have been developed and submitted they're I pose they have anticipate been prioritised the rates is the big one, or the biggest amount of expenditure, is being impacted on secondary goods and services and third would be priority-wise would be the additional expenditure that's being incurred.

The impact on the budget of Wicklow County Council, any cutbacks to the budget or within the budget will

be fully dependent on the level of Government compensation that's provided. I suppose at the moment we're not making definitive cutbacks until we first know the level of compensation that will be provided by the Government in these areas.

However, in the meantime we are looking at expenditure, savings, being identified across the areas all the directorates I suppose we're looking to identify maybe for want of a better description natural savings that would be generated through say obviously there's a slowdown in recruitment, as a result of Covid-19 so there's no doubt will be savings under payroll and lack of restrictions, we're doing Zoom meetings as well so there will be savings on travel, so they're the first areas we'll look at to try and generate and identify some savings. But, you can see from the figures I've gone through, they're so substantial and so big we can't address this without Government support, so that's going to be the crucial factor going forward and we're working very hard as an overall sector with all the local authorities together to try and secure additional funding in this regard.

And just final slide, it is just outlining the

financial supports we've put in place for local businesses and borrowers in County Wicklow, the Rents Waiver Scheme, 260 million has been approved by the Government, details of the scheme due to the fact we're looking to extend it, and look for additional support post-June, details of the scheme haven't been issued so we're awaiting details on that before it can be implemented. A three-month mortgage break option was made available to local authority borrowers, to date we've had 23 applications in and approved each of them. The major scheme is the Business Research Scheme announced recently, and on-line application form has been open and available on the council website since 22nd of May and to date we've had 684 applications.

In order to qualify for the grant, businesses must have a turnover of less than five million, just have 50 or less employees, the business must have suffered a projected 25% loss in revenue between start of April and end of June. It must commit to remain open or to reopen if it was closed. And business must also declare the intention to retain employees that are benefiting from the temporary

wage subsidy scheme. The grants that are payable will equate to the 2019 rates bill of the business and that subject to minimum of 2,000 and maximum of 10,000. As I said, 684 applications have been received to date and we've received an initial allocation of 5 million from Enterprise Ireland for this scheme, so it is fully funded. As regards we won't be eating into your own resources, it is payment the payment for the grants is paid up front and then we will process the applications and pay them out to the businesses.

So that concludes the financial analysis. If you've any further questions thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any questions? Cllr Sylvester Bourke Cllr Tom Fortune. So, Cllr Sylvester Bourke first.

CLLR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, in relation to the restart grants Brian, a couple of people asked me how long they will have to wait to get paid the grant. You didn't mention how much has been paid out yet, you have 550 applications but when will be able to start paying them out?

One opening today asked me, mentioned to me they had to spend 1,000 on screens to get reopened today and the grant would be very beneficial to them and helpful if it could be speeded up.

CLLR FORTUNE: It would be terrible if I was talking to myself!

Can I say on Frank's presentation, well done to the community call and it is a great service that's provided during the Covid-19 craziness we've had over the last few months. And a big thanks to the volunteer groups and associations throughout the county. The only one comment I'd pass on this and I've said it before, the funding allocated should have been allocated to all groups, nobody should be left out. I'm aware of one group that was left out. The Mental Health Grant, which was excellent part of it, looking at it, we could have done with a little more, I'm sure that could be done in the future.

I think there's been a good few initiatives coming out to create goodwill around the pressures that have been there. Just, on the presentation, due to Covid-19, we haven't been allocating a lot of

money under LEO. We allocated 137,000, I know you gave a long presentation, which is hard to take in, there was a lot in it. Are we planning to use any funding that we've saved over that period to boost existing business?

I'm wondering have we any plans do that?

And on Brian's presentation, I'm not sure whether your presentation ties back into the Annual Report or not?

I'm sure there is some crossover, but, in reading this, some of the stuff we've got, I'm just wondering that we in some of the reports we got for the meeting that we've installed something like 14041 LED lanterns, what's the estimated saving that we're going to get from stuff like that?

And again, I've a couple of questions but they in for the report. Thanks.

CLLR WALSH: On the CEOs presentation there, like Cllr Tom Fortune I would like to commend the council on their response to the crisis and the level of communication that was, we're all kept up-to-date via e-mail but the community response form is one that worked particularly well and from first-hand

experience being involved in one of the volunteer groups here in Greystones, there was a fantastic reaction to that and portrayed all that is good in society and I wanted to say well done to the Michael Nicholson's department there. On Ms Vibeke Delahunt's presentation, it is obvious they were flat out giving the support all they could to the SMEs to go through a process to get into business, one comment I had was on MFI loan option there and the interest rate of 4.5%, by today's standards is particularly high and I'm not surprised that there's a slow take-up on that. So, otherwise well done to Ms Vibeke Delahunt and her team in the LEO, and on Brian's presentation in relation to the rents, the rents collection rate is that down by comparison to previous years?

I know we went, it had to be done on-line or via phones, the other thing I wanted to, is dumping was an issue not just in Wicklow but across the country. And you know enforcement measures, were there any enforcement measures in relation to dumping incidents across the county?

Again, I want to thank the council on keeping the fact they kept open recycling centres, I made good

use of it and that was very well during the period.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Can everybody hear me? Yeah.

Thanks for the very comprehensive report. There's just one section of the community that I just wanted to make representation on behalf of here today and that's the traders. They have been very, very badly hit. They've lost an awful lot of trade. I'm talking about small shops and businesses in towns and villages around the place. They have effectively, they will lose an awful lot of their profits this year, when they opened again they had to install protective screens, we had to more or less have somebody standing there daily at the door to ensure that people were only coming in every two metres apart and only when somebody left the shop. And we've been inundated, well I have anyway and I think some of my fellow councillors in Wicklow have about approached by a lot of business to see if there's anything that can be done by trying to incentivise people shop in the areas and they're mainly requesting a review of the parking situations, even on a temporary basis.

Even something like a three-month amnesty, I know

there's a three-month rate waiver and Government compensation for that, but, as well as incentivising businesses we have to incentivise shoppers, we have to make people want to come into a place to shop and people may say well, parking charges aren't terribly expensive but the bottom line is, if you can go to a place where you're not going to be charged as opposed to a place where you are going to be charged, you're not going to pay out money that you don't have to pay. There's terrible excuses for incentives shopping in a place where there's charges because not everybody has Smartphones and apps that they can use, a lot of people would be what I call senior people would like to shop locally. But, they often don't have coins in their pockets, they often don't have data in their phones, they probably don't know how to use Smartphones some of them, so, because of the fact that the shops and traders are going to take such an enormous hit this year, despite the fact they're getting a three month rate waiver, the council would benefit long-term by just even allowing the carparks, not on street parking but the carparks to be free for a couple of hours every day. I know

that Cllr Paul O'Brien mentioned this to me as well, he suggested it too, and the fifteen-minute grace period we have in Wicklow, you can spend fifteen minutes queuing outside a shop just to get in. So, I'd love to see that extend today half an hour. And anything to bring people back into the towns to shop. To help the businesses because the council will benefit long-term from increased rates. So, I think it is like spending a little amount of money in order to get a bigger return.

CLLR CULLEN: I want to follow up on Frank's presentation based on tourism I suppose this is based on. And I've raised this at Municipal level, we're facing unprecedented volume of visitors to our county in the coming months particularly with obviously foreign holidays been maybe out-of-bounds a certain amount anyway. But, it is to really to do with parking facilities across our county, I'm sure we're very much aware of issues of parking in on private property and gateways and double yellow lines and all these things and it is not sending out a nice message to people to visit our county. So I suppose, certainly I have spoken to some of the directors on this, and we're getting

good support but it is important to prioritise this issue, there's no doubt there's a major parking issue particularly around our tourist attractions in the county and places like Glendalough, Avondale. Because there's an economic benefit of people coming to our county, so it is important to have things right for people to visit and we can attract visitors to our county, I do believe we're facing any number of visitors and to make the experience welcome for them and I think it is something we really need to focus on from a tourism point of view.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you very much. I want to extend a big thank you to all the work the council staff have put in during the crisis, it is very much appreciated on the ground.

Just a question to Brian on the restart grants, several people are in touch stressing the need for accelerated payment they need money to open and they would really like an answer as to when they could expect grants to be landing in bank accounts. Similarly to Vibeke, thank you for the presentation, a couple of comments sent from small

businesses said they weren't advised or weren't aware there was limited funding on the TOV scheme, and again, is there an indication of lead times that people are waiting anxiously for the money to land after having applied for the voucher as soon as they could. Finally just to Frank's presentation and I've been back and forth to you on this topic, thanks to the community call team they've done fantastic work and the community forum, community response forum, but I do want to speak on half of probably some of the most vulnerable people in the county who weren't represented on the forum, so, our people living in Ashford, Bray and Wicklow direct provision centres weren't directly represented on the community response forum. And I know it was something I raised to Frank and it was difficult, probably fair to say there was a lack of communication between central and local government on this matter.

I have received clarification from the Department of Housing, that the matter of who sits on the community forums is actually a matter for local level and each individual forum to attend to.

So, with this in mind I wonder would Wicklow County

Council move to include residents from direct provision on the community response forums? And also, just considering any measures to address this, if there were future similar forums to be brought up. Because it has been shown particularly in housing when there's collaborative work between different departments it works so much better to prevent whether disease outbreak in this case but better preventative medicine so I would like to see this happening going forward thanks.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, I'd like to thank the county council's response to the Covid-19 crisis, this in particular I'd like to thank the community section who expanded their role in response to what communities were doing on the ground throughout the county. And I think particularly in the rural areas there was a huge sense that the communities in each area would have to organise themselves as best they can, but they had huge backup with the phone service there and people were able to plug into various services set up from scratch so I'd like to thank the community sector of Wicklow County Council in particular.

For the work they did to keep us all informed,
north, south, east and west.

Just one question, just that the playgrounds I know
some of them were open today and again, just for
people probably hardest hit in this crisis were our
older members of the community and our very younger
members of the community and maybe when if we have
to deal with this type of thing again we have some
sort of plan that play facilities for young kids
or kids with particular needs, who need to get
access to a playground over a scheduled basis.

Maybe we could do that rather than putting a chain
around the gates and saying goodbye and good luck
to you. I know there's a safety aspect to that, but,
we need to be, now that we've all learnt from this,
we need to put in place measures that we can just
give our very young, and our very older members of
the community some access to community facilities

CLLR CREAN: I'll be brief, I want to reiterate
Cllr Lourda Scott's point in relation to the
community forum, firstly I would like commend
management and staff the great work that's done,
it was phenomenal, thank you. But I think the
community forum, it would have benefited from

having the correct representation from people living in direct provision, so that's certainly is a gap and going forward should be addressed if it can be decided at local level. The other issue I would like to raise and I know the decisions had to be made, it was an emergency situation in terms of closures of facilities and amenities, but we had a situation in Kilcoole in the Greystones district where car park remained closed, after the phase where most other carparks had reopened. And that actually took an organised public campaign to get that reopened, and when I was arguing that it should be opened in line with other carparks, the response I got was that there's a silent majority that are happy. My concern going forward there's a democratic process around closing public spaces or how we use the public space, and I don't think it is good enough that we kept one car park closed on a local agreement between Irish Rail and the Gardai and the Greystones office, when every other car park was open. And there were substantial numbers of people in the community that weren't happy at all with that situation. So, going forward I'd like commitment any changes to public spaces go

through a process of consultation as us with councillors or local community. We had a similar situation over the last week where a public right of way was blocked in Greystones and took a public campaign to have that reopened quicker than it would have been in both cases it is about the right to have access to public spaces and needs to be a key priority. And finally just in relation to Brian's mention on the financial piece, I hear your compensation dictating cuts one the reports was over 20 million overdraft facility, I don't know what the situation is, if there isn't compensation, I would like to avoid cuts, I don't think ordinary people should be penalised for a public health crisis. Thanks.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you Cathaoirleach.

Can I just start by offering myself and my colleague from the Labour Party our sincerest condolences to all those who passed in the county and throughout the country. And our sincere thanks to all council and frontline staff who kept the country afloat. Cathaoirleach and fellow councillors we have entered unprecedented times, and we're now about

to enter difficult times. In fairness to the council they've been creative so far and I'd ask they continue to be creative and not just go back to as Cllr Mags Crean said just the cuts, we need to be creative and imaginative and keeping our businesses afloat as Cllr Mary Kavanagh said, even in terms of our parking. So, I would just ask the council, when formulating the budget keep the councillors informed, we are the elected representatives of the people.

And I think we should be included in the decision-making process, not just on Budget Day but the process as well thank you

CLLR NEARY: Yes, again I'd like to reiterate a thank you to all the staff in Wicklow County Council for their speedy response and adapting to Covid-19 interruption and restrictions. I want to reiterate with Cllr Lourda Scott was saying with the representation gap on the community forum. I did mention at the beginning the councillors as well were not included on the forum directly. And, we're not informed of the setting up of the forum from the start and I know it was very, a very difficult situation to try and get everything up

and running but, we do have to be conscious of the fact that there are vulnerable people out there who were there not directly represented and in fact they were the ones at the coalface of Covid-19, I would like to reiterate the point that Cllr Mags Crean made about consulting the public for any decisions made about public spaces. And that, we keep engaging with the public throughout because this could be a long process. And we don't know when it is going to end.

Also, when the department, departments in the council are reviewing spending if they would consider those most vulnerable, those in receipt of council payment and in relation to rents especially, and that generally overall the most vulnerable people in our county are considered first and foremost when looking at our budget in the context of Covid-19.

Thank you.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks. Can you hear me?

Thanks Cathaoirleach and I know that my colleagues have already said this but I want to say this as well it was a lot of hard work went in straightaway

there was no waiting around, it was - nobody has been through a pandemic before so I appreciate how difficult it must have been for the council staff and I'm sincerely send my gratitude for all the effort you put in so far. It strikes me when we're talking about businesses bouncing back and how we can support businesses to bounce back, I have a concern about that we as a council will have a challenge within the next three to six months around housing. A lot of the NGOs are saying people currently within the private rental sector as the notice to quit are lifted, and people who lost their jobs might be falling into rent arrears, I wonder are we going to see more and more people present themselves for housing support?

And I think we need to be mindful going forward we plan for that as soon as possible and I have no doubt we will be able to do so seeing the energy put in so far but it is something I want to flag because I think it is coming down the track pretty soon for us.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll go back to, Frank do you want to answer them.

MR CURRAN: The community call and funding, look we tried to distribute it, it wasn't as Cllr Tom Fortune said enough money it was 80,000 but we tried to spread it as much as we could. There may be further funding and if you give details of the group you mentioned we will see what we can do in that regard. Cllr Gerry Walsh in relation to dumping and enforcement, that was considered a critical service that continued the whole way through so we will have cases coming to court that were picked up about you you're right, dumping increased during the pandemic but, our dies were out there, 100% of the time. Cllr Mary Kavanagh in terms of park - look it is something we can look at but we are down a lot of money as it is, and parking over the three months, next three months is worth something 800-900,000 so it is something we have to be conscious of, and any time we look at it the traders in towns is conscious if there's free parking staff will come in, park the car and doesn't help shopping and turnover so it is a delicate balance but something we will have a look at. Cllr Shay Cullen in terms of tourism - yeah, and the

parking facilities we have a new car park coming on stream in Glendalough just down in the Lara side which will take 300 spaces, Mullaghmore. A local landowner, and negotiations will be finalised and Luggala and Avondale, the new scheme 800 million grant will update the quality of the car parking spaces out there. Cllr Lourda Scott the community call, community forum, yeah, when we set it up, we set it up exactly as part of the guidance and the Cathaoirleach was on it myself and all the groups that I mentioned early why they are and it was big and difficult to manage on team meetings, we'll take on board about direct provision. As a general rule it is Department of Justice that deal with direct provision, we give them every help we can, and as people receive status to remain, we'll be there to help them with homeless help or whatever we need to do, so we'll have a look at that. The play facilities, again, as I said they're open today. I take on board what Cllr John Mullen said in the future we need to plan for people with particular needs, definitely take that on board. And, the just in relation to finance side, I know Brian will deal with it, we will be creative and

certainly not to cut but just tell you exactly what John Paul, minister for Local Government is saying, because he issued a statement on it and it is on the website saying "Impact of Covid-19 and business on rate payers has been very significant and Government responded by announcing a waiving of realities for all businesses forced to close due to public reality requirements from 27th of March for three months, this will come at a cost of 360 million met to be executor and my department is finding guidance for this initiative: The position will be reviewed as part of wider review to enterprise and employment and associated local and funding applications in public health restrictions that help and evolve conversation". How much extra money the money for the three months will we get? Its only then over the next month or so, we will know what position we're in. Cllr Jodie Neary, I take on board what you're saying in relation to the community forum, the direct provision, the public spaces and I know Cllr Mags Crean mentioned this as well the car park in Kilcoole was part what I was talking about why engineers are looking at areas where they can be

innovative and in terms of widening footpaths and dealing with one way, closing a car park and coming up with small, relatively low cost schemes and funded by the NTA to make things easier for people coming about be to work and doing it on trial basis. As I said earlier, we won't proceed without going through the Municipal Districts first, so each meeting now, next meeting will have a number of proposals that will go through the members of. And, Cllr Grace McManus yeah definitely take that on board in relation to the housing challenge because, we are, we don't know what recession we're heading into, so look if we need to increase the staff and resources in that area we certainly will. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

MR GLEESON: OK, and I'll address Cllr Sylvester Bourke and Cllr Lourda Scott's question about the restart scheme first of all.

Just to say, we only received the 5 million from Enterprise Ireland on Friday, so we hope to pay out applications from this week onwards. What I would say is and I'd ask businesses to have some a bit of patience, due to the volume of applications

we've had to develop and all the local authorities in conjunction with LGA, a solution had been told to process these grants due to the volume and the amount of information involved in them and there's a huge amount of validation that has to be done. So, it's I suppose on top of our normal day job we're trying to process these applications so, we will be prioritising obviously businesses and phases one and two, and try to get the payment out to them first rather than the later phase businesses. But, as I say, now that we have the money in the account, we can start actually trying to make the payments.

So, that's the plan of action, but as I say, it is and time-consuming process due to the amount of information that's in the applications and they all have to be validated and unfortunately, the nature of on-line applications as well, a lot of information, if it is incorrect, that's been entered we have to go back and contact the individual business to get the accurate information so it takes a bit of a while but we're working around the clock on that in order to process them as quick as we can.

In relation to Cllr Tom Fortune's comment about the LED lights I think you're referring to the AFS report mentioned about 1400 lights, I suppose the big saving we're going to have in relation to LED light is the national programme, as you recall we the members approved a loan of I think it was 8 million earlier this year for LED programme whereby we will be replace be public lighting with LED and that's why the substantial savings will be generated, it will take a couple of years before they start kicking in, as regards next year it probably won't solve our budget problem for this year or next year.

Cllr Gerry Walsh - this relation to rent collection - yes as outlined in the presentation on rent, while we've collected 6.3 million in rent, that's against increased budget of 17.2 million so collection rate is down to 37%, it was 39% at the same stage last year, we collected 5.6 million but against a lower budget of 4.6 million so slightly down on the collection rate but as I say we won't maybe see the full impact of Covid-19 on the rent collection until there's changes in the pay subsidies and the impact that has on individuals.

Regarding the parking that Cllr Mary Kavanagh mentioned as the Chief Executive highlighted, it is substantial amount of money for three-month period, June, July August last year it would be 850,000, I suppose, we have to be careful in that if we're putting forward a submission to Government looking for compensation, we won't get compensation for an area that we've decided to suspend collection on so we just need to be careful on that. But obviously, we'll look at that particular area and take on board your comments and I suppose, also, in relation to I suppose helping businesses and helping them get back on their feet, we will be in Wicklow and other towns of Arklow and Blessington doing an initiative that Bray did, looking to do a similar initiative in Wicklow Town working with the chamber and the Town Team to try and help local businesses get back on their feet. In relation to the point made by Cllr Mags Crean the 20 million overdraft facility, thankfully we haven't had to dip into this facility yet but I suppose that's only for helps news relation to cash flow purposes, that we have enough money in our bank to pay suppliers and pay the salaries, it doesn't

actually I suppose help the situation in relation to the annual budget, it is just more so addressing the cash flow

And I think, Cllr O'Brien mentioned the parking and creatively looking at savings, as I said in the presentation first and foremost the last thing I want to do is start taking out a big knife and cutting things and we're resisting from doing that until we get the full picture from Government but as I said we hope to look at naturally generate a savings through as I say payroll where there's been a slowdown on recruitment because of Covid-19.

Due to the fact that there's less travelling there should be savings on travelling and subsistence and also particular schemes, new schemes or projects due to be implemented this year, there might be a slowdown that might generate savings as well this year. So, we will look at all those areas first of all in conjunction as well as trying to get as much funding from the Government before we have to make any hard decisions

OK thank you.

Just to go will you some of the questions raised there, Cllr Tom Fortune, are we planning to pay any

of the business with additional money?

Just to clarify Tom we didn't get additional funding, the 370,000 I mentioned is specifically to cover the cost of the business continuity voucher which is going to pay mentors on our mentor panel or to pay the third party consultants to help clients work with their recovery strategy.

So, it is not like we have additional funding to pay out.

And then, in addition, our regular funding the measure, the measure of funding we get through Enterprise Ireland through Department of Business and enterprise, this is European funding through the ERDF and ESIF fund so, this is not discretionary funding it is very clearly spelt how this can be used and we certainly don't have additional funding in our budget to allocate to spend to businesses locally. So, if any new support schemes are announced by the department or the minister As part of the new programme for Government, they will be rolled out and they will be resourced through the department and that brings me on to the question from Cllr Lourda Scott around the Trading Online Voucher. This is not funded through or

regular Department of Business Enterprise and innovation, this underlying cost to the Department of Communications directly because, it an action within the National Broadband Strategy, so, we get annual allocation around 40, which is 40 times 2,500 regularly but that doesn't mean we get that money as budget but as an allocation. Then we got in addition to the 40 we got at the beginning of the year, we got additional 30, which brought it up to 70 and last Monday, not this week but last week we got additional allocation of another 100, but that just covered the applications we had on hands on our desk and we've been instructed by the Department of Communications that we cannot go over that allocation. So anything over those 170 applications we cannot currently approve and that's why we flagged it with the department, our own and Department of Communications that we will require further budget for the remaining of the year and that's where the delay comes from in any of the clients coming to you, questioning that. We're acutely aware of it, we've made all the relevant people aware of it and they're working on it, but there was a literally a period of three

weeks where we were waiting for the additional allocation and our hands were tied, we couldn't approve anything during that time.

Then to come back Cllr Mary Kavanagh's shop local, that would be a very good initiative. Certainly it would have to be done with partnership with the chambers and Town Teams and economic development team, during the lockdown, Wicklow naturally was launched which is a new website flowing out of development strategy for the county and highlighting to people to buy locally produced food from local food producers so that was one action towards that.

Cllr Shay Cullen I share sentiments about tourism and hospitality, there's certainly sector that extremely badly hit. We're working with many of the hotels, the providers, pubs, food providers, activity centres, trying to work through this situation. And giving them the support that we can, and it certainly is a sector that needs as many supports as they can get. And again, we've been nagging to the department that there's a real role for Failte Ireland that haven't been very active up to now

CLLR FERRIS: I had been indicating, I would like to thank Frank and Brian and Vibeke for the presentation, and Mike and his Covid-19 team for all they have been doing for the entire county since the outbreak.

And in particular, I would like to thank Lorraine Gallagher, David Ford and Liam Bourke in the county, they have been doing tireless work to help the people of Bray to keep them safe. And I know that the reopening committee was mentioned a couple Frank and Brian, and it is to allow businesses get up and running again as safely as possible we're giving them, and it is all of these things that will encourage people back to the shops again and in a safe way and to keep staff as well safe but I wanted to put their names on the record.

Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Merlin is here now so back to item 22 to consider the adoption of Wicklow County Council Wicklow Port byelaws 2020

MERLIN: Thanks very much, to give you background to these byelaws, Wicklow County Council took over

the operation of Wicklow Port in 2016, and following the takeover that's part of Department of Justice advised us we need Explosive Bye-laws in place if we were continue importing explosives through Wicklow Port. As it stands the Department of Defence can import explosives without any issue at all but for a company to import them we need to have Explosive Bye-laws in place and so, we commenced consultation with the Department of Justice and with our own law department and have drafted a set of byelaws which were advertised on the 20th of November, 2019, and following publications there was no admissions so went straight to department for sanction and 28th of February the Minister Charlie Flanagan sanctioned these bylaws to give you background the benefit of having byelaws will facilitate the importation of explosives but bring with it additional materials that can be imported through Wicklow Port. Which should increase commercial activity and increase income coming in through the port.

So, I suppose what we're looking to do today is get approval for the bylaws.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer, Cllr Shay

Cullen and Cllr Gerry Walsh.

MS GALLAGHER: We'll go for a vote because we're.

...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott sorry ...

CLLR SCOTT: Sorry it was for the earlier one, I wanted a few words I missed the boat, I missed the submission, because it is by law maybe it could be looked into, Arklow Port be considered or the bylaw extend today Arklow Port as well as it has facilities to take down explosives in, or shipping in as well, and plus they wouldn't be, it would take the pressure off Wicklow to be used as a port for that as well, as Wicklow has and a special area of - so maybe it could be considered going forward extend today Arklow as a lot of the foot work has been done for it?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to respond to that n
>>: Consideration to that, we would have to look although ISPI area, in Wicklow it is ISPS approved facility, so we need to look at that as well as doing draft by laws.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, we have a proposer and

seconded and we've to go for a vote.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen
seconded by Cllr Gerry Walsh, Cllr Tommy Annesley?

...

That's 34 and 2 not present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 24, to note the circulation
of the Chief Executive's report for March and April
2020 and to consider the Chief Executive's report
May 2020, copy circulated.

And the Chief Executive will say a few words and
I'll take them questions.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: On housing side Whitehall Estate
is it Baltinglass is allocated and Farrankelly, 24
units and PP in Wicklow Town is nearly, colleagues
that's 51 units, two phases but only a few weeks
between them. We didn't do official opening yet
because of Covid-19, but we'll come back. N11, our
consulting engineers has designed a bus lane, so
they'll work with the existing scheme. We got
delivery as well as new velocity dispatcher, so
they're effective in terms of potholes and short
sections of resurfacing, and CCSD the later a
Roundwood playgrounds were open this morning and

the town and village scheme has been launched now for this year so accelerated one scheme for Covid-19 to that works around towns. So one on the 3rd of July, two we're out six schemes this year, it is 90% funding because of the Covid-19, and we can put 10% of our own admin and partition funding into it, and so, we have avenue, we won't have the public meetings at the moment like previous years but we are contacting the community groups and outlining the scheme is. And similarly, in C almost, there's a measure one funding there for school and community safety, and measure two, on community recreation, and measure three meals and wheels and mobility and cancer care so we will check that area. And in relation to anything they have on that and outdoor recreation infrastructure scheme, measure one, up to 20,000, measure two, up to 200,000 and measure three we're allowed usually one, is up to 500K so working with the recreation officer and County Wicklow partnership in schemes on that. On the economic side, we mentioned Wicklow naturally does that, comes from food and bench strategy in April 2019 so there's a strong network, they produced website which showcases

everything Wicklow that is in food and drink protection, Nationwide is coming down to do a programme on it which is good of free advertising et cetera. But we'll done official launch when we get over the Covid-19. And Tracks and Trails, we've new ten-minute videos, going on-line one in Tinahely Hiking Trail and the other Bray Head to Sugarloaf we'll try to do a promotion on-line to that. And SSE, you'll have heard the OOMM facility in Arklow that will have a boost it is 2 billion scheme, 200 turbines and green electricity and finally the county development plan, you'll have got the Chief Executive's report following the initial public consultation, following the issues paper et cetera, that's completed, and it will be discussed in detail at the September meeting so, the forward planning team will be go to each Municipal District in the interim to go to any issues you have, further meetings can be arranged in relation to any specific items, workshops or whatever, so, we're all available and particular the forward planning team from now until September and particularly for new members who haven't gone through the process before, they are available for

that. So, it addresses in great detail the submissions and detailed document now and will include the draft strategy, following the September meeting taking on board the directors of the members a draft will be circulated in September for the members thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle and then Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Just referring to the homeless situation. I just want to refer to the provision of the homeless facility in San Remo in Bray and thank you the housing department on all their work up until now, I fully support the provision of a homeless facility, we all during the last few months we're told to stay home, very conscious of the people who don't have a home and who are at risk at all times from Covid-19 and had no safe space. With that in mind with are in urgent need of an adequate homeless facility in north Wicklow. That being said, residents in the area feel they have not been receiving the information that they

would like. We all know that these facilities work best with a community buy-in, and I think giving as much information as possible to the residents can help create that community buy-in.

Up until this point there doesn't seem to have been any engagement with the Simon Community.

Residents have asked me, they have four core questions, I know some of these may need to be responded to in writing but to put them on the record, the current status of San Remo, is what is it, what is the status of the sale and when can we expect it to be operational? Residents are keen to know about any community assessment that was carried out. Was one carried out, if so, what form did this take?

What are the plans in terms of the sale of the building?

Will it be sold to the Simon Community, they've heard differing report and would like a response to that on the record, will it be fact be sold to the Simon Community?

And the last part is, when we met at Bray Municipal District at the start about this, we asked a liaison committee so that everybody concerned would have

a voice and I include the service users in that, the local Gardai, the council, and we're being told that the Liaison Committee can't be formed until it is up and running, I would like to see that coming together in advance. I would like to know the status-to-behalf that is, resident would like a point of contact for the facility and at this point, nothing has been forthcoming, so I really do feel information is key here. The more information that people have, the less likely there are to be fears and concerns about the facility which as I said is much needed and hugely important. Thank you.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, and for the Chief Executive for most comprehensive report. I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate this council on the Farrankelly, 24 units and the tenants received their keys for those units on Friday last.

And I must say the reaction has been overall been very, very positive and the overall standard of this development has been outstanding. So, just congrats on that. And a lot of happy tenants out there.

Just on the tenant purchase scheme, the figures

there, reflect 80 there up-to-date this year and against 18 last year, if I'm reading correctly, it you comment on that with the increase and again on tourism looking at the Failte Ireland report published on accommodation needs in the county there are 225 hotel rooms required for Wicklow, so, there's a big task at hand to three and boost our tourism offering, that's including of course 50 rooms that are, have planning permission but have not been delivered yet. But that's 225, so that's a big challenge and one other quick question on page 56 on pollution control the septic tank inspections there were suspended there was a new programme introduced in 2020, for inspection plans, so just wondering whether there was update on that, or have we those inspections been taken up again thank you.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you Cathaoirleach, three points more for clarity - the first one is in relation to the homeless facility which Cllr Erika Doyle has referenced so I won't repeat the questions that have been put there. But just in relation to that matter the current Cold Weather Initiative has been deemed as not suitable. And that's why the officials are work something hard

to try and find something else that's more appropriate. At our last briefing was it indicated that the cold weather initiatives the individuals used in that service would transfer to the new service, on an interim measure under maybe a lease agreement until the sale was completed, so just looking for an update on that.

The second item in relation to the children and B&B numbers I know that Cllr Grace McManus has a motion on this matter and I suspect that we probably won't get to it - but it is quite difficult to understand the children that are referenced the individual children are the same children or different children and I think we probably need clarity on that, so it is Cllr Grace McManus's motion when it comes to be heard. And finally, the references made to the food poverty group which I think is a really, good initiative. Just looking for additional information on that, it references six members and if we get the information who the members will be, and terms of references will be thank you.

CLLR FORTUNE: Chief Executive thanks for your report. As usual it is very comprehensive. I think

we probably could have a meeting just to discuss your report alone. Just a few points - some observations - the restart grants, who actually in Wicklow County Council is actually dealing with this? Who deals with it hands on?

And the housing, how the housing department in Wicklow does an excellent job under very extreme circumstances, but just on the HAP side of it, and I'm just wondering, is it possible we can do a better deal or deal better with the HAP client. I know how busy everyone is, but there appears to be a gap in how the gap thing is followed through. It is obviously very important in the current climate because, the amount of rental properties is a challenge for people. How many approved housing bodies are we actually dealing with? And maybe you might comment on the two million rent arrears.

And are we happy that the social distancing is in place on all the reopened development sites that were responsible for. And I'm wondering how many Part 5 unit in addition to your report do we know as we look forward and anymore, we think we're going to get. And I don't need a full answer on the next

two points but maybe we get some kind of explanation on the turnkey concept and also on the Capital Advanced Leasing Facility just to understand that in a better form.

And also, the home improvements grants, it is interesting that we've no budget in that area, and I'm wondering why, or when are we going to have a budget because again it is a key area. And on the whole area of homelessness, just looking at the report, we're talking about 83, 30 families, 54 adults and children, I know in previous meetings, Cllr Grace McManus brought up about how we were progressing in the area of homeless children and I'd like to get more detail on that. And, also, the amount of people, there's more and more people, becoming at risk of homelessness, a lot of the calls a number of calls I would get and I'm sure it is the same for other public reps would be people in fear of becoming homeless, because maybe their landlord has told them their time is up or it is going to be up and there seems to be no option. I just think we need to be more on top of that part of it.

And can I make just a general comment, I mean this

to be constructive and not just be critical. But I think there's a gap in the whole area of communication. To public reps and I'm referring to e-mails, that go into the council to senior people in the council and don't get responded to. We need to get better and more accurate and more quick, quicker information I believe on funding and the various funding streams that are becoming available. And a lot of that information could be fed down to is through the district councils and I think the district councils, perhaps this is not the local authority's fault but the district councils certainly need to be given more responsibility, and my concern about all of this is, to me, and I've said this in previous years, is that there appears at times to be a lack of respect for public representatives, I don't mean that to be emotional, I just mean it is an issue, that I think needs to be put on the table.

And again, two other examples of the communication gap - is the Irish Water issue in regards, to what is going on with the need for this storage plant in north Wicklow. That will be talked about at 4.15 but that's a serious issue and I only heard

about that third-hand. That shouldn't be the case.

And Cllr Gerry Walsh in his input earlier, mentioned about the keys being distributed to the tenants in Farrankelly, I don't know about other public reps, but I knew nothing about that. And I, just think that there's a serious gap I think in communications and it is contradictory in terms of our commission statement. If you read that we're not living it with regards to public reps and it is something I feel very strongly about.

Thanks.

CLLR CRONIN: Thanks. I firstly I want to thank the council staff for all their work during Covid-19 and especially in our Municipal District in Blessington they were always on hand any time we needed them.

I just have a few points to raise, firstly I can't let the opportunity go we're here in a big leisure facility in Greystones with a swimming pool, and I just think it would be great if we would have one in west Wicklow.

A swimming pool campaign has been going on for two

years now, the team themselves have been working tirelessly to try to raise funds. They've worked alongside the district and alongside the directors in the council but I'm just wondering if you have any update for the committee and if you have any commitment that can be made by the council regarding a proposed site for the swimming pool. Also, I just want to ask you for update of the bus stop at Hollywood Cross, we raised this numerous times with the council and waiting to hear any developments on the matter. And also, in relation to the market housing in Dunlavin, I spoke before this relation to some maintenance work that needs to be carried out. This building is obviously a very unique building and historic building and I would appreciate if I could have update on any work that can take place and when you hope to start that work. And lastly, regarding the housing development in Dunlavin, I'm wondering when phase two already allocated. I'm aware that the letters have been sent out and people have been notified of phase one but just wondering and they're due to move in at the end of July but just wondering when will people be notified of phase two, when they're

going to be allocated thank you.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you very much for your report Chief Executive, another excellent report. It was mentioned there at the March meeting and recorded that Arklow hadn't been successful in its application under the outdoor recreation grant scheme for repairs to the seafront promenade and you did undertake to give a commitment you would look at ways of funding it inhouse, and I didn't notice any report back on that and I just wondered if you could clarify that for us as to whether we've managed to get that sorted for us.

Thank you.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks to the Chief Executive for his detailed report, a couple of quick questions, echo Cllr Avril Cronin's on the current status of the west Wicklow Municipal District swimming pool. On the county development plan and something to look for advice as to what is the best way to go about it - I think there should be prevision made in the planning aspects of our county plan learning the lessons of the last few months to ensure adequate

zonings for residential spaces for elderly community in every town and village in Wicklow because it is important that all residents would have access to either independent living or supported living complexes, in every town and village not just in the ones they exist at the moment.

Secondly, just, on Irish Water have they come back - we've had clinics with Irish Water and some councillors expressed including myself, deep frustration at the responses of Irish Water to repeated requests on facilities that they provide in particular to upgrades of ways water and water treatment plants in towns and villages and smaller towns and villages, thank you.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I just wanted to lend support to Cllr Avril Cronin's comment about the provision of a swimming pool in west Wicklow. Just particularly as we're having our meeting here in Shoreline and we have our own beautiful pool the community in Greystones and surrounds are lucky to enjoy, and I know as a parent we've all missed not being able to use this facility

and it is terrible that members of our fellow Wicklow communities over in the west don't have the facility permanently and it really I completely support Cllr Avril Cronin's comments on naming a site for the pool there, thank you.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you to the Chief Executive for his report as well, I too want to echo my support for Cllr Avril Cronin's call for a swimming pool in west Wicklow, we have four excellent facilities along the east coast and I believe the west should benefit from these facilities. I want to congratulate Arklow on receiving the SSE project I'm disappointed for the county town of Wicklow, and I know the councillors on the Wicklow Municipal area put in a lot of effort, we are disappointed but I hope the county town does have some benefit from this project.

I'm going to raise an issue that might sound trivial here today but not trivial to the residents in Wicklow Town especially and that's in relation to rubbish bins, we're going to look at more stay cases I hope and we are after all the Garden County and the lack of rubbish bins around the town is leaving

the town looking dirty to be honest with you. This is not household rubbish as the excuses have been given, this is rubbish from people leaving them at the bins because they're overflowing, although it sound like a trivial matter today I would ask the council to look at providing more rubbish bins around not just Wicklow Town but the entire county thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before we go to any I don't think there was anybody else, sorry, Cllr Peir Leonard and Cllr Rory O'Connor, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cllr Gail Dunne, and Cllr Dermot O'Brien - when the questions are done, there's going to be no answers today because we have statutory business that we have to complete before we go on to the annual general meet. Something all the answers are to come back from the officials in writing from the questions raised today. No Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I want to thank the Chief Executive for his report and want to make a few quick points wanted to make them early why but are just in relation to homelessness I spent the last few months first hand witness to the reality of what

it is like to be homeless and with the Covid-19 pandemic play as well it is extremely difficult for people out on the streets and lack of services in south Wicklow for people that are homeless is unreal. I think we should look at something going forward. I know there's a new homeless hub in Bray, but I think we need some sort of sheltered accommodation, even for women down in south Wicklow, going forward to protect them.

Also I think the pandemic payment the Covid-19 payment being widened to two weeks will drive a lot of people into homelessness, people suffering from addiction and more complex things, so I think that would be good if the council could I don't know contact the relevant minister and ask for that to be reduced back to one week going forward now that the restrictions have been lifted.

And just in relation to the economy the local economies and recovery of it, I'm wondering would it be possible to look at exploring having more allocations for casual traders and more affordable casual trader licenses for businesses, plus, more outdoor furniture for public spaces going forward as well as a solution.

Thanks.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I'll make this quick - last time I raised about the Kilmac bus shelter and I understand from my communication there was talks and I just wanted to see what the update was or if there was any updates about the shelter thank you.

CLLR DUNNE: Cathaoirleach and again thank the Chief Executive for his report. I have to say personally I'm very disappointed over SSE's decision to base their operations in Arklow. I think it is great for Arklow, 70 jobs there and along with the data centre they're doing quite well but I come from an area of the county the capital down where nobody looked up or down at us over the last number of years with jobs, I challenge anybody here in the meeting and the officials to tell me when was the last time anybody looked at any jobs come into Wicklow Town, as far as I see we're a commuter town and that's the way we want to look at it, the county development plan is coming up and it is something we should look into providing

proper facilities to companies start up in Wicklow Town, I know there's another company starting hopefully starting wind turbines and I know there will be other ports looking to make sure that their store their place there, but I think Wicklow Town would be an ideal location for it. And I would ask the council to make sure that they endeavour to make sure that they do come to Wicklow Town and provide jobs that is badly needed, and that people are not going up the N11 every day to Dublin. Thank you.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks Cathaoirleach, quickie, thanks for the report Chief Executive but, I'm looking at the, question maybe it is for the JPC, maybe not but the 33 fires in rural parts of Wicklow, callouts from the fire service and I'm wondering do we have data on those fires? I know we notice a lot of, if a young person does something wrong somewhere in Wicklow or gather during the Covid-19 they get demonised on every Facebook forum but I never hear people convicted for lighting fires they shouldn't be if there's data on that I would appreciate it.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you Chief Executive for the

report. I just wanted, show my support for the San Remo facility in Bray and thank Cllr Erika Doyle for further information and stress how important it is we need to work with the local community and look at their need and support and creation of the Liaison Committee is very important and I think that should be happening as an immediate thing just to support the local community. Also, having come out of this the Covid-19 crisis a real need particularly in our community the rural areas, we should look I know it is more of a central Government thing but look at the rural planning, a lot of the calls we would have got locally is from families who had to move to owe quantities because they can't afford to live in the community or couldn't get planning on local family farms or land, that's something that is important to look at if we're facing a crisis like this in the future. Just another point is about the dumping, I know it is mentioned before, I think in some areas in urban areas I think we should be putting more responsibility on to some of the traders who are they're dealing with more take away foods so there's a lot of boxes and pizza cartons and things

like that, they have to have some responsibility for what they're giving out. That's why the bins are all filled but also, the dumping that's done in the rural areas like the work that Pure Mile is doing, and the community teams the council teams is absolutely fantastic, thank you.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I would just like to thank the members of the Bray Municipal District for raising the issue of the San Remo which hopefully will be a facility for the homeless community in Bray. There are still a number of issues outstanding and answers we whether or not like to get answered and update on the liaison committee, but I do, from my understanding I believed that the lie yea son committee was to commence once the centre was up and running but I may be wrong on that. But I would like to get the answers as Cllr Erika Doyle asked for on the small few points that seem to be outstanding, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that it for the Chief Executive's report? OK. So, is that OK with you Frank.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We'll get the replies out in writing to each individual councillor yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To note, item 25, to note the annual financial statement 2019 and approve by resolution additional net expenditure in excess of budget in accordance with section 1047 of the Local Government Act 2001 and Brian will talk throughs.

MR GLEESON: The main points to note in the 2019A FS, are that we had a surplus of 305,000 this was used to reduce revenue account deficit down to 2 million and the Capital expenditure increased last year from 55,000, compared to 2018, to 55 million, up to 4 million to 2019, this was due to the acceleration of our housing programme throughout the year. In accordance with section 1047 Local Government Act 2001, members are required to approve by ease are resolution areas of additional net expenditure in excess of budget. These are division roads, 171,000 and division D, are division C water services 71,000 and environment, 818,000.

Obviously, those overruns are overset by underruns elsewhere in the budget.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer, Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Gerry Walsh.

LORRAINE: Agreed by all? Agreed. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 25 to note - the we have just done that - 26, to adopt the Wicklow County Council Annual Report, 2019, section 221, of the Local Government Act, Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Well in accordance to section 221 of the act we're obliged to prepare and adopt Annual Report by the 30th of June each year and there's certain information that needs to be included in this report. Due to Covid-19 restrictions of the annual financial statement has just been put in front of you so we will be required to include those figures in the Annual Report for publication after the meeting and then we're obliged to submit performance indicator figures to NOAC and we should be including the Annual Report, again that's pushed out to July, so, that with the members consent if you could put the Annual Report as circulated and including separate allocation to those figures the following date.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer, Cllr

Sylvestor Bourke. And seconder? Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Quick question on the NOAC report is that coming back to our next meeting because. It is comprehensive report and we do it each year.

MS GALLAGHER: We are preparing the figures; they should be given to NOAC but because of the Covid-19 pressure in resources it is pushed out to July, but we will come back to you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed?

MS GALLAGHER: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 27, adopt the Wicklow County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2020, section 134A of the Local Government Act.

MS GALLAGHER: Under the Local Government Act as soon as practical after adoption of the budget we are obliged to prepare Annual Service Delivery Plan it is prepared having regard to the high level of four strategic goals set out in the Corporate Plan going off the strategic objectives it was considered at the corporate policy group although their meeting on the 6th of April, Derek Mitchell did ask for if the TWES1 could be include the words "public" and "private" and the corridor be as

objective and that will be included in the team plan moving forward.

Again, it also gives overview of the budgetary landscapes terms of delivery of the annual service and plan we will have to have regard to the annual budget. So, if you have a proposer and seconder for that please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Pat Kennedy.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed? OK. To item 28, to note the review of the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan, is 2015-2019 is the.

MS GALLAGHER: That goes back to the previous plan, and carrying out review of the invitation of that plan. So, we will, and to submit it to them by the 27th of June with the objectives contained therein so we're asked to bring it to the attention to the corporate policy group and elected council, so this is for noting Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Number 29. To note the Wicklow County Council joint policing committee report for 2019.

MS GALLAGHER: We're obliged to prepare a report submission by the 31st of March each year, there's a six-year plan in place. The key areas are policing community, tackling crime this rural areas and then tackling alcohol and drug issues so that the big I suppose, the biggest thing was the establishment of the policing plan committees by Municipal Plan Area last year, and we were to welcome Commissioner Drew Harris and hopefully we will welcome him to our September meeting. Cllr Gerry Walsh is the chair of this committee, so, do you want to say anything Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: For the report and something for the Policing Authority were we looking for so good to be in a position to present it to them. So, as I say, we've been unable to hold public meeting due to Covid-19 and hopefully we'll get back on track on wards, and the Commissioner will, reschedule the appearance at our meeting before the year is out. Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Can I have a proposer and seconder. Cllr Gerry Walsh and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien.

MS GALLAGHER: Elected members that select Wicklow County Council are obliged to present reports to the elected council at your request Cathaoirleach or annually so that the report submitted have been circulated and they're just for noting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. 32, correspondence, suspension and standing order, you spoke, do you have anything further to say or can we get the council to meet with Irish Water?

>>: I'm happy with the council take a lead on this, and try to and resolve it, it is a serious issue, we're basically facing into housing estates being stopped building if this issue isn't sorted in north Wicklow particularly in Newtown and Kilcoole so, look, certainly we do need action on this, if that means a meeting with the councillors that's fine but the council need to take a lead on it. Thank you.

MR CURRAN: We'll take it up with them in terms of delivering that and the interim solution, I don't know if you want to comment on it, I think:

CATHAOIRLEACH: 31 to ...

>>: We're waiting on details to be supplied from the developer in relation to connections for the next stage of the development up there, so they don't anticipate any delay in those connections. But, we will take up the issue with the in terms of the permanent reservoir with Irish Water, obviously the issue is the timing of that, and when it is proposed to be delivered, I know there's proposals a couple of years ago for that reservoir in Newtownmountkennedy and obviously the intervening years with the economic town turn, there wasn't a requirement for it. So we'll take up the issue with Irish Water and to ascertain first of all their plans for the plant and the time frame for that, but obviously our position is we don't want to delay the development of any housing in the industry or industry for that point either. And I understand that the planning permission has been granted for a temporary it is facility to facilitate a number of developments in that area and we'll raise that Irish with Irish Water and see if that is acceptable to them in the meantime. in a euro that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, so item 31, to agree the date and location of the next meeting of Wicklow County Council.

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach, before at the at our next meeting the annual meeting we will be agreeing a schedule of meetings, but I suppose we are. This is our first meeting since March with the landscape we're operating in. We are we have to meet in a physical space if we're doing statutory business, there isn't statutory business to be considered between this and the next meeting that we know of in July, so, the proposal would be that we meet the first Monday in September, in physical space and fending what the landscape is.

You'll know we had to meet as quorum to pass resolution because we're not in our council chamber but so I would be asking maybe that you know we propose we meet in September and depending on the landscape that we're in, that we pass a resolution that maybe we'll agree with the location of the next meeting in consultation with the Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I've thought about this, and

originally I said to Lorraine yeah maybe that would be handiest but I do actually think we're sitting here today and not getting answers to questions it is three hours amounted it is extremely difficult to get the business done. One of my regrets is I never got through an agenda despite my best intentions, and so, I can see how difficult it is and the setup is very expensive, as well, and we have to be mindful of finances, but I think even if we're not meeting in a statutory basis I think it is probably important we meet be it a Zoom or teams or whatever meeting, and then, if statutory business has to be done, that after we've had our Zoom meeting and people have had their say that the statutory quorum could come together to actually vote the way their groups want to vote. I don't know what members think of that.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I'm just wondering and it is for clarity for my own information we have a lot of motions that are on the agenda, some dating back as far as October, can they be dealt with in that sort of platform or do they need to be dealt with face-to-face.

MS GALLAGHER: We can give written responses in relation to motions of notice, and we did that before and those who weren't happen CI world with written responses they reappeared on the agenda so we could give written responses and through Zoom. You can't pass resolutions on them obviously, there are motions of there that require the resolution of the council to send it on maybe to another body. So, you couldn't do that.

>>: You could only discuss them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: What do the members think would they prefer to meet like this in July or meet on Zoom? And then if we have statutory business that each technical or group would send forward people to vote the views of their group? If you want to meet in this forum again in July if you could raise your hands?

MS GALLAGHER: This particular space may not be available.

CATHAOIRLEACH: This type. For July.

MS GALLAGHER: It will be available in July.

>>: What alternatives do we have to the Shoreline to meet in July, is there another alternative before we take a vote n

CATHAOIRLEACH: I mean the alternative we don't all meet as 32, unless the social distancing requirement is reduced because if it was reduced, we would fit in Claremont. When it is two metres, we don't have a space to fit. If it is reduced yes.

MS GALLAGHER: As a sector we wouldn't be convening such a large group for business where there's no statutory business, that is the policy we're working under for health and safety reasons we don't convene in such a large group, while Covid-19 is with us. So, it makes sense we wouldn't ...

>>: Social distancing is reduced to one metre could we delay actually agreeing to meet in July until next week the week after to see what happens with social distancing is that an option?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah, how do people feel about that? Sorry, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Chair, I think we should have a Zoom

meeting in July. And if there's statutory items we're waiting three months to deal with statutory items today, so what's the problem with waiting until September to deal with statutory item, I think it is essential and we should meet in school.

CATHAOIRLEACH: People who want to meet in July. Sorry, Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Can that be delegated to the district in the meantime, statutory items we need to discuss?

MS GALLAGHER: There are no statutory items at the minute, so the proposal is each you news pal district be briefed, meet and discuss matters on Zoom and then we convene again September as a statutory council.

>>: No statutory.

MS GALLAGHER: No statutory business at the minute.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

>>: We break for August anyway we should have a meeting in September because by that time the landscape so could have changed a lot and we could have a meeting like this in September or maybe,

social distancing will be down to one metre so I think we should have a Zoom meeting in July, we don't have a meeting in August anyway and by September we should know where we're going.

CATHAOIRLEACH: How many people want a Zoom meeting in July?

CLLR FITZGERALD: I couldn't figure out what was being said a lot of the time. And that's not - I wouldn't be prepared to sit here again and second guess what people are saying. I could have moved over there, I'm sure you had the same problem, and Cllr Gerry Walsh I couldn't hear what was going on, there wasn't much going on so I couldn't hear, I wouldn't be prepared to sit here and be ignored I couldn't hear what was going on.

>>: I agree with that.

CLLR FERRIS: I agree with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: So, just, I appreciate that what we're trying to battle out here but on Zoom meetings constituents can't come and watch and hear and the press aren't there, so is there something about how we're going to overcome that challenge if it does interrupt on-line because people want to see us out

taking a leadership role and while it mightn't be statutory we have a role to play in the resilience and coming back from this, and I would be concerned from that, if our people don't see us doing that on Zoom that's a problem.

CLLR WALSH: Look we're talking about one meeting here, so I don't know what the expense incurred today but I believe it is significant to hold this meeting here today so really if it is not necessary, you know we'll have a meeting regardless this September, if Claremont is fit to be purpose we're in Claremont if not we're obviously back here, but either way I think we should go with Zoom for July. Once there's no statutory business. And if there is, we have plan B in relation to the quorums.

CATHAOIRLEACH: How many people want it to be a Zoom meeting in July. Hands Up. 18. And there's 30 present.

So, 19, so it will be 19 for and 11 against, so we'll have a Zoom meeting in July.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that my Municipal District so do a member want a Zoom meeting with all their 32 members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Have a district first of all and if we want, we have a full meeting where we talk about the manager's report. In fairness, each of you can have:

MS GALLAGHER: You don't have the legislative freedom to meet as a statutory council by Zoom, you got advice in that regard and direction from the department, so, meeting for a discussion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You would be meeting for a discussion and to go through. OK. So, if we leave it at that.

MS GALLAGHER: While we're on by way of update about the elected members, construction reconvened on 18th of May so council chamber and members rooms are stripped and walls to the new extension has been erected, interview rooms and public toilets reconfigured so phase one, refurbishment, customer care hub we should have that completed by the end of August so the full completion date for the project is for the full project is mid-December so hopefully back in our new chamber in January.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any correspondence. That's it.

OK. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I just want to propose a vote of thanks Cathaoirleach to yourself, Chief Executive, and the staff, for going to the extent they did go to facilitate this meeting, we know it is not perfect but a lot of effort went into it, we have the screens, we have the microphones we have the social distance, we have the refreshments beforehand and press and some of the public and other staff and I think given the circumstances, great credit is due to the staff and yourself Cathaoirleach for going ahead with this meeting, I accept it might not be what people want in the future but I don't think it could be done any better than it was today and I want to thank everybody involved.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you that convenes the last meeting of my Cathaoirleachship, and we will have the AGM, can I have a five-minute break and convene the AGM then.

OK.

Break before the AGM

