

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
WICKLOW COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN ON
MONDAY, 2nd DAY OF MARCH 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.

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**NON-VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MARCH 2nd 2020:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon. Afternoon, members. It's only, it's less than a week since we all saw one another. We have a very long agenda, because we have, because it's such a long agenda, I would really ask people to be mindful of not repeating what previous speakers have said. If you want to you can come in and say I endorse the comments of, but please don't repeat it all. Okay, so item one, to confirm.

ADMINISTRATOR: For Margaret Butler, for Gillian Stanley. For Oliver Martin, father of our colleague Ruairi Martin and for Eddie Young.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other votes of sympathy? Okay, we will stand for a moment. Okay, to confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council, held on Monday the 3rd of February. Can I have a proposer?

ADMINISTRATOR: Councillor Ferris. Is that agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: To consider the disposal, item number two, the disposal of 1.223 acres of land and in the townland of Tinakilly by way of a three-year lease. As previously circulated, can I have a proposer? Cllr Fitzgerald. Seconded by?

ADMINISTRATOR: Tommy Annesley, is that agreed? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 3, to consider the disposal of 0.13 acres, situated in the townland of Drummin, as previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Cullen and Pat Kennedy.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is that agreed? Agreed, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I know that item 4 and 5, we have to take them individually, but it's all tied up in the same parcel of land. To consider the disposal of 0.2 eye acres or thereabouts of land in Drummin, to Patrick Roche and Breda Roche, as previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Cullen.

ADMINISTRATOR: Seconded by Cllr Kennedy. Agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 5 to consider the disposal of 0.62 acres to Yvonne Roche, Annamoe, County Wicklow as circulated. Cllr Cullen and Kennedy.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is that agreed? Agreed. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, item 6 to consider the disposal of 0.485623 hectares or thereabouts of land situated at Dr Ryan Park in Greystones to Sporting Greystones for a period of 30 years as previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Walsh and seconded by Cllr Fortune.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 7 to consider the freehold interest in the property known as Seapoint House. As previously circulated. Cllr Ferris. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, is that agreed? Thank you. Item 8 to consider the disposal of the freehold interest in the property known as 34 Connolly Square Bray to Ms Sharon Fannin.

ADMINISTRATOR: Proposed by Aoife Flynn Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Ferris. Agreed? Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 9 to consider the disposal of 0.0044 hectares in the townland of Enniskerry to Mr. David Messit and Helen Messit, as previously circulated.

ADMINISTRATOR: Proposed by Cllr O'Connor. Is that agreed? Agreed.
Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 10 to consider the disposal of the council's interest and equity in 0.040 hectares of land at Clonpadden, Arklow to Mr Derek Byrne. Do I have a proposer? Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Is that agreed? Agreed? .

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 11 to consider the disposal interest and equity of 0.37 hectares to Mr. David Johnson, Penrose house, as previously circulated.

ADMINISTRATOR: Proposed by Cllr Burke seconded by Cllr Kennedy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 12 to consider the disposal of the Council's interest and equity in 0.53 hectares at Ballinacor East, Kilbride, to Mr David Johnson, Penrose House, Redcross, County Wicklow.

ADMINISTRATOR: Proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Sylvester Bourke.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 13, to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, I will take it as read, but just one or two items. We received our NTA allocation for this year, it's slightly higher than last year, 2.69 million, it's up from 2.5 last year and 1.1 the year before, can you hear me? So, the, it covers the likes of the aquarium project in Bray, the Bray dart interchange, design fees for the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway, design for the Wicklow access to Station Road and it includes the ark low traffic management plan. Those are what we are going do anyway and there is a lot of smaller ones then.

There is a lot of smaller ones that are included in the capital plan that you can see later. Receipt funding also under the outdoor recreation for the construction of new paths at Bray head linking the Cliff Walk to Bray Head Loop. Linking it to Belmont way and construction of a new path at the sugar way. It's a 200,000 project that will be part of the link from Bray to Woodenbridge to again that project will go ahead this year. And we did apply on Friday for three screams under the rural recreation, or the RRDF, the Rural Development Programme, now the three schemes are Rathdrum is for the development of a new street to the east of the existing main street linking the two gateway sites.

Redevelopment of two gateway sites south of St Saviour's Church, the design of a new enterprise and the enhancement of the public realm and main street providing links to the new street. This is what is called category 2 funding. It's for design fees for this project, there is another one we submitted for Newtownmountkennedy, the provision of main street works addressing issues in the town centre. Provision and safe access to the centre. Provision of a pocket park in the town centre again and the refurbishment of the existing community centre, including a ports and recreation hub, all-weather pitch and the third one submitted was for Blessington in relation to public realm improvements in the town centre, removal of parking from the square, overhead cables, acquisition taking advantage of the network, connecting to the proposed Blessington inner relief road, enhancement of the approach road into Blessington and electric charging points for commuters and car poolers.

So they are gone in so we will have to wait until those applications go.
Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, again, Cathaoirleach, for your detailed report. I like to welcome the fact that the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway is progressing. It's essential it's ready for the planning process if there is an additional Greenway fund announced towards the end of the year. I presume we are still on track for the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway to be the proposal for this year's greenway fund. Secondly I was wondering on the west Wicklow swimming pool project where we are trying to rescue where that is at the moment. It's stream one, we need to keep that project going. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I would just first of all support Cllr Mullen's point with regard to the west Wicklow swimming pool. Certainly any of us contested the election at a public meeting were left in no doubt by the community how important that project is to the community in west Wicklow. Obviously anything that the Chief Executive can do to support that, I am supportive of it, I certainly would welcome. I am not sure whether the Chief Executive wants to comment on this, but I think it's an important time to raise this issue.

As we know, there are negotiations in progress at the moment for the formation of a new Government. The Green Party are central to those negotiations at the moment. And the leader of the Green Party made a statement in the Dail with regard to the N11 and works that may be happening with regard to the N11/M11. It was to the effect that if they get into Government they are going to stop those works and I think there is a very serious threat to improvement works on the N11 if that particular threat is carried out and I remember when we discussed this, I raised this before the election and I remember the one issue that I think most people were agreed on at the time is there needs to be a combination of works done there, not just widening a road, but there has to be public transport options given to people and we all agree with that, but if I recall correctly the Chief Executive at the time said we are on a particular funding track for that work, having got to this stage, I am concerned that that particular funding track will be taken off it again, because of the fact that negotiations might say, well, we don't want this work to proceed.

I think, as a body, as Wicklow County Council, we should be indicating very clearly to the Department of Transport and the Department of Local Government that we do not want to see the priority of that particular road being removed by a future Government and we should make our views very clearly known on that subject. And I don't know whether, as I say, the Chief Executive can say any more about it publicly, but I think he did express concerns about the funding being withdrawn, whatever it was decided and I think what is very important and I am sure we would all agree, that whatever else would happen we don't lose the funding. We have to do something for the tens of thousands of people stuck in this misery morning and night, who are still stuck in it three weeks after an election with very

little hope of things improving in the short-term, Cathaoirleach.

So I would ask the councillor, maybe consider sending a letter, as a body to the Department of transport on this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you for the excellent report. There was some good news on the funding as mentioned, the greenway and the other projects but there was a disappointment in the Arklow Municipal District that the fund you mentioned the outdoor recreation scheme which we had applied for the reinstatement of the sea front promenade and associated trails of refused and failed to gain funding and it's a huge issue for us in the district and I am hoping that your good office would liaise with Colm Lavery funding through whatever means you have, as soon as possible to deliver that until Arklow. Paul O'Brien, thank you for the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report again. I want to echo Cllr Behan and Cllr Mullen's call for the swimming pool in the west. I won't repeat it, but I want to offer my support, I also want to welcome the news that the new library is on schedule and due to open later in the year, along with Fitzwilliam Square.

It's great to see the county town catching on, I notice in the report about the greenway, as we have all experienced the north easterlies are hitting them hard and the greenway, although it's needed we need to know when it's going to come and I know reports have to be done and I am looking for an update on that, in terms of tourism, again the county town is without a hotel and I notice that there is funding going to be available from Bord Failte up to half a million and I am fearful that the county town is because and I am wondering is there anything.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Cllr Bourke has spoken about this, but I couldn't hide my disappointment and the disappointment of hundreds of people when I received the news that we didn't get funding under the Aras Project. There was an excellent application done, by the council staff here and it just makes me think when we see that our funding compared to other counties and particular the county of Mayo, where they can put two and two together there and hopefully we won't have a Mayo minister again, but I think there is a health issue over here and it has to be look at by some manner of funding. If we don't get it, we need to get it from the council, there was a part of that funding we applied for, I think there was a figure of nearly 40,000 to do some works over there and hundreds of people used that walk and in fact at this moment it's dangerous to be on the walk. So I think there has to be, as Cllr Bourke alluded to it, there has to be some means for getting the work repaired and getting it done quickly, because we are coming into the summer months, but we are coming into the summer and I think that walk has to be done, quickly and speedily for the safety of the people who are in the area.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and thank you to the Chief Executive again for his report. I just want to make the comment that I am delighted to see in the report there is a report of the climate action officer, this is really welcome news, delighted to have seen that progress so quickly

and look forward to working with them through the climate SPC. I also supporting Cllr Mullen's proposal about the swimming pool being contacted by people of west Wicklow today and add my support to that and the other councillors that also supported it. Briefly in reference to Cllr Behan's comment we will be discussing the N11, until the Government is formed it's a moot point as to what we can demand from a council point of view. I have one query as regard the children in homelessness figures and Chief Executive, again, I am, every month I struggle a little bit in understanding the breakdown and I suppose I am just querying the figures. I understand that 73 children presented as homeless this, in January 2020, 33 were accommodated in their own door accommodation and 33 in bed and breakfast accommodation and noting that 7 children were in B&Bs for is it months which is horrendous, but going on that, I think that leaves ten children unaccounted for if I have looked at the figures correctly, if you could comment on that, that would be great, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I would like to endorse Cllr Bourke and Cllr Fitzgerald's comments about Arklow. There is serious rate payers in that part of the town. We are lucky to have one of a four star, I would like to congratulate the Hudson's on the Arklow Bay getting four stars so we have a four star hotel in our town and I am sure this walkway has benefitted the Arklow Bay Hotel. These are serious rate payers. These all back on this walkway and for us to say we do not have the funding, I was approached by a local developer who said, *"he would do the footpath."* When I approached the local developers they wanted him to tender free of charge and anyone who puts a tender in knows the cost of putting a tender in.

The local developer said I am not going to do that, not going there. I can understand the engineer's frustration by not getting the funding so he could do the footpath, so I am endorsing Cllr Bourke's and Cllr Fitzgerald's comments on this:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you to for the report. Just a query in relation to the social housing support section and the number of people availing of the rental assistance scheme. I have had representations from some of those with concerns as to where they stand in relation to the actual housing list, they are deemed not to be on the list once they were accommodated under RAS. If you go forward and look at the homelessness section, there is a section with the number of people asked to leave and where landlords are selling their properties. 23 last year and 27 this year, so these people an RAS feel they are falling through the cracks in their security of tenure is not what it should be.

Just if there is any plan to put them back, reinstate them on to the list, that is a thank you. Just one more question in relation to the part 5s. We have had two significant decisions there with An Bord Pleanála in the Greystones area there with Cairn Homes. I think we had 750 units approved. So are those the part 5s in connection with those decisions, included in the part 5 figures here, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you I would like to thank you the CEO for his presentation there. And John's comments with the Arklow Shillelagh greenway. We asked this week, when the issue of funding for our roads programme came up for the year, obviously I see an increase in it, which is welcome in that regard, but nevertheless we were here doing our own budgets and we talked about the need for maintaining service in the county and we did approve a 10% increase in the property tax, just for that purpose alone, but certainly the comments I have been hearing and the phone calls from people, particularly with regard the local road and county roads as well and the regional roads, the state of them at the moment, certainly leaves a lot to be desired. They are coming in on a daily basis in terms of phone calls.

Had a phone call from an individual who lost a day's work, two cars bursted on it, so it's a concern out there to the public that the winter hasn't been as bad as other winters. We got another rain, but we hadn't a frost, but nevertheless there is an awful lot of work out there, it in doing the repairs on the local roads and the regional roads, it's one of the concerns of the general public out there and it needs to be addressed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Good afternoon, Cathaoirleach, I would like to thank the Chief Executive for his report and I would like to join with my colleagues in welcoming the support for the swimming pool in Blessington. The support of Cllr Behan Scott and O'Brien.

I would like then to move on to the completion of the ring road in Blessington. That is a welcome development and it's been greatly advanced by our new director of planning who is our Municipal District manager and that is a very welcomed first step and hopefully it will be completed, it will bring great relief to the town and it will allow for other things to be done in the town that are badly done and the Chief Executive has already mentioned. However, I think it needs to be emphasised that that is only a stop gap measure, we need our new N81, it's our number one priority in the west, as far as I am concerned and while the swimming pool is important, it falls into second place to the new N81, in my view.

Now, the N81 gets great traction in the chamber, always. But the N81 appears to be totally forgotten about and people in west Wicklow find that difficult to understand, considering you have a dual carriageway that takes you into Dublin. We are the only national secondary route that isn't, hasn't been upgraded, that goes to the capital and I think it's really something that you need to focus on, because I do honestly believe that our side of the county is forgotten about. I conclude by giving you this example on a lighter note. That is since we, for the last six months since we were elected, it's been mentioned at almost every Municipal District meeting that the white line stops at the top of the Wicklow Gap. Wicklow seems to stop at the top of the hill as far as the council is concerned. I think we need to be looked after better out west.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I would like to thank the Chief Executive for his report and comment on a few things. I would like to support my west Wicklow

councillors with both the Arklow to Shillelagh greenway, but also the swimming pool as well. I think west Wicklow is neglected an awful lot of time and it's much needed over there. In relation to Arklow, I want to support my fellow councillor in Arklow about my disappointment with the funding, not being successful for the walkway on not only do we have substantial rate payers in that area, but we have invested Wicklow money in that area as a tourist attraction with outdoor recreational equipment, sports equipment and stuff like that. Hopefully we do do that. I was wonder figure we could have an update on the harbour master position and when that will be advertised for Arklow.

In relation to the flood relief. I was wondering, could it be given an update on the drawings before it goes to planning. Almost all aspects, for this meeting, my comment is basically support, or add on to Cllr Behan mentioned we have a massive infrastructure deficit at the moment, particularly in the north Wicklow area, obviously we are struggling big time, for example, for school places and we have discussed that here in the chamber over the last number of weeks. But, if you take whether the road proposed for the N11 happens or doesn't happen. At best it's not going to happen for a good number of year, but the real challenge and I would be interested for the Chief Executive's stance on it, as we speak, there is about 2,300 houses either have been, some have been constructed, others are under construction and others will be built, so that, is will come to roughly 3,000 houses.

Now, when they come up to the existing network you have got, a bunch of them have to come out of Greystones harbour into a town that is bursting at the seams already. I would be interested to see what the plans are going forward to deal with that, because it's a serious issue. I think one of the major problems we have and Cllr Behan made reference to the ongoing negotiations at the moment, but the lack of infrastructure and the lack of joined up think, and the amount of talk going on department to department really is penalising most of our constituents and I would like to get a handle on how we are going with all of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I thank the CEO for the comprehensive report as usual. I just want to welcome the application under the RRDF for Newtownmountkennedy and I want to thank director Nicholson for the staff for the spot are that is given. In terms of any town and this would feed into Cllr Behan's concern. Newtown is one of the fastest growing towns, but unfortunately there is a lack of recreation facilities. Sporting and for families and sporting organisations in the area are basically ham strung because they have no where to go with regards to providing facilities. As we are aware the N11 is a major problem, there is over 1,000 houses being built in the Newtown area at the moment. We are building houses but with no facilities or amenities to go along with those. So I think there is an onus on us, I do welcome the funding that is being sought after and I hopefully that will be successful on that, but I do feel that the community groups and all the good work they are doing in the area need our support. Thank you. Cllr Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Firstly can I welcome the new colleagues, Cllr Neary and Cllr Doyle and thank the manager for that report. Would it be possible to get a report on the funding that was applied for the swimming pool. It would be great to see the areas that were unsuccessful and why they were unsuccessful in that application, if a report could be provided it might help for future applications. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you to the CEO for the report. I again, we are all part of a group there that want to see things moving and see infrastructure and new swimming pools and a lot of things, but unfortunately the Blessington town development plan has been put on hold, it was to be implemented in 2019 and nothing, it's put off, I think for the input of the spatial strategy plan, so it's all up in the air, but the sooner the better we get our own plan for Blessington, I can see the swimming pool being part maybe of a complex, a leisure complex or whatever.

Also, the, as my colleague Patsy Glennon said, the ringroad is of utmost importance, there is probably a bigger issue and as I mentioned here before, the amount of houses that are being built in the county of Kildare, my daughter lives in an estate in Blessington county Wicklow and the road in front of here is 16 foot wide and the houses in front of her are in Kildare and there are proposals for another 365 houses in similar circumstances where on one side of the road the houses are in Kildare, where as the other ones are in Wicklow.

And, if, you know, there is talk now at the moment that of the 365 houses to be built, the social, the 10% for social need, according to what we hear now, coming from Kildare County Council and that being that, that 36 social houses will be going to people on the housing list in Kildare. I had asked for an urgent clarification on this, not alone do we have the 365 houses at that part on that road, but we have another up to 600 houses being built in another part of Blessington which is in Kildare as well. It would be a lot of houses that we have, I think it's 280 people on the housing list in Blessington and out of all of these new houses that are going to be built around us we won't get one house.

It's a mad serious issue, because every one of these houses are being built, there is over 14,000 development levies will be going to Kildare County Council, the property tax will be going to Kildare County Council and we have to provide everything in Wicklow, water sewage, schools the whole lot. We have to get our head around this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Time.

CLLR O'NEILL: We have to look at Blessington urgently and get a development plan up and running as soon as possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you. First I would like to thank our two new councillors great to see two strong women. Also, I am just querying maybe or requesting a report on the GPGs. I see they are advertised again, but I am just always concerned about the waiting list and their priorities the way these are given out and if that is possible, because I know that there is quite

a long list and I know that the funding can run out sometimes as well. But I would just think that the way, the GPGs are done, that maybe a review of housing maybe, I welcome that report. Also I like to echo what Cllr Blake has said about the roads. People need to realise that nowadays there is rural country roads in dire straits, these people are paying their taxes, in all sections of life, the road, their car insurance, tax and insurance and the roads are just not standard enough, it's just not safe and we as a County Council need to look at that and I think we need to realise it's not just the main road people are using, they are using every road in the country, be it side roads, secondary roads as well and these are the people that are coming to us look for us and Young we need to up our game on this.... and I also echo the strong lobbying that the other five councillors, the Municipal District has done on a very disappointment, on our no funding on the general amenity in Arklow. I mean what else can be done from or engineer who has done it, report and application three or four times and in very much detail, so it's beyond our responsibility at this stage and I think the new five TDs, we need to lobby as Arklow Municipal District, but also Wicklow County Council, it just has gone on too long, it's gone on too long. We are getting this every day from the public who are using it as well and it's not just Arklow public, people are coming in from surrounding areas to use the facility. The gym equipment is there, the other thing, what do they call it, the bike thing, I can't think of it now, the cycle skate park. I mean the amount of use that is, the leisure centre is there, people are dropping their kids off to swimming lesson and the family, other family going for a walk around the area. As Cllr Pat Fitzgerald said, it's a major health and safety issue. I can't even go up it at the moment on my own. So I think we really, really need to get this report done, we need funding, whoever's door we need to knock on, we need to knock on it now.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. Just the, I would like to thank the Chief Executive for his report. In the beginning when he was speaking his microphone wasn't working correctly and I know he mentioned a number of projects, including the aquarium in Bray, around that area, I wasn't sure whether he had said that funding had been applied for, those projects or whether funding had been received? So he might just clarify that for me. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I was just reading through this last night and I am blocking my own path here. It's just on the climate change, there was great talk last year we set up a new SPC and we were going to do everything and all the rest of it, there wasn't very much said in this report and it's the time of year when we should be thinking about things like planting verges with wild flowers and stuff like that. I know the hedgerow band has started, but as regards new initiatives I really was under the impression that this new SPC was going to do an awful lot in terms of climate change and I am disappointed to see that there doesn't seem to be anything really on the agenda, so I don't even know how much they meet, but I would hope that by the next meeting, we have some kind of report to show some positive action being taken, it's all I want to say.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to Arklow Shillelagh, I mentioned there we received funding from the NTA in relation to the design of it. That will bring it up to the environmental impact assessment report, which goes to An Bord Pleanála, but the funding for the scheme, we would expect to be funding from DTDS, so I suppose the next phase is to bring it to design phase, get the planning consent and look for funding in the next round that comes out. In relation to the West Wicklow swimming pool we applied for fees which was around 5,000. I was surprised they didn't come back for it, because they come back looking for information, looking for us to provide extra information in the application, but it didn't come through. So the large scale information team will be coming around again, we need to focus on it, see where it went wrong, but we can't go on, because it's such an amount of money. We will keep working on that. In relation to the N11, what we were referring to is this scheme was mentioned in the national development plan. So that has schemes that are going ahead. The second category of schemes will progress to design phase between now and 2017 and some of those, depending on Government decision will go ahead. That one is what our has mentioned in. With people working on it, we have the TI. Regional design office, focus on it, so obviously we don't want to delay it, because we are in with a chance of it progressing, so any delay we want to stay in that category and complete the design work. Sylvester Bourke, yes the Arklow Coastal Walk, that was disappointing. I mentioned the one we have in Bray, St Kevin's Way is under construction and we have the car park and the work of the factory there. We are doing okay out of the infrastructure scheme, but we will have a look at and we will certainly apply for it again, but we will have a look at other sources of funding as well.

Cllr O'Brien, mentioned the West Wicklow Swimming Pool and the greenway, the greenway between Wicklow Town and Greystones. The biggest issue there is the ecology as you go through the sand dunes. Coastal erosion will happen anyway and in fairness to Irish Rail they couldn't be more helpful, but the big one is the ecology, so there is a lot of work which has got to be done to prepare that environmental impact assessment report. There is a funding stream from DTTS for those design fees and they have applied for. They have come back looking for extra information and we would be hopeful for that.

As soon as we get that we will progress the remainder of the design. In relation to tourism, Failte Ireland did do a study in the county looking at the demand and the tours coming into the country. They are increasing at 4% per annum and it looks at all accommodation, hotels, guest houses, hostels and they have identified a demand, a shortage of 175 beds that goes up to 250 until 2025 and they have gone further in that they have looked at a model on someone who is interested in building a hotel, how much it will cost per room, with 70% occupancy, what the repayment will be and what the profits will be made. So it's a useful document we can give to prospective investors and a few have approached us. It's available for councillors if they wish as well.

In relation to Cllr Scott and the homeless, the open door and emergency accommodation, which is fine, you see the 73-year presentations, the remainder then would have been accommodated at home or with relatives and obviously every support is made to deal with any situations in relation to rent, etc and leasing and will work with people in as much as possible so they don't become homeless in the first place. In relation to the Cllr Walsh, the RAS numbers are decreasing because HAP is increasing and people on the HAP scheme can put themselves in a transfer list for permanent social housing, if you like, so we will have a look at the RAS and see what we can do. Just in relation to part 5 on the two SHDs that were granted. Yes, 10% of those will be social housing. They are phased as the schemes are being developed. They are not, so they are social housing through a voluntary body. In relation to Cllr Blake, the roads programme will be discussed at each Municipal District, either during the month we, will have our annual service plan again at the next month's meeting, but our roads allocation from the Department was up, we had put more money into it from the budget, but look, we will keep trying with the Department in terms if there is any funding available it may be that we look for that.

Cllr Glennon, they mentioned the N81 we have in the RRDF application now for Blessington. With very looked for design fees for that, we have looked also, we are working with Kildare County Council to establish a special contributions scheme for development levies for the private housing to fund a section of the relief road, the large scheme, as I mentioned we will keep lobbying in relation to that. Cllr Leonard mentioned the flood relief scheme. We can certainly arrange for a presentation in relation to that. The harbour master position, I think we had, we had allowed for a general service supervisor to assist the harbour master and we will look for that post to be filled. Cllr Fortune, just in relation to housing, we have our existing development plan and our core strategy which was developed and developers can apply in relation to the existing population targets and the existing zoned land. We will, we have received from the regional spatial and economic strategy, population targets for the next county development plan and we have started that process. Again that will be looking at land that can be serviced over the period of the plan and we will have a new core strategy and have new population targets and zoning and that will all play out here in time over the next year, year-and-a-half.

Cllr Cullen, just in relation to the recreational facilities in Newtown mount Kennedy, we will certainly look at sports capital and every scheme comes our way. Cllr Cronin, yes we can have a report on the Swimming Pool and we will certainly be talking to the Department about what is coming down the track and what we can do about that. Cllr Gerry O'Neill's comment about the leisure complex, maybe that is the way we should go and have it part of a bigger development, maybe they are more interested in that. We have made contact with Kildare, they are telling us they have enough social housing applicants for the 10% of houses coming on stream in Kildare, but again it's something we will follow up with them. Cllr Murphy question get a report on the DPGs we can certainly send that out to you. Just in relation to

Cllr Ferris, what I was talking about earlier was the National Transport Authority have given us their allocation. It's 2.69 million, it's up from last year, they have included in that funding for the project at the aquarium, funding for the project at the Bray dart interchange, that will start again in September. Design work for the Arklow Shillelagh, design for the Wicklow port access for Station Road, design for the Bray footbridge and the Arklow traffic management plan and Greystones traffic management plan and there is a whole range of smaller schemes around North Wicklow in particular Greystones in particular that will proceed to design stage. Cllr Kavanagh, in relation to the climate change SPC, there is a programme of works being developed for this year and it will be discussed at the next meeting of the SPC, but there has been a lot done I would say in terms of the car charging points, that is something that will be coming forward. We will have the public lights replacement, that is something we will be looking at in term was our carbon emissions and we have done a lot of work with Bray public library, Greystones depot, Civic Offices, Clermont House, Bray Fire Station.

We have done a lot of work in improving our own energy efficiency, we will be look at solar panels and the part 8 was approved so that project will hopefully be going ahead this year. But the plan that will be approved by the SPC then will, needless to say be looking at car charging points, planting schemes and various issues around biodiversity and business continuity how we operate in terms of severe weather response, but I am sure once that has been approved we will share it with the other councillors.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, to item 14 and I would like to welcome from SSE Airtricity Patrick Rooney and Keith Bardon. And I know over the last couple of months, longer and actually we have had questions and concerns about public lighting and I would like to thank the SSE Airtricity for coming down to us and for agreeing to listening to some of our concerns.

PATRICK: Good afternoon, all, my name is Patrick Rooney, I am the regional and director of head of operations. I am here today with my new colleague, I have with me Keith Barden, the contract manager for Wicklow County Council and I have Vicky Boden who is somewhere here, Vicki Boden from our corporate affairs team. First off, I would like to thank you for inviting us here and giving you a chance to address the concerns raised in these chambers and the media more recently. I would like to start, if I could with some boring statistics. So, the current situation in inventory wise, so in Wicklow County Council you have over 15,000 lights at the moment. Of those over 6,000, about 43% are what you call SOX lanterns. These, I have a further slide on this, but we will be looking to replace out over the next few years. The next is Lanterns, they are about 30%, you have about 2700, about 19% of your inventory. The SOX lanterns make up 33% of your inventory. These were manufactured previously by Phillips lighting and communication was sent out internationally to all customers, lighting installers, about three years ago, explaining that those were not going to be manufactured anymore.

So we are looking to replace these out with LED. The agreement we have is we have ordered in 1,000 lanterns at this moment and basically we install them as they are required which then the low cost County Council until they

are installed and operating. The current replacement rate for those new lanterns is 7 lanterns per crew per day and we currently have five crews working in Wicklow County Council, so we are doing LED lantern refit. The national upgrade programme was mentioned there, at this stage. If we keep going as we are, by the time you bid for that work you are probably going to be in the region of 27-30% of lights will be LED which will put you ahead of the rest of the country at this stage. The challenges, now obviously I am here to, I was invited here after the number that was mentioned in the media, was of 700 lights. Firstly I want to address I do not believe it was 700 faults outstanding at this stage.

There were several items that went into that number. Probably one of the key things to call out is the age of your public inventory. At the moment the SOX lanterns are out for 45 years plus. They would have a life of 25 years, obviously as they are breaking down and failing. Hang on, my beautiful assistant will hand me, very slowly. This here is a 5 watt SOX lamp. As you can imagine our guys pull up to replace this, they get set up, they do the traffic management they, basically screw out the old one and replace it with a new one, this is what the 55 SOX land, these are not available, not just Wicklow, we have to replace these with LED lanterns, this is a lot more work. Obviously taking down the lantern and doing the adjustments to the table and putting the lantern up and coming back down again. We are probably talking in the region you will do 10-15 lamp replacements on a good day, with the lamp replacements you can do 7, depending on the type of network and road you are working on. This results in a slowdown in how many lights and faults you can replace per day.

The other point is there is obviously issues with stakeholders outside just SSE Airtricity and account holders. We are out there working on a live electricity situation every day, these stakeholders we have meetings every single engagement, obviously they do delay and can delay our works. So we just need to call that out. Another thing that has come to light, since the days of using websites and apps and all sorts to log faults is the duplication of fault reporting. Particularly when we went digging into Wicklow numbers we notice add duplication on faults being reported:

We have obviously worked officials in the council to identify a single point of contact and we are also on a technological phrase, we are with the website, takes faults through a system called Deadsure and I won't bore you with the details of that, but it's a third party inventory management system and we have worked with the developers, along with the officials in your council to improve this and we have improved the system over the last few year, but one of the key call outs for our next phase, what we are looking to do is at the moment when a fault gets logged you cannot put a secondary fault on that light or an escalation, so we are going to do, working with the developps are once again so we can put, remember a member of the public can put an escalate through that on the website.

So they can see the faults being put up originally and they can escalate any concerns about that. Which will prompt for us to come back to them directly.

Probably just come back here to the current situation, so as of the moment, right now the number of lights that are not working in Wicklow County Council area, 310 lights. That includes about 56 lights that are outside our control, be it that there is no energy to the lights and then what we are going to come back to is 254 lights within our control that are not, that are in our control that are not working right now. That comes to about 1.7% of your inventory which is well below the 2% average we see around the country. Now, just to give you background information, you get about 20 faults that spikes around winter and drops in the summer. We generally see 20 faults a day. At the moment we get to 55 faults a day. We have seen 4600 lights come through the system. Of those about 2900 were related directly to the SOCS lantern issue I called out. Out of those 4600 lamps, 2600 of those were related directly to the SOCS lanterns, so going back to that old inventory. Just to give you an idea of those 4600 that we have seen come through, we repaired 4300 of them. I appreciate I sped through that, but I am happy to take any questions or queries.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you for coming to make the presentation for us today. I was the one who raised at the council meeting and I would like to thank the members for suspending standing orders. At that stage Wicklow is in darkness as far as I am concerned. I can talk, especially about my own area, that light are being reported, sometimes over three months and weren't being fixed. Some of the lights that are being reported are still not fixed. Especially where I live, Fitzwilliam road, high street, places like that, the lights are still out. The figure came over 700 lights came from our director and the figure also came back that after us raising this at the meeting the last time, that there was 300 lights fixed within a month. Do I have to suspend standing orders every time to get lights fixed in this county because that is the only time as far as I can see you are reacting. The other thing I will say is that lights, when they are reporting there is no tracking system and no one knows when they are going to be fixed. There is lights at the moment, easily out in Wicklow town easily over three months and nobody can track them. I would like to see a new system put in place as we have with Irish Water, where we have a councillor's helpline, call in lights some maybe are more important than others and maybe you prioritising them and getting them fixed. In one area of the town I went down and there wasn't a light on in the whole town down there. So you can blame who you want and blame this and that, but as far as I am concerned there is reason why Wicklow County Council didn't renew your contract, because I don't think you were doing your job and I tell you, it's been a very poor effort, to what I have seen in my time as a councillor and just this winter, other winters as well, it's only when someone brings it into the public domain, you act. I am hugely disappointed with SSE Airtricity, I thought you were a better company than that, thank you, chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you for the presentation. I suppose just on the data our own area engineering and Municipal administrator, in fairness at last week's meeting sourced some data from us and in my engineering area there were 99 lights out, which is, according to your data, just under a third in one engineering area which is only half my

Municipal District, now it's quite a rural area, so whether there has been a massive improvement in 7 days I don't know, I don't think so, and a couple of issues arise out of that, one is some of these lights have been out since 2018 and the engineer, it's a minority, it's a tiny part of, but still there is no way of tracking when a light has gone out and when a light gets repaired. As you said, the escalation of it needs to be addressed, because at the moment you don't know when it has been addressed. There was new lights put in in Carnew in 2019 and were only turned on in January. They were put up in April 2019 and only turned on in January 2020. Now, I heard there was an issue between SSE Airtricity and ESB on this, over a connection, I don't know if that is true or not, but those type of issue, how are they being dealt with, as regards your company and the ESB networks. The third item is when your views have been out, they have been repairing a light, or two lights and there might be three or four lights out in the group and yet, because it's in the on their work list, they are not addressing, so they are doing the traffic management, they have got the crew there, they are repairing one or two lights and the light beside him that is not working they can't address because it's not on their worklist, I accept there might be technical issues but I find that completely illogical or bad management.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I want to welcome you to Wicklow. I am not going to jump up and down, I think I just want to re-emphasise and I have been warned not to be repetitious here today, you are going to get a sense of anger and frustration and the reason you are getting that is because that is what we are getting from the public. Cllr Dunne has been on about this for a long time, bachelor agency walk where the Garda station is located in Wicklow Town hasn't been working since September. We had an elderly man fall down the step because of the lack of lighting, so I want to emphasise and say again it's the not knowing factor that is killing us. If we can go back to you are constituents and say this is what is happen, at least knowledge is power.

If we can give knowledge back to the people we can pacify them until the new lights are installed. I am not sure about yourselves or the ESB, but maybe the director can help me on this one. I received pictures over the weekend, as you can see yourself, you have come into a beautiful town, built on a hill and we have in the town here a scenic car park and whoever's idea it was to plant the ESB pole right smack ban in the middle of the scenery, not you, well I will let you off that one, maybe you will have a chat to your colleagues in the ESB, for whoever planted an ESB pole in the middle of the scenic car park over the town needs their head examined because the light aren't switched ed on up there and I am talking about the ESB there.

One of you might look at that, because it's bad timing for us, as councillors in the sense that we voted in favour last Monday for new houses up that way and now it looks like we are riding roughshod by not listening to the residents. Whoever's bright idea will you ask them to look at it again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you for coming in and your presentation. I suppose this is my first winter as a councillor and I have been amazed at how many

complaints I am getting about street lights not being repaired and particularly, complaints coming in from elderly people who are feeling unsafe leaving their own house and not being able to walk down their own cul-de-sac because of lack of lighting.

Recently I had a constituent from Kilcoole contact me, concerned about his wife's safety, there was a recent knife attack on a group of females in Greystones, he was concerned because of the darkness and lights out which had been reported into SSE Airtricity on the 9th of December and they were only repaired after I contacted Declan O'Brien in Wicklow County Council, repaired on the 25th, so that is two-and-a-half months which seems an extraordinary length of time. My specific questions for you are, can you confirm that within your contract with Wicklow County Council that there is specified time under which lights should be repaired. My understanding is that there is a ten-day turn around, neighbour is not correct. If there is a specified time, is the report then given to your customer, to Wicklow County Council on an all basis for the average time that you are taking to repair lights as part of that. Again, if not, can one be provided going forward. Again I am just questioning who monitors the performance, is this the work of WCC, do they need to monitor the turnaround times, is it the roll of the commission for regulation of utilities, where is the responsibility? You are providing a service, where is the follow-up on that. I would also like to comment, you were saying about IT improvements. It's not clear on the website how complaints can be lodged. There is a detailed description of how to lodge complaints but it seems to be more in line with your actual gas and merge provides to customers, so with regard to street light and repair, like the person I was saying in Kilcoole who is waiting for two-and-a-half months does he lodge an official complaint through your complaint system through the website, should that come in through Wicklow County Council, whose responsibility is it to be following up and holding you to account basically.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.
CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, thank you for coming down to meet with us. Again my comments will be similar to those made already. I will make four specific points.

The 56 lights you say with no energy going to them. In my own area, I am a councillor in the Greystones district and I live in Kilcoole and there is a number of lights in Kilcoole as you come into the village that have no power going to them for three-and-a-half years at this stage, I am wondering is there no rapport between yourselves and the ESB, because we tend to get passed from one to another.

Also in one of the housing estates in Kilcoole there is a light that there is no connection going to it, obviously the residents are getting frustrated that nothing is happening with it. Just to give you an example. In order to help, could we review the reporting system, in other words is it possible that we as public reps can have an email point that we can send an email into you and we get a response back and I think that might improve things, so I would welcome your comment on that.

Also, the reason, the frustration from a lot of us is that it's the whole communication area and the uncertainty of how we should be operating and finally can I say that I had reason to talk to Keith on a problem and I have to say that he dealt with it very well and my experience with him was excellent.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you deal with those six and then go back to the next six.

PATRICK: Okay, I have my notes here. He wrote the compliment down, I can't see the question. Okay. I suppose going back to some of the specific call outs and some of the areas, where there is issues, I suppose once again to go back to our key thing here where we go back to what is going on with the issues. Some of these, like before when there was an issue with a light, there was a sense of getting an electrician to go down there and replace a bulb. We are now moving towards LEDs and energy efficiency was mentioned earlier on. We are now replacing lanterns, this will take longer, there also has been issues where there has been severe cable faults. It involves us discovering it, doing a lot of civil work and replacing the cable.

These things take time, I am afraid and there will be delayed. It was mentioned a couple of times about working with the ESB, ESB Networks were mentioned a couple of times. We have a good working relationship and we are meeting with them on a weekly base us to escalate issues from across the country and not just Wicklow County Council, obviously about getting up on 30% of your lights are on ESB Network poles which is slightly above where we would be nationwide. There is also issues with the connections, where lanterns have not been energised. This sits again with ESB. We are escalating to them, we deal with them on a weekly basis and we are speaking to their new public lighting interface manager, Sean Scannell. We are meeting with him this Thursday to escalate this point with him.

I have a couple of other bits and pieces I was writing down as I went. The SLA. Regarding what we are talking about the ten days or 28 days, the contract lays out for a major fault, 28 days and we believe when we are talking about lantern replacements they would be considered major faults, but we are in regular contact with the officials in your council, the database system all of those faults and stats I have quoted are the same system used within this council and has been used across the country, so we are all pulling from the same data source. That is what we do and work through with the officials in your councillor, to see the faults and understand why they are there, to look out for patterns and identify potential places that need to be upgraded and to identify any ongoing issues and we prioritise where we need to move and what has to happen with those lights.

The mention of the website with escalating issues as well, the website is SSE Airtricity Solutions, so through that there is an escalation point, but working with the officials in your council, they are going to put forward a single point for escalation as well. So once again, any issues from yourselves directly can be issues directly to us and then we can take, come back to you with direct feedback and what, if there is and what is the plan. A call out there, was

obviously the safety, we are very aware of what these lights are and mean to people across Wicklow. Safety is our number one and we understand that, so we take our job seriously. We fix nearly 4,500 lights for you every single year, every single day our teams are out there across the country, out there reporting faults and out there repairing them, we are very aware of the safety implication.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you for the presentation, I would also like to thank, deck lab O'Brien. You have been very helpful in that regard. The duplication, my understanding is that you can't report a duplication, the light report them once and it comes up on the system that has already been reported so I don't understand the actual duplication that we are responsible for in that regard. The second thing is, that is in relation to the problem we have out there, it's been alluded to, we have maybe a cluster of lights out in an area and that is certainly, it certainly brings to light the fact that people do make greater complaints as well. One light on it has minor complaints. When we get a cluster out in a small location it highlights the whole aspect of it. In the past we had a great relationship with lads doing the work and in certain circumstances you could approach the repair men themselves and tell them about lights being out in a certain area, I just wonder if that facility is still there with the new crew, can we, as public representatives, make contact with him. On an individual basis, we did do it in the past and I just wonder is it, a facility there for the future in that regard. And, obviously the LED lights, they are so much better and they are far more efficient. So we have a difficulty out there at the moment and probably the main thing for the public out there is so many little lights, less lights being done, but what kind of a timeframe do you have for the completion of the LED lights over the whole county. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to welcome the representatives from SSE Airtricity today, but just maybe it's coincidental but in the last four to six weeks there has been a huge improvement in the lights out situation in Arklow. I am probably, it probably is coincidental, I suppose, but before that, we had huge gaps, I mean I don't want to go into the, all of the incidents but we got a new pole on the Wexford road there for good reasons and the ball went up, the head went on it and that is it, that is about six weeks ago. We were waiting out in Avoca. I don't know where it falls between we were waiting, that went on last night. I switched it on myself I was so delighted. So three years ago we cut that. But, there has... there has been a huge improvement in the Arklow area, as I say in the last month or so and we you seem to have more staff in the Arklow area, but the difficulty is, I know on the main street we have six lights out at the moment, but you need to do them early in the morning with traffic and you have to have traffic control, I understand that but prior to the middle of last year, the situation was horrific in Arklow, there was lights out all over the place. We have two of them on the bridge there in the last month in Arklow two at the moment and two more out in Ferrybank. I do think you are lacking in night patrols, because previously lights being out were picked up at night time, I don't think you do many, I don't see too many around doing light patrol, so previously you would pick them up, because a lot of people were the lights were out, they don't use computers they ring the councillors or the 1850

number and they report them and that is it, but Cllr Blake, if you report a light out and you go back in again, it tells you the light is out. But you don't know you know it's not fixed. I think, myself there has been improvement.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Time.

>>: That was a quick three minutes. I must be on American time there. I just want to thank, Declan O'Brien for his input at times because he seems to be able to get down quicker than me at times. But we need further improvement.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you for the presentation, gentlemen. Just a few things, I won't go over anything which has already been said, one the first thing I would like to say is our district manager have done a huge amount of work in relation to trying to get lights fixed and liaising with yourselves to try and get it done. But we still do have a lot of lights out and when you look at the numbers from last month, I know you said you didn't think they were accurate, but I suppose for a councillor, in Green Anne, there was a new light that went up, one light went up two years ago, it never lit, never once.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: There seems to be a huge discrepancy between the figures we are reading back to you. The amount of lights that are been out there, I concur with Cllr Dunne by the way, I would say that some of the lights he refers to, aren't only out for up to three month, some of them are out for up to six months, it's not acceptable, it's got to the stage where it's the one thing that I dread dealing with, from the public, because it looks like I am not doing my job and three months later it's still out, it just looks like we are not doing our job and that is it. It's embarrassing. I know they are on LED changeover and it takes time to implement new systems and I understand that. I also know that the record time for some of the new lanterns and lights is a longer timeframe than just the ordinary, the old SOX lanterns and whatever they are called.

So, I appreciate all of that, but at the end of the day, such as the timeframes, I don't know if there is anything within your contract that sighs, we are entitled, a lot of attacks on women and it's just not feasible. I had to walk along bachelor's walk on the footpath and I have a very dodgy ankle because I have sprained. I was literally feeling my way along to see if there was anything on the path in case I went over again, it's just not acceptable, those lights have been out for a month. Just to reiterate, again what Cllr Dunne has said, the service, I know you say you are doing as much as you can, but to me it could be an awful lot better.

Thank you for being here. For duplication for both of the issues just on a point of clarification, as Patrick said, you have identified so many lights not working and then you said you have 7 crews, or you have five crews out, Replacing 7 lanterns per day per crew.

COUNCIL MEMBER: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, as a new councillor it's helpful to get some background and information my question is not for yourselves, but for the officials and it's the reference you made to the report that you give into the council officials here and that both are acting off the same database and same information. I suppose my query is, as to why, the

figures coming from some of us to some of our local areas are different in the figure is coming from the same database. I think it's important that we are appropriate data and we are all working off the same data. Because we are all working together to try and resolve these issues for people, so it just maybe if the officials could confirm why engineer figures are different to that, that is being sourced from the same data, data source. That would be great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Just as I am sitting here listening to the report, I have got a report in, so I am going to deliver it to the two men at the top table. There is a light out at the court house in Arklow and at the old church just as I sit here, but again, as people have said, it is a major feature and also, I think that, our public are paying a lot of property tax for these services and we are not getting them and I think again, the next time your contract is reviewed I think we all should have an input into that, we sat here, this is our third or fourth, fourth year coming on, this is the light of always, all the issues of the light, so, I mean, they, that the workers here have done their best and just communication breakdown somewhere and it would be great to get that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you, for the presentation. Just briefly there is, we have seven lights in Deerpark in Baltinglass, these were corrected by the they were paid by a discretionary funding from the councillors in west Wicklow, those 7 lights are still, the lanterns or the poles are up, but they are not switched on. That is going on 18 months.

So, maybe you would have look at that to see why, 18 months have gone by, there is another light Ballinascollogue on the lakeside in Blessington. That again is April from the discretionary funding for almost two years and still no light. The third one is is there a policy change as regards using existing timber poles for the holding of the lanterns, or in other words, are you changing to the that there has to be a separate pole for every rural light. You know what I mean? Usually the lantern is fixed, up to now, it's fixed in the existing timber poles, but there is some talk there lately that with the change of plan there, if you could check?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erica Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Just because it's my first time to speak, I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome last week. How are the calls prioritised? It according to importance, how is that assessed or is it the louder the noise, the quicker they get seen to, what process is used to report in which province will be used first? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: I want to support my colleague Cllr O'Neill it's ongoing before I sat on the county council, it is something that is an urgent need. Also there is a number of lights out in Dunlavin they have been reported since well before Christmas, October, there was some report put in and we are still waiting on them to be repaired. Just wondering if you have a timeframe as to when the report is made, like a timeframe of when the lights should be repaired, I think that would be good to know if that is possible.

PATRICK: Thank you. The first thing was mention was the duplications. Were

they won't allow you to put a single duplication to put a fault in against it, the duplication, the system won't allow you to put a second fault on that light, but what we have noticed and this what is we believe was causing a spike in the numbers, was people were going on and logging faults for the lights along the same street so, we found a significant number of those being dug into the numbers a bit first and we have been in action throughout the last six months.

Asking about the new crews whether we could, us or yourself could access them directly, my preference would be that old contact and management works go through our own management team, obviously for safety teams and efficiency, but we will discuss that and issue out that direct contact details a couple of times, so you will have access to that and via your own internal team there and through our management team on the ground to see who is given and what faults are being prioritised and why. There is a call out there for bringing us back in three months' time. Absolutely up for that. Absolutely, happily sit here again and go through what we have done. That was Keith saying he is coming too. Absolutely. I think you will be impressed guys, we will get the numbers right down, three more months. We don't take breaks in public lighting all year out. We are into the same source of data as your own officials inside.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: It's more for the council to decide that.

PATRICK: The wooden poles belong to the ESB network, we are not allowed to put up new lights on those poles. So if there is a wooden one, a new column, a steel column has to be erected. There was a call out at Batchelor's Walk that was causing a concern, particularly a connection issue with ESB networks we are working on and bringing up at our, escalating now since we have known about it and we are bringing up some priority in our meeting with the ESB on Thursday.

The prioritisation, how they are doing that, so it's obviously each light getting replaced in ten days, obviously these major ones is 28 working days but any time we do, obviously they are done by time depending on when they come into us, but if we could escalate them if we see more than one light out in the street. There was a lot of lights mentioned there by name, just asking for an update on, Keith here has taken them note of and I will come back with those in 48 hours if that works. So I will come back to you with an update on where the faults are, if they have been rectified and if not, why not and what our plan date is to get them rectified? .

CLLR SCOTT: Sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr Dunne is this a question or point of clarification.

CLLR DUNNE: A point of clarification, I asked the question about whether you could, ask we ring into someone like Irish Water where you have that connect with them. We are finding it hard to track lights when they are out for a certain amount of time. Unless I understood you thought you had them out within 28 days we are going into three or four months. If there is a light out for a long time, could we have, we want to contact someone within SSE Airtricity to move it along. That is what I am looking for, because at the moment we are contacting through Declan and I disagree with everyone in

the council chamber Declan has been magnificent. When a light has been out for a long time, after it's been out for three or four months we find it hard to contact someone. Can we have someone we can contact through my telephone, like Irish Water, send us an email.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You have made your point, Cllr Dunne. Lourda Scott, a clarification.

CLLR SCOTT: A clarification, I had asked whose responsibility it is to hold you to account for that turnaround time, that 10 days or 28 days from the time it's reported to the time it's fixed. Is that up to the council officials to draw up the report or up to yes? Tend of every year to do a report saying 6

.....

KEITH: Just to come back on that you were saying, it's a timing we do all pull off the same data set. At the last meeting that was here, there was over 700 faults on our system. That was the correct figure at the final and the figure that SSE Airtricity were working to, as of this morning there was 310, indeed within an hour or so of that, another ten I believe had been cut from that, so the data is constantly changing as the works are carried out and just to give you an idea of the number of faults across the various districts, as of this morning in the Arklow district there were 52 faults and these are faults both that are in, within the control of SSE Airtricity to fix and also faults that are outside of the control, that need ESB or whatever out to fix or to deal with cable faults etc. In Arklow there were 52 in Baltinglass there were 59, in Bray there were 55, Greystones was 39 and Wicklow was the highest, I suppose at 105. I would point out that 33 of those were outside of the control of SSE Airtricity to issue. I think it's more a timing issue, we are working off the same data set.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That pole will be removed...

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I was going to nab you on the way.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much members, we are going to take the presentation from, we are going to take the presentation from the Wicklow, sorry the county Wicklow County Council Age Friendly Strategy, so it's item 20 on your agenda. Sorry and before you start, I would like to welcome the national people from the National Broadband Ireland. This shouldn't be a long presentation.

>>: I was going to suggest we take the presentation and then we take the ash presentation and keep the questions for both until after, so keep going.

[>>]: Okay, first of all thank you very much for having me here today.

Finally! I know, it's been worth waiting for, I believe you, all I wanted to give you was an update on what the strategy and how far we have come since May 2017. For the new councillors, County Wicklow have an age friendly strategy in place from 2017 and it runs until 2022. So back in February we were midway through it, but we are coming up nearly three years now so this is just a snapshot of where we are and the reason we have an age friendly strategy is because we are all fortunately getting older. The population is living a lot longer, but with that comes a certain amount of challenges we are we are trying to face and prepare for. The World Health Organisation and we are involved with this from the beginning. Wicklow signed a declaration in 2014 and we are now the first country in the entire world to have an Age Friendly Status.

In Slane Castle in December we got appointed as the first country ever to have the first country age friendly, so it's quite an achievement and we are proud of it. This, basically what the age friendly is, a lot of you know there is nine themes within it, within each of those nine themes there were a number of actions, there were 62 or 64 in total in the strategy and so far we have made a lot of strides in a few of them. Just to give you a quick overview, you have the World Health Organisation, the Age Friendly which is a shared service which sits in county Meath. We have an age friendly alliance of which Frank, the Chief Executive is the chair. That is made up of the heads of the guards, the HSE, we have councillors, the older person's council involved in it, so it's quite a strategic group, that meet maybe four times a year. That feedback is all given back here to the council when given the opportunity. So, 62 actions and 60 have been started or finished. One of greatest ones in it is the Walkability Surveys that we do. That involves us, myself the engineer and some of the councillors, we take a group of people with disability, you take them on a walk that people wouldn't normally go to, you point out all that is good in the area, it's things that may be improved in the area.

We have done Arklow, Blessington, and Rathdrum. For example, in Wicklow thank you to Paul and Gail who have put in funding to implement some of the recommendations who have been done in the survey itself. Arklow Town is the first age friendly town in the county, so to that end, what we did was there was an age friendly business programme signed up to it. We put in the new age friendly benches which have backs and arm rests for people to move. We have the age friendly parking, which I am not sure if all of you are aware, they are a goodwill gesture, if young people want to park in them, we can't stop them, we like to see them reserved for older people. There are three in the count buildings and over the next few months three of the four buildings will have age friendly parking. We are trying to roll it out through the facilities we own ourselves.

When Arklow became an age friendly town, a lot of it was infrastructurally based but now we are going to work on the wrap around services that need to be put in place and to that end, we have started, we have initiated a befriending service in Arklow and I am working with a lady called Hilary Sharp who belongs to the volunteering centre. What a befriending service does is it requires people to call into people once a week. You used to call good neighbours but they have waned slightly. They visit some of the older members who might be isolated. They might live in an estate with a lot of children in it, so they are going to start slow and grow. Also, once that is up and running we hope to do a care and repair service, there used to be one in Bray that was run through the partnership, but unfortunately that has since gone by the wayside, again we are looking for volunteers who will go to someone's house, change the light bulb, fix the handle on the door, small little jobs that would make a huge difference. You can't find someone to do these jobs. We have incorporated Age Friendly Strategy into the corporate plan which is very important that we are always trying to be age friendly in whatever we are trying to do. We have put in a lot of tone zones, an age

friendly exercise equipment. We were talking about Arklow in particular where the skateboard park is, there is equipment for everyone to use, free to use and they are easily maintained. The Wicklow hills we have been putting them into their new development and in the most recent town and village that we were successful within Aughrim, we are working on an age friendly which involves upgrading the tennis courts. So, what else have we done? We have put the benches into Rathdrum, Pat Kennedy was good enough to come on the survey with us one day, we took a lovely walk all around Rathdrum and there was quite a bit to be done, there is a lot can't be done, that is the unfortunate thing in a place like Rathdrum with narrow footpaths, there is little you can do, but what we can do, we will try and do the local ones that run there is Wicklow to Glendalough, initially they weren't going to stop by the primary healthcare centre but they saw the benefit of it and they now have an actual stop up at the Wicklow centre, so that is great. The 2009 CDC scheme, the community enhancement scheme, that is for capital projects, we set aside 100,000 for bus shelters, that was back in 2019 and they are a bit like SSE Airtricity, they are not there yet, they will be arriving shortly, there was a bit of a design issue we call it, but they seem to be on their way and should be installed shortly. Another action to promote the winter booklets that we will do for anything that son the cards.

The personal alarm schemes are promoted when we do our AGM or seminar that takes place in November. Myself, as the age friendly programme manager for Wicklow and Alice Corbett the manager for Kildare, we are working on the national primary care centre guidelines. That involves working with the occupational therapists and the HSE closely and some of the user groups. It's all about going into the one of the primary healthcare centres as easy as possible. So less signage, more age friendly parking, even down to the colouring for dementia, to make it more dementia friendly.

So Athy and Baltinglass will be the first age friendly centres. I am fortunate in that I work in the community section to while I am age friendly I work with some of grants and we do try and incorporate age friendly into any grants where it would apply, so for example, Aughrim tennis courts, we have a lovely community field but they wanted older people to be able to when they were bringing the grandchildren and to walk around the field, simply putting the lights around the field. Blessington, did a huge amount for the age friendly and we did an accessibility survey up there.

So, now the next one that we had done through the age friendly was the imagination tables and they are called. Tovertafel. One is in Arklow, Bray and one is in Baltinglass or Bessington. Blessington. These are literally interactive games for people who have advanced dementia, they shine down on to the table and they can play these games. Very easy to use very friendly. What we found is they are great for children who may have special needs in Baltinglass you take away the table, let the game shine down to the floor and the toddlers use those and they are fantastic pieces of equipment and they are age friendly. Our local sports partnership, do a huge amount of work with the older people. The most recent project was with the active age poles, they are almost like ski sticks and rerun a series courses and the

people involved can purchase these poles if they would. It fixes their posture. That programme started in Newcastle and I believe it's coming to Wicklow Town shortly. We work then with the county Wicklow Older Person's Council. They are a consultative body, the Chairperson is a lady called Maeve Quaid will know and the east. They produce the information services for older people, which is great. Another age friendly initiative we took was to produce the Eircode friendly for older people to write their Eircode on, if there was an accident it's there for them to see. We still have them, just get in contact with the office. The Garda work closely with us again and they started under a Chief Executive John Burke at the time and they did the vulnerable person's register, so they were encouraging older people to register with them in the case of the management. If there was a huge snowfall they would ring them and see if they need anything or need medication or a lift anywhere. They have done the rural liaison initiative under the age friendly and there is three Gardaí in particular, I think I sent out the information before, it just tightened up a lot. So the next step before the presentation is through the alliance or the stakeholders on Wednesday, I am hoping are going to bring their action items for this year, they are going to work on and as for myself, I am going to be working with Dermot for the intergenerational event, which I think we talk about for a while, Dermot, we will have to do. The wrap around services I mentioned, care and repair and then carbon monoxide's alarms for the fire service. Wicklow has been chosen to become the next age friendly town and the older person's council and myself I am going to be doing a series of workshops with the Gardaí and the fire service. Finally the air friendly primary care centres guidelines as I said new age friendly car spaces throughout the county. So that is the update for age friendly. It was worth waiting for.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It was.

>>: Now, Jenny if you would like to come up and give your presentation for the arts strategy.

>>: They are divided up there, you will see into six key action areas, so that the first three are clustered around what we will actually roll out and offer and deliver ourselves in terms of our artistic practice, public access programmes and for children and young people specifically and then the other side is these structural part of that, so how we do it and who we do it with. So that reflects our external partnerships, internal connections within the council and our own capacity to deliver. Now I am going to give you a decision hear, we have provided the slides and there is 38 slides and we are pressed for time, so at this stage I can open it up to questions from the floor around the policy or any detail you have, or I can go through slide by slide and I am happy to could that and go through each point individually, but it's up to yourself. It's really for adoption today, so what we would need to is someone to propose and second it, I am happy to work with you, to inform you, to make that decision, but I just want to give you the choice at this stage, because there are quite a number of points.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: I am happy to propose to adapt the arts strategy. I am, thank you very much for the presentation, we have had this at CCSD meetings, so I am happy to propose this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Yes, I am very happy to second Cllr Dunne's proposal on this and thank you, Jen Jenny for your presentation, I think it's been very worthwhile. Are we speaking about the other presentation now as well?

ADMINISTRATOR: This was for the reserve function, it's great to get the second proposal. That is all agreed, is it, thank you?

CLLR FERRIS: Sorry, I just wanted to say thank you to Rochelle for the presentation on the county Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy, I think I am probably at that age now, when it went on the agenda first I was under the age, but now... and my good colleague here Cllr O'Brien thinks there are plenty of things I could apply for in the strategy so I will be talking to Rochelle about it. Thank you both for it, it's a wonderful presentation and it is an awful pity that presentations like that, which are of great interest to ourselves and the community often don't make it on time, that there is such a delay, so I really appreciate hearing them today. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I just want to commend Rochelle and whole crew there, with the Age Friendly Strategy. I was wondering, maybe as part of going forward, I know there would be a lot of festival funding applied for, maybe the intergenerational aspect could be recovered into a company for the festival funding and groups going forward. I was involved with a great festival last summer, we had a grannies and four-year-olds as well as middle aged people all getting involved in sports together, at an outdoor event. So more things like that would be great. In relation to the arts strategy I want to commend Jenny, I haven't had a chance to talk to you yet, but art is close to my heart. I would love to see more partnerships or potential for external partnerships and I am wondering maybe if that can, the geographical sort of, maybe a geographical plan to make extend the arts out into the communities more, I find that there is an awful lot of pieces of the jigsaw around Arklow Municipal District and that, there is no platform to connect and there is no spaces, you could run these places themselves if you could create more spaces for them to tie in and affordable spaces, vacant buildings down there that could be used and there is a real need for it in the community, so maybe I could chat to you later at some stage about that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Sorry, just the strategy, I want to thank Rochelle for her presentation here today. It's amazing the work that has been done through on county. I was pleased she took the time to walk through some of the citizens with our older citizens and looked at the footpath and with Kevin scan London hopefully we will look at that in the next 48 hours. Thank you, I know it's your day off and coming in on a Monday, it shows your commitment to the strategy. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: I would like to thank Jenny. Thank you for the work you do for the arts in the county and it's great to see that there are lovely piece of artwork and sculpture being brought out to the rural areas and I know have done a lot work on that and I want to recognise that in relation to bringing art right out, not just in the urban areas but in the country areas as well. Well done on that, I want to recognise that and put it on the record. For Rochelle, the work you do, you are a huge ambassador for the county and to recognise the elderly and the work that the, the contribution they

have made to society over their lifetime and you have brought to a new level and I want to recognise that work, you are an ambassador and I think you have brought the council as an organisation to a new place and that they also recognise the elderly now and what they do and well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr D O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. These are two strategies that, when we hear the word strategies there is a big document with 100 million pages on a shelf. The two examples and if Jenny had the time she would illustrate, I think both strategies are responsive and dynamic and creative and when we hear the stories of what they do they inspire us and I think we should really appreciate that. For Rochelle, I don't know if it's design or accidental that she is also the Comhairle link person, so to have that space between the council is a huge asset to the young people on the youth council. It's important I know you have been on the agenda and bumped off the agenda, but I think you both and both strategies deserve huge credit for what you are delivering day after day.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: I am basically going to say the same thing, something similar, I had an observation on both, so Rochelle, like, what came through so much is you are so mindful of the people you are working for. For someone who, I haven't really thought about what it might like to be older in the county, so to see that you see all of these avenues where there is opportunities and you are taking advantage of every opportunity there is to improve the lives of those who are getting older.

I really appreciate that and that came through so clearly, so thank you for your work and for Jenny I think the arts for me is, does two things. It can sometimes bring a new language to some of the topics that are difficult to talk about and we talk about them here in political language, but I love to see them in the arts. Things like climate action and homelessness are often talked about, when the art isn't doing that it's a soothing balm for us to drink from the well and feel good about the world, so both of your work is appreciated and I wanted to say thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Thank you for both presentations they were great. I have a big interest in both areas but in relation to the older person piece, I wanted to check if there is representatives from Greystones on the older person council.

>>: There is.

CLLR CREAN: Brilliant. How do you go about it? Is there a process to become an age friendly town?

>>: Thus far it was only ever chosen by myself so Ark was first and Wicklow was next. I was hoping to do Baltinglass next year simply because the rest of the county is kind of neglected to a certain degree, so I was hoping for Baltinglass next, but because we have done the first one, the second one should be easier, there would be no reason why it wouldn't be able to bring a third on board or the second one for next year.

CLLR CREAN: I know definitely in Greystones they say this is a town for young people and young families which is sad to hear. This would be great to work on initiatives like this.

>>: I can be in contact with you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: I agree with Cllr Dunne, I saw on the presentation that Jenny put together and it was an amazing piece of work, it's a pity we don't have time to see it today, but it was well put together and beautifully presented and well done to Jenny. Rochella well done, thank you for your presentation, I look forward to when Bray is included in on walkability study and the age friendly town. It has huge benefits for older people, for people with disabilities, tourism benefits, that our town has included in it and very much look forward to you coming out and we will all give you or support.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, first of all well done to both Jenny and Rochella. In terms of, I suppose what I would like to say about the age friendly strategy, we have very strong active retirement groups across the county and there is a lot of work being done and I suppose the most important word of that is the active part, because there is so many older people who are active in our communities and have a wealth of knowledge and experience in our communities and I suppose we have to try and link in with those people to make things better for ourselves and the people who live in our communities, but in terms of the Town Teams and the forums and the district councils right across our county, I am just wondering can we put out the message more through those and maybe have presentations through the likes of our active Town Teams to spread the word of the strategy.

We may gain more interest by reaching out to those groups, but look, I want to congratulate you on the work you are doing, it's fantastic. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much indeed. Can I just say I had no idea that Monday was your day off, you have sat here for four months in a row I am so sorry! Thank you very much. Now, the national broadband plan, I think we have Billy Miley, Jeff Shakespeare and Hazel Casanova. If you want to come up and take your seats.

>>: Okay, Cathaoirleach, thank you very much for the invitation to come and talk and brief you on a project that some of us have been working on for a very long time, it's finally coming to fruition, my name is Jeff Shakespeare, I am chief operations of NBI, National Broadband Plan, or what does that mean, I am responsible for getting the network built and then for running it and the actual contract is, the contract to build and operate the network for 25 years with an option for another ten years.

Joining us is Hazel Casanova and Billy Manley from our council liaison office. Billy has skill in the game because he is from Arklow so he is keeping an eye on the project on behalf of county Wicklow. I will say a bit about the project in general and then about the project as it relates to Wicklow and hopefully I will snap through it quickly and leave some time for questions which we will hopefully have at the end of it, or maybe I will be really clear and. So the National Broadband Plan basically is a plan to deliver universal access to broadband across the country. It's in line with an EU requirement to have 100 megabits available in every home across the EU by 2025. It's an initial active that really started back in the 2008/2009 and has grown momentum

over the last ten years.

So, and basically it focuses on the premises that aren't being built by the commercial operators, and the people who mainly build fibre and broadband infrastructure in the country are Eircom, Virgin Media and.... roughly speaking they will build to 1.5 million of the 2 million premises in the country and we have a contract to build the other 536 homes that are in the mapping exercise and consultation that were done by the Government before Christmas.

So the intervention area, if I talk to Wicklow, what you can see is in dark blue are the areas that currently have greater than 30 megabit broadband. In light blue are the areas that are commercially committed to having 30 megabits. All the yellow area is the area that will, would not have a commercial offer of broadband for 2025. So that is the area which we will connect all the premises in there and that is at a national level. I will go into Wicklow more specifically later on. Effectively the key thing to understand here is that no one will be left behind. Every premises in the country, both existing and new premises will be connected to this network. So maybe I will just say a little bit about why broadband matters. Maybe I will frame it in the context and linking back to something that one of our previous presenters talked about, she talked about an Age Friendly Strategy or strategy, one of the key technologies that gets enabled by broadband is the ability to remotely monitor our population and deliver healthcare to our population and that needs to be possible not just in urban areas, it needs to be possible in rural areas, so instead of people having to drive 100km to see a doctor they can see a doctor online and as you move, as we looked for to how as a society we are going to have to manage an ever ageing population, something close to my heart, that really we want to make it as easy as possible for people to access at least first line healthcare services and broadband is a key enabler of that.

I guess focussing on another thing that is looking back at the election that has just happened. Housing is a key issue and the fact that housing is expensive to build in urban areas, really a decentralisation of the population really anyone sees as desirable, again a key plank of that is that the communications infrastructure is in rural areas to allow businesses and employees who can work remotely to thrive in rural areas without having to jump in a car and drive to the local, the nearest local town to work. And then, again that is linked to climate and the desire to reduce the impact on the climate.

Effectively if we want people to work remotely a key enabler in a digital society of that is the bedrock broadband infrastructure network and I think that is a key part of this strategy, that we enable that. Other things that we enable obviously are jobs and job creation in rural areas and some of the internet of things applications that require higher bandwidth, so the internet of things are technologies that allow, let's say, for, if you call next generation farming so you can remotely monitor your cattle and upload your data to central service, to central services that then lets you do big data

analytics on.

So effectively really delivery high speed broadband to rural areas is about removing a digital divide and enabling decentralisation of service delivery and provision. This is actually quite a massive project, who we can see is that effectively there is of the order of 90,000km of overheads infrastructure required and 15,000km of infrastructure required. Basically the cabling that will run across that is enough to go three-and-a-half times around the globe. So we are putting in a massive amount of fibre infrastructure out into the rural hinterland and why are we doing that? It's because it's the most future-proof technology we have. So we are going to do this and change the electronics on either end of the technology as opposed to having to go back and redo it several times.

Key principles, as we look at the project, as I said, was to future-proof internet access in rural Ireland, so the infrastructure we are putting out will, is of a generation that delivers 10gb across 25 customers dynamically allocated across 25 customers it will grow to 50gb and 100gb with the generation of the technology we are see today. But the nature of the fibre technology that is being built is that we change the optics on either end of the fibre deliver faster speeds we don't have to go back and change the underlying fibre unless it breaks. The technology is being developed so that in 40, 50 years' time, that fibre will still be able to carry the optics that will be being developed at that stage. The other key tenet principle here is that we are a whole sale operator, we won't be the ones that will come and sell it to your door, we will sell it through the retail operators, but the large ones like Vodafone and Sky and some of the smaller ones like Imagine or Westel we will basically charge everyone the same on a monthly bases and charge them a connection fee. Those wholesale prices are in the wholesale prices that apply in urban areas.

So there will be no economic disadvantage either. It will be genuine technology and economic parity by the time we finish the programme. As said, this is about inclusion, this is nobody left behind, no one gets service on this network. Take another look at the network map. Effectively we have 227 exchanges spread across the country. In copper world, which is, I guess where I grew up, the signal goes about 8km for a voice call, one of the reasons copper based broadband had limitations was the copper was never built to carry broadband because it can't go far enough down the copper line, but the network infrastructure of let's say the previous century was built around voice and dial tone that let you, you needed an 8km radius around an exchange and that drove you to need 1200 exchanges to cover the country. With fibre it goes 20km so we need 227 exchanges around the country to deliver service.

So the green exchanges on the map are the first exchanges had that are going to be built. Why have they been picked? When you look at a broadband network you need to think like the motorway network, in other words it makes sense to build, or a road network, it makes sense to build the motorways before you build bigger roads in the residential area, so you

have to build the central highways, there is no point in having traffic in the residential areas that come on to an ordinary dual carriageway so they are built around our high speed core network. So we have started in Carrigaline. Those are the first 35 initial exchanges. Then we go to the white dots which show you where the other local exchanges are going to be at a national level. So, it's a 7-year build programme, with most of the premises being built by the end of year 5. So it takes us a while, it will take us a while to get started, we will hit a high run rate as we go through year 3, 4, 5 and 6 and it will taper down in year 7. Now, if I turn to Wicklow and the infrastructure in Wicklow. This is basically what Wicklow looks like from the point of view of our high level design of serving the premises in the National Broadband Scheme. There are over 7,000 houses in Wicklow without access to high speed broadband. That is about 23% of the services in the county. The Government is putting 59 million of subsidy into delivering service in Wicklow. NBI will spend an additional 80 million to deliver that service over the next 25 years. If you take a look at where we are going to go in the first years build, two-years build will focus on building the core network, so the core network exchanges in Wicklow are Blessington and Kilcoole, so the areas around those, you will see these yellow capillaries, that is the area where we will have surveyors out walking to check the high level designs they will have and they will identify which poles we are going to use, which ducts we are going to use, which poles need to be replaced and then we will buy service off Eircom to buy those. Basically a detailed plan for every premise in the area. We have a requirement once we have passed your home we have a requirement to deliver a connection to you within ten days, even if I have to build poles up the side of the road. What that means is I have to plan as though an order is going to come to every, from every premises in Wicklow. So that I can despatch on order and have a good shot hitting that ten-day SLA. So literally we will know what it's going to, how we are going to connect to you and what it's going to cost to connect to you when we do our detailed survey.

The survey team, as I said they are active in Carrigaline in the last five weeks and they started in Galway and they will be in Carlow shortly. In the two areas here, we start surveying made it this year and the build will be completed in the first half of 2021. That is subject to the results of the survey. Obviously if you find some massive problems in there, we will rearrange, but right now that is the high level design for county Wicklow. Then, as we move forward, into the later years, we basically will connect our regional exchanges in Wicklow to rings. That to make sure it's a resilient service, so that if there is a break it can work the other way around, so basically Enniskerry, Glendalough and Redcross will be served out of Kilcoole. The Curragh Camp and Blessington will be served out of Blessington and Baltinglass and Aughrim will be served out of Carlow but you can see there, what you can see are the blue rings and those blue rings mean that it's a very resilient service, it will be more resilient than the other services that are being put out there and it will be very high capacity.

To the network we are building has enough capacity in it for the initial ten years and then we will go back and put capacity in it for the next 15 years.

So in will be one technology refresh, all we will be doing when doing that new technology refresh is change the electronics in your house and your exchange. The fibre will be the same. When my grandson or someone similar comes into this chamber and more likely comes in on a virtual reality session and doesn't have to jump in the car and come down and do it and we will all be sitting at home with our advisors on our head and no one has to travel, he will be explaining how long we are putting 1gb lasers on to the same fibre.

So then, maybe just a little, a final piece around the BCP, or broadband connection plans. So this is a process that is going to take seven years that will start delivering for county Wicklow in real terms early next year. In advance of that, we are connecting broadband community points which will be wirelessly connected by microwave that will provide wi-fi in buildings like this. The plan was launched in Laragh in November and there is number of other areas, I am reluctant to put this up, because it rendered, it politicises it slightly but the important thing is the list of the homes, but the areas that are going to be connected.

Now, I have been involved in the National Broadband Plan since 2018 so I can say that there has been cross-party support for this initiative ranging from Minister Dempsey through Minister Rabbitte, through Minister White, to Minister Naughton and Bruton, so these guys are standing on the shoulders of lot of work which has been done by politicians of all parties, so don't stone me for the picture, the key message here is that those PCPs are going to start getting turned up very soon across this year to deliver value for the people of county Wicklow, this year, while we come back and these won't be left behind, as we pass these with our fibre network, these will be converted into fibre as well.

Then, I guesses the other piece, we are doing a lot of roadshows, I won't go through all of the stakeholders but all of the communities and all of the representative bodies. I guess my key message for you guys is we need your support in making this happen, because we need things like wayleaves and things like road openings and various things so that we can hit the timelines. So we need your support, we can't do this on our own and I say that to both the council staff and the councillors. We want to get this done, we have a business case to get it done and we are investing a huge amount of money in getting it done. So thank you for listening. Hopefully you will have some questions or maybe it's totally clear to everyone. So I will knock it on the head there. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you for your presentation. Just a few queries. Again I agree that broadband roll out is as important as roads and water when it comes to the economic and social development planning of the county. The absence of broadband is as critical as any other piece of infrastructure. On your maps I see and this is why I am sometimes puzzled by the broadband plan, you take a village like Tinahely which has a blue dot and yet the industrial and commercial element of Tinahely which would be an the Aughrim road where there are two factories employing about 250 people

between them. They have a broadband download speed of 8.0 and an upload of 4.7 and yet it's regarded as having broadband.

>>: Well the evolving situation that was done by the Government isn't as a village level, it's at a premises level, so those premises should be in this plan, if they are not they need to register and say we are into the here and they will add to this list and then I will connect it.

CLLR MULLEN: This type of anomaly crept up with us outside the village, whereby and forgive me where the boxes don't fully connect every premises within the village, so I think Laragh and Glendalough had an issue and I know areas of Arklow had an issue and I know, for a fact, because I live in Tinahely, Tinahely has an issue, just on the rural broadband roll out, like obviously tourism is an extremely important part of the economy of county Wicklow and for the rural area, particularly areas that may have just a couple of accommodation routes their lack of broadband is deeply anti-competitive part of their make up. When can you give an estimate of when broadband can be guaranteed to rural Wicklow. When is the end point of this?

>>: As I say, it's a seven-year project in planning. The first two sites have been identified. Those in, by June of 2021 the areas around Kilcoole and around Blessington will be connected and then we will be dropping the other exchanges in after that, but that is an active piece of planning that is going on at the moment.

CLLR MULLEN: Okay, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: What I will do is I will take questions from several councillors and then you can come back to them rather than having an exchange. Cllr Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you for your presentation. I am not really a techie so I can't go into the tech element of it. The area I am concerned about is Blessington, I am from that area and Baltinglass, one is going to be provided from Carlow base on your structure and one is from Blessington. I notice you brought fibre down as far as Poulaphouca Bridge. I am wondering how is the plan to get it to the likes of Dunlavin and towns that are not directly connected with either Blessington or Baltinglass which are the bigger towns which you have, is there going to be fibre laid out further?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Just a general query here. Is this technology all fibre-based broadband only or does it morph into 5G in any shape or form? It's just you mention things like wireless, microwave and I was under the impression that the National Broadband Plan was a fibre-based system only.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you for the presentation. My query is in relation to the urban areas that are deemed to be connected with high speed broadband but are not, giving you Greystones for example, something that came to light acutely during our local election campaign in May. Where a number of the estates were bypassed by the main operators and they are still reliant on the old copper systems, I know what it's like, the economic effect of it, without going into it, people can't work from home and listening this morning about the response to the Coronavirus, they are talking about remote working and education and so it's all dependent on having the broadband services fit for purpose. So it's just wondering does your plan

incorporate look at those areas and I know I have worked with the broadband officer here, and we have made contact with the likes of them and they are acutely aware of it, but for whatever reason have not taken up the challenge to come back into the areas, so I am wondering is your plan, have you any plan to address those issues and those types of areas thanks.
CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I was wondering I saw as one of your aims of your plan was to reduce emissions I am wondering with this plan will there be chopping of trees in the process and will there be a replanting scheme if there is.

CLLR SCOTT: I had the same question as Cllr Walsh in regards to Greystones and also when you start rolling art from Kilcoole will that mean there will be broadband connection points particularly in the Greystones area, I see there is none there at the moment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you for the presentation and John has alluded to Tinahely there and maybe if he could go back to the regional map that he showed first that there is a number of villages in Tinahely, so yeah, John has said that there is the impression that broadband in the area, but just like Greystones and other areas around the county there is pockets of individuals and companies out there that do not have broadband, so there is an assumption that they do have, but certainly in their point of view and as far as I am concerned we have a very poor reception of the system, so if you can go back to the original map I would like to have another look at it and see that there isn't blue on certain towns. The first map you showed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Cathaoirleach, my question is on the lines of Cllr Kavanagh, you talk about the fibre based, but is every home, two questions really, is every home only going to have broadband? Because right now, it's very scattered what people can get in different areas, like, where I live it's very strong in some areas and then I live a few hundred metres away and it's not so strong. Again the 5G element, you had two maps that looked busy from the point of view of infrastructure that you are going to have to put in. It looks like there is going to be one in every town and village and I am wondering is there 5G involved and if there is what investigations have gone into that, because there have been serious questions raised about it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you for the presentation. Also to say that I have quite a lot of constituents who are anxiously waiting for this roll out, they missed out on the last roll out and they are very anxious that this be done as soon as possible in the Arklow Municipal District. I am delighted to see you have a good Arklow man, I can rest assured you have been hearing these presentations for the last 12 years, promises and promises were made and promises were never kept, it wasn't your fault, but I am delighted to see Billy Manly there and I am sure it will be delivered on time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: I would like to clarify what you mean, if people are not getting on the map they have to register, can you clarify that for me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You can come back to all of them now.

>>: So basically maybe I will take that one first, so the reality is the

absolute political and strategic intention here is that everyone has access to, in the first, our first roll out will be 150 megabits a second and everyone has access to it, so when you check the map and there is an online map that the Department of Communications and Climate Action have and you basically put your address or Eircode in and it will come back and tell you whether you are included or not. If you are included in the map, in dark blue, it's that someone has said, one of the operators and I won't go through the list of what someone has said, that there will be at least 30 megabits a second available at these premises this year. If you are in light blue, someone has said there will be 30 megabits available in the next year or two. So the whole point about state aid and EU rules are that if someone has said they will invest there, the Government cannot invest into offset what is seen as a market failure because by definition there isn't because someone is prepared to invest. And if it comes back and says you are in the yellow area then you are in my plan already. If you are, particularly if you are in the dark blue area, as in someone is saying you can absolutely have 30 megabits today and you are sitting looking at an 8 megabits speed test, there is an email address and I think we will probably provide, there is an email address at the department of communications and climate action and you basically go in, prove that you don't have coverage and they will add to the map and I will get an updated file on a monthly basis that says this Eircode is now deemed to be in the plan even though the last time it wasn't. It's as straightforward as that. You will have read a little bit, if you have been tracking it in the papers, that there has been a bit of an Lanigan's ball, that some houses are in and some are out. That is because there has been genuine movement, Eircom said, they built in 35,000 places they hadn't said they would, but they missed 28,000 they said they would, so the number dropped by 7,000. A close cousin of that question is also in urban areas which have been left behind. Exactly the same applies, you go in, you flag that if it's not check the Eircodes and if you have a website, they are expecting people to come back and we will get update on the map on a monthly basis and then we adjust the plan accordingly.

The question is, is the technology old fibre or is there 5G involvement? The commitment is we will deliver fibre to at least 98% of the base. There is no 5G in it right now and I don't see why there would be, it's at not a technology that is sufficiently capacity rich to deliver on the proposition. Apologies if I misled when I talked about the broadband connection points effectively you can look at them as we deliver a high capacity dish, like here is one side of the dish and the other, it's a pencil beam about this size, it goes to the, let's say the roof of this building and then it gets behind off with an ethernet cable to a wi-fi router and it provides wi-fi in the building. It's not a way of getting buildings like this in a rural resource centre like in Laragh, getting it up and providing broadband while it take us a year or two to get fibre into them.

The question is it going to reduce emissions but are we going to chop trees? We will tree trim in the same way that other users of the polling on the roads do, but we won't other than really by exception we won't be taking any trees down, because we are reusing the existing Eircom poles. I could, I

can imagine there will be exceptions, where we may have to take a tree down, but there is certainly no blanket proposal to take it down other than in the normal engaging in the normal seasonal tree trimming, so that he with can run the fibres across the existing infrastructure.

There was a question about, how we are getting the smaller towns connected. As we build the access fibre out from two areas they dovetail in, as we are building that access fibre out they dovetail and we can use it as trunk fibre to we can enable the town in the middle.

But, yeah, that is, so effectively we are putting a huge amount of fibre out into the hinterland and that is on the base as I think we are over provisioning by 20% so we can take in other applications we don't know about today and prepare for a premises growth.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much indeed. That was very interesting. Best of luck with it.

Okay I am going to take item 17 to consider entering into a section 85... sorry... item 16 to consider the Wicklow County Council three-year capital programme 20-22 which you all had attached.

BRIAN GLEESON: The capital plan presented to you is the three-year capital plan for the next years in the amount of 582 million. It's broken down in roads... economic development 7 million, environmental services 9 million, recreational services 34 million, agricultural health and welfare 26 million and miscellaneous which would include energy projects 7 million. This would be financed by mainly grant aid, 490 million, development levies 25 million, loans 22 and other income would be 46, other income would include sale of land, revenue, account capital transfers and also local contributions and private developer contributions. This year's capital plan represents an increase of approximately 100 million on last year's submission. This mainly relates to an increase in housing for the provision of extra units. We also have included projects where funding has been secured under the URDF or RRDF and ERDF schemes such as Wicklow library, Fitzwilliam Square, Arklow and the enterprise hub in Clermont. We have also applied for funding under anaesthetise schemes which the Chief Executive outlined at the start of the meeting here today.

So, I suppose the key to note is that this plan, it's a rolling plan, it is changing all the time and I suppose the implementation of the project are dependent on available funding. It's an aspirational plan, it doesn't mean everything is going to be implemented but it's what our strategy is and subject to available funding we will try and implement those projects over the next few years. That is the main synopsis, if anyone has any questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Someone small question in relation to the provision of funding for affordable housing schemes that is in it while I appreciate it's an aspirational plan I am assuming that is been some thoughts or considerations given to affordable housing in the county and that is basis of putting in a provisional sum. I am wondering is that the case?

BRIAN GLEESON: That would be on the number of units we hope to sell on

under a particular scheme, so it would be based on what housing has put forward.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: So there is the intentional scheme there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We had two affordable housing schemes we were working on, one in Kilcoole and the other in Greystones. So they were mixed tenure social private and affordable. So the way they become affordable obviously is that council land is subsidising it, but there may be a Government scheme, it depend on the formation of the Government, but it may be a Government scheme, the way they subsidise it, so I think over the next few years we will be building affordable homes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you, just a question under the recreational amenity. Is that just, I just want some clarification on the figure, is that a commitment to fund the feasibility study and a build over next number of years?

BRIAN GLEESON: Obviously we would be looking for funding for the feasibility study. The build of the Swimming Pool would be subject to the feasibility study and the securing grant aid for that, it's a big project, you are talking about ten million, but the first step will be undertaking a feasibility study in relation to it. So if we can't secure funding we will have to look at our own resources and see if we can use some of our own funding towards that obviously the first port of call would be to try and see if we can get any funding towards it from different sources.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: That is what I was saying earlier, we need them on board really because we did pay for initial study for the preliminary study to see if it was cost effective, if there was a cost benefit there and if it could wash its face and we did submit it, but we really need the Department on board, in order for them to come on board we need them to fund the design cost initially at 600,000. That isn't what we got initially so we are going to keep looking for that.

CLLR CRONIN: Sorry to keep go going on, if it comes about we are unsuccessful again next year, will the council commit to funding part of the project?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will have a look at t but we are going to be funding part of it anyway even if we get the full grant. There is not point in us spending unless they are on board with following it through, because it can't happen without them. So I think if they are serious about it they will fund the design of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I want to query the abbey quarter in Arklow, the 2.9 million. Will that, is that funding secured or?

BRIAN GLEESON: No there is an application going in under the URDF scheme, so we will, we are putting it in anyway.

CLLR LEONARD: Will that include the pottery museum?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yes.

CLLR LEONARD: Then also in relation to the URDF, the operational maintenance and piers and harbours, the 10 million for the harbours and piers, how will that be, where is that for?

BRIAN GLEESON: That is covering Arklow, Wicklow and Bray.

CLLR LEONARD: Equally?

BRIAN GLEESON: There will be applications going in for the three harbours.

Obviously which don't know at this stage who is going to be successful, there has to be a design phase as well. That is, I suppose it's an estimated figure, it's very provisional.

CLLR LEONARD: So it's an application for funding.

BRIAN GLEESON: Just to show that is our plan down the line.

CLLR LEONARD: Just the Avoca Flood Relief Scheme, I think that is, what work is that to consider, it's separate to the Arklow Flood Relief.

BRIAN GLEESON: It is, I don't have the details of the actual work, but it is a separate provision.

CLLR LEONARD: Is that secured funding from the OPW.

BRIAN GLEESON: As far as I am aware that is secured funding, that particular scheme is, yeah.

CLLR LEONARD: Just the last thing is the coastal erosion funding, I think it's 600,000 over the space of three years seems very small amount of funding for something that is very important, will there be other streams of funding.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's our correct, contribution, it will be funded by the OPW and the Department of transport and it runs the whole way you were from Arklow to Greystones.

CLLR LEONARD: It's very important.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Just a quick question on why I welcome the provision of 1.5 million in 2021. It's presuming that is 100% funded from the State or is that the total cost?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's usually 100% funded. So we contacted them before Christmas to ensure we are doing the new programme for Government that we will get this capital programme. It's the one we are going to have to push now, we will have to wait and see.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Just I am delighted to see there is funding in there for the Arklow Transport Study. I know Cllr Fitzgerald is coming in on this in a second so I am going to let him speak. Just in relation to the Rathdrum transport study. I was told that that would be done this year in March of this year, now I know it's included in the URDF funding, application, but if that is, if that application is not successful, is that transport study still going to be done for Rathdrum because the bulk of the properties in Rathdrum live on the west side of the town. That is where the hospital and it's, if the emergency services need to get to the hospital or the residential properties it's impossible. I was told that the funding would be made available in March for that study to be done and I want a guarantee from the top table that that will be done this year.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will definitely do the study. We have looked for funding under the category 2 under the RRDF which provides full design fees for the whole western bypass, including the health centre sight and the other one, so we have applied for funding for that, so if not, we will certainly fund the traffic revenue budget, no question.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for the presentation as well. I may go off on a tangent here, we talk about five million here and studies here and there, but we out there, when we Irish Water and we are looking at maybe half a million or a quart of a million of investment in places

like Tinahely, Shillelagh, Aughrim and Avoca and looking for an upgrade of a storage system and we are getting nowhere with it, nowhere with Irish Water it's on the long finger, no proposals and here we are talking about five million ten million here of a capital programme.

It's certainly special as far as we are concerned in it anything we have asked to be done with Irish Water and I am disappointed with the support we are getting from the County Council to deal with these issues. Frustrated with the meetings we have had with Irish Water, not today or yesterday but the last number of years and I am frustrated with the support we are getting in the County Council as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, just a query in relation to the figures for the electric vehicle charges points we have committed 2.5 million over three years. 1.25 million is department grant aid and the other is match funding I am not sure about that. I am wondering, we have 500,000 for 220 factored in, I wondered where we are at with that overall plan for the provision of electric vehicle charging points. If you are in a position to comment as well. Thank you.

BRIAN GLEESON: I think we are at an early stage and there has to be a lot of discussion with ESB networks as well in relation to the points, but I suppose it's something that we are aspiring to and we have plans, but it is at a very early stage and I suppose the provision in there is an estimate at the moment, with regard to that. But we would hope to, there is a climate action fund, so we would hope to secure 50% funding under that particular scheme and then, obviously from our own resources we would look to, we have a revenue provision in relation to energy projects and also any savings that we would generate through our other energy projects, we would look towards putting that towards these types of projects.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: And the area engineers are looking at locations that will comply with the Department grant scheme, we will probably start with Greystones because there isn't any there at the moment. So that will be part of climate action plan that will go to the SPC.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just the Arklow transport study, the figure is 70,000, I think there was a higher figure than that. Has it gone out for tender that we can come out with a figure of 70,000. On the Arklow historic town, 3 million and 50,000. I thought that was gone out to tender? I think I heard Brian said we haven't got the funding for that. The land in Arklow 150,000 expected outlay, what are we outlaying on?

BRIAN GLEESON: There is nothing we can see in the ones under the enterprises, most of the expenditure is 2021 onwards. There is no specific plans at this stage, but, I suppose it's something that it's still in our overall plans so we wanted to make reference to that.

>>: Which one are you talking about?

BRIAN GLEESON: Kish.

ADMINISTRATOR: They are the lands that are zoned employment and joint survey on either side of the road as you are heading south.

>>: Is that for next year?

ADMINISTRATOR: They are zoned employment, if for example, industry

expressed an interest.

>>: But there is an agreement there for another data centre in that area.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is a specific area, maybe you can talk about afterwards.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I am more interested in the historic area of 3 million and 50,000, I thought that was out for tenure.

BRIAN GLEESON: That is a separate project for the quarter.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I understand that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If I hit your mic, I would be... able to hear you.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I turned it off because I wanted more than three months turn it off when you don't want to be heard. I wanted, is the 3 million gone out for secure.

BRIAN GLEESON: We have grant aid of 2.7 million for that and the project is commenced.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: What Cllr Leonard was talking about was the pottery scheme.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I understand that one, there is no funding for that. The three million is secure, the 70,000 seems little for transport study.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will have to go to tender for it. That is 70,000 we have got for NTA, which is plus.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I will turn my light back off now.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, then, item 17 and 18, to consider entering into a Section 85 agreement with Kilkenny County Council for the carrying out of the local authority public lighting energy efficiency project, the LED project. I know you have a copy of it but from hearing what SSE Airtricity said earlier on, these LED lights are going to, obviously the old light bulbs aren't there and the LED project will also help our energy efficiency and our contribution towards climate control, so if there is no questions can I have a proposer and second?

CLLR FORTUNE: I have a question. I know what LED is and how all of that works, I am curious, is the intention to roll out 5G in tandem with this project? I am curious what is happening that is why I ask the question of the broadband people about 5G because we passed a motion recently that we would look into 5G and get an explanation of questions asked. Ten other counsels around the country have done that and we have heard nothing back, when I read this and looked it he roll out, I am wondering is part of the plan to include the 5G network as part of this and if it is, I think we need to, I certainly will have issues with it based on, there is a group that I have done some work with this Greystones who have serious issues about the whole thing and there has been a lot of research into it and we need, no one came back to us, it's like as if we put a motion through and it was thanks for the motion, but so what.

>>: The project is to replace 100% of the lights in the county with LEDs, it has no implications. For 5G has no implications for the project, it's no connection with broadband, it's just solely to replace all the lanterns in the county with LEDs.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: I would like to propose this Cathaoirleach and hopefully it won't take three months to fix the new LED lights. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Just could you comment on the driver replacement costs, it's listed as 0.8 million, it seems to be quite low, the second question was, my understanding is and I am not an electrical expert, as we freeing up capacity on the circuits by switching from sodium to the LEDs is there any scope for developing in pole charging, I brought it up at a Municipal District level previously, just, is it possible to look at that or pick a spot for a pilot scheme on that? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: I am no expert either and it looks great and it looks like there will be a lot of benefits to it, the four local authorities that aren't participating do you know why, I know it's not about Wicklow, but do you know why they aren't?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to second Gail Dunne's motion please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you want to answer those.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE:

>>: I will deal with the easier one first, the four counties that are not participating in the project have decided to move ahead themselves. In Wexford, for example, they have a project currently ongoing, that is replacing the lights with LEDs, it doesn't mean they are not doing it, it's just that they have decided to do it on their own or to move ahead of the rest of the local authorities. In relation to the EV charging points, look, we are going to be, we are in the eastern region project, we have a lead local authority and this is what the Section 85 is to do.

The lead local authority will put out the request for tender for the project and at this stage, while it hasn't come up, I don't think in our meetings to date, about the EV charging points we can bring it up and see if that is something that could be included in the request for tender.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have a proposer and is seconder. Is that agreed?

ADMINISTRATOR: Okay so we have a proposer and seconder to enter into the Section 85. Can we have a proposer and seconder for passing of the.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We need to borrow 7.95 million in respect of the public lighting and energy efficiency project. Proposed by Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien. Is that agreed?

ADMINISTRATOR: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you very much. Thank you, Brian and Colm. Item 21, to discuss the proposal circulated by Cllr Stephen Matthews at the council meeting held on the 13th of January. Lourda Scott, do you want to.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, as Cllr Matthews is now deputy Matthews I will step into his shoes for a moment. I know we discussed this motion at length in January and I am aware that we are coming up to nearly 5.00pm. I think it's probably fair to say there has been a lot of consensus about this proposal with the elected members and also outside the chamber within the community. I think the recent General Election campaign really showed that consensus with the proposal and there was a lot of discussion across all parties for the need to look at alternatives to cars and be mindful of potential environmental impact of this study.

However, at the same time, and I acknowledge what the Chief Executive and

Cllr Behan was saying earlier on, I understand the concerns about delaying a major road project and losing funding or our position in the queue for want of a better word. So, could I suggest that the motion stands as it is, but if we reworded the beginning of it and if was agreeable for everyone, instead of saying that we request that phase 2 is postponed until a meeting is convened but if we could agree if we stated that we request that a preferred route wouldn't be selected until we meet with the relevant stakeholders, if that would be a preferable way of wording the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you want to submit that as a motion and it will go on the agenda for next month. Okay.

ADMINISTRATOR: The motion is in six parts really when you read it down isn't it? Are you referring to part 1.

CLLR SCOTT: It's referring to the beginning where we have originally said that we would, it would be postponed. I think that was what was causing concern, that it would imply a delay, so if we rephrase that.

ADMINISTRATOR: You are proposing an amendment to that.

CLLR SCOTT: It's to change that first sentence, Lorraine, if we could say that a preferred route won't be selected until we convene a meeting, just changing the language slightly.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is there a seconder for that?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Does that mean the same thing?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There is a few things there, as I mentioned earlier, we don't want to delay it, because there is a lot of other schemes right around the country that would like to bypass us on the queue. So, anything that would delay it, I think we should steer clear of. It is, there is the whole process is ongoing at the moment between the NTA and the route options and they are looking at the middle of this year for having a preferred option. In relation to the transport study we saw the NTA at the last meeting with the proposals they have, in terms of improving the dart times to Greystones and the shuttle bus to Wicklow town, it looks like they are not going to do whole lot else, they are going to look at protecting the line in terms of coastal protection which is an a big one as well.

In terms of the environment service, the TIA have a procedure for doling with the environment side of it, at every stage of the process, at stage one which involves developing a number of feasible options and this is done and the carry out a primary options assessment using a framework metrics under the headline of engineering, environment and economy. They end up going to stage two which is what they are at, at the moment. This that carry out an appraisal matrix under 6 headline criteria in the common appraisal framework, accessibility and social inclusion, integration and physical activity.

Stage 3 of the process involves a selection of the preferred option and the project appraisal balance sheet to summarise the benefit of the preferred option. Throughout the entire process the environmental assessment of each option will be undertaken under a broad range of topics. At a conclusion of phase 2, each stage of the process will be documented in the options selection report which will recommend the preferred option for the scheme. Then, the environmental impact assessment report will subsequently be

carried out under the preferred option during phase 3.

So the EIA forms part of the planning application that will be submitted to the An Bord Pleanála and is prepared in accordance with requirements of Section 50 of the roads act and annex 4 of our Directive 201192EU so that is how they have it set out in their capital appraisal framework. So they are not going to change, but there is a detailed assessment of everything that is mentioned there, appropriate assessment, NIS, etc. So you can be sure that all of that going to be done in any case.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Rather than us just, it says to discuss a proposal, should it go to the SPC? Like the transport SPC to actually be discussed by rather than us voting on it today?

CLLR SCOTT: I would say to be discussed by climate SPC as well, because there is the whole issue of the carbon footprint and it's to get a cohesive discussion between the chairs of both of those SPCs which was part of the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: What do members feel?

>>: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So go to the transport and the climate action SPC. Sorry, Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: The challenge I think is in terms of all of the checks and balances and all of the criteria that they look at, if the start point is that we are offering a roads-based solution of course they will find a way to navigate the issues. It fascinates me how the prework before any proposal is made doesn't involve everyone looking at a dynamic solution, I would be worried we tell our children in the future we declared a climate emergency in 2019 and we spent ten years building roads after that. If we listen to the National Broadband Plan that is a mitigating factor, so I think it's that art of, to just fire ahead and presume in phase 2 or 3 that these things will be revisited, there is a point of no return I would be worried that we would cross without being mindful.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, so, but it's going to go to the transport SPC and the climate action SPC and then we can tease it out and maybe rather than just plough ahead we can come back with a proposal. Okay. Is everyone agreed? Okay. Correspondence.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just a couple of thing, Cathaoirleach. As you know the Seanad elections are taking place in 2020. Ballot papers will issue from the returning officer on the 16th of March. The poll closes at 11.00am on the 30th of March. I am an authorised officer along with Seanad returning officers, clerk of the Dail, county registrar, Superintendent, etc, if you wish to have your ballot papers, the signing and sealing witnesses you are very welcome to contact me by email to make an appointment or visit the other registered officers. Just to say also that works to the council chamber and the members room will commence now on the 9th of March. So effectively this is your last meeting in the council chamber as we sit in it now. So that affects the council Chambers, the member rooms and the elected rooms and the foyer and the hub. So your next meeting will take place on the 6th of April in Clermont. Gemma has been appointed. We have set up a booking system where rooms can be booked there and we will reserve some classrooms for members who want to meet before the meeting next week,

so, but Gemma we will be communicating on you on email in respect of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I wanted to ask what is happening to the interior fit out of the existing chamber?

ADMINISTRATOR: What is happening to it? As in?

CLLR LEONARD: Could we find it a new home somewhere?

ADMINISTRATOR: The mics and the electoral system that is all being used again.

CLLR LEONARD: But the furniture.

ADMINISTRATOR: The furniture will be going out to Wicklow county campus. I am not sure how useful, we will find a home for the screens.

CLLR LEONARD: This might tie in with...

ADMINISTRATOR: Perfect.

CLLR LEONARD: Maybe they wouldn't want it.

ADMINISTRATOR: I will get them that to give you an email.

CLLR LEONARD: They won't have money to put stuff into.

>>: Unknown Cllr. At the next CPC. Are we going to meet them as well.

ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, I know there it's a meeting of the, meeting and Gerry Walsh is the chairman, but any elected member is welcome to attend as an observer.

CLLR ANNESLEY: We don't want to end up like a circumstances like what happened in Kerry where they were slandering a councillor because he had an assault charge, this is a serious meeting, needless for me to say, I was concerned about the surroundings in Clermont, but I am sure it's all under control.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry Walsh. Just to clarify the purpose of this meeting and the request was to provide clarification for us, at our JPC in Wicklow on the proposed new model and the impact it envisaged to have on us, because as we know we have been amalgamated Wexford and it had implications on resources so we need to, the commissioner to come out and explain to us how this model is going to benefit us as a county. That is the reason for his appearance here and there should be no issues discussed apart from policing matters that affect the county per se, thank you.

CLLR ANNESLEY: I welcome the commissioner coming, I wasn't being slanderous but I was being mindful of what happens in Kerry when we did arrive down there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I would hope we would behave ourselves properly. Thank you very much we will see you on April 6th.

End of meeting