

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ONLINE

VIA ZOOM

ON

MONDAY 1st MARCH 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

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J Sinnamon

E McCarthy

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 1st 2021:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, everyone, it's just 2.00pm, so we will kick off, if that is all right. Lorraine, if I could ask you to do a roll call first.

ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, before we go to the roll call I will remind members of the etiquette. If you could keep your mobile phone on silent. Please don't leave without informing the Cathaoirleach so the corium remains. You can use the raise the hand functions or send a message in chat. Please keep your microphone on when speaking, when you are not speaking keep your microphone on mute. So, members, please inform the meetings administrator by telephone if you lose connections during a vote. So, members of the public and press you are very welcome, please keep your mics on mute and your cameras off and observe any directions by the Cathaoirleach. So Cathaoirleach we will go for a roll call.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Cllr Melanie Corrigan?

CLLR CORRIGAN: Present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean?

CLLR CREAN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Erica Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald?

CLLR FITZGERALD: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Tom Fortune?

CLLR FORTUNE: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Patsy Glennon?

CLLR GLENNON: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR M MURPHY: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Paul O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr R O'Connor.

CLLR R O'CONNOR: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Lourda Scott?

CLLR SCOTT: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: John Snell. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Gerry Walsh. I know you are there.

CLLR WALSH: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: I will ask again, Sylvester Bourke? Cllr M Kavanagh? Or John Snell? They may join us later. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. If anyone has any votes of sympathy, they wish to express?

ADMINISTRATOR: I might go ahead first for John Turner brother-in-law of Fiona Turner our colleague here and former employee of Wicklow County Council. For Pat O'Rourke, father of our colleague, Anne Byrne Wicklow County Council. For Eilie Griffin mother of our colleague Jackie Donnelly. For Joyce Fagan, mother of our friend and colleague Michael Fagan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine, any of the members any votes of sympathy they want to? Just in case, I can't see anyone, so I don't want to miss anyone. If they just say. Okay, we will take a minute to remember all of those that have passed away.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Eternal rest grant on to them My Lord, may your perpetual light shine on them, may they rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have a request for a suspension of standing orders, and I will deal with that in a minute. First, I would like to make a statement on the recently published report on the commission of investigation into Mother and Baby Homes. I know, Cllr Neary, you have a motion in relation to this matter so if you bear with me as I read my few words. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the publication of the report of the Commission of Investigation into Mother and Baby Homes in the State.

Following this publication, And Taoiseach, Michael Martin issued a formal apology on behalf of the State to residents of Mother and Baby Homes and County Institutions. Wicklow County Council echoes the apologies of the Taoiseach for the wrongs on those mothers and children who found themselves in mother and baby and county homes. As the Commission and a Taoiseach have said they should not have been there. Wicklow County Council would like to pay tribute to the former residents of these institutions and to acknowledge their courage and dignity in coming forward with their testimonies. Their stories and their truth can now be heard, acknowledged and understood.

It is important that Wicklow County Council, as a local authority, acknowledge that they, like other local authorities, had a role in the provision of healthcare and hospital services until 1970 when the Health Boards took over those functions. From 1922 until 1970 Wicklow County Council, as the County Health Authority was responsible for the County Home in Rathdrum. The Government now intends to give detailed consideration to the report over the coming months with a view to developing a comprehensive Government action plan to address eight specific teams:

These teams are to include a survivor-centred approach, an apology. Access to personal information, archiving and databases, education and research, memorialisation, restorative recognition and dignified burial. Wicklow County Council actively participates with the Government in furthering the development of the Government's action plan as it relates to local Government and the council is also committed to supporting local measures that form part of a suite of follow-up actions. Ms Catherine Wright, County Archivist, is dealing with inquiries relating to the county home and Wicklow County Council will engage sensitively with survivors living in our area who can benefit from the Council's services. Arrangements will be made to make a copy of the Commission final report available in all libraries once they have reopened.

In addition, the County Archive Services proposes to reprint the book, *'Time Did Not Stand Still'* by Kevin Byrne for anyone connected to or interested in the history of the county home in Rathdrum. Mr. Byrne has given his consent to the reprint of this book.

Thank you, members, and I know you will concur with the sentiments expressed. To reiterate the words of both the Commission and A Taoiseach they should not have been there. I would also like to thank, Cllr Neary who I spoke with this morning and Cllr Neary has a Notice of Motion on this. I would like to thank you for your support on this and I want to, I don't know will we get to the Notice of Motion today, I would like that Notice of Motion to remain on the agenda and we will all get to have an input in time. Thank you, members for your time and thank you for listening to me.

I will now move to the agenda. I will read the minutes first and then I will come to the proposed suspension of standing orders. To confirm and sign the minutes of the special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 25th of January and a copy was attached. Do I have proposer for that?

CLLR DUNNE: Proposed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Irene Winters. To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting on 1st of February. Gerry O'Neill and Cllr Fitzgerald.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is that agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed, thank you. I have a request from Cllr John Mullen for a suspension of standing orders. That request is seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne and it's to do with the announcement of the, from Bank of Ireland today with the closure of three branches in our county. Members, are you agreed to that suspension of standing orders? Is there any dissent on that? Irene Winters?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed. I think everyone is agreed. Cllr Mullen if you are agreeable, I will take that at 4.30pm.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number three on the agenda is...

CLLR SCULLEN: Could I come in for one second if possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen.

CLLR SCULLEN: Just a quick item. I would like to see if possible, could we put it on the agenda for the April meeting. It's to do with the new land development agency, there was a recent bill published and I think we need a proper discussion in terms of our county. This could have serious ramifications for disposals of land and certainly could undermine the powers, our powers in terms of councillors when it comes to disposals of land. So, I would ask with your permission we have this as an agenda item. I think it's an important topic

to be discussed as soon as possible. I would ask you to put it on the April agenda, if possible. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Cullen.

CLLR BLAKE: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will make that an agenda item next month. Not a problem. Item number three, I know we have a long agenda so we will do our best to get through it. Item number three is to consider the disposal of 0.036 hectares. 00.856 acres of land situated in the townland of Ennermount, Sandymount, Brittas Bay to Ms Catherine Altman and Ms Emily Byrne. Do I have a proposer for that? Cllr Irene Winters and seconded by Cllr Gail Dunne. Everyone in agreement? Yes, thank you.

Item number 4, to consider the disposal of 3.5 acres situated in townland of Ballinalea Ashford, from a further period of 30 years from 1st of April 2033 to 31st of March 2063. Proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by who?

CLLR SNELL: John Snell.

ADMINISTRATOR: Agreed? Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 5 to consider the disposal of 0.037 hectares situated in townland of Hollywood Cross, Knockroe to Finbar Mulligan and Joanne Fox as per notice circulated and proposed by Patsy Glennon and seconded by Gerry O'Neill. Agreed?

CLLR WINTERS: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Item number 6 to consider the disposal of 0.04 hectares comprising part of fellow WW5279F being the strip of land to the rear of Hawthorn Road to Lesley Hopson as per notice previously circulated, proposed by Cllr R O'Connor and seconded by?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I will second that.

ADMINISTRATOR: Agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To consider the disposal of WW2274L, county Wicklow being the property known as one Dargle Villas in the townland of Bray county Wicklow by transfer order to Ms Denise McCoy as per notice previously circulated.

CLLR FERRIS: I propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Ferris and seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed, members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 8 is to consider the disposal of property compiling 3758F being lands at Victoria Road in the townland of Rathdown Lower by deed of transfer to Mr William Fenlon. As per notice previously circulated. Gerry Walsh is proposing and seconded by Derek Mitchell. Got that. Is that agreed? Agreed. Thank you. Item number 9 is to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report and I will go over to our Chief Executive for that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will take the programme as read. Just one or two items. I mentioned the NTA works last month and the 7.5 million which we have got which is very welcome for roads and footpaths throughout the county compared to 2.5 million last year. We will do a presentation of each Municipal District and go through the schemes I think on that. But just on the staff, just one or two queries in relation to that. We have set up four teams now in roads. One in terms of design, which is Conor Page, Fiachra O'Connor and then we are going to recruit another three engineers for that team. The second team under Brendan Vial. He has two technicians, and we will recruit another three for that team. We then have Margaret Hartnett, Declan O'Brien and another team looking at various different projects and then

the main standard kind of roads projects coming through, we have Pat Clarke who is back with us now and Connor carte and Pious owe doer tee. We are looking to take on 12 workers as a lot of this is best done by direct labour. I will take everything else as read.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Just under the maritime section, thank you for the report, I just want to raise three quick things. I just want to ask, if you are confident that Wicklow and Arklow courts have significant water depth to ensure they are viable for the future offshore wind economy. Dredging is a huge problem. I wonder if the Chief Executive could look into looking into opportunities for the dredging team and liaise with the OPW and Irish Water T to look at how three projects can be combined into one for a nature-based protection off the shore of Arklow. Lastly as part of the Flood Relief Scheme in Arklow, I just want to ask, has glass panelling and access been incorporated into the flood relief scene and can the Chief Executive give a commitment prior to the scheme, going for planning that this will be looked into and that myself and my fellow Arklow Municipal District councillors will be part of the decision to put the glass in. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Fortune, I will take them in threes, because it will be quicker for us. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for your report, comprehensive as usual. You answered my question on the projects. Maybe when the projects are being explained to the Municipal Districts, you might actually, they might actually include the rationale behind each of them. I would ask for that in morning. On the house, on the HAP, more so the housing HAP, how many of a team in the council have we got dealing with that and what is our engagement with outside agencies in relation to the homeless HAP? Just a

comment then on Carrig Eden, the project in Greystones looks really good. So, I am looking forward to that when it's opened. On the Housing First, the Peter McVerry Trust, can someone explain how that is going to work? Under energy efficiency, how are we selecting, your entry in the report, how are we selecting the various programme we have in place, what is the criteria for various areas getting on that programme? And under the environmental services and Irish Water as we know there has been a serious problem with looking after wastewater into the future in the, particularly in the Greystones district. Is that now sorted and how has it been sorted. On water, I was asked the question a couple of weeks ago and ended up in just a general discussion and I wasn't really properly informed, but do we have any water quality issues at the moment anywhere in the county and particularly in the area I operate in had? On the transport study, or under the transport study we have talked about for the Greystones District for a while now, are we taking that into account when we are making planning decisions? For example, how are we doing that? So, when we look at a planning situation, are we building into it the transport study issues that may come up in that when it's done and what is going into planning decisions to cope with that. On the employee numbers, I note that we are saying that by the fourth quarter we have 775 employees, excluding firefighters. How do we look at the overall situation in regard to staff, like do, we have 7 or 8 departments within the local authority? Is there real proper cross fertilisation taking part within that situation. If so, how does that work? My apologies, I think that is my phone.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fortune. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I was trying to get in earlier, can I commend Cllr Cullen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I need you to stick to the agenda.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: And I look forward to discussing the motion. Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report. I also want to welcome the NTA funding and I look forward to working with the engineers in relation to any future works. My question then, Cathaoirleach is I believe Wicklow County Council has applied for a grant for Wicklow Swimming Pool through the LSIAF. Can I ask when this submission went through, what its current status is and whether any external consultants were brought in to assist Wicklow County Council and if so, who are they? And is it possible to have a copy of the report, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you please come back on in on those.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Yeah. Just on the dredging in Wicklow and Arklow ports. They both need it. We need to start working on that in design for both and they will require a dumping at sea license from the EPA I take on board what Cllr Leonard said about combining those with flood relief. It's a good idea. The glass panelling, I think is in, I will certainly get Mark to give you details of what is in there in relation to that for the flood relief scheme. Cllr Fortune, the rationale for the various different schemes under the NTA funding that can be brought forward under the Municipal Districts. I suppose you have to remember this is Year 1, this will go on for a number of years. I would say members should be thinking about other schemes. Homeless HAP, one full-time staff member liaises with landlords and the homeless individual as they arrive. Working out quite well. How it operates is that people who have various different issues, who are homeless, be they addiction issues, they are given the house first and the wrap around supports follow. It's an innovative way of dealing with thing, rather than going through a homeless shelter, halfway house then into accommodation. You go to the accommodation first and then the wrap around support. We will see how it works. We have a target

with Peter McVerry Trust. In terms of transport and the County Development Plan, again we get a report from roads on each application. They will look at the transport side of it, taking into account the County Development Plan, but we will have the Greystones and Arklow Traffic Management Plans, so that will be taking into account. In terms of employee numbers, we will be looking on a workforce plan that we developed a few years ago on the ideal members of staff. You are right, we try to avoid people working in silos too much and we have various different teams involved in land management and in climate action that people can work together so that they figure out what is happening in each section. There would be a mobility section, where we moved staff around for their own experience. I might ask Colm Lavery to cover the issue of wastewater in Greystones and any water quality issues there. Also, Michael Nicholson in relation to the funding for Wicklow Swimming Pool. We did get funding. That has gone to the department for approval, but the name of the consultants might have that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Colm, do you want to come in first?

COLM: Just in terms of water quality, we monitor water quality, Irish Water monitor quality in all of our water treatment plants. We have an issue at the moment in Barndarrig, there is a do not consume notice there at the moment. I think there is over 3,000 homes affected and we are providing, in conjunction with Irish Water we are providing bottled water at a location in Barndarrig for the affected households. In terms of wastewater, I am not aware of any particular issues in relation to Greystones, if there is you might bring it to my attention. I would just say that we continue to liaise with Irish Water in relation to both water and wastewater issues and actually at 2.30pm a meeting is kicking off between a senior engineer in relation to waste water issue, just extending the network in Greystones up the road. We are also considering the

wastewater, there are combined sewers in Greystones and working with the district engineer there. We are looking at how we could encourage our get Irish Water to fund or assist us in separating those combined sewers out into wastewater and surface water sewers, to alleviate any problems that may be caused when there are storm water overflows in the Greystones area. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Director Nicholson, are you there, do you want to come in on the swimming pools.

MICHAEL: Thank you, yes, we did receive a grant. Information concerning a grant in relation to a pool in Wicklow. Now we had to send in more information to get the final approval. We have sent in a lot of information and the department have come back look for a full financial appraisal. We have procured a contractor for that, there is a bit of topping and tailing be done this week, hopefully it will be in this week and as soon as that is sent in, we hope to get final approval and then we can go to a contractor to engage the work. Mainly it's a refurb of certain elements of pool.

Changing rooms, there is a lot of work to be done on that. So hopefully before the end of March we will hope to get final approval and we can go to contract on that job.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Can I ask who is consultant was?

MICHAEL: A guy called Mark Coleman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Can you hear me okay?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR SCOTT: I want to say thank you to the Chief Executive for his report. First of all, I want to say I am looking forward to the Women's Day event on March

11th. A big thank you for helping us to organise that. I was just wondering if I could get an update on where we are with the part 8 accessibility scheme and my final comment is on the issue of dog fouling. I have been in undated with people making representations from this. I note from the report there was 21 litter fines issued. I wonder if there was any issued for dog fouling. It's a key problem at the area, a combination of more people buying dogs and people exercising in the same 5K. I know I have spoken to the Green Dog Walkers Scheme there are people looking for more bins. Have they looked into the feasibility of DNA testing dog faeces, it's been done in the UK and has reduced it by 90%?

Also, I note you are advertising across social media platforms at the moment, but I was wondering if you would consider making some educational videos on the dangers of waste and perhaps showing people how to collect it up and the public health aspects of it. If you could comment on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will get to everyone. Grace McManus and then I will go to Cllr Edward Timmins and then John Snell. Grace McManus is next.

CLLR McMANUS: Thank you very much and thank you to the Chief Executive for your report. I like to say a huge thank you for our staff who are involved in the Ireland Reads campaign. I enjoyed seeing what other councillors and everyone was reading. I think it was run very well and I know they are promoting getting the county reading and it was a very positive campaign, so I want to say my heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in that. Under housing I have been really concerned, seeing a lot of organisations coming out about the increase in domestic violence during the lockdown period. I am wondering if we require a policy response, especially in terms of housing for that. I don't know where that is at, but just if the Chief Executive could comment or see, do

we need to see about increasing emergency accommodation? Approximate I know the refuge is there, but if there is going to be an increased demand in housing because the domestic violence and also if the department of housing has been involved, I would appreciate any information on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just two points. Under the RRDF for Baltinglass, I just wonder has there been any further application in relation to the footbridge over the River Slaney that was flagged that that would be part of a further application in relation to that. I wonder is there any progress on that?

Secondly, in relation to Glendalough, the master plan, which I received various documentation a few days ago, just one point on the map of Wicklow, which they display. I know you are not going to squeeze everything into a map, but a few things stood out at me at first glance. Firstly, three individuals in West Wicklow, large villages, Stratford on Slaney was omitted from the map completely as was Valleymount and Manor Kilbride, I thought that was a glaring omission, to leave out important villages on a map that is supposedly showing important sites in county Wicklow, but actually full villages were left out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go to the Chief Executive. Chief Executive will you take those?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to the part 8 for Delgany Village. That was passed. That was submitted to the NTA first they weren't going to fund it, but things have changed with the NTA and I certainly see that getting funded over the next year or two, I might ask Colm to comment on that. Dog fouling, I think we need to do everything we can, it's a combination of education and enforcement. We have done everything down

through the years, providing pooper scoopers free of charge, but I like the idea of the educational videos and get them online, absolutely. The DNA testing. It's the first I have heard of that one, but we will try anything. No matter what we have tried and the same with other counties it hasn't worked, but maybe that is something that could be a runner. We will have a look at that, absolutely. Grace McManus, under domestic violence, we have a good relationship with the women's refuge, and they have raised it and the Gardaí have raised it. So maybe it's something for the SPC that, do we need to take further action? We will work closely and do whatever we can with the Gardaí and the women's refuge and if there are extra resources, we can do that. The RRDF and we are doing a design and part 8 for the bridge over the river Slaney as you know. I will just double check with Colm, have we applied for that as yet? I don't think so. Just the plan at the moment is to do with the design and part 8 and then apply to our RRDF. On the Glendalough Master Plan, Stratford, Valleymount and Manor Kilbride they should be included. I might go back to Colm on Delgany Village and the bridge over the Slaney in Baltinglass.

COLM: Baltinglass first. We carried out a feasibility study on the proposed pedestrian bridge and in summary, it's feasible and would require an NIS that goes over the river Slaney and obviously a CPO would be required. As you said, councillor, it's not part of the current funding for the RRDF, but we have indicated that we will be seeking a variation and as Frank says, we just need to firm up on the exact cost of that before we go to that variation request...

CLLR TIMMINS: Could I come in on that? When I spoke to the Department they said if we didn't compromise any of the rest of the RRDF that some of that original funding, if there was any leftover could be used for a variation to add on once the original RRDF allocation wasn't compromised. That if there was funding left, just to be aware of that.

COLM: Obviously, it will be an expensive overrun additional to what is required. It will involve CPO as well so the cost could be quite large on it. Just in relation then to the Delgany Black Lion project. I, we are currently finalising the CPO documentation and we have included in the capital plan for this year and next year, which we will be discussing later on, on the agenda.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Director Lavery. John Snell now.

CLLR SNELL: I am looking to raise an issue with the Chief Executive and it's something I want, obviously there will be no discussion on it, I am not looking for clarification or a debate, I am just looking for a little bit of reassurance that the Chief Executive will work with yourself, Cathaoirleach, in regard to High Court action that is taking place. Obviously, we can't discuss anything that is in front of the courts, but as we know, public representatives in the past have been around here for a while will know there have been many High Court actions involving Wicklow County Council. It's something that is taking place at the moment involving Bray Boxing Club. I am just looking for reassurance that you will liaise with the Cathaoirleach on behalf of all of the 32 members and let them know what is happening. I appreciate it's a sensitive issue and it won't be discussed here today, but I am just look for that little bit of, the Cathaoirleach will know what is happening.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you, Cllr Snell. Is there isn't anyone else.

Vincent Blake, are you looking to come in?

CLLR BLAKE: Yes. Thank you, Cathaoirleach, thank you for the presentation. Just a quick comment, regarding extra staff, like the CEO mentioned there, a number of engineering staff, he also mentioned 12 outdoor staff and I want to know if that is additional outdoor staff or is it replacement of staff that would have been retired in the past? And, also, a question, maybe it's for Colm Lavery, but there have been a lot of discussion recently in regards the upgrade

in sewerage in Tinahely and Aughrim and also the water quality in Dunlavin and Rathdrum? Any update with regard to those particular issues?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank You, Councillor. Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Just a quick one on our total HAP tenants. On our total HAP figures there, it's up HAP and RAS are up over 2,000 tenants. Overall cost for 2020, I know we have estimated in the budget just over one million for 20, for this year, there is another figure there. Just to get my head around the total cost...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you finished, Gerry? You are gone. Hello? I will bring the Chief Executive back in because I think you are finished, Gerry.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will talk to the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Snell in relation to the High Court action. The extra staff are additional staff, so we will fill any additional vacancies. The sewerage schemes and water schemes have been prioritised, but I will ask Colm to come in, if that is okay. Just in relation to the HAP funding, that is all recouped from the Department and then we have extra recruitment for the staff that are involved in administering it. So, and the same with RAS. With RAS we are making a small profit each year, but they want to move away from that now and just let us break even. That is the whole idea, that we break even on HAP and RAS. If Colm wants to come in on those.

COLM: Irish Water have launched a small town and villages growth programme. We have been working with Irish Water in the last year or so in relation to setting out what our priorities are. The councillor mentioned Tinahely and Aughrim were two of the priorities we highlighted. We continue to engage with Irish Water on it, they have indicated they are considering our top four priorities on our list, which includes the two schemes that you have mentioned. They are carrying out their own feasibility and cost estimate on the works that is required, and they have indicated they will let us know as Quarter

2 of the year goes on, if those schemes are deemed feasible and within the funding available to the small town and villages growth programme. So, I will be very confident that they will be feasible and will be deliverable within the envelope. So, we just await the final approval from Irish Water in relation to that. You have also mentioned water in relation to Dunlavin and Rathdrum, I think. We have been working with Irish Water again to try and increase the supply. In Dunlavin we were looking at another borehole in the area, but unfortunately it hasn't been able to deliver the level of water, or the required, I suppose additional water needed for the area.

So, we are now looking at a connection into the supply from Ballymore Eustace in Rathdrum. We are also looking at a connection from our water treatment plant to increase the water in both Rathdrum and Gleneely and Irish Water have indicated to us that they are predisposed towards funding those two projects as well. So, there will be a connection to Ballymore Eustace for Dunlavin and a connection to Knockroe for Gleneely.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you for letting me in there. Thanks, again, Chief Executive for the report. Just a couple of items there. I am obviously delighted to hear that we are going to be taking some more outdoor staff on. I think, at the moment, as you know, chairman, that we have a lot of schemes going to be started are being funded and its great news to hear that we have some outdoor staff, hopefully going to be starting in the next while. 12, I think he mentioned. That is a positive. Last Monday I raised at the Municipal meeting about Ashford and a traffic hazard waiting to happen in Ballinahinch road. The old Roundwood Road and Laragh that former junction it's an accident waiting to happen. I know the work is supposed to be done at phase 2, but I am

looking to be moved up as quickly as possible. It's one of the most dangerous areas in the county. Someone that stood there recently I was really worried about the speed of the traffic coming down that way. Just I also might ask just about sewerage going to Gleneely. Maybe a pipe going into Gleneely as you know it has to be emptied out every couple of weeks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I will be quick. Just in relation to the motion that was passed for Bray for the review of the full-time fire service. I am looking for an update from the Chief Executive or Colm, or if not, now they could give a presentation to the Bray Municipal District on the plan on how we are going to implement that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Derek Mitchell. You need to unmute.

CLLR MITCHELL: Sorry, you are right. In relation to a question which Cllr Scott asked, and I was also curious about. The CPO for the part 8 for the Delgany to Black Lion road we have been told every month since July that it's about to be publicised. It's been totally held up for eight months and there is a huge pace of developments that is happening and is going to happen along this road. Can we have some more information or detail or timeline of when it's going to be published?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mitchell. I am going to take another couple because they are fairly straightforward. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just last year we underspent on the Housing Adoption Grant. I see this morning we got a grant of 1.56 million and obviously the Council have to provide match funding of 390,000. I want to pay tribute to the staff who have been dealing with the grants, but there is suggestion that we

are going to get further people in to deal with the grants, because that is 1.25 million.

Last year we underspent by about 500,000. So, I am aware of the work that has been done by the people in that department, but in my opinion and I am not able enough, but there needs to be far more people dealing with housing adaption grants. We shouldn't come back at the end of this year saying we couldn't spend the 1.526 million that we have been allocated this morning and match funded 390,000. There has been tremendous work done, but I know myself I have seen a back up already up there. How we plan to increase support to the people dealing with the Housing Adaption Grants, because it's essential for people in this county. There are many people looking for funding. Maybe last year, it was well-advertised, some people are not aware of it, but is there any plan, as I say to improve the numbers in that department?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, I will go back to you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to Ashford, the Ballinahinch Woods there. We will certainly look at that. It's due, as Cllr Dunne said in Phase 2, but if it's a traffic hazard we can expedite that. Similarly, with the Glenealy we can look at that. We had identified Brian Sweeney as the most suitable expert to do this. I know Colm is in discussions with people, I might ask him to come in in a minute in relation to that. Delgany to Black Lion Road. I think the documents are there, they have been reviewed by our legal department and a barrister to make sure everything is okay, but my understanding and I ask Colm to confirm it is we are ready to go on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Colm.

COLM: Look, I can understand your frustration, but obviously given the CPO, Cllr Mitchell we need to ensure that it's right. I can tell you that work has

moved on substantially since the last meeting. Our barrister looking at the CPO documentation for us has raised a number of issues with our transportation section and the engineers dealing with the project, which we responded to, so that the documents are very close to being published.

In relation to the full-time fire service, as the Chief Executive said we identified Dr. Brian Sweeney as the person with the relevant expertise and the best understanding of fire services, both here in Ireland and internationally. I have been speaking to Sean Hogan who is the head of the National Director of Fire Emergency in the department. He will come back to me hopefully this week with a timeframe for the delivery of that independent analysis of the report and, bearing in mind that the reports that are Chief Fire Officer here in Wicklow has produced. So, I should have an up-to-date position within the next week from Sean Hogan in the National Directorate in the department of housing.

Just in relation to Ballinahinch Woods. Our senior engineer has been out and looked at the issue. As you know there are a couple of pedestrian crossings going in in the location, but also our engineers are going to work with the Municipal District engineer to come up with a design that will work for the road. As you know the road is quite narrow in places and it will probably require a little bit of land acquisition to allow for pedestrian and cyclist facilities there. So, we are going to work up the design and in relation to Gleneely, we will raise the issue with Irish Water, obviously a connection into wastewater plant in Wicklow will have implications for capacity there which will need to be fully understood, but we will definitely raise the issue with Irish Water. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have two more?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Relation to Cllr Fitzgerald. Usually with DPG, the reason the money isn't spent is they don't come in and people find it hard to get a builder and they drift into the following year. I will discuss it with the director of housing, if there are any issues on our side, we can certainly address those.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. I have two more people looking to come in. Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just, thank you, for the CEO's report. It's great to see all the funding that has been achieved through applications and it's great to see so much going into foot paths and roads and things like that. I just want to draw the Chief Executive's attention to a road. I just got photographed of it this morning, it's the road between Kiladreenan Church and St Catherine's School. It's appalling. It's basically 19 buses, 50 staff and at least 20 parents not to mention delivery trucks using that road every day. It's just like something out of a warzone, it's appalling the potholes on it. Is there anything that can be done. There was a temporary filling of the potholes in 2019, but something really needs to be done. It's appalling.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Kavanagh.

CLLR FERRIS: You will recall that at our last meeting in February we were supposed to get a presentation on the Draft Migrant Integration Strategy. We ran out of time and it wasn't reached, and I am disappointed to see it's not on this month's agenda. Can you, maybe the Chief Executive can let us know when is that going to happen?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Ferris.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just on the road there, St Catherine's School, we will verge have a look at that. They are working despite Covid, for emergency repairs so I will bring that to their attention. The migrant strategy we tried to put it on

today and we looked at today's agenda and we decided to put it on to the April meeting and that is the only reason to be honest, it was just that the agenda was getting so big. We will have it for April.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, everyone, thank you for your comments and questions. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Just two points there. Again, thank you to the CEO for his presentation. Maybe for next month's report we could have a look at the 32-acre site, Council-owned site at Avonrea. We hear talk about a master plan being put in place. At the moment we don't know what is happening for it. There is already a zone for AB and E, again could I just say that the 50,000 allocation for the swimming pool. That is to be welcomed, okay, but what we want to really know is that we don't believe, at least I don't believe that a swimming pool, a standalone swimming pool will work on its own, I really believe it has to be part of a leisure centre, maybe a new hotel. We are starved of all of those things there. I like to see the 50,000 being spent on the building of the swimming pool within the complex. We have already had reports on and feasibility on the swimming pool before and I mean we have had, there is a lot of shapes being thrown around on social media by the five TDs. In fact, we were going to have the swimming pool in place according to Minister Harris six months ago. We are doing the backstroke here at the moment. What I would like to see is clarification on that 32-acre site, what is happening, is the zoning proposed to be changed or what?

It is an ideal part of the town for a new hotel and for a new swimming pool within a leisure complex within that site.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. We did a feasibility study, you are right, for the swimming pool. That concluded that if we did receive grant funding it would be feasible in terms of the number of people who would use it from the region, and it would break even each year. That was done and it was part of the application we sent in for the large-scale capital funding. All we are planning to do now is look at the area that is zoned active area and do a feasible to show where you would fit a swimming pool, along with various different sporting facilities. Have that sorted out and decided on, which will assist in any future application. That is all we are trying to do moment. Is look at that area and do a master plan, just to identify the location of the swimming pool, location of what are playing pitches, etc and in time, when the opportunity arises, we will apply for any regional sports capital funding that becomes available.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. I am going move on to item number 10 and thank you, Chief Executive, for that comprehensive report. Item number 10 is to consider the report by Wicklow Municipal District and there is a slight typo. It says Cllr Irene Winters, it should read Cllr John Snell, to the Local Traveller Accommodation Group. That agreed? Proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded by?

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr R O'Connor.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed members.

ADMINISTRATOR: Agree.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before I move away from number 10, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Cllr Irene Winters a happy birthday! So now. Thank you. Item number 11 is to note the National Oversight Audit commission report on local performance indicators. I will go to Lorraine for this one.

ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, Cathaoirleach. Just to say that this report is prepared by NOAC, the National Oversight Audit Committee it's their sixth report and it's 150 pages long. It scrutinises the performance of local authority against relevant sets of indicators over a wide variety of services and, Cathaoirleach, there has also been circulated a summary from the LGMA in its relation to local authority performance indicators. I would take it as noted, Cathaoirleach, if anyone has any questions in relation to the report, they can email me, and I will be happy to answer them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just a brief comment. These are excellent reports and very meaty and a lot of stuff in them, but I would urge all relevant people in Wicklow County Council to read it and see the benchmarking against other counties. But a second point is this report is based on 2019 figures. Is there any way we could request these reports are produced earlier? The older information the less value they have, like could they be produced within six months of the year end. We got this, I think it was at the previous meeting, certainly January over a year later than the figures they relate to, it would be more helpful if the figures could be produced earlier. When figures are old people don't pay attention to them and they don't have as much weight or value.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine, can I come back to you on that.

ADMINISTRATOR: Our hands are tied in that, the report we have is for performance indicator figures for 2019. We only received a copy of that in late November. We are presently working on compiling figures for NOAC for 2020, so look it, your point is well-made, Cllr Timmins, but we are in the hands of NOAC in that respect.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Then number 12 is to note the Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee end of year report 2020. I will go to you, Lorraine on that.

ADMINISTRATOR: We are obliged by the end of the year, by 31st of March, the Joint Policing Committee to prepare a report on the preceding year and submit it to the policing authority. So that report sets out the activities of the committee, so it's for noting and we send it into the Policing Authority.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. Cllr Gerry Walsh, you are the chair of the Joint Policing Committee do you want to say something briefly on that?

CLLR WALSH: Just briefly. I mean the setting up of the district policing committees has worked quite well. We had some very productive meetings with the commissioner in November last. He outlined the works of the work in relation to Covid and the additional works and demands on the organisation across the board. So, look, we all say as recently as last Saturday, with the disturbing scenes from the city, but the new policing model is obviously of interest to us and that is becoming, in the next year, so we will need that, and the Commissioner is going to come back to us to give further detail on that. So, it's, we have had our last number of meetings I would say online, so we are hoping to get back out to the community with the community meetings before this year is out, we had to cancel two meetings thus far. So hopefully in quarter three this year we will be back out with a public meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Walsh, we look forward to those meetings coming back into the community. Item 13 is to receive a presentation from the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee. A copy was attached. I think we have Tom Gregan, the Chair and Noel Geraghty with us. Tom, are you there? Is Tom with us?

TOM: Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: We can, Tom, you are very welcome.

TOM: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, thank you very much indeed. So, I shall be brief, Cathaoirleach, you will be glad to hear. So dear councillors, thank you for the opportunity to address the Council here today on the work of the Wicklow County Council Audit Committee for the 12-month period up to the 31st of December 2020. It's a statutory committee established in accordance with Section 59 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The other committee has five members, who are as follows:

D Gregan, Chairman, Noel Geraghty, Mary Savage and Cllr Gerry Walsh. The role of the Audit Committee is to support the elected members by providing an independent assessment of the corporate governance environment, the quality of the risk management, financial reporting, financial management and audits. The function of the Audit Committee is set out in the Local Government Audit Regulations and include the following:

Internal assignments for 2020. For 2020 the programme implementers on their SICAP were assigned to the internal audit unit of the local authorities. Two programme implementers are engaged to administer the SICAP programmes, in Wicklow County Council, administer area and these are Bray area and Wicklow County Partnership. The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions imposed as a consequence has seen a revaluation of the approach to assignments. Site visits were temporarily suspended. Nevertheless, the internal audit reports were finalised and reported to Audit Committee during the year. Development contribution schemes final report, SICAP Bray area partnership, 2018.

All of these audits are commenced and due to be finalised shortly. SICAP, 2019 partnership and SICAP Bray area partnership 2019. Wicklow County Council, this report is reviewing the governance structure and reporting relationship of the Mermaid County Wicklow Arts Centre and the Shoreline centre. Public spending code and the quality assurance report. Internal audit in collaboration with the procurement section completed the annual quality assurance report as part of Wicklow County Council compliance with Public Spending Code.

The Public Spending Code has a number of objectives for review. The reports include the required index on the following areas. Administration of homeless service, Kilbride Lane housing, social housing, housing acquisition, in Arklow. Baltinglass Fire Station, further details are outlined in appendix one of this report. The next heading is Annual Audit Plan. The Annual Audit Plan sets out the proposed assignments for the coming year. The plan is drafted following consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Services, head of functions and progress on audits will be reported to the Council in due course. Next heading is meeting with the local government auditor, Mr. Daragh McMahon attended a meeting in January.

The other committee was circulated with a copy of the statutory report in 2019 in advance of the meeting. The local government auditor outlined the main elements of his report to the committee and I am pleased to report to the members that the audit report is unqualified. Furthermore, no audit adjustments arose as a result of the audit. The Audit Committee is keen to see progress on the implementation of an up-to-date risk management strategy and organising that this is an important area in the governance framework. As required by Section 121 of the Local Government Act 2001 as amended by

Section 60 of The Local Government Act 2014 I have attached a report to the council on the committee for consideration of local audit report in appendix 2. Another important heading here... procurement. In a similar meeting we saw a report on the developments in that section. The ongoing progress being made by the council in this area. The other committee were particularly interested in procurement Sections response to the challenges presented by Covid-19 pandemic.

The following areas are indicative of activity in this area. Competitive tendering on supply or the procurement office for the purpose of hand sanitisers, procurement of essential PPE for Wicklow County Council staff. Creation of a Covid-19 emergency response. Appropriate amendments to ensure that they are operational benefit from the value purchase card system. Enhanced monitoring of expenditure. Then moving on to our training day, Regulation 5 of the local government and regulation 2014, require the training needs of the other committee are reviewed on an annual basis and reported to the local authority. I can advise the members that the training about the event was held in November in collaboration with the institute of public administration and the key themes of this were Audit Committee functions, Audit Committee appraisal, annual operational plans, risk management, the role of audit committees in corporate governance. Audit Committee [INAUDIBLE]... regulation 13 of the committee regulation 2014 states that the other committee shall undertake annually a review of its own effectiveness and shall report to the local authority on its findings. The other committee was complied with this for the use of extensive evaluation questionnaire. I can confirm that the other committee books its business in accordance with the Local Government Audit Committee regulation 2014. So, Cathaoirleach, Annual

Work Programme, the committee's Annual Work Programme involves regular meetings throughout the year. The Annual Work Programme may be summarised as follows:

Periodic meetings as required to consider statutory regulations. Considerations of the annual audit plan. Meetings with the members of the Senior Management Team. Chairman's meeting with the Chief Executive, annual training day, review of the risk management system and consideration of internal audit report, including those prepared in connection with the public spending code. Consideration of reports issued by the National Audit Commission. Consideration of any departmental reports review, meeting with the local government auditor for the consideration of the annual statutory audit report. The Annual Work Programme is outlined above and submitted for adoption by the local authority in accordance with Section 9 of the Local Government Audit Committee regulation 2014.

In conclusion, I would like to thank you, and it's of the Wicklow County Council for their ongoing support and assistance and assure you of our ongoing commitment to the work of the Audit Committee. We acknowledge the continuous support of the Chief Executive, Mr. Frank Curran and we like to express our appreciation to Mr. Daragh McMahon. I would also like to thank Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Services, Brian Gleeson, Head of Finance for all of their support to us over the year, they have been great.

I would also like to take this opportunity, Cathaoirleach, to congratulate Lorraine Gallagher on her appointment as Director of Services and I look forward to working with her in the future. I like to take this opportunity to wish

the Chief Executive and his management team every success in their efforts in had the year ahead and particularly under the current circumstances. We look forward to working with you constructively towards the achievement of your objectives and to better times ahead.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Tom, thank you for the report. I know on behalf of myself and all of the members and indeed the management team we want to thank you and Noel and indeed Cllr M Kavanagh and Gerry Walsh and all the work you do on that committee and Mary Savage. I know Cllr Edward Timmins is looking to come in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you very much, Tom, for your report. I would like to compliment all of the members of the Audit Committee it's a challenging committee to be a member of and I would commend you on the work you have done.

Two points I would like to add. Firstly, it's very important that the Audit Committee gets full support from the management and it is getting support from the management, but plenty of support is given in relation to resources.

The Audit Committee is only as good as the resources it is given, and the resources given to the people to do the internal audits. So that is the information that you are working on. I, I like to ensure that there is plenty of resources coming. It's an important committee, it may look like a boring committee when you hear the word 'audit ' as a founding member it's far from boring and it's a very important committee. Just finally then, just a development contribution scheme, could I ask that we continue to focus on that? It's a very difficult area, but just that we focus on it and maximise that

Wicklow County Council received all of the money that is due over the last few years. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anyone else want to come in on this? Chief Executive did you want to say something?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No, I just wanted to thank the Audit Committee for the work they have done. I meet them once a year as does the local government auditor and the consultants, we have employed to do the internal audits. They ask all the right questions and are very thorough and I want to thank them for our work. It's good from our point of view to have such a professional Audit Committee in place.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Tom, thank you, if there is anything else you want to say before you go, I will give you a minute there.

TOM: I am fine, Cathaoirleach, that is great and sure look we will talk again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Please God, stay safe and send our thanks to Noel and Mary and Mary Savage and Gerry Walsh and Mary Kavanagh.

TOM: I must say it's a pleasure working with these people on the committee, absolutely great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Tom. Item number 14 on our agenda is to receive a presentation from Deborah Meaghan on the Avondale Project. This is a present I am most looking forward to as well. So, Deborah, I hope you are with us?

DEBORAH: I am going to try and share my screen. Let's go for the technology and hopefully you can see it. All going well the presentation should come up. Can you see it now?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

DEBORAH: Thank you very much for your time this afternoon. To yourself and the Executive and all of the members of the Council, delighted to be with you. I am going to give you a quick overview of where we are at Avondale. We are at a very exciting junction in the project. We would be slightly more excited if the Covid restrictions had lifted in March, we are on the cusp of starting this project and this is to just to update the council where we are. We want to remind the County Council as to the project itself. Avondale Forest Park is the home of Irish forestry, the home of the Parnells.

Samuel Hayes was the originally developer of the forest. It's an important forest park for Coillte and for Wicklow as well. It's a park which has been a little unloved to be fair. We are looking forward to redeveloping it and bringing it into the 21st century and really creating a destination for, not only for the people in Wicklow, but for everyone in Ireland and to bring in international tourists when the time is right. There is a number of different parts to the development.

The first piece is obviously around the house itself and we will be doing some restoration work in the house and turning it into a living history. Traditionally people will have remembered the house as a more traditional museum, walking around and guided tours. We are hoping to turn it into a much more interactive space where you get to meet and greet and talk with the Parnell family and all of the amazing stories associated with that family and the house itself. So, it's a living history and a much more interactive way to enjoy Avondale House itself. We are also looking at creating inside the walled garden is a new forestry provision which will showcase cutting edge of technology, the history of forestry that we have and look at it as an education space on areas

such as climate change and biodiversity. So, again, education and nature are a key piece as we go forward, particularly with the variety of trees and the nature in the park itself. So, it's a perfect opportunity to engage in these topics that are so relevant today. We will be building a new Seed Cafe in between the old store house and the big shed. The big piece of that is piece behind the walled garden. We are going to reimagine that, put in playgrounds and pathways. So again, it becomes very much a useable space as part of the Avondale Park. Then, again, I suppose the piece de resistance is going to be our treetop walk. So really engaging people in nature. This is about going up into the trees, through the trees, below the trees. There will be a tunnel section and eventually up to our viewing tower, which will bring people right through the forest to the top of the canopy. We are going to have beautiful 360-degree views of Wicklow from there. So again, it really is, there is a number of different key elements and between ourselves and our strategic partner, Failte Ireland, it's been in the making for a number of years.

We are very excited; I suppose the last 12 months no one needs to mention the challenges that have been here. We have to be optimistic and look to the forward. If nothing else, we have discovered how important the great outdoors is to our physical and mental wellbeing. I think Avondale provides a wonderful opportunity to leverage what is the park there. We have over 500 acres was beautiful estate to enjoy.

I am going to run through. There are a few slides here. Most is just pictures and to describe the development as we go through. So, as I said, we are already looking at the likes of branding it and we are something like Beyond the Trees creating an experience to last in Avondale, where it's not just about the trees,

it's about the history of Avondale House and nature and engagement and creating a wonderful space and hopefully opportunities for events and other developments to happen on the site.

So, it really is, it's more than just the Forest Park as was. It's a much more enhanced visitor attraction, so what we are looking at, if you can see the map in front of me. I am not sure if you can see my cursor. You have Avondale House to the centre of the picture. To the left is where the development works are happening. We will be, as I said, reimagining the walled garden. To bringing it back into life and having a market garden section in that that will source some of patriot dues for the Seed Cafe. So again, we have a double-fronted large cafe, a meeting area and that will lead out on to a terrace into the walled garden. There will be a number of different accesses into the walled garden, but we will be creating a new walkway from the existing car park, you see it in yellow, into that kind of main courtyard of the working buildings we have. There will be an orientation space where people can get ticketing and orientated on the site on what is available and then the cafe and meeting spaces. At the end of the walled garden, you will see again in purple that is the start of the treetop walk. There are a couple of different elements. It will go over what was originally called Lover's Leap, but we will be renaming it Lover's Look Out. A key piece here is the different types of trees we have in Avondale. This walk will highlight that and that is what is exciting about the treetop walk here is the different forms of nature. There will be educational pieces on it, interactive elements to the treetop walk, I won't ruin the surprise and ultimately it comes down to the viewing tower which will bring you up through the canopy. That is where the main work will be happening and a point I will

make at the end, through all of this development The Forest Park will remain open.

Obviously, key areas will be closed at certain times, but it's quite contained within this top section of the park. For those of you familiar with Avondale there is lots of other tracks and trails and they will all remain open during the development works. We talk about the Seed Cafe, this is a few down on it, if you look down you will see the big shed and then to the left the L-shaped building that is the old Courtyard and the original seed store. Where we are talking about the new Seed Cafe is in between those two buildings. Fronting on to the walled garden. This is a visual representation, but again there will be paths and tracks and trails through the walled garden. It's a double-heighted fronted cafe. The cafe will be on the ground floor and on the top floor it's a meet and greet and seated area. Again, with all of the services and facilities you would expect. And inside, again, a key piece here is going to be showcasing Irish timber. As you can imagine, it's a Coillte project, we are looking forward to using Irish timber throughout this project. Particularly on the treetop walk we are looking at sourcing some of the Douglas firs right here in Wicklow.

So, sustainability is at the heart of this development, we will have solar panels making sure the buildings are as efficient as possible and again keeping as much material and hopefully employing people on this site will be local people from the area, so again it's hugely important, as an economic stimulus to the Rathdrum area and the wider Wicklow area. We will move on to show you the old seed stores.

That is to the right of the cafe. Part of these will be converted into the offices for the operator. To the right-hand side we are going to create another gallery, crafting space and this small Courtyard, we are taking down some of the older buildings in the back wall will provide opportunities for farmers' markets and different events. So, bringing the space back into use and having it as a multifunctional space that can be used for a variety of different events that can be held there.

Again, you might see looking to the right-hand side there is a small garden. That will be a sensory garden, a quiet smaller space to create a sensory garden for people who need a little bit of time out. As we move on, just to the Coillte Pavilion that is going to be inside the walled garden. You will see it in the lower right-hand photograph. It's a wooden structure. The idea here is showcasing technology about technology, the history of forestry and really what is current here we are talking about climate change and biodiversity. It's a multifunctional space so it can be used for meetings and small gatherings and lectures. Trying to make everything we do in Avondale have that ability to fit many purposes and uses throughout its lifetime. At home with the Parnells. It's a light touch restoration on the house. We will be putting in, doing work on the wiring, on the heating system in there and again it's just making it, as I said, you know your traditional museum was don't touch, don't sit, don't do anything, this is more about going in and interacting with the house and interacting with the history. When you talk about the Parnell, his centres Annie and Fanny and the role that they played in the Women's League and throughout history how this house and land has played a fundamental role in developing Irish history and basically Irish democracy. We want to bring that to life and really engage with people.

There will be a history element to it, we still have the American room there, so we will have more of that historical museum piece in the upstairs but the downstairs becoming that living history. The treetop walks. This is, we spent a lot of time in 2020 redesigning it, bringing in an expert, EAK from Germany. Really trying to create something that no one will have seen in Ireland before. The walkway, as I said, will be in total, from the start of the walk at the end of the walled garden to the top of the viewing gallery will be about 1.2km in length. The fully accessible. All of the gradients are less than 6% and really the key thing here is about making it a real integral part of the forest, showing off the Irish forest and it was interesting when we did have, we managed to get a brief visit of German designers over before Christmas before the lockdown again and what they found was amazing in Avondale compared to some of their European installations is the variety of trees we have in Avondale and showing off those different trees. It's a key feature to the new walkway and making it interactive and making it follow up and educational. I think ultimately coming to the tower, as you see it, at the centre. Obviously, this is a, it's not a photo, it's a visual representation of the tower, but it's going to be completely surrounded by trees at the top of the great ride. So, this is just to help you see it. As you said you go around at a very gentle gradient all the way up to the top of the tower. You go right then to the tree canopy and there you have some magnificent. We had a drone up there, beautiful 360 views of Wicklow, right into the Wicklow Mountains. For those who like fun there is a slide to take you all the way back down if you want to, or you simply walk back down the ramp. This will be both an architectural piece of timber structure in the middle of the forest, but really showing off the forest that we have and bringing people to see the forest from a position you very rarely see which is sitting on top of the

canopy. So, we are excited about that. This is the company that we are working with, EAK. They are going to help design and operate the treetop walk, they have built a number of them around Europe. They have about 12 in operation, and they are developing new ones in the US. So again, they are absolute experts at this. We have been working closely, as said, looking and sourcing Irish timber to put into the structures and to engage with them on the education piece, making it very relevant to the Irish context and very much to Avondale itself.

So, as I said, if you were to, the visual representation on the left, but where it is going to be tucked in right at the top of the Great Ride in the middle of a eucalyptus stand. But the idea is that the tower is right in the middle of the woodland and you journey through the wood, above the wood and come up above the canopy itself.

Just on the Arboretum. Avondale, I have mentioned it, magnificent forest park, a lot of magnificent species and different trees. A key piece of the work we are going to be doing as part of this work is the forest management plan for Avondale. I suppose Avondale, there hasn't been a huge amount of work carried out on the forest in Avondale, a lot of the planting dates back to the 1900s, where there really has been very little development of young forest underneath. So again, we have brought in two experts, end pent experts, Dr. Michael Carey and Nick Keane who have done a detailed report to look to see what needs to happen to the forest in Avondale to ensure it survives and thrives for hundreds of years to come.

So again, we will be doing work on the forest thinning it out, to allow natural regeneration of the various different stands of timber we have in there. Some will need some underplanting. There is a lot of invasive species, there is a lot of laurel there, that covers the forest floor, so we can have that regeneration underneath. So, we have various different age profiles to ensure the survival of the forest in the future. There will be a small amount of clear felling where we are taking out the Norway spruce and the Sitka. That is what Avondale was about when it started. Have you these trial plots and 55 species of trees and we are looking at introducing when they think about climate change and what is it, we should be growing in Ireland into the future? So, providing fantastic opportunities for science and again forestry looking forward as to how we develop.

That is a key piece of this, it's not just about the recreation side of the development, but it's making sure we protect and enhance the forest park itself.

So, we will also look at the track trails. Again, a fantastic array of tracks and trails. We don't plan to increase a huge amount, but maybe upgrade some of them. Very much improve the signage. I know it's easy to get lost in Avondale if you are not familiar. Looking at that, the signage, doing some interactive play throughout the forest itself. So that is a full experience and people can come and enjoy the woodlands, whether it's the river walk, the cycle tracks and again making sure it's very accessible and very understandable for people when they come to the forest park. At the moment, as I said, there is signage there, but it really needs to come up a standard. We will be working on that through the year.

Finally, just to say a project update. We have all of the planning, we amended the planning through 2020, so all of the consents are in place from quarter 4 of 2020. Ray Jordan is the project manager. Rogerson and Reddan are our project management. EAK are the walk developers and Sisk will be our main contractor. We had hoped to start construction towards the end of March, but due to current restrictions that won't happen. We look forward to the Government lifting the restrictions and progressing this project. In the meantime, again we are doing up a new kind of information slides. Again, what is on site at the moment is out of date and we will be putting up new information boards, talking about not only the forest management and the redevelopment, but just informing people of the timeline of the project.

Our hope is, depending on Covid restrictions we will look to open in spring of 2022. Ourselves in Failte Ireland are keen to get the site up and running and we think based on what has been clear the demand for outdoor recreation and people to get back to nature. Whether there are international tourists or not, I know there is a huge market in Ireland alone to what Avondale can offer not only to the local community but to the broader community in Ireland. As I said, the park will remain open in the development and limit the impact as works progress on the forest and the redevelopment of the Seed Cafe.

That is, it. A bit of a whistlestop tour. I hope I didn't rattle through too quickly. I wanted to give you an overall sense of where we are with the project.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thanks Deborah, I'll wait for the members to get on to the screen so we can see them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Deborah, I'd like to say a few words on it myself, being from someone from the area and someone who grew up amongst those trees in Avondale, every other week I was in Avondale and still am, I very much welcome the redevelopment of Avondale. It is going to mean so much, so much to the community, it is going to mean so much to the old, retired foresters to see the activity there, and from talking to them, they'll enjoy the new experience of Avondale, so they are.

I also want to thank you Deborah for the engagement that all the members of Coillte, undertook with the community, when you were starting this process, not only did you have information evenings but called to the neighbours all along the road, and they were all, all had full buy-in, and there's a great excitement if that's the way to put it in the town for this development to start. And I think people will want-to-it started but not only will they want it started, as soon as it is started, they want it finished because they won't be able to wait to get into it. Cllr Shay Cullen cull wants to come in first, are you there.

CLLR CULLEN: Thank you, and Deborah, thanks again for the presentation, do you great work and on all Coillte projects so I must commend you on that. A couple of questions I suppose in terms of the tracks and trails that are available in Avondale at the moment, you were saying there would be some work to maybe upgrade those, I suppose they're so popular in terms of running and walking and family exercise, I think that's imperative that is probably one of the first things if possible, to be upgraded. My second point is, the whole connectivity to Avondale, we know the road network isn't

wonderful from Rathdrum to Avondale and I want to comment, commend the Cathaoirleach, he had the initiative to and get involved in a footpath from Avondale to Rathdrum or Rathdrum to Avondale but I suppose, I envisaged this to be a huge, hugely popular venue and I'm a little concerned about the road structure network in and around the Avondale site whether that's, you know capable of taking possibly the amount of traffic that would be on the road when this opens up. And my third point is charging for the activities, I suppose I just want to, I'd like to make the point we're going to expect a lot of families and a lot of family visits to Avondale and make sure that in terms of charging for activities that is affordable for families because at the end of the day we're looking to attract people, not only to Avondale but to Wicklow as a county and that's something I'd be strong in terms of the value for money experience that families would have. So, once again, well done, and really, really look forward to it, I'm keen on the whole tree-top experience so looking forward to it all and well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Deborah, I'll take them in threes if you don't mind, Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks Deborah, I remember your presentation last year and particularly being restricted to 5K, I can't wait to get down to Avondale myself. Second the question on charging and being a parent of young kids myself it is really important that certain, I understand you have to charge into certain activities, but a large part of the park will remain open to ramble around. That would be important. On the upgrading of tracks and trails, and I'd know why they need to be done but make the point I hope that would be done

with environmentally sensitive material, and not just slapping down a pile of cement in our lovely forest, and the tree top walk and education piece on trees and the fact you're minding the forest and rehabilitating forest, that's so well and the fact getting families and people up to really value the nature that as much as they're going to enjoy and participate activities to value nature and hopefully learn about minding it will be valuable as well.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks Deborah are for the presentation and Cathaoirleach because my family connections I spend a lot of time in the country there, and they're showing their integrated, multifunctional educational outdoor spaces and it is great to see I'll show off something in the future and Cllr Shay Cullen asked a question I was going to ask about the whole infrastructure and importance of joined up thinking about maximising this absolutely breath-taking opportunity that we have. So yeah to comment on that and how important that is, and again, Cathaoirleach, I'm sure, you would be familiar with this, about you it is so valuable to see how the county operates in terms of the LCDC and leader funding where we're funding project who are also may become assets for the outdoor educational stuff like outing and initiative coming there so the potential for coming up of all the actions and activities of the council could bring this to a whole other level but fantastic presentation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Deborah, before I bring you in, and can you come in then, but I'll ask director Colm Lavery in relation to the roads, because I know he will be up to speed with that. And then I'll come

back to you is that all right. You're on mute.

COLM: Yeah, I suppose we have spoken before in relation to the roads infrastructure, and obviously it would require some upgrading in terms both of surface and maybe there's a requirement for an additional footpath as well. I've looked at the road when I was out on site. The main issue is around coaches that will be travelling in to the park and obviously the road as it is at the moment is two-way but my understanding is that it is proposed that it will be a one-way system within the park itself. And that coaches will be allowed to travel one way on the road in particular, but we agreed we'll work with Coillte to come up with a solution that best suits getting people in and out of the visitor attraction. Like everyone else we expect that it is going to be very popular, and it is going to attract a lot of tourism and the last thing that we want is to create a traffic problem in the area. We're also looking at how best to connect Avondale back into Rathdrum and we're looking at various improvements in Rathdrum as well.

Both in terms of the main street and the public realm within the town. We're also putting in at the moment a crossing across the main road to connect a pedestrianised crossing to connect Rathdrum to Avondale, so we continue to work with Coillte and the members of Arklow Municipal District to improve the roads infrastructure around Avondale. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, and just at this point, Colm I want to thank you for the interest you have taken and the work you've done here.

DEBORAH: Welcome to Colm and support of the council and reiterate there will be a one-way system in and out of Avondale for the tourist traffic, the main road in and out will remain as a two-way road but the idea is you'll drive in through the main gate into the car park and creating and a new exit on the back road that will leads on beyond and re-joins the Rathdrum road so the tourist traffic will flow in one direction so should limit any significant impact on the main road in and out of Avondale, particularly as residents, that will remain two way so a lot of thought has gone into that so it works well, the situation in Glendalough, one way in and out does create challenges and we worked hard to ensure that's not the case of Avondale. Tracks and trails, upgrade, I was running in there over the last few years and sometimes as a runner, you want the muddy trails and it is fantastic and I love it but there's trails we need to sure they're fully accessible, family cycling and disabled access and having the challenging trails where you don't want a proper big path U you want the interaction with nature, rough and muddy trail so we're looking at all of that, but the plan isn't to build signatories it is work with what we have because there's lovely wild trails in Avondale and to maintain those, and getting back to the pointed that Lourda brought up the park remains open, it is open forest policy in Coillte so people to go in and enjoy the park it is there as a public amenity and always will be there. We are obviously will be the two main paid attractions and that's going to be the living history in the house and tree top walk. The walled garden people will access, this isn't going to be the private realm of the cafe or anything like that, everywhere else will be free and people will access the park as they do today.

So, it is really those two elements which they do need, there's costs to run and build them, overall, I suppose the investment in Avondale if you combine both the works of Coillte doing and EAK with the tree top walk you're talking about 15 million investment so it has to be commercially sustainable, we're not looking fund but we're looking for a site that self-sustains itself and generates a small income to generate in the park itself. There was a question with regard to the nature and that education piece and that is absolutely fundamental. We think this fantastic opportunity to for people to engage with that I fewer, I have a new team of ecologist and we've done a biodiversity management plan and everything from how we take out the laurel and look at the impact of that and how we'll thin the trees because we need, I know people will hear a chain saw, the trees need to be thinned and young trees growing up, multi-age vibrant forest in Avondale so that's why we brought in the two independent experts to bring up the management plan. Every Forrester will watch what we do because it is such an important history of sites. Especially for the Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, I want to commend you ionizability and inclusion that's clearly gone on when you look at the different elements of the project and make sure the greatest number of people in our community have access to t there's one area I wondered had there been considered, there was talk previously and that's about put ago Changing Places in the Facilities and Cllr Miriam Murphy has raised this, it is something as county of wide level we're looking at and if you could comment whether that's been included in the plans, that would be great.

DEBORAH: We are made sure there's a space big you have and

designed an accessibility toilet in the outbuildings for that, what we don't have, I don't have in my budget is to fit it out as a changing place, but it has been designed to scale and scale it is there, and can be done, so we have considered that as part of the plans yes.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: That's the first step.

CLLR WALSH: Yeah, just again, thanks Deborah for the presentation, hugely exciting project and going to be a much-anticipated addition to the Wicklow, but my question has been asked, I take it the one-way system that you referred to will apply to the construction stage of the project as well, for construction traffic as well.

CLLR KENNEDY: Cllr Paul O'Brien I want to help the project, as someone walked in the treetops in South Africa, I want to welcome it, Avoca river, have you plans to incorporate the plans in this, as someone who frequences there with the dogs it is a beautiful park there's scenery down there and old buildings covered over, along the way as well so, it would be interesting to see something done with the walking trails down there as well.

DEBORAH: On the construction traffic, obviously we need to build a new access road out of the park so again that will all be part of the construction management plan so initially we will have to in and out of the front gate until we build the extension of the car park and exit out of the estate so we will work with construction team with Sisk with that and inclusive min mise the local residents in the area, but luckily we have a huge amount of space to work with here so it shouldn't be too disruptive, Avon more river, the river walk, so separate to this project I do know the design, someone sent e-mail

there's a bridge going past the rugby club that will connect the castle so ultimately you will be able to walk from Lara, and get all the way into Avondale so that walk will be completed into Avondale which I think is absolutely fantastic, it is a stunning walk, I totally agree. And again, but it is a wild walk, what we would like is maintained as the wild walk, this is not a place where we want to build a large trail, we want people to go down through the woods and because you have to cross the river it is a challenging walk. But, yeah, absolutely, so, that's, one thing we're looking forward to is we will have a direct link not only through the train station, but we also talk through infrastructure and again it will be seeing how we again can attract people on day visits come by train and walk into Avondale because there's a path directly into Avondale from the railway station. So, yeah, there is plans for that, and we look forward to getting tag second bridge built to connect to the castle.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you. One of the most interesting things to me about Avondale park was the mature trees planted as specimen trees and next to them as forest trees the same type of tree and I just, would like to see that sort of side is emphasised, it is unusual to see mature trees in that contrast, so I hope that's preserved.

Cllr Peir Leonard I just want to commend you as it is fantastic, I've been liaising and part of a another project that would connect into this lovely with Cllr Pat Kennedy we're working to harbour to head project with the east rivers trust whom I'm a board member of, in relation to it I'd love to tie in with you to link them together and there was a fantastic presentation by a gentleman called Coly

McLoughlin about the ancient forests along the river and it could tie in with the whole educational viewpoint of Coillte and the forest and biodiversity and everything. And just in relation to using this timber that's fantastic but wondering could I maybe put a little bit of pressure on to use locally sourced paving and stuff instead of importing paving from China and you know to look at local crafters as well and stonemasons and incorporate that as much as possible into the plan. Thanks.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks chair and Deborah for her presentation today, it is very exciting news and definitely going to be a game-changer for Rathdrum and for Wicklow. I just have a couple of questions - I think the answered one of them but just want to have reiterate position with regard to just casual Walkers who go there regularly to walk, I'm assuming they won't be charged, and it will still remain a public amenity. With regard to the trees, I'm wondering if there are any old historic trees there, such as there are in Cool Park where WB Yates and lady Gregory and people like that used to sit around and carve their initials in, I'm wondering if there are old historic trees related to Charles Stewart panel, maybe photographed beside and whoever he was visiting and just hope they would be preserved if possible. I suppose you can't really give us a completion date because of COVID-19, and I just wish the project well and hopefully it won't be too long before we're all going out there.

Deborah: Absolutely, maybe touch on the trees and getting back to Cllr Derek Mitchell's comment, this is about protecting the trees, there are magnificent trees throughout the estate and we will look

to thin some out to let new generation come up and we will be looking to have a strong robust forest, we have a number, like 26 Irish champion trees, 12 UK and Ireland champion trees in the estate, these are well known and marked and we absolutely preserved as part of this, so it does, Avondale has incredible heritage of mature and champion trees so that's part of the forest plan we brought in Mick Kean to ensure the preservation of those, so that's part of the forest management plan to protect those trees but it is looking at the broader landscape within the park and bringing and making sure the arbitration is there in the future. There will be a small of clear fell taking out newer commercial trees and develop new trial plots so Avondale, there's 55 different species of trees broadly conifers and they were laid out in different plots to see how they grew in Ireland and we hope to do that as part of the project, to introduce new trial plots and look at forestry for the future, there's a key element is maintaining and enhancing the forest within Avondale. Going back to Cllr Peir Leonard's question around connecting walks, absolutely we have local trail officer, and he's been involved with the connection over at the castle and the river walk so happy to talk to you after this about that. Again, this is all about people have really discovered how important the outdoors is and walk amenities are for everybody at the moment so the more we can have the better we have the trails linked through Coillte sites or anybody else's land, that is something we should work towards so happy to discuss that.

And the Walkers piece again, as today, the forest is open again, we will be putting in a car park, they will be charging the annual cars but

anybody from Rathdrum, they can walk in Avondale as we can with any forest parks, and it cost you nothing. We will reduce the charge the car park, and annual passes is 40 a year, but if you're walking in from Rathdrum there's no charge to use it, and never has been and won't in the future.

CLLR KENNEDY: Two more speakers looking to come in.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks for the presentation, it sounds brilliant. I was particularly impressed with the management piece in terms of sustainability approach to using local timber and local employment. Was that part of your criteria award for the procurement of the project?

>>: Yes, the procurement obviously is based on public procurement, we go through a standard process of advertisement to OG and so on, but key piece we're doing with the likes of EAK is working with Irish timber and our own foresters, there's a bit of competition in Coillte to source the beautiful Douglas, and Wicklow team are playing an absolute blinder in pack making sure we have structural stuff sourced in Wicklow so you know it is about we want to showcase this, is Coillte, this is a view to what Irish timber can do and our beautiful forest, so again, we're doing everything in our power, within procurement constraints to ensure we do that.

And again, working with Sisk, they want to work with us on these issues, I can't say everything will be sourced and locally provided in Wicklow, that's never the case but we're doing as much work as we did can, to ensure it is local.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thanks for the presentation, exciting days for Avondale. Just wondering, some people were offer the impression there might be a playground as part of this project is that still the case and could you confirm that?

>>: Of course, absolutely. So, we have, you know where we have the playground at the moment, we will be moving a playground into the walled garden, and again it makes it a safe place where kids people can sit in the garden and know their kids are corralled to as much as you want them in a formal playground, but we're looking at interactive play throughout the estate itself. Wooden timber to climb on, proper natural play areas throughout the estate but will be a formal one in the walled garden but natural play areas in and around the estate as well.

CLLR KENNEDY: Just before I let you go, and I will he give the Chief Executive the last word because I know he's very interested in this redevelopment. Just to acknowledge the work that the foresters do out there, and also assayed earlier on the way you kept the community informed all the way through the whole process, when you are starting the construction, there's not that many houses from Saville Seas Cross to Avondale maybe call to those again and let them know when you are he starting, one of the former for rest managers lived beside the gates I introduced that to him and maybe call to the houses to keep the people up to speed and I know Barry and Tom and Jasper do all great work out there. I'll bring in the Chief Executive in to give him the final word.

Chief Executive: It is extremely welcome from a tourist point of view and I can see whole generations of school tours going there from education point of view, and it will be hugely successful, I'm looking to know that a grant of 8 million is the largest grant that Failte Ireland has ever given out, they have a strategic relationship with Coillte natural parks and wildlife and ourselves so you don't have to go through a competitive process for the grants so that's bodes well in the study of Glendalough and National Park, I was hoping to tap into that funding, so congratulations to you and Coillte, it is a great project and best of luck with it.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you very much for your time for being with us, we look forward to the start and we definitely look forward to the finish, our best wishes to awful the team developing Avondale thank you.

>>: Thanks very much indeed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item is to receive a presentation in the county welcome low outdoor strategy 2020 to 25 and was deferred in February and we have Humphrey with us are you with us today.

>>: I am indeed.

>>: Thank you, we look forward to your presentation.?

>>: Thank you. I'll share the screen then.

HUMPHREY: First of all, thank you very much for inviting me here today to go through the strategy. And I suppose, there's a couple of key elements within it. This current strategy again didn't appear from out of the blue, it is built on previous recreation strategies and

I'll go through that and the consultation process to that reengage with the members of the community and various other agencies and so on. I suppose then the final part of the presentation will look at what does the strategy say and where is it bringing us. But the key theme that runs through the entire strategy is this one of value. So, valuing the outdoors and valuing outdoor recreation in Wicklow in particular. The first strategy, existing strategy, 2009 that was first strategy in the country around outdoor recreation and led to a number of specific outcomes and one of the importance was development of Wicklow outdoor recreation committee and that brings together the various agencies who were involved in landownership and outdoor recreation in general, it's proven to be effective means for our forum for those different organisations and points of view to gather and to look at what is needed within the county and then to realise the development of outdoor recreation. Part of that process, and as part of the wider partnership agenda that's come about within recreation in County Wicklow, again organisations such as uplands partnership where the landowners and various other organisations involved in the uplands and recreation uses there's interaction in order to head off problems and come up with good sluice solutions there's various others as well, County Wicklow is the first county to put together a set of guidelines for events, we're looking at the Suas came and Blueway water based concept emanating from County Wicklow and will stretch down to Wexford and border of Cork.

Currently as well, there's a lot of animation taking place and animation I suppose is a nice way of getting people active in the

outdoors, beyond simply putting in infrastructure. So, the Wicklow Tourism Wicklow local sports and recreation partnership and Wicklow rural recreation is involved, and local people to engage in the outdoors in their neighbourhood.

The central element to this entire story of outdoor recreation of the county are the landowners. Without access to the land, through Coillte or the National Parks, but also primarily with local landowners and farmers there's no outdoor recreation in the county and we continue to rely on their generosity and the generosity and forbearance of the communities that host outdoor recreation participants, volunteers and organisations that support that access and indeed work in areas such as repairing trails and so on. Now, that outdoor recreation strategy of 2009-2014 was present as we see a host of other strategies that point to the outdoors as being fundamental to their agendas, if it is the health agenda, heritage, sustainable transport, biodiversity, they point to the outdoors as being this is where these things happen where their agendas can be met as well. So, County Wicklow will fix the right approach in terms of the strategic approach and also, we're seeing the other national strategies and so on, more or less following the same agenda. And the challenge now is not so much as it was back then-to-of highlighting the value of the potential of the outdoors in County Wicklow the challenge has shifted and this I suppose is one of the key themes and focus of the new strategy, the challenge is now managing that volume of use and the diversity of use in the outdoors within the county. There's increasingly number of events held here and diverse range of activities taking place, and again, this is leading

to points and pressures on the host communities and on to the infrastructure. And what was coming through from the research, where a number of themes, avoiding the overload, making sure the landowners and communities aren't being overloaded with the pressure of outdoor recreation participants, likewise the place has the infrastructure and environment that's used that equally is treated with respect.

And also, then there should be benefit, that the communities that people that live in the areas should have the communities and the motivation to take part in the outdoors as well. And also, then this ongoing issue of maintaining and improving the quality of what's on offer. And one of the key themes again that's popped up, is the extent to which the local economy is benefiting from the outdoors. Again, the consultation identifies a number of concerns from the commercial and also from the communities, that a lot of money was spent out on the M50 by visitors, they buy sandwiches and patrolling and so on and into County Wicklow but not necessarily spend in the local economy and how do we improve that and change not just the practical issues but culture. How do we create local multiplies from a direct recreation? And this is consistent with the tourism strategy for the county of increasing the tourism spend in the area. When we talk then about the community benefiting from outdoors, it is things like the key issues popping up were more village trails Maces to walk off the road close to the small communities likewise cycleways more water access for activities on the water. Levels of inclusion, more diversity of activities and places to go to, and again water sports and again having more of a community centred, valuing the visitors more

outdoor recreation opportunities for those communities, particularly for the outline areas. And again, those opportunities are affordable and close by.

So, the strategy identifies in broad terms three, Wicklow is wonderful, there was no complaint about what is on offer in the county. The challenges though are and again you will be aware there's a pressure demand on those locations, not just in terms of the hosts, but also on the ecosystem that is provide the basis of the outdoor recreation experience itself. But also, then it is untapped potential and number of tracks, places, locations, and amenities that aren't being used to the extent they could be, and how do we tap into that. This then is the strategy, in essence there, are four key pillars within the strategy, planning side, increasing awareness, awareness not just of the location but responsibility, resources required and how do we animate that. The strategy identifies then some key actions around those. Again, looking at more outdoor recreation hubs and clusters throughout the county, more marine and water opportunities, I suppose the structure strategic approach to managing and increasing trails, increased spend on public transport links and infrastructure and working with the neighbouring counties around outdoor recreation, particularly the Dublin hills. Again, generally more awareness, not just in terms of environmental or physical awareness but cultural awareness of what people should be doing when they come into the county, such as spending money locally and so on. Having agreed a world view in terms of how we can develop outdoor recreation in the county, and to manage those relationships and again working, continuing to work with the

communities and businesses and enterprises in the county. Again, resources, there's a portfolio of projects that have been identified that can be delivered as part of this strategy, prioritising those and having targets around them and again the training needs required in order to deliver outdoor recreation effectively. And indeed, an important element then is the staff required for that strategy to be delivered. And then continuation of the animation, that everybody is outdoors, particularly in the, from the local community there's outdoor recreation timetable and a lot of work being done in this area and it is about continuity, really of a lot of the work that the County Wicklow outdoor recreation, sports and recreation partnership are doing at the moment. So, at the far end, the strategy when it is delivered should result in these key themes, or these cross-cutting areas, there should be a greater level of participation but dispersed around the county. And also, more data on what type of participation, where it is and taking place and more inclusion for people with disabilities.

There could be a greater range of infrastructure. Improved public transport and parking and also, more retail and commercial activities to benefit from outdoor recreation participation. Continuing to manage the brand, and the perspective of what people have around Wicklow, the growth in marine based activities and commercial and club level. And then also, that we should see economic return at local level from the development of outdoor recreation within the county.

And again, for this to happen we're looking again at more skill settles agencies being involved, collaborating on the realisation of the

strategy, the ownership and the staff that are required in order to deliver the various elements of strategy, expertise and then, this significant challenge of securing 20 million of resources, to deliver strategy over the next five years. And again, formalised structure or rather further formality to the structure with what exists and current people who are involved in the outdoors in the county, what's being asked by the strategy extends beyond that, it is clear that a dedicated member of staff, take responsibility and lead out and prioritise the various aspect of this strategy. That's more or less me folks, I don't know if there's thoughts, questions or comments on the proposed outdoor strategy for the county.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, I'll wait until I see the screen back. Great. Thanks for the presentation, I'm going to bring in director Michael Nicholson first.

MICHAEL: Thank you Cathaoirleach, just want to that I Humphrey for all his work and consultation producing excellent report. Also want to thank Carol without whose help would be possible and mention the Wicklow outdoor committee who tear steered us through this whole consultation period and produced a fabulous document, it is a great document to have for our outdoor recreation scheme applications and others we will make in years to come when you have a document like this it gives great weight to any application we make. So, I hope now we can make this to bring more money into the county and that's it Chair, just to thank you everyone involved in this, it is a great piece of work.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you director.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And thanks Humphrey for your presentation and Carol and Michael and all the team and committee that's involved. I suppose as somebody who lives in the uplands area and has a very serious interest in everything to do with recognition creation, I suppose I'm getting increasingly concerned about the landowner situation. And Humphrey mentioned we're dependent on the generosity of landowners, but I'm getting the impression that landowners are taken for granted and we're on a slippery slope we're on if not addressed. One way to address this is the walk scheme that's available and that's primarily able to landowners and around the Wicklow way, we're opening up an awful lot more walkways around the county that aren't connected to the Wicklow way but as far as I'm aware the walk scheme isn't generally available to those people so, I'm asking, in some shape or form the outdoor recreation committee, put forward some sort of presentation to Government to try and extend the walk scheme to bring more and more landowners into the net because at the end of the day, unless we bring the landowners on board, and give them a reason to commit to opening up their land, you know why would they, you'd have to ask yourself why would they get involved. I suppose, the second point, we're all very clear that Wicklow is a playground for the population of Dublin, and we see, summer after summer, where we need extra facilities, particularly in and around parking. And Humphrey mentioned the economy and the spinoff for the economy. Well, I think we need to plan for the economy, and what I mean by that is we need to make it easy for landowners and people on the routes of trails you know if they want to open up a

Café or bike hire or camping or glamping or something like that, we need from a planning point of view to make it easier for that to happen. I speak to landowners every other day of the week with regards to walks and different facilities and the one thing they will say to me is there's no point me looking for planning, it won't be given so there's a fear for landowners to get involved. And I think we have to overcome that. And, you know, we have a fantastic product in Wicklow in terms of what we can offer people, but we have to open it up and think I suppose that phrase "think outside the box" but I really feel we can do so much more in Wicklow so there are my thoughts on that.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thanks, just one observation, I just wanted to say, looking at the delivery themes I would have liked to have seen preserving the ecosystem as one of the delivery themes ace long side with all of them. That's just my small comment thank you.

JOHN: Hubs, you have 20 million additional spend I presume that's additional spend on monies committed, especially green ways, they will be multimillion project, so a break down on that, there was initiatives, a Government announcement on additional staff to deliver outdoor recreational tourism in Ireland and I presume Wicklow will be at the heart of that and I just wonder, I know I've been on to Michael Nicholson about that, is there confirmation on the additional staff and allocation made towards Wicklow?

And then, just on the landowner consultation, I agree 100% with Cllr Shay Cullen but landowner consultation is key, I've been involved in managing trails in Tinahely for ten years and we deal with landowners every day, I want to see the consultation, particularly as

the season kicks back in, like trail standardisation all that type of thing, and finally, county development plan, regards to the shortage of, short-term accommodation, how does the strategy interplay with that to make sure we can deliver short-term accommodation for people who actually want to stay in the county, we obviously want more people to stay in the county as they enjoy the trails throughout the county.

CAROL: Yes. I'm actually, taking some of these questions and then if you have questions around the process and creating the strategy and research, then I'll ask Humphrey and there's one question I'll ask Michael. I'll address the ones I can. So, yeah, Cllr Shay Cullen I completely agree with you with the landowner situation and the fact the walk scheme has been limited the Wicklow way, we have the St Kevin's way, we have trail expectation inspections on Friday morning and waiting on those, two landowners there, and there is a review under way of the walk scheme at the moment, and the hope is that the outcome of that will be a further extension of the walk scheme and also further allocation of rural recreational officers as needed. Because different counties have a different need and Wicklow is pretty high.

Yeah, and also, one of my parts of the strategy that interests me, aside from all of it is the playground for Dublin people and plan for the local economy and certainly under that section of the deliverables, there's a couple of project around really working with people in the local communities and people who have a business to work through understanding product development what, might they need to tweak a little bit to gain a whole lot more of the market

share, what project are people coming, in why are they leaving and what trick are we missing and bringing in external expertise to work through that and perhaps if we tweaked our offering 10% to the right, it would be very beneficial so, that's quite a big part of the deliverable is helping to bring money into the local economy and keep it here rather than being an afternoon playground for Dublin. And then Rory, absolutely under the awareness banner of the strategy there's a large piece about protecting ecosystems and biros diversity I will get a copy of the strategy to anyone who would like it, if you mail back to, send me an e-mail, I'll put it in the chat and get one out to the post to anyone who would like it. And then John, yeah, about 20 million was not based on any current funding so that was what we need to make this strategy happen over the next five years. So, yeah, if you take Greenway out of that, that's a chunk out of it already, so not there. In terms of the constant consultation with landowners that an output of the walk scheme review, we made it clear, I have 80 landowners and currently it is OK, because everything is closed but when things start opening up again, I suspect we will have a repeat what we had last year with a lot of camping, litter, dumping, dogs not on leads and not under control and yeah, we will need extra resources to help keep it constant consultation through that.

I'm going to ask Michael if he could come in on the additional staff question and short-term accommodation piece. I'm going to ask for Michael to steer on that as well. I'll put my e-mail address in the chat box if anyone would like the strategy piece, let me know.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Humphrey, have your hand up are you coming back in.

>>: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, so Carol did you want Michael to come in.

MICHAEL: Thank you in relation to staff members will be aware there's an active travel programme announced by the Government, we're going to commit 1.8 billion over the next five years under an active travel promotion, and it's not just walking it is walking and cycling and they're going to be allocating certain number of staff with local authority, we haven't received 100% confirmation who we're getting or grades we're getting, there's indicative figures out there, but waiting on final confirmation, that may not be nostophobia reassigning some staff but a certain amount of staff on promoting cycling and walking routes across the county which fits in nicely with our new strategy and committee and all the work we've done. And also, we will be looking at a combination as well, as mentioned by Carol short of accommodation, if we want to encourage people to come to the area, we need to look at accommodation and that might be for leader programmes or something like that, so looking at that as well and accommodation element of the leader programmes which may suit some of the ideas as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you Cathaoirleach.

Lovely to hear the strategy, and excitement, delighted to hear that disability was mentioned twice in it which brightens my face up. I sit on the tourist board for a long time, and this is a problem that's

raised many, many times is how do we keep people, visitors in our county and I think some of the problem is that Wicklow, we don't have probably high level of light entertain at the same time in towns and villages, OK, they like the like outdoor recreation but night time, they also like the night entertainment and that's with we fall down in our towns and villages as Cllr Shay Cullen said with the landowners we're waiting on Shillelagh to progress in that form as well. Also, Carol I said to a meeting to you last week about the inclusion of large print on the walks and trails of people with visual impairment, which was highlighted at a disability meeting we had, some weeks ago, and I thought it was very good point to make. Also, information boards to make sure they're accessible as well so thank you for your presentation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: A lot of my points have been answered already, but I think, a couple of nails hit on the head - I think it maybe the experience there was a brilliant programme being run by Wicklow partnership at the moment the entrepreneurs academy and if it could be Extend today some of the local small businesses that have the guts of an experience and help them diversify, I think it would be fantastic if something like that could be rolled out to help small businesses to move into areas to provide more experiences and keep people here for longer and just in relation to your accommodation, I agree full heartedly, And just the whole marine and offshore, beaches and stuff like that, it would be great to incorporate more, we're sitting with the Irish Sea on those posts here there and it is

totally underutilised and rivers as well and in the coming rivers when Avoca is cleaned it will be a hive of activity.

CAROL: Yeah, so, Miriam I think that's it is a very good point about the inclusion of large print and making signage accessible, it is easy fix, and something not often thought of. You think accessibility and think wheelchairs but you're right and we have a lot of signage under way at the moment, so I'll ensure that's taken on board. Pier that's a great idea about the entrepreneurship academy, it is practical help we can offer in the areas where we're looking to develop and looking to help local people to figure out, well, what do I need to do to grow my business and it is not that anyone's doing anything wrong they could change 2% and it will unlock the whole thing for them and the on the coastal piece, it is designated recreation hub in this strategy because it is absolutely recognised that all we talk about is walking in Wicklow and all about the walking trails and so much on the coast to offer and we should encompass that, and we should embrace it, and help it to rise up in the same way as hill walking and outdoor recreation has.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks a million, and Humphrey thanks for a most interesting report. I think Wicklow is ...

CLLR WALSH: Quickly a word, two interesting presentations we had, one from the Glendalough master plan and the other one is accommodation subgroup accommodation report, so they're referred to outdoor recreation sector, ...

Are you receiving me? You know the dispersal of the numbers,

honey pot sites, connectivity and the accommodation vacuum obviously and the fact we need to encourage existing B&Bs to expand and encourage people into the tourism accommodation sector which incentivises them, that's well in the report and in the other report, it is well identified. Thank you.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Can I come in as well please.

Thanks very much. Thank you that was an excellent report, really well received. I just want to agree with wholeheartedly with Cllr Shay Cullen I know everybody else has as well but end game with landowners is key and I really welcome the walking scheme being extended out but we need to at least come down, the farmers need to be told and landowners need to be informed about it, we're doing it as councillors, but more engagement is needed there. Another problem up on the uplands and the Wicklow area is we've mentioned parking, it is a huge problem on weekends, farm gateways with cars abandoned and road you can't pass, I spoke about this too with the tourism, Park and Ride I think would be a great idea working more engagement with bus services, where you can leave a small village, walk a certain area and get on the bus then and it will take you back and encourage just less cars to be brought out as well.

Yeah, you mentioned there about more signage I really welcome that, I was going to bring that up. We need that hugely out in the mountain area, dogs on leads, particularly with lambing season it is causing huge problems, ever river weekend in the Enniskerry it is on the forum, a dog is lost, and I mean, people don't realise the damage

that can cause - gates have to be closed, and walls not climbed over and broken down, bring your litter home, simple messages and as Cllr Miriam Murphy said a sign with a picture depict a huge thing but it would be very welcome. The mapping of walks also, there's engagement at the moment with mapping out the walks which would be hugely helpful with the Park and Ride for people in the future. Where you can go from one area to the other and also, bribing trails as well the bikes are doing a huge amount of damage in some areas where they're not official trailside' like to see, more signage saying no bikes in this area if possible. Because I know there's a lot of, where money has gone into official bike trails so it would be nice to concentrate on those areas as opposed to damaging other areas, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Carol, last word with you.

CAROL: Address a couple of Melanie's points there and wrap up. Yeah, it is very, it is so important that we engage with landowners, without them we have nothing, and Coillte and NPWS is accommodating with their land but they have a reason to be. Whereas the goodwill of farmers is just so underappreciated and without it we would have no Wicklow Way or Kevin's Way, we would have no Dublin Mountains Way, it is vital, so, yeah, I am certainly going to take that on board and figure out how we can do better. In terms of Park and Ride that's absolutely on the exploratory plan for both the Glendalough programme and within this strategy. Yeah, it's very important. We have two mapping project under way at the moment, that, so, County Wicklow partnership and host B as rural

officer and Michael team and CWP we applied for nine RS project and two tech-based and about mapping so we're currently digitising all the trails in Wicklow so that instead of you want to go to Coillte forest and you have to go to Coillte site and download a paper map and the same with NPWS you have to know where you're going so we have a contractor who is digitising all the Coillte trails and NPWS and county council trails and 30 routes well used in the county and they will all be available on an online platform in one place, that's phase one and hopefully once we get the measured two decisions out we will have a proper outdoor recreation website.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I interrupt you for one second and I will come back to you. But unfortunately, due to the way the time works, members, can I propose that we go for time extension, it is a large agenda and we're getting through it quite well and I'd like to finish the agenda and get on to the notices if at all possible, can I have your support we go for time extension until 5.30. Agreed. Thank you. I have to do this that before 4.30pm. Sorry for the interruption.

DEBORAH: Not at all, perhaps I should truncate my speaking, so, mapping is under way, and we know it is very important and it is not great the way it is currently. Bike trails, yeah, in that specific mountain issues or scrambler issues or both.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Mountain bike issues.

CAROL: I'll talk to Deborah offline because it is illegal for mountain bikers to be on Coillte land unless designated trail so perhaps it is more of an awareness piece on that. But, overall, this has been a great process, Humphrey's work is phenomenal the depth of analysis and

research that went into building that document is world class and we're very lucky and privileged to have it. And I think it gives us in Wicklow a fabulous road maybe for the next five years, we know, we've got the jewel in the crown, we have mountains, sea and Glendalough, and this gives structure to manage that really well and to protect the value we got in the tone so yeah, it is extremely exciting and I'm really glad that you're all here to hear about it and thank you for your time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for all the work you do in the county, it is all starting to bear fruit and we appreciate it, thank you both.

We're going for a time extension, so what I'll do is go with item 16 on the agenda now. Is to receive presentation from Wicklow County Council's deck later on the housing construction programme and B part which is the homeless figures as was agreed at the council meeting held on Monday 11th January, so deck later and Jackie and then we'll take the questions so. Declan are you with us.

DECLAN: Good afternoon. Can you hear me all right?

I'll just put up the presentation now. Just to mention David Porter will be coming in as part of the presentation about part five in particular. So, just to cover the housing supply programme particularly the Capital projects. This is our supply for last year and this year, as you can see, we achieved the department targets for both, last year, and we're, we were on target to achieve for 2021, until the lockdown hit so we don't know yet, it depends when construction is allowed back before we'll know what effect that will have on our targets for this year. But you can see the direct build has become a bigger part of our targets and next slide will show that

more graphically. Just show it there in 2018 the direct build was quite a reasonably small part and again in 2019, but, for 2020, and 2021, it is much more significant part. The numbers are overall as well. But proportionately the direct build forms a bigger part of our deliver review business programme. This is the schemes that were delivered in 2020, spread pretty much around the county, you can see we had schemes in every Municipal District and part of the delivery in some schemes that are finished off at the moment and then, towards the end there, we have some turnkey schemes from Wicklow County Council directly and through Part Vs, that's an aerial photograph of the Kilbride Court development in Bray, which is nearing completion, a number of units were handed over before Christmas, and the rest are being finished off at the moment, but we will be occupying those together because it is quite a tight site it wouldn't be possible to do a phased occupation.

I just want to thank Paul Driver who did the drone footage for all of the photographs I have. And for 2020/21 this is our proposed delivery the remainder of Kilbride Court, and Carnew, that's finished now, those eight houses are allocated at the moment. Merrymeeting in Rathnew, is being finished out as well, Delaney Park, that's closed down and we're waiting for that to reopen. The last is very much dependent on when the reopening is allowed to whether they'll deliver this year or not and the number of the turnkeys, we've a large number of SHB turnkeys and that's dependent when the sites are allowed today reopen as well.

That's our development in Jameson Heights is Kilmac which is fully occupied now. As you can see it is a nice development of 20 units.

Proposed delivery for 2022 then and some of these maybe affected by the shutdown, Avondale Heights in Rathdrum and Mountain View were due to start in January but obviously those delays, those starts have been delayed now, Arklow is out to tender, Cedar Court in Bray finalised document and Wicklow, our design team are going through a tender analysis at the moment. And Charlesland in Greystones, we're finalising tender documents and hopefully going to tendineae the next few months on that one.

That's an aerial view in Baltinglass delivered late 2019 and early 2020 yeah. That's a scheme of 34 units in Baltinglass post-2022, we're looking at various sites around the county and we will be bringing them to individual Municipal Districts before we do a Part 8, a number of them are at advanced stage with infrastructural difficulties in some towns, I suppose, the biggest high profile one would be Arklow where we're told the sewage scheme should be delivered this 2025, so we're looking at site that we have in Arklow, and we have three large site between Bray, Greystones and Kilcoole, where, there will be an affordable housing element as well because they're big site, too big to put all social housing on them, so, we're looking at the kind of model that will come up there, and we're waiting on the finalisation of the national affordable housing scheme. Partnership with approved housing bodies, they're involved in a number of turnkeys but directly on our land the central garage site in Bray that Part 8, has been granted for that, and they're at tender stage and shortly be advertising a Part 8 for the other two site, Upper Dargle Road in Bray, and Killarney Road Kilbride Lodge site. We're also looking at incorporating into the Rehills, a supported

housing proposal in conjunction with approved housing body. That's part of proposal for that site. On affordable housing I mentioned we're waiting on the finalisation of the scheme and it is considered on a number of our sites, the main provisions of the bill recently published were a supposition there's three main options, first is that we would deliver affordable housing on our sites but as I said, we don't know what fund something available for that yet or how it would work. The second part of it then would-be affordable purchase shared equity scheme where, purchasers would be assisted in buying private housing on a shared equity basis, and then the third one is cost rental, which is something we have used in the past as well. Acquisitions, there was 45 housing acquired in 2020, and that included 23 in Blessington purchased by Cluid, the development near Dunnes Stores in Blessington, remainder one-off purchases and allocation we're expecting it to be limited in 2021, targeted for particular need, especially need houses or that. But we're not expecting to get a large allocation. Leasing then, it is one of the social housing delivery options in rebuilding Ireland, and there is a fair billet of interest in it, the different types are long-term lease, short-term, there's repair and lease which hasn't been as successful as initially thought, mortgage to rent and enhanced lease, enhanced lease is for the larger scale development. We've one under construction now in Adelaide Road in Bray where there's 71 units and due for delivery later this year, that depends on how much the delays are due to COVID-19 will cause there.

And enhanced leases then I suppose the way it works it targets property develop E on a kind of reasonable scale, bigger, more than

20 units is the way it is defined and it is administered by the housing agency so the application from the developer goes initially to the housing agency, it is off billion sheets so it doesn't have to come out of capital expenditure because the payments are made annually and made for 20 years and up to 95% of market rents have paid and that reflect the fact that the developer or the owner of the property looks after the maintenance of the property. And again, the housing agency are due to advertise again on that shortly, so, it could result in units being offered in areas where we wouldn't have got turnkeys in the past, particularly I suppose in the higher cost areas around Bray and Greystones and that.

The way the tenant management works then in these properties is that they will be allocated in accordance with the scheme of letting priorities so the allocations by Wicklow County Council in accordance with our scheme, once allocated then, the tenant is taken off the housing waiting list but as in with other schemes they can apply for a transfer, subsequently. Then, the council collects disks rent in the normal way and the maintenance of the unit is looked after the owner of the property, but state management is looked after and held by Wicklow County Council, by the local authority.

So that's just a brief run through our Capital schemes, I'll hand over to David to talk to you about Part V.

DAVID: Thank you Declan, I just want to give a short presentation, to the members. So, they understand how the Part V is operating in the county at the moment. And we'll start with the legislation, section 96 of the planning and development act introduced a

provision that a specified percentage of land zoned solely for residential use can be made available for social and affordable housing and the initial provision was 20% and agreement could take the form of land, units or financial settlement and exemptions were initially for four units or less

This is just a photograph of one of the minister V units we bought, Carrig Beag in Wicklow, we bought five turnkeys and they're Bungalow units, very flexible and useful.

Now, in relation to the biggest changes made in the Part V legislation you are began regeneration housing act made very large and sweeping changes, the most significant of which were reduction in the requirement from 20% to 10% and increase in the number of units from 4 to 9 for exemption purposes under section 97 and changes how the Part V maybe agreed and that meant the financial settlement option was removed entirely. The developer has a number of options in making a Part V agreement. Transfer of land, transfer of units, transfer of units off site within the functional area and subject to the agreement with the council. Lease of units on or off site again subject to agreement. A combination of the transfer of land and one or more other option, or combination of two or more options not including land but it is important to note that the department's preference is always for units. Now, the local authority considerations when making an agreement, whether the proposed agreement will contribute effectively and efficiently to the achievement of housing strategy, the agreement will contribute to the best use of resources available to ensure adequate housing and implications of agreement as functions of housing authority. The

need to counteract undue segregation in housing between persons of different social background in the area of authority. Whether the agreement is in accordance with the provisions of the development plan and the time within which the housing referred to in section 94: 4, is likely to be provided as consequence of the agreement. Now, just to give you an idea of the agreement's prior to 2015, it wasn't uncommon for land to be allowed for example Merrymeeting Rathnew, it was purchased to meet Part V role in terms requirement and has some houses in completion, financial agreements were permitted and affordable units sometimes 10 and 10% of land were permitted, financial agreement, I'll give example, of sea green in Greystones, develop pace agreed set rate on completion and received compliance letter for the sped unit. It should be noted if the developer cannot use the original planning permission the granted prior to 2015, a new Part V agreement has to be made. The developer of sea green had revised planning for 42 units after 2015, and therefore the financial settlement was not an option. And four-Part V units were agreed and purchased into the local authority stock, two in 2019, and two in 2020.

And these are three units that we purchased as Part Vs in View Mount in Rathdrum.

Now, this is a case study for balance and to give members idea of the timescale involved. The developer originally applied for 169 units in 2015, in May, and valuation was carried out, developers submitted figures and QS reviewed and same and reverted, negotiations continued for 18 months, and 16-Part V units were eventually agreed. The developer then indicated they wanted to proceed with

an AHB, Wicklow County Council asked the AHB to secure extra units which we call Part V plus, and the AHB secured five extra turnkey units. This was resulted in the provision of 21 units in total being made available for social housing under CAF. Evaluation was requested on October 2018, negotiations were by emailed phone and face-to-face meetings for 18 months it was signed on 17th April 2019, and units were then delivered as follows. Nine units, three turnkey and six-Part V, in December 2019, eight Part V units in July 2020 and two-Part V and turnkey this October 2020, from valuation to final completion of all the units it took over three years. If you look at this little table to give you an idea, the original planning started in May 2015, and if you go to the very end the final units were delivered this October 2020, so it took over five years from the initial planning which was to see some of the steps along the way. The original planning was appealed to An Bord Plenala national, was granted in October 2016, and then between then and March 2017, the site was solid, and new owners came in and they started their Part V negotiation in to 17 and that took length of time because, if you know Ballinahinch in Ashford they had to redesign and rebuild the road and roundabout and there was an offset required from roads and that held up the Part V negotiations because the developers wanted to deal with everything in one go and subsequently also had an negotiation with Cluid about buying the units.

Just some general points about Part V, local authority has no control over the pace of delivery of units and is completely reliant on the developer. Developers are free to contact approved housing bodies

but AHBs need local authority support when applying for CALF or CAS funding, Wicklow County Council ask all the approved bodies who have been approved by developers two wish to sell their Part V units to secure social units on turnkey basis, which we call Part V plus. The number of units with live planning permission is no guarantee of units to be built, some developers apply the permission and sell quiet which is a new planning permission and some lands maybe de-zoned, it considers a work with valuation, north, negotiation, to department approval, part five agreement, snagging, legal, financial and payments allocations and claim or in some cases, approved housing bodies support and CALF application PMA agreement and monitoring plus applications it takes the same amount of time to do Part V regardless whether it goes to AHB or ourselves.

In 2020 the department sought details on the number of Part V units on planning permission granted as basis to define the amount of Part V units in the system. This massively overstated the numbers, as there was an assumption with all units with planning would be built during the lifetime of the permission, projecting by area or county presents difficulties as to local authorities entirely dependent on developers' schedule, if he even develops or sell and any delay outside local authority control. Developers are sensitive to the market and seem to match their delivery to the market so if, the market is a little slow they'll drip units on to the market in ones and twos, or if, the market is really, really active they will develop much faster.

There are other issues like legal and contract issues, funding,

landowner developer gone out of business and phasing of development.

This is the Part V delivery of 2018 to 2020, broken down by Municipal District and we have 45 units in 2018, 46 in 2019 and 29 in 2020, now it is important to bear in mind with the 45 and 46 in 2019, we had two large developments, Glenheron in Greystones supplied 24 units over that period, and Hazel Brooke in Rathnew supplied 15 units in that period. So, 20 is the is not a bad baseline.

These are the Waverly part five units in Rathdrum recently bought. And this is a breakdown of what was in the Chief Executive's Report by the actual area and whether they were delivered via CALF or Wicklow County Council.

Now, Wicklow County Council currently has agreements in place for 43 further Part V units in Delgany, Bray, Rathnew, Wicklow, Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Enniskerry with delivery range from 2020 to 2023, and currently in negotiations with further 32 units, it is expected 20 Part Vs will be delivered in 2021.

Part V does deliver units, in private developments but relatively low rate. Wicklow County Council doesn't take apartment with common areas or without their own entrances and AHBs are particularly useful in this regard, also the CALF funding model provides mechanism for maintenance and includes management fees.

There is also value for money considerations including specifications, EG, the size, governed by the quality housing for sustainability communities' guidelines. COVID-19 is having an effect on delivery in this, any unit scheduled for delivery in 2021, will be pushed back in 2022, depending how quickly developers get onsite. Strategic

housing developments, there's a number at different stages. In the planning process, and they take a considerable period of time to develop right through the construction, but it is seen in the coming years will make a considerable part in the Part V numbers if granted. That's just a barley field unit. OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks David.

Thanks for that, and thanks Declan, before I take the questions I'm going to go to Jackie for the update on the homeless and take them at the end.

Jackie: Say that you've seen the figures in ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: We've lost you Jackie, have we? hello Jackie, can you hear me, we seem to have lost her.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you Declan and David for that report. It is a complicated area; I work at it in the moment and know how hard it is to get these units through. My question is in relation to the Adelaide road development in 71 units and David you made a reference in your own presentation there to some of the difficulties around apartment complexes. And the management of the apartment complexes, I hugely welcome the long-term leasing of that development in Bray, we've a serious shortage of land in this area and it is extremely difficult to get people a home be it for 25 years stability but a home none the less. I'm wondering is there a plan for owner management company for that development, OMC and whether or not the local authority will play a role in that?

I'm also wondering how you made references of the fact the landlord will be responsible for the maintenance, but the local authority will remain responsible for the estate management. And whether or not there will be additional resources put in to develop a sense of community there and set up a resident's association or residents forum, within the site. Or whether or not any consideration has been given to an AHB managing the unit itself as opposed to the local authority. Because they will be requirement for a lot of time and effort to be put in place to make sure it becomes a place people want to live in. And doesn't have any impact on the residents there, or the wider community. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If I could ask the members to be direct with the questions, so Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Yes, sorry and thanks Cathaoirleach. Just on Declan's AHB turnkeys, for 2021, delivery of 1 a 4 but 2022 no references to turnkeys on that and Part V the complex arrangements around that, if the developer can negotiate with transfer of land in lieu of set up units so that's its thanks.

CLLR BOURKE: Just want to pay tribute to the housing staff on the wonderful job they've done over four years.

CLLR KENNEDY: Have you a question we're under pressure for time.

CLLR BOURKE: Question is if we get upgrade of the sewage treatment in Aughrim, how quickly will the team bring forward housing development for us in Aughrim there's a lot of people looking for housing in Aughrim and as you know we had to pull four

units there two years ago.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Have you a question?

This was the Municipal District meeting, you're playing for the papers now, please have you a question.

CLLR BOURKE: I'd like to see that it is a priority for them to bring housing to Aughrim when the infrastructure is upgraded.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Can I just ask about the Rehills land in Bray, there's some concerns from the community about I know there's flood defence works there, but the building will be at risk of flooding if you give us the rationale and some response to that, so we can get back to the community on it.

DECLAN: Yes, Adelaide Road the plan is the estate management would be carried out by Wicklow County Council ourselves, we don't have any plans to involve approved housing body and we'll look at what extra measures for estate management on that estate when it is finished. On the turnkeys we don't have any definite commitments for 2022 from AHBs there are negotiations being undertaken on a number of schemes and new proposals, but we don't count them until they're definite and signed up. Aughrim, certainly we will move on anywhere that infrastructure is developed we'll move on it straightaway but at the moment the only land we have in Aughrim is infill land in some of the estates, I think it is maybe ten or fifteen units we don't have any large area of land there, but certainly, you know, land is an issue, we are going to need additional land in the coming years. But certainly, anywhere that

infrastructure is approved we will move on to Read Hills that's as part of our planning for it, the reason the site is available now is because of the flood scheme, it has opened it up for development. So, obviously, we will only be developing on the part of the site that is free of flooding, there will be like a repairing zone along the edge of the river that will be allowed to flood. But the upper part of the site is suitable for development.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I know you're under time constraint, my question is about affordable housing I'm a bit concerned how we're going to get land for affordable houses because, in our area in Wicklow and Rathnew we used up a lot of land for social housing as you know Chairman we're doing the local area plans after the council development plans and all we're doing is reducing the numbers within the areas, in our area reducing housing from 2,800 which will put a premium on land left in. So, what I'm worried about is how are we going to get land - for affordable houses thank you.

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah, I'm going to repeat his question there, and also, climate hat on, a lot of our own housing stock, we need to start incorporating more green infrastructure in these places or we'll all be flooding, you know.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Yes, curious about the why do developers go to AHBs, if they're already working away with the Wicklow County Council

and they switch, is that a negotiation scenario?

And second part is, it feels and sounds like this is a huge number of resources required for these Part Vs processes do you have the resources to pursue them and are they worth the time and effort that goes into them?

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thanks chair. Just following on from Cllr Pat Kennedy's comments about the add laid road in Bray, even for the Bray district general information about that lease arrangement and how exactly it is going to work. We haven't received very much information and I for one is getting questions that I can't answer. So just a general update on how it will operate would be great. Thank you, Declan can you answer those questions.

Declan: On the land issue - look I mean, certainly we will be trying to make use of any zoned land that we can. Land that is our ownership at the moment and we are looking to purchase land where we can as well. On the affordable scheme I suppose there's a couple of factors, one is how much subvention comes from Government to make houses affordable?

And then housing we can only make housing affordable in certain part of the county where the market price is high enough.

Otherwise, what we can build the houses for, I know this is a problem in parts of the country in particular and probably part of the county as well, where you can't build houses for less than what they're selling for at the moment on the open market. So, it is not possible to make them affordable in that case, so it really applies to the more expensive parts of the county. The green infrastructure

side of it, I suppose that's a big issue and in all of the development we're looking at all of our houses are A rated at this stage, generally have heat pumps, they comply with all of the standards in the building regulation and the sites themselves are looked at if there is any risk of flooding or any close to a stream or river, we would get a flood study done and we would be taking cognisance of the sea maps as well so that's something that we're very aware of and biodiversity issues on all of the sites we're looking at. As regard to the root housing bodies, generally if a development is being brought to us with approved housing body, some developers will automatically go to an approved housing body and some cases they might have worked with them before or have a relationship with them. So, you know, that's something they will decide themselves and if they come to us with an approved housing body then obviously, we have to go with that. Yes, Part V there's a lot of work, I'm sure David would agree with that, it is something that we're working through at the moment, is it worth?

Yes, I think so. It might be small numbers, but it is still adding to our supply and house that is we wouldn't otherwise have, and it is adding, also more sustainable I suppose because it brings local authority housing into private estates as well.

On Adelaide road I suppose the details of the lease, maybe that's we can deal with directly with the Bray members at one of the meetings and get details rather than going into it now.

That's it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Declan and David for that. There's a lot of information in all of that. I'm going to Jackie now, Jackie can you

hear us?

Jackie: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, sorry for that, some IT issues. So, I kicked Joe out of his seat.

CHAIR: I'm going to suspension of orders at 5. is a.

Jackie: You read the figures in the report and there's a steady stream of presentations in 2021, as usual which were dealing with all the initiatives we have. So just update since we last spoke, we had the alert where we assisted one rough sleeper looked for assistance, but we made provision of extra beds and I advised the members of that, and in April we will be presenting the homeless Action Plan for your approval. So that's really what we're currently working on, housing first, was mentioned earlier at the meeting, I just advised we reached target for five for 2020, target for 2021 is five and we exceeded that by March we would hope to double that or more given the actually presenting in public, we feel there's a need to focus on that this year and due to availability on one-bed units, so that's the update at the minute.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, look we've had a really good discussion on housing throughout the meeting and last one as well, so I won't keep the meeting so thank you for the update and I look forward to seeing that draft plan and I'm sure we'll feed into T and thanks for giving the space to this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you did anyone else want to come in on that. Everybody happy?

Well thanks Declan and David and Jackie for that. And for giving us

all those figures over the last few months there's a huge amount of information so I want to thank you for all of that, and in relation to the construction programme, it is great to see so many houses coming on stream and the amount of work that's going in, so again thank you very much to both of you. I'm going to go to if I go into the Cllr John Mullen for suspension of standing orders. John has a suspension of standing orders in relation to Bank of Ireland's announcement today of the closure of three banks. John, do you want to come in.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks colleagues for taking this, I know it is not agenda item, today was such a lot of positive presentations and positive attitude out there too it is a pity we have to mark this, but on a day when Bank of Ireland decided to abandon rural Ireland and rural Wicklow it is important this council discuss this, and to mark it. The decision today to close ten Healey Rathdrum and Carnew Bank of Ireland brings to an Eindhoven 100 years of banking services, of people of rural Wicklow. I have cause to work on this issue over a number of years, Cllr Vincent Blake will know back in 2010, when Bank of Ireland was one of the buildings of Bank of Ireland was basically destroyed by a botched bank robbery, we lost our bank for a year. And we as a community and as councillors, we met with Bank of Ireland management because we were worried at the time of the financial crash that the bank would use that as an opportunity to close. They didn't, they poured money into refurbishing it and bring it back, over the year with we had the experience of not having a bank and basically what happened is a lot of ancillary business

didn't happen in the town we lost that to other towns and particularly the parking issues that would have happened in places like Tinahely went to Carnew, and when people went so we experienced what it was like to lose our bank over a year, and we were delighted when it returned. A number of years ago then, Bank of Ireland again in an act of cynical corporate policy decided to remove the cash facilities in other facilities from Rathdrum, Carnew and Tinahely and again we met with the Bank of Ireland management two took us through the reasoning and why they were definitely not going to close the branches this was just a part to their modernisation process and we took them with their word and Ex-pressed the concerns these services were needed particularly for the businesses and now we have a year where we've had a COVID lockdown where businesses are at the pin of their collar, a lot of businesses are closed and rural villages are wondering what their economic future is, and in the middle of a level five lockdown, Bank of Ireland come out this morning and say, to their staff, and to their customers, of which I am a customer, my own bank account is in Bank of Ireland since I was 17, that they're closing those branches, they've given us no information on the ATMs, that are at those locations, they've given us no location what is happening to the buildings, they're promising us some partnership with An Post but no specifics and they've treated the people of rural Wicklow with just nothing but contempt in my view and I think it is an appalling decision. And I'm asking them they reconsider. In an era where we're trying to, we're going to be rebuilding building society in a lot of ways after COVID-19, people will work from home and there's

positive developments like rural tourism and to lose the branches in the way and manner that's done today by Bank of Ireland is a disgrace and I thank my colleagues for allowing this discussion to happen. At such short notice, and I'd like to open it up. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr John Mullen and putting this down, Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Yeah, thank you Cathaoirleach and Cllr John Mullen for bringing this up. This morning when I got my breakfast, I was listening a very same situation, in Rathdrum where a businessman who has been there for many years with Bank of Ireland, and he is just distraught and as he pointed out about just for Rathdrum alone, I'm listening to a programme where the Bank of Ireland was saying that some of the transfers will go to An Post, now the An Post in Rathdrum has only one counter and one staff. And as this man pointed out that, most days now with COVID there's a queue going into Rathdrum Post Office so how in God's name can a one-counter Post Office cope with business being transferred to the likes of An Post, and rebuilding I think that's a joke, they don't want to rebuild Ireland, certainly don't want to rebuild rural Ireland, and as Cllr John Mullen said, now in the COVID year, that's happening and in other probably a year ahead of us, there is small businesses, they do their banking locally and everybody as we pointed out on many occasions do not know or do not want to do their banking online, there's a lot of people who are don't want to use it for reasons. And they're being again excluded from society. I think it is a very sad day when today we hear of this movement and also, before our meeting we all get an e-mail from the general Bank of Ireland manager two e-mails

it is just so sad and I hope that there is a lobby put towards this, thank you.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Cathaoirleach a lot has been said by Cllr John Mullen and Murphy and I commend Cllr John Mullen on this, it is something he's brought on several occasions now, this is not just attack on rural Ireland but on the elderly population who mightn't use online banking and they'll have to travel further in their branches now. Also, the time when Ulster Banks had a pulled out of the country, we should be investing not taking out branches so, I want to say this is not a political issue, I believe it is a moral issue and can I say as member of the smaller party I'll call on the bigger party maybe to indulge us in the future withstanding orders and to speak to us in a respectful manner thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thanks Chair, the other councillors have described the situation so I won't repeat any of that but in terms of actions I know very often we look to the five TD toss act on behalf of our county and our constituencies, so just to give a quick update that Deputy Steven Matthews, a member of the Oireachtas finance committee and wrote to the chair this morning immediately to ask for a urgent meeting take place and that representatives from Bank of Ireland appear and take questions and explain what is going on. I can circulate to the members when the meet something confirmed he's expecting it will take place before the end of the month and as soon as possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks.

CLLR DUNNE: Very quickly, listen, first of all I think Cllr Paul O'Brien it is an attack on democracy as far as I'm concerned, especially the older people within the county and I have to add this, I think this is also a problem the fact that we've no rural TD within the county, all of our TDs are from the north of the county and this is an attack on Rathdrum, Carnew and Tinahely and people should think about this when they're voting, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much Cathaoirleach and thanks Cllr John Mullen for bringing this issue to the floor today. The announcement will present itself as a huge obstacle for many individuals that really are not technical, technologically savvy and it will also be a problem for businesses that provide localised service they've availed of over the past couple of years in the branch, rural customers and villages will feel totally isolated, while planned partnership with An Post is in the pipeline so far we've no details of a I hope the services that are going to be brought to An Post will be you know, will be appropriate services to support rural businesses and this is a huge blow to the communities. Thank you.

CLLR LEONARD: I think there's an opportunity ...

Here for the buildings to be preserved in these small villages and I think it is a good idea for to merge with An Post but I think it is so important and to keep the staff working in these places and not have them on the road to Dublin again on the N11, we need working hubs and that's exactly what these buildings are. And there's loads of opportunities for Bank of Ireland to come up with a different solution than just closing them down.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks Cathaoirleach, look, it is very unfortunate not just for rural Ireland, rural Wicklow, for the country as a whole but the reality is Cathaoirleach, members are talking about you know it is not political and it is political and the reality is that while Bank of Ireland are now talking about filling the void with on post, politics played a huge part in eradicating rural Ireland by closing down Post Offices and it is amazing now that the An Post is seen as going to fill a void here when a lot of Post Offices were closed down to throughout our district and throughout our county. So, I would urge the five TDs to get involved in this, but the reality is this a done deal. I think the e-mail we all received has outlined that, they will be open for the next six months but there after I'd ask the question Cathaoirleach what is going to happen these buildings because most of them are significant buildings in these small rural towns and villages.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'd like to, I have to get to back after 17.
I did call you out Cllr Edward Timmins, but you weren't there.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just two points, I support this motion by Cllr John Mullen and commend him but a couple of things, Bank of Ireland was helped in a bailout twelve years ago and we should have attached strings to that to serve the community. Second thick is there's huge lack of competition with Ulster Bank leaving the country, and I think it is time now we, look in the savings model, German savings bank Hoddle which is community, closer to the

people and lower interest rates and where you can pick up the phone and talk to them, competition is getting less and less which means mortgage rates will go up, so we need to bring more competition in the market.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks Chairman I don't want to go everything that's been said all the members there, but look we know the banks have short memories it is only a few years ago we had to bail them out. This is not unexpected, we had for quite a number of years, ever since the time the bank discontinued with the cash service in these branches. So, look I think as great opportunity here for not alone the Post Offices but credit unions as well, the credit union was a standalone here in tin heel yea for a lot of years but now as linked from Castledermot to Baltinglass to Tinahely so there's a huge catchment area and organisation within the credit union system so I think, I know it is a disappointment and everything else and likelihood of any changes toss banks is going to make in terms of keeping the branches open, I think are very unlikely so I think, look it is a case of take what we have got unfortunately, and but I think it is a missed opportunity as well with the Post Offices and credit unions to replace what the banks are not willing to do.

CATHAOIRLEACH: This has got a good turning, I would like to finish on myself as do come from Rathdrum when one of the banks is closing and biggest town outside of the main town of Arklow, I have to say I'm bitterly disappointed, disappointed for the elderly people who don't use online banking it beggars belief to think we're looking at the master plan of Glendalough which will bring thousands of visitors, and the redevelopment of Avondale which will bring tens of

thousands of visitors I would imagine but over 400 homes granted planning permission, this is a commercial decision, and I think Bank of Ireland has forgot the people who helped them ten or twelve years ago. And they've turned their bank on rural Ireland and I dread to think next week we'll see press releases from five TDs and telling us what they're going to do and not going to do, I would like them to come together and see what they'll do for the areas where the Cloughs ewers will take place. I met with the Chief Executive and asked him to pen a letter to Chief Executive of Bank of Ireland and hope that would be acceptable to the members, Cllr John Mullen would you accept that, because yours is note of motion, I've asked the Chief Executive to write a letter.

>>: I was hoping the motion would, that we'd be writing officially to the Bank of Ireland.

CHATHAOIRLEACH: I've asked him this morning. I want to move on to item 17 to consider the county Wicklow County Council three-year Capital programme 21 to 24 and bring in director Brian Gleeson here.

BRIAN: Thank you I will be brief. The Capital plan it covers a three-year plan, 2021, to 23, inner respect itself 51 million expenditure, bulk relate to housing schemes, 445, and approximately 64 million in respect of road, programmes which would include the recently announced 7.5 million NTA schemes. How the funding break down is being proposed is grant aid 51 million, development levies 26. Loans 38 and other income, 74 by would cover income arising from disposal of assets, private sector investment, and also revenue budget provisions. It should be noted that the plan is not a

guarantee and will commence with projects but based on available sources of funding, existing sources of funding and possible future funding lines of income via UDRF schemes or RDF schemes and also is a rolling plan, a live plan, so, projects can be added to it at any stage, depending on how successful we are in relation to these ongoing funding schemes.

It is increase of 69 million on last year's three-year plan. The increase is mainly to do with planned housing units and the schemes and also new applications that we'd submitted in respect of the URDF and RDF projects. So that's basically a synopsis of the plan going forward.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Brian for that, and thanks the copy was circulated. Cllr Derek Mitchell you wanted to come in.

CLLR MITCHELL: Yes, I've a question, I sent e-mail earlier to ask what the chap there will - scheme was listed under other non-grant funded projects, if that's the one in Delgany, I think that would be good. Just to say I have complained in the past that not much is spent in the Greystones area when we're getting a huge amount of housing. And this would seem to be somewhat more balanced this year, there still is a need, something like 4,500 people coming to the housing units approved in Greystones and it will be the same population as Bray when that's done, OK Bray is going to expand in Nasser row but still other things to be done in the area. But, if that's in Greystones, that particular road, that's a good thing thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Does anybody want to come in there?

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly, do we have anything on the Irish Water Capital budget?

I'm conscious of the very small villages that we don't have any plan as regards water and sewage for small villages. I know earlier we had stuff on the smaller towns, earlier on the meeting but small villages have been neglected. Is there any progress on Capital plan for that? Obviously, you have Irish Water is a separate organisation to Wicklow County Council but the figures there are blank, I wonder do we have update from Irish Water?

Also, I welcome this commencement of the 2N81, 4N81 schemes looked at and I hope there's progress made on them, I know they're in infancy, and I welcome the money allocated for feasibility study for the swimming pool, which the management alluded to the report. I hope we can learn from the previous unsuccessful application that was made a year or so ago. And we take those reasons on board and try and get be more successful next time. Bryan does you want to come back in there.

BRIAN: I might bag the book to Colm to clarify the Chapel Road. the Irish Water programme as Cllr Edward Timmins said that's a separate capital plan separate organisation so we can only put forward what we're planning on spending. But we can check out and see what current situation is in relation to their own capital plan and we can revert with that information at a later date.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Brian, Colm are you with us.

COLM: Yes, it is Cllr Derek Mitchell chapel road scheme in

Greystones, yeah. That we discussed earlier.

And just in relation to Irish Water, the programme that I spoke about earlier is the small town and description programme that Irish Water have promoted this year. Like it's a continuation, continuing programme so that we will be asked on a continuous basis for our priorities in relation to water and wastewater treatment facility in small towns and villages throughout the county. As I said they're looking at top four in terms of one this year, but we have provided a longer list which we can update every year going forward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, nobody else showing, so can I thank Brian and Colm.

CLLR WALSH: Mill Road Greystones, 340,000, 2021, can I take it towards a development of master plan to the twelve acres opposite to the AIB park the land bank on the road.

>>: Sorry, if I come in there, there's work to be done in terms of cleaning it up, there's illegal dumping, so we have to finish that out before the master plan.

:>> Thank you very much. I emailed Frank this morning. We're not getting a fair share out west, there's 15 million spent on N15 compared to less than 1.5 on the N81.

I just don't think it is a fair crack of the whip, I accept Frank's response the new road is Sheffield by and authorities higher than the council, but I think even take that into account it is not equitable distribution, they're two main routes that run through the county, we're left, we're very much neglected out this side, but I think it is

most unfair and I think it needs to be addressed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Frank, have you responded?

Frank: Look I suppose the Accra events and have been finished, land acquisition was up around 1.6 million. Other schemes that run from bends into Baltinglass and we'll progress those but the big scheme as the councillor mention asked from Tallaght out to Blessington which has been Sheffield, we've made a submission into the National Development Plan and we have avenue included that as one of our priorities and recent meetings with NPA as well that's a priority and comes back into the table in terms of design and land acquisition and we'll keep doing that as much as we can, yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Chief Executive and thanks Brian and Colm for that. Item 18 is correspondence, Lorraine, do we have any correspondence.

LORRAINE: Yes, just to say that Irish Water will be holding clinics now on Monday 12th of April and elected members have been advised of that. So just to note same again. Just in terms of the ethics declaration yesterday was closing down to put in both ethics declarations as you are required to by law so I'm sure that you all have done so. And then, just to mention you will have received correspondence in relation to the consultation process for the cod link wind park scheme.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Lorraine, I have two minutes left, Cllr Peir Leonard I can take your notice of motion, in the name of Cllr Peir Leonard S2.

>>: Sorry Pat I was wondering could I switch it with the last motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No, I have taken them in order, if you wanted it heard, I'll hear it, in not.

>>: There's a lot of people:

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have to take them in order, do you want it heard today or not.

>>: OK.

>>: Care notice of motion in Cllr Peir Leonard 25th of November 2020, deferred from special meeting on the 25th of January 2021, and meeting of the first of February 2021, Lorraine for the response.

LORRAINE: This is a matter for the lend members and I think you men Cllr Peir Leonard had raised it at the policing committee meeting at the last one. Yeah.

CLLR LEONARD: Self-explanatory, just go for a vote.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to support that motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Peir Leonard, and seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Is everybody in agreement? Is there anybody against it?

CLLR SNELL: Just to say that I think everyone's in agreement Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I think that has brings us 5.30 on the dot thank you each and every one of you for your time and effort to go here to be with us and it was a long meeting today and long agenda and to thank and hopefully we'll get to the other motions next month.

LORRAINE: Can we ask the protocol members to stay on for that

meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.