

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT  
WICKLOW COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN ON  
MONDAY, 2<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.

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JENNIFER SINNAMON

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members. Apologies for the late start, you are all very welcome back after the summer, I hope you all had a nice break. We have an extensive agenda to get through this afternoon, so I would remind you all of the three-minute speaking rule and I will be enforcing it. Okay, first item on the agenda to confirm and sign and first of all I would like to just acknowledge Senator Denis O'Donovan, he is here from the Seanad and you are very welcome here. I think before we start we will do the votes of sympathy.

ADMINISTRATOR: For Patrick Conlan, father of our friend and colleague Brendan Conlan. For Michael Fitzpatrick, for John Bolingbroke of Redcross, worked for the Council for many years. For Molly Staunton, our colleague and friend of Martina Byrne. For John Smith. For May Walker, mother of our colleague Mary Rose Walker and for Rita McNamara.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are there any other votes of sympathy?

CLLR WALSH: I would like to pass condolences to Shay Monaghan. He was a member of our fire service in Greystones.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, if that is all of them we will stand for a minute's silence. Okay, to confirm and sign the minutes of the order of the meeting held on the 1st of July 2019, which was attached. Are there any?

CLLR BLAKE:

ADMINISTRATOR: Seconded by Cllr Snell.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 2 to consider the proportion of property measure WW40424F known as Connolly Square county Wicklow, to Mr. Paul Quinn 25 Connolly Square as per previously circulate do I have a proposer.

CLLR BEHAN: I want to propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do I have a seconder.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is that agreed? Agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: To consider the disposal of a portion of property measuring 0.032, to Tanager DAC in their capacity as charge holder over the property as previously circulated. Do I have a proposer?

ADMINISTRATOR: Proposers, please?

ADMINISTRATOR: Paul O'Brien.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And seconded by Shay Cullen.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is that agreed? Yes, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 4 to consider a report in accordance with Section 179 of the Planning and Development Act as amended. It is the proposed solar car ports at county buildings car park Station Road Wicklow Town. The report has been circulated.

ADMINISTRATOR: Do I have a proposer? Councillor Matthews, seconded by Cllr Snell. We will go for a vote.

Vote was taken 31 for and one not present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To consider the Chief Executive's monthly management report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will mention one or two points and I then I will take questions on that. The An Bord Pleanála decision has come back positively in relation to the Arklow wastewater treatment and also for the container hotel in Wicklow Town, work commenced last month on the library in Wicklow town and the tenders are back for Fitzwilliam Square and that will come

back in October. Tenders are back in Arklow and the consultants are working on the detail of the public realm. Design and documents for the transport bridge and works will commence on the scheme there in October as well. Tenders were due back last Friday for consultant on the Blessington greenway. The applications were submitted in respect of Glendalough, Baltinglass and extra funding for the Blessington Greenway. We will see how it goes. Rathdrum is going forward on the 30th of September, receive funding 50,000 each, one for Knacanagh foot paths and another for the multiuse games area and a contract was signed today for a 3.5 million contract with them. I will take the rest of it as read and I will take any questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I have just three items I wanted to list. For the Chief Executive, first of all on page 15, last Friday at 5.30pm, we normally get a blizzard of emails from Wicklow County Council at 5.30pm on a Friday telling us different things we didn't know about and last Friday we received an email saying: "*Wicklow County Council has engaged consultants to do a town health survey on Bray.*" And they will eventually come back and report to Wicklow County Council and basically the object of the exercise, which every single person in Bray will agree with is to try and re-enhance the main street area of Bray and try and ensure that it becomes a thriving town centre again. What I cannot understand, for the life of me and I wanted to see if you can explain it to me, we have had four public meetings of Bray Municipal District and one with the administrator, never once was it mentioned that consultants were going to be employed to conduct in health check on Bray, we weren't asked if it was a good idea, we weren't asked should a survey be done, an online or a physical survey and we weren't asked what questions should be asked, we weren't able to discuss what would happen to the report and the survey when it was done. We were completely bypassed and blind-sided.

Now, for the new members, this happens all the time here. Councillors are disposable, as far as the management of this council is concerned. We are barely tolerated and instead of building up a team attitude, particularly, what I feel so strongly about is the newly elected members, enthusiastic, young people, primarily, coming on this Council for the first time and the message we are getting is an email at 5.30pm on a Friday saying we are doing this, not a mention, it's not even on the agenda of the council meeting on Tuesday night. I want to know, Chief Executive, what is your attitude to councillor this is in Council and in Bray Municipal District. Every member will be affected by issues such as this coming down the tracks in the next five years. As far as I am concerned we need a lot of work done in Bray town council and town centre, but the elected members have to be involved from the beginning and the same would apply throughout the county. I think we need to get this straight right at the start of this session at this five years, where we stand as public representatives. Have we got a voice or have we not? Or are we only to be tolerated where necessary and I am not going to accept it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR BEHAN: I have two other issues, I am very unhappy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will let you back in after other councillors have spoken, if you cannot take three minutes to make one point.

CLLR BEHAN: I also want to know what is paying.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe, you have to respect everyone.

CLLR BEHAN: I am asking the question here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You will have to wait, I am sorry, you can't do this.

CLLR BEHAN: It's on the report.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: I will be very brief, I just have a couple of questions to ask, but can I comment on the previous exchange, I think that kind of behaviour, Cllr Behan, would put people off, being aggressive like that, I think you can get your point across without shouting and I honestly don't believe that we are only tolerated by the Directors and the Chief Executive. I would like to raise a point on page 7, I raised, if you remember last month the issue of rent arrears and I would like to commend the work being carried out by the rent team in their effort to recruit these arrears. I noted when I got a brief report back that the three areas in the county with the highest amount of arrears, which is Bray, Wicklow Town and Arklow do not have rent collectors. I understand these are the most populated areas in the county and therefore that is the reason why the arrears are so high there, but I like to know if the Chief Executive thinks that this is a situation could be approved by appointing rent collectors to these three towns and I think things could change dramatically, hopefully. The other item on page, on this, I would like to ask Mr. Curran to provide the members with details of all publicly owned land in the county that has not yet been developed and on page 8, in relation to the Kilbride social housing scheme, I was contacted recently by some residents living adjacent to Kilbride, living in Clover Hill, they tell me now that the works are starting at 7.00am in the morning. Now I received confirmation when the previous contractors were on site that works, it was written confirmation that, they were told that works could only commence at 8.00am, now they are starting at 7.00am and the residents are being told that, they have been given permission. I think 7.00am in the morning is too early for all of that noise and everything else, so I would like to receive clarification on that, thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR McMANUS: I like to take two questions on the housing section in particular and around HAP. So I notice that from your last report in July up until this report, that I believe there is 176 more houses reliant on HAP. I am wondering where does that go? Does that get fed in nationally. And secondly the homes with place minder I asked at the last meeting and I will ask again, that is a new service that we have, a new employee and I would like to know how they are getting on in terms of, I think it's 97 households they have supported since October 2018 in terms of what is their experience of supporting people who are on homeless HAP. Are they having difficulties in fulfilling their role, in terms of protecting their wellbeing as a staff member, but also protecting people who are on the HAP?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think most of that is going to be covered under the housing presentation. Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. It's not a follow up because I want to make the same point as Cllr Behan and because I was struck by the

scenario in the same way and when I read the report and it says Bray Town Team and I don't know who that is, but I am not on it and I haven't been invited to be on it, I do, in the news and social media and in the county I hear about great stuff happening in town teams, so I would aspire for Bray to have a Town Team that can show that is there a group of people committed to doing good stuff in the town. And likewise, I replied to the email that I got, within half an hour of getting it asking, I work in that world, of doing consultation doing public engagement, I might have even done this for free if I was asked.

I think it's important, in that this is a whole piece of work and I have worked in organisations, with the greatest of respect, bigger than Bray MD as well, so there is a whole back end of work that is required to do that in the best interests and with the best possible outcomes for the stakeholders who are the people of the town, so I would, also, you know, we are invited to a focus group meeting that is clashing with something else that am at, it carries on whether me or my colleague are available to go. It feels like we are missing an opportunity to do a health check that could have a positive impact and forward in the next five years for us and Bray as a town. I would like to know are there terms of reference for how town teams are created and is there a model that Bray isn't following but could.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Mine is just very brief, it's I know, at the last CEO's report and this one as well and possibly all of them, we don't have any comparative figures for social housing and for homeless or anything like that, in other words, we are looking at figures here every month and we don't know whether the figures are increasing or staying stable and I think that is an important thing to know, in other words if there is a problem for the work or getting better. Even if you had a comparative figure with, even the previous month, and maybe just a year to date, just an extra couple of columns added on so we can see where we are, because it's hard to determine from these, thank you.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thank you very much, chair, I am going to follow on with the question in relation to Whitestown dump, it appears that during the determination by the judge was that site would be remediated within three years, don't know if that is actually the case, but if the Council were to go back to the court with a timetable of actions to show when it would be remediated and what actions would get them to that point. I am wondering would we be supplied with that timetable that would have gone to the judge. Also with costings I would query that because there was a question over who was going to end up paying for Whitestown and we are going to come into a budgetary year right now and that would be a significant amount of money, so who will be footing this bill, the Council or the Department? And I suppose a more up to date information on where we are with it and when the plan will be remediated.

CLLR LEONARD: I wanted to say, it wasn't on the report, but the Chief Executive mentioned it there, I just want to welcome the sewage treatment plant for Arklow, it's been long overdue and well-needed. I want to ensure that Wicklow County Council protect a lot of the residents along the lines of where the pipes will be laid, recent works on the Harbour Road have left a

lot of vulnerable older people and people whose homes have been damaged and they have been caught in a loop of nobody claiming responsibility for it, between the contract between the County Council and Irish Water, these would be along the same line of the works that would be done and I would like the Council to take responsibility and they work with Irish Water to prevent them having to go through so much.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in response to the issue about receiving an email on Friday, about a company called Future Analytics to do a health check on Bray, it's actually a very positive thing to have this happening. This was discussed at a councillor's induction meeting that I organised, so all of the councillors were aware we were looking to carry out this work on the town and have a health check done on it, I believe it's an objective of the Town Team and the Wicklow Economic Think-Tank to have these processes carried out.

This company is experienced in economic matters in relation to town and I think we have gotten a good company in to do this, so I don't want the feeling around the chamber to be that councillors didn't know about this, councillors should and did know about this, we also have two public meetings coming up which councillors have been informed of as well and we have had wide stakeholder engagement on it, this hasn't been going on quietly and this is what you do when you are trying to make an improvement. You create a baseline study and say what have we got, what do we need and what can we do? That is what we are starting to do for the town. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Like many of my councillors in the area I am being inundated with emails complaining about the state of the Murrough, I am wondering is there any update on the illegal dumping there, thank you.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, yes, I too wanted to record my concern about the Town Teams and forums, in our area the Town Team in Blessington do great work and the forums in Baltinglass and Blessington do great work. Then at times they seem to know more than what is going on than the elected councillors know. I would express my concern on that, it's the people who have the mandate and are responsible to the people in the area and it's very important to remember that and while I don't always agree with everything with Joe Behan says, I don't believe it's appropriate that another member of the house will chastise him on how low or high he raises his voice. It's a sad day when you see other councillors checking other councillors on the noise levels or whatever.

CLLR FERRIS: I think I am entitled to my opinion.

CLLR O'NEILL: It's none of your business.

CLLR FERRIS: It is my business.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The town teams have worked well, people involved sat down and looked at what was needed and they have gone a long way in providing facilities and applying for grants in public buildings and a lot of projects were provided for, have the back of the whole of the community under the Town Team, the same in Blessington, they are a big driver for the Blessington greenway and councillors and officials are involved and I think a lot has come out of it in terms of building and getting people involved in

Chambers of Commerce to come on board, Bray is an ex Town Team which has now been established the town health check is just a follow on from that, it's active citizenship within the town and it's been positive to date and I have no doubt this one will be. Councillors will be involved in the town health check, they will go to a meeting on Thursday night and they will be at the Municipal District meeting and to date they have been very positive. In terms of rent arrears, there has been a move away from getting as many people as possible to go on to direct debit, to use the pay basis with An Post and the rent collectors are working inhouse and trying to get as many people as possible door-to-door, those days of collecting money door-to-door are gone nationally. It has been working, more and mother people as they move into council houses set up a direct debit system and it seems to be working. The public land will come under a presentation in relation to housing supply, similarly the Kilbrian starting at 7.00am, we will take it up with the councillors and we can discuss it. Those figures are centralised, they are a shared service, based in Limerick to all of those figures come back to Limerick. They have a place finder who is working out very well in terms of tenants and these are all dealt with on a case by case basis and very sense active issues and it can be difficult for people to find rental accommodation and it needs that extra resource to find accommodation and work with them. It's been working very well from my point of view, the comparative figures, we will have a look at that, the supplies and the numbers moving and we can certainly do that.

The Whitestown, currently the remediation plan has been prepared. There is a lot done in terms of surface water and examination of surface water and a physical survey and there is in terms of a detailed investigation. The timeline has gone back to the court and the remediation plan will be finished in March, that is the time that needs to be agreed by ourselves, by the owners and by the EPA and then we will have, I think it's over about two years the work will be done. 78 in the original judgment, it may go longer than that, but again it's been brought to the attention of the judge. Costs were always paid by the Department, we have had discussions about the Department, they know it's coming and we don't know yet what the cost will be on the remediation plan and we are forwarding that on to the Department.

Wastewater treatment plant, that was between the contractors and we will certainly keep an eye on that. There is legal action being taken in relation to the Murrough, that is ongoing as we speak, we will provide details. Thank you.

>>: If you have specific questions, the HAP home finder will be giving a presentation, so one specific question, say the money, is where as we were or weren't reliant, we will say part of the local current supply is HAP and HAP is part of the supply and the formula the same as local authority or group housing bodies, so it is, it might not be the exact wording I prefer to go with, but we will have a presentation that might answer most of the questions.

CLLR CREAN: Can I come back before we live the report on the Town Team piece. Maybe because it predates me I like to know more to get them on the agenda. I would like, like questions have been asked around the terms of

reference, the accountability, where is the mandate and is there a legislative base and even in relation to the Greystones one it's great work for the realm, that is a planning tool, okay, it complements our work, but the duplication we need to look at is there public representatives on that who are on it, do they report to us, so we don't have a repeat of this again and again and there is some mechanism, where, I suppose for me I need to learn what are town teams, what is their function and how I connect with them? In the July report, it's not in August's report, but we would get to ask questions on the July report, but they had bus shelters and they got money, €15,000, I would be interested in are they deciding, the train session needs a shelter, that is a priority I am hearing is coming from my constituents, is that being considered? So if you decide what the actions are I would be interested to learn more. So if that could be on the agenda it would be good to get more.

CLLR WALSH: Just to make the point in relation to that and also the mechanism put in place in relation to the Town Team in Greystones 2020. They would report back to the Municipal District on a regular base and to keep the members updated on what is happening there and there are representatives on the district on the Town Team.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 6 to consider the adoption of the 2019-2024 Strategic Policy Scheme.

ADMINISTRATOR: At this stage the elected members will have a copy of the actual draft scheme. The scheme has been on public display now over the month of July and August, about six weeks. There were seven submissions received and the members got a report on the 19th of August, summarising those submissions as well as a copy of the seven submissions so we got submissions from the environmental pillar, Keith scan London, from James, James Benson, eastern region executive of the Construction Industry Federation and Helen Howes, who is the Wicklow Council PPN.

If I could draw your attention to the members have been circulated before the meeting, with Appendix1, which is the proposed framework and also a list showing the elected members preferences on each individual SPC, so if you look at the appendix 1, taking into account all of the submissions received, the wording in black is the original scheme and the wording in red is the proposed configuration by the submissions, so for example, on the planning and environment SPC, the Construction Industry Federation have expressed on interest in being on that, so that is catered for there at pillar 1. The chambers, the local chambers have looked for representation on all six SPCs, so if we were to go with that planning and economic development is catered for, you would have a new seat on the transportation and emergency services. Housing in Cork estate, that is catered for. Community and cultural and social development is catered for, as is the development and enterprise support, as is the climate and biodiversity SPC.

The environment pillar has asked for representation on all six SPCs, so that is catered for planning development and also planning, you would have a new seat on the corporate estate from environment conservation as with the community, cultural social development. The PPN have asked that Comhairle Na Nog be filled by a young person. So that is there also. Just in relation

then to the pillar to the representation from fisheries and forestries, we did write to the Department of Agriculture and Food, they are asked to be provide representation for all SPCs around the country, because it's a new SPC, they are going to come back to us. And then just in relation to the elected members representatives, if the corporate policy group considered the configuration and the members representation, so if the plenary council approve this today we can go ahead and fill the spaces and kick off with the SPC meetings in mid-October. So just in relation to the submissions received, a recurring theme was that the overarching driver policy creation in county Wicklow must be for sustainable development, development that meets the need of the present without compromising future development to meet their needs. This considers the impact of all aspects of decision-making.

Reference was made to the UN Sustainable Goals and with these in mind they proposed the following underlying dimensions for the scheme and just in response to that, the goals of the climate adaptation strategy are designed to plan a coherent response to the effects of climate change and this will be weaved into, not only our SPC, about you our corporate plan. A recurring theme in the submission was around training and yes, we will provide training for SPC members, both elected members and sectoral representatives. There was a number of submissions made in relation to how we operate the SPCs and we certainly will do this insofar as practically possible. There was a submission in relation to, that sector reps have their travel expenses paid. Just to say that this will require a budget, which we don't have and also a resolution of the council, not many local authorities provide for expenses to nonelected members and where they do only the PPN reps are paid, where possible, but the Wicklow PPN Charter provides for the recoupment of expenses to their members.

So, if there are any questions I am happy to take them and if, I suppose the important thing would be to sign off on the framework so we can go out to sectoral representatives and maybe get back to the members on the meeting on the 2nd of October when the membership is finally decided.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, can I clarify that the, everyone who is listed here that wanted to be on any of the committees, particularly the oversubscribed ones, like housing and the community and cultural, those people are now officially going to be included on those committees?

ADMINISTRATOR: The elected members.

CLLR BEHAN: Yes.

ADMINISTRATOR: No, what you have hear is the configuration, if you look here you have the economic and support SPC six people, five space on housing six people looking to go on it, community culture and social develop. Plan, then 6 for six places. Transportation, water, three for five spaces and climate and biodiversity, five for five spaces so it is open to use elected members to change the numbers of those committees if you wish to bear in mind.

CLLR BEHAN: Can I follow up on that, that is why I asked the question. I want to propose we do change the membership numbers to reflect the interest of the members of the council and obviously housing and community

are two very big issues for people, that is why they are oversubscribed. I want to be on housing but I recognise we can't have everyone on housing so I opted to go to another one. For the people who have said they want to be on those particular ones we should today agree to change the number of members required on those to facilitate those members. You might also remember, on the last occasion we discussed that I suggested there should be an opportunity for members of the public not involved in any of these national pillars to indicate an interest in being a member of the SPC and we would take that into account when we decide finally on the membership, on the day Lorraine suggested I keep that proposal until today, I want to make it now, Cathaoirleach, and I presume we will be advertising to are those members anyway and I want to propose we do that.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I think the representation on it is broad and it covers quite a lot of areas and interests, so I think we have the numbers right in terms of the outside representation on it, it's good to see buyer rental representation crosses many of the SPCs as possible, we are all aware that every one of those directorates and SPCs, the policies they may bring to full council have a huge impact on climate change and biodiversity and the environment, it's good to have that. Delighted to see Comhairle Na Nog as a part of this and I hope members fully endorse that here today. In terms of the numbers, the elected members and the way the numbers have worked out, I think we should give the, maybe the bigger parties a chance to have a chat amongst themselves to see, I notice the bigger parties have quite a few reps on the SPCs, maybe to talk and see if we can level things out before we take a step to go with the numbers. I don't know how much talk there was beforehand.

The transport one is hugely important and I am surprised at that being undersubscribed. A lot of challenges in transport in Wicklow in terms of public transport and the requirement for that and I would be really underfunded in terms of large public transport projects for are Wicklow. I am surprised it's undersubscribed and it's my second choice. So, I would propose they go with, as presented here today, I wouldn't be so sure of changing the numbers of membership, at the moment I would like to give the members a chance to discuss that amongst themselves, but I would have to propose it's presented here today.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again. As chair of the Housing & Corporate Estate, the positions available are five and there are six people who are looking and half of that as the first priority. In regards to economic development and enterprise, there is six spaces on that and five people have expressed an interest to go on it, so I think the logical thing to do would be to say that everyone would get their first choice and that we now make the housing and corporate estate six positions rather than five and reverse it in regards to economic development and reduce that from six to five. The problem here is that you still have community cultural and social development at seven and transportation and emergency services at three and I personally think that no SPC should have three members and I think four is not enough, I think it would have to be five and let community and social develop. Go to six, but that is, it's all right, we can make it decision to change housing and economic development, but some members who are

down for the oversubscribed communities and culture and social development, at least two of those are going to have to move across and that is something that the members here, it would be unfair on me to suggest that, but if you want to take it in regards to housing and increase the number to five, at least you are pleasing six people on housing, you are also pleasing the five who want to go on the economic development, but unfortunately the bigger question for the other members in regards to CDP. CLLR WHITMORE: Thank you very much, chair. Just in relation to Cllr Behan's proposal on bringing in members of public I wonder how that would work and if we had a lot of people how we would choose. I think it represents an issue we have to look at and that is how we communicate what the SPCs do, not only within the council, but a lot of the time it's not really communicated to each member what each SPC is doing but then how we go beyond an out to the communities and get our message out to people as to what we are doing and what happens in these meetings. I think that level of oversight is really good and it would probably be spur you on to do more within the SPCs and for it to be more of a policy driver than an implementation check box exercise, so I am not sure how that would work, so I think, at this stage I would be keen to get this signed off and get moving with it and maybe look at how we can increase engagement with our communities on a different footing.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just on the transportation and emergency services we had difficulty in the last five years as well attracting councillors or, I mean and an on a few occasion, we had council meetings because we hadn't got the right number of elected representatives. That is why I put my name down for that, I am very interested in that, but I know that Cllr Behan put his name down and myself and Derek, two-and-a-half years each, that is not the reason I went on it. It's very disappointing, obviously there is others oversubscribed for whatever reason, so really they should have to transfer in there, because we are not going to get the numbers and no use going ahead with three.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I am one of the ones that is on the CTSD and I will transfer over if there is a space on economic development and I will transfer there no problem to move this along.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I suppose I was making my own stand for going for the community cultural and social development committee. I had opted to go on that number one and I hadn't made any other options for the other committees because that is the committee that I feel suits my strengths best and indeed my colleague Cllr O'Brien had put his number one choice down for housing. I think Stephen Matthews made a good point that because there are a number of big parties on this they should look to change it and I would like to thank Cllr Kennedy for offering to change to transportation water and emergency services, but what I sorry, sorry the economic development and enterprise support, I would be keen to stay on one and I am putting my cards on the table. Cllr Murphy. Is the SPCs, that is where there is a link between community coming in to sit on the SPCs because it is a representation of Municipal groups. Also on the SPCs groups with disabilities, because each part of the SPC is really, there mass to disability involved in that and I don't see anything through any of

them, so I think that needs to be looked at as well.

CLLR WALSH: Just by way of clarification, I think, Councillor Kennedy's suggestion that he go to the economic development SPC and not transportation and water, but looking at it there is certainly an imbalance there, three members on that SPC, the transportation one as councillor Fitzgerald it needn't have to be because of a lack of representation and it shouldn't, so we should look at populated that SPC, Councillor Snell's discussion about changing the spaces from economic development and the housing estate is one that maybe might be considered as well. Certainly transportation water and emergency services, these extra, needs extra representation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is open to members to sit on more than one SPC, if they want and transport, water and emergency services was my second choice, so if we have a dearth of people looking to go on it I would be happy to go on transport, I just got my first choice which was economic development and enterprise support. Is there anyone.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Delighted to have you.

CLLR MATTHEWS: If we could get one more to transport we are done.

ADMINISTRATOR: You could, we can stay with the six on economic development and enterprise support, that is six. That increase the housing one from five to six, CCSD increase from five to six, planning stay at six, transportation and water and emergency at five and planning and biodiversity five, it would mean if people don't want to transfer over that members can serve in more than one SPC and one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So we need one more person to join the transport water and emergency services. Is there anyone that thinks that that is an important thing within the county.

ADMINISTRATOR: They can come back on the 2nd of October if you wish.

CLLR BEHAN: Can I make a suggestion, that among the chairs of the other SPCs that a draw is made and one name comes out of the hat. I think that is the fairest, to join that committee as the last member, or even do it, like for five years one year on for the chairs to be involved on the committee. I believe that is a fair compromise.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that is a fair solution as well. Members happy with that?

ADMINISTRATOR: So in terms of the numbers, so I am interested just for the framework for the numbers we are going economic development enterprise support six, housing in Cork estate, six. Community and cultural development six, planning and environment six, transportation water and emergency services five and planning and biodiversity five. Agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: And the fifth place on the transport, water and emergency services will be filled by a draw of the existing chairs of the SPCs.

CLLR WHITMORE: I am not so sure about that, chair, I think, personally I... personally I have stayed away from it, going on a lot of other committees, because I want to devote my time to the SPC, so to now go on to another SPC, as a chair, I think I personally don't know if that is such a good idea, because there will be a lot of work involved in the SPC so I don't want to be sitting on another one if I can avoid it, to be honest.

CLLR BEHAN: It's one year.

CLLR MITCHELL: I am a chair part time on the transport and emergency

services one. It's very important for a very large number of people in Wicklow the transport and it's only going to get worse and worse in the next five years and it's clearly important that we manage to try and get the investment that is needed, particularly in public transport and also roads to support the people and I am disappointed that more people aren't interested in trying to help with that.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, have you decided that you are going to go off.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No, I am going on both.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: You are going to be on both. So that means that with the first three at six, and the fourth one at six, there is only one problem then and that is just one, so I think the only fair thing to do is the ones that are oversubscribed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There won't be any oversubscribed, we are just short one person.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Okay.

CLLR BLAKE: I will go up to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent will go on to transport.

ADMINISTRATOR: Are you going on both, Cllr Blake?

CLLR BLAKE: I don't mind.

ADMINISTRATOR: If you go on both we leave CCSD at six, but if you are going off it, it goes back to five.

CLLR BLAKE: One year or permanently on it, five years? I would be going back on to that anyway after two-and-a-half years as vice chair of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to be on both if you are going to be vice chair.

CLLR BLAKE: I will go to both.

ADMINISTRATOR: If I could get a proposer and seconder to that?

CLLR SNELL: Proposer.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Secunder.

CLLR GLENNON: Just a point of clarity, when Lorraine called outside spaces, five for planning and environment or six?

ADMINISTRATOR: Six.

CLLR GLENNON: Still six.

ADMINISTRATOR: And then the framework, the actual framework has circulated, can I get a proposer? Councillor Whitmore.

CATHAOIRLEACH: What about Cllr Behan's proposal.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The guidelines set out clearly the way the SPCs are set up, so they are looking for a minimum of seven and where appropriate a minimum of six and where appropriate seven selectors so they set them out, the environmental... and social inclusion. And then they set out clearly how they are nominated. So three of them come from the PPN and the rest come from the environmental conservation comes from the PPN and social inclusion comes from the PPN and the development and construction etc. It sets out clearly how you do that and development companies and state agencies are not permitted to go on it, but the PPN may recommend people from those agencies, so that is the way it's set out, so there is nothing stopping the SPC bringing in the experts at any time to a particular meeting, if someone wants to come in they can come in on that basis, otherwise they have to come in through the PPN and the Act is clear, it's the shell,

remember shell take the guidelines into account and they are quite clear in terms of specifics on that.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, it's a reserve function of the members to decide the make-up of the SPC. That is it. We are, it's in our hands and I want to propose that councillors don't want to, it's fine, it's a democratic decision, I want to propose that we advertise for members of the public who are not tie need any organisation that might have an interest in the six areas to nominate themselves and give a reason why. That is all. I am just trying to widen it out of just the organisations in the county, we are an organisation, everything else is an organisation, it's just to reach out to the people out there, that is all, so I just want to propose that, Cathaoirleach.

CLLR SCOTT: I want to make the comment on Cllr Behan's proposal, if we do that that we have to have guidelines and framework put down as to how we go, how they apply from the public and how we judge who should sit?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: In terms of the legislation it says: "*The establishment of a strategic policy committee shall be undertaken by the local authority in accordance to the guidelines that are issued.*" And the guidelines are very specific, so that is laid out and the legislation is very clear that that must be taken into account.

CLLR BEHAN: We have taken it into account, but we can still invite members of public to be part of it, that is all I am saying.

CLLR FERRIS: I would like to second Cllr Behan's motion that the wider community should be invited. I know a lot of people who have asked me about the SPCs who aren't affiliated to any of the prescribed groups and in relation to the Chief Executive's comment there, these are guidelines that are set out.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The establishment of a strategic policy committee shall be undertaken in accordance with such guidelines so you have to do it in accordance with the guidelines and the guidelines set out who the selectors are and how they are selected. It shall go down in accordance with that and it sets out what should be done.

CLLR FERRIS: I second Cllr Behan's motion and I would like to see that being examined, because as I said, a number of people, individuals who aren't members of the PPN or any of these organisations, because they are just individual, they are not part of a group, they are individuals, but have a particular interest, either in, as we were talking about earlier, transportation Bus Connects and all of that kind of thing and in other areas, they have been disallowed and disenfranchised from being able to get a place on any of these committees and what Councillor Scott said there about trying to, I suppose find out if people are suitable or whatever, I would say that that should be down to the particular SPC committee, but I think it should be explored with the Department and sure we are not the only council around the country who have come up with this.

CLLR WALSH: Cathaoirleach, I think the proposal would be difficult to put into practice in terms of what criteria you are going to lay down in terms of suitability, etc. Maybe we can get further clarification from the Department, but I think it would be difficult and as I think the CEO suggested that if needs be, chairs of SPC can request certain people of expertise to attend certain meetings that are relevant to whatever topic is being discussed. I think it would be a difficult one to throw the net wide and to cipher what is

suitable and who is not. And what the agendas would be on sitting on the SPC.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry.

>>: Just.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just to say we read out the seven commissions received and I can see where Cllr Behan is coming from. The decision made in July was to go out and get submissions from interested parties. We have to recognise the PPN structure, as being voluntary and community representation throughout our committees, that we have to do that. And I have been in contact with the administration network throughout the country and had this question has been raised at other local authorities and the guidelines are being strictly adhered to. Just to say that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I wonder if, because the chambers are in each area, if there were members of the public who are genuinely interested in a particular SPC, if they could be encouraged to contact their local chamber, because sometimes what we have is an SPC where we have a person appointed to it, or a body appointed to it and they don't actually have the representation to attend all of the meetings, so maybe if we could encourage members of the public through their local chamber to actually join on through the SPCs that way?

CLLR BEHAN: I understand why you are saying that, but people actually have to pay to be in the chamber of commerce and they are not just members of the public, they are business people, maybe people don't agree with it, could we take a vote and if it's agreed with very to check it out and if it's found out this is not possible legally then we drop it, but I think for the I would be interested to know what members think.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before we do that, it's unfair to go for a vote when there is a little clarity on it. Could we bring it to protocol and thrash it out and we will put the framework here today that is through and we will come back and address it properly at the October meeting.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's always been coming through the PPN and it comes to particular meetings if an expert or someone interested in that particular area, it's always there.

CLLR WHITMORE: Can I ask, are the meetings public meetings? Are they open to the public?

CATHAOIRLEACH: The press can attend.

CLLR WHITMORE: But members of the public can't?

ADMINISTRATOR: They are not public meetings.

CLLR WHITMORE: That would be another way.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If we can thrash it out and we will come back to in in October and it will be on the agenda. We are going to take a vote on the framework as it stands at the moment.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's important for the SPCs and governing bodies to get through today [INAUDIBLE]...

ADMINISTRATOR: Proposed by Councillor Whitmore and seconded by Cllr Matthews.

VOTE TAKEN

ADMINISTRATOR: So that is 34 and two not present. Okay, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 7 to consider the first draft of the Wicklow County Council corporate plan 2019-2024, the initial draft was attached with the Departmental guidelines and we will have Lorraine first and then the Chief Executive.

ADMINISTRATOR: Okay, members just to say that the guidelines in present to what was planned 2019-2024 were circulated to all of the members, as was the first draft of the corporate plan. So the corporate plan sets out our goals, our high level goals and visions for the next five years. Have you to take an organisation wide strategic approach. It has to be adopted six months before the annual meeting, so that gives us a time frame up to the 6th of December. We have to take into account certain activities, the activities of the Municipal Districts, cross-cutting issues which include social inclusion, human rights, climate change, mitigation measures, sustainability, disability rights we, have to look at the migrant perspective as well as other issues. With very to look at our resource, how we will implement the plan with our human resources and our technology. We have to look at areas of how we are going to monitor our progress and how we are going to report to them and the elected members. We have to take issues with regard to our other plans like the local economic action plan, our national plan, customer service, how we provide our services to our public, so importantly, as well, we have to reach out to all of our staff, we have to go through a wide stakeholder consultation process, so if the members were, if the plan is presented in two parts. One takes account of what is in the guidelines and the other is the Departmental functions, the goals and objectives and each department is fed into that. So if the members were agreeable today what we do is we go out to our staff during the month of September, consult and engage, in October go out to our wider stakeholders, our SPCs, LCDCs, our committees, the PPN, business interests, etc, etc and/or elected members with a view to coming back in either November or December with a completed plan and that plan will lead into our annual service delivery plan and our performance development systems internally.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just in terms of the goals there is four broad areas, the first is housing and community, so the first one would be the high level goals over the next five years, the second is economic development planning and infrastructure, third is organisation development and financial matters we, have the fourth one now which is climate change adaptation and biodiversity, we will take any suggestions from members in relation to the high level goals and they would feed into our annual service plan and we will have a measurement of that as well. So we will ask members between now and the next meeting if they have any suggestions for high level separately when we are going through the consultation with staff if we could feed that back and get on to us.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone agree? Thank you. To consider the adoption of the Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Policy, previously circulated and copy attached and Mark is going to give us the presentation.

MARK: I think Sean might go first.

SEAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, just to give you a brief background and particularly for the new members, this process started in April, when the council approved the draft strategy and it went out on to public display from the 7th of June to the 5th of July. I hope I am not stealing too many of

Mark's slides here, but we had 97 submissions during that period, which is the highest number, there is 17 local authorities involved in the adaptation regional office, which is very encouraging, it means there is good awareness out there of the issues involved. There were some difficulties I think for people and it's very understandable, in differentiating between climate mitigation measures and adaptation, but to make it quite simple, we have already had a mitigation measure way proved by the council insofar as we have the solar panels out there, that is to reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions. Adaptation is more managing risks and impacts that are existing in, or are anticipated to exist. I think the important message today is that this is only the first step. The objective of the strategy is to make climate change into all of our actions and I described it previously was like health and safety. You wouldn't build a house without taking health and safety into consideration, you wouldn't even fix a tap without taking health and safety into consideration. So the objective is to embed it into all of our functions.

The other thing to consider and come up when we look at the budget that there are budgetary implications for the measures that are included in the strategy and it's important that we face up to those when budget time comes around. One of the measures is the appointment of a climate action officer and I think that will be very important, because in the formulation of the strategy and analysing the submissions and so on, we had to draw on our existing staff and divert them from other important projects that they were involved in and I would like to personally thank Mary Cahill and Jim and a Teresa and Mark who were involved in producing what is in front of you today. As a result of the submissions we have considered them, taken them into account, we have quite a number of changes suggested and the kind of strategy which is before you for adoption, 23 new ones and three amended ones. There is a require. On us and all local authorities to adopt it by the 13th of September, so I commend the report in front of you today, with the amendments for your adoption and Mark will bring you through them.

Mark. Thank you, Sean and Cathaoirleach. Okay, I will briefly mention some of the slides are from the presentation given earlier on in the year when the first draft was presented so apologies for any repeats. That is the definition of adaptation, just to make sure that you are all aware and more importantly members of the public who understand this process, because we are adopting a particular strategy here that the adaptation is not the same as climate action. A lot of people use the word climate action to describe this strategy, it's climate adaptation strategy. So we are trying to embed within the organisation and is that is for the most part within the executive, myself and my colleagues to make sure we take into account how we deal with and cope with climate change going forward. There are other policies in place where we can have more climate action, but this is primarily about climate adaptation. Again to stress mitigation and adaptation, the bulk of this strategy is about adaptation, occasionally we stray into mitigation, but that is only the action itself, when it's seen as mitigation is seen, adaptation is all about approach. This is a, this is how we propose to bring the process

through with you. The dates are incorrect on this one in the sense we didn't quite meet our particular targets to have the public consultation in May, we did start it in June, but managed to reach our expectation to have the strategy before you for the 2nd of September, today's meeting, because there is an onus on us, as public bodies to have the adaptation adopted by the end of September. So this is the only opportunity to have it adopted as it stands.

The way the strategy was divided into five themes, local adaptation governance and business operations, infrastructure and built environment, land use and development, drainage and natural resources and community health and wellbeing. I can go through, to confirm we did the public consultation, we started in June and completed it in July. We closed it and we collated the submissions we got. We did quite a considerable effort to get out to the consultation, to make sure it got out to the people. We have put it up on social media and on the website, we sent it to the public participation network and as a result of sending the draft strategy they came back looking for us to do presentations and Jim did two presentations, he went on the radio and we also have other local authorities who have come up into us with comments. In particular the CARO. That is the Climate Adaptation Regional Office, which is set up to assist all local authorities. They also, when they read our draft strategy had some comments and we incorporated them in. CARO wrote to some high level stakeholders in the Department, communications and the environment to remind them we had put our draft strategy on display and they also made some comments. 97 submissions were submitted, Jim, and others were tasked with going through every single one and preparing a position on each one and Sean, myself and Mary and Teresa reviewed the submissions on the proposed changes. We came up with 23 new actions and three amended actions in the draft, that is amended, compared to the draft that we initially sent out.

So, the version we sent out last week, for adoption is changed in 26 locations, compared to the draft that was sent out for public consultation. We there is a requirement we adopt the strategy by the 30th of September. So hopefully you will be happy to adopt it today. On the question of mitigation and climate adaptation again, to remind you we already have a lot of other actions under way, Sean mentioned it for the solar panels, we also have 20 something projects around the whole organisation being funded this year by a Better Energy Committee grant, that is an energy efficiency programme, so it's lighting and heating system installation, we are rota row fitting six houses under that grant as well as the routine work that goes on in housing, where as every time a house is relet, it has an opportunity to improve the energy efficiency. So we have a lot of action already under way. There is the green scheme fund and the fund that was announced recently. These are all what we understand as climate action. It's about how we operate ourselves. So I can go through each of the 26 changes but I would like to pause now and see what you want me to do. Do you want me to go through 26 items?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Not in the time allowed, I don't think individually, I am sure most people have read what was sent out.

SEAN: Could I say that all of the actions in the strategy have gone through strategic environmental assessment and appropriate assessment. That is an important part of it. We got that independently, it's gone through that process, so just to mention those items which were circulated here also.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I think I said it before, as the party that had led the charge on climate action and change in the last 20 years, to see reports and strategies like this, suddenly becoming into the mainstream to be discussed in the chamber I am delighted with it, it makes me realise the last 20 years were not wasted. They were on some other issues. I want to thank the staff because the staff did a huge amount of work on this. I know Mark, Jim, Mary, Teresa, Sean, and I know you had to drag staff in from other areas to help put this together and to me that indicates that at some point in the future, I think climate action and biodiversity and environmental loss is going to need its own directorate at some point in the future.

That is obviously not for us to decide here today, but that is the direction it's going and the policy coming from all SPCs will have to be climate, because that is the challenge that we are facing in everything, in transport, in housing, our economic growth. It sits with the planning directorate at the moment and I think it's well guided in that. Myself and Councillor Whitmore will be chairing the climate action and biodiversity diversity SPC. I know some of the things that came in were mitigation and it being how do we stop and slow our impact on climate change, where as this document was about an adaptation strategy and how does Wicklow County Council as an organisation adapt to what is coming down the road with climate change and we have managed to weave in some mitigation measures in there, but it's mostly about adaptation at the moment. Everything that we feed in is going to feed into our climate change SPC, so all of the submissions coming in today, if people reading this and they feel their submission didn't fit in or was rejected, I can assure you it will be looked at the climate change SPC, we aren't quite there yet, but this is a first step on how the organisation adapts to climate change, we will have a mitigation strategy and a pollinator plan strategy and a biodiversity plan. We have the county development plan starting in six months' time where we have to look at that again. We will try to weave other make submissions and suggest that some of those get weaved into the policy, also into our transport planning. I suppose you have to be realistic. Wicklow County Council is not going to stop climate change and Wicklow people are not going to stop climate change, but what we have done here is we have set a bar here in County Wicklow, we were the first county to declare a climate emergency. If we adopt it today we will be the first to have a Climate Adaptation Strategy, we declared we will be cognisant.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 15 seconds.

CLLR MATTHEWS: I would like to propose this and I look forward to working with Councillor Whitmore in the future.

CLLR WHITMORE: Before I get into the adaptation I would like to welcome Laura McKidd, she works in Templecarrig, you are very welcome and we can talk to you later, would you like to, no, we can't. You we will talk later. I

suppose Cllr Matthew it's has covered a lot I was going to cover, I would like to thank the team, it's great we got 97 submissions, it really shows how high this is on people's agendas and that really Wicklow is a very environmentally switched on county and that places a lot of responsibility on us as public reps and we have to listen to what is being said and make sure we lead on it. While this is an adaptation plan and it's very much an organisation and it will adapt to climate change as it happens, there was a lot of submissions put in in relation to biodiversity and I want to make sure that anyone who put in a submission is aware that as chair of the SPC I will make sure that your ideas and your thoughts and concerns will be taken into account by the SPC and that we will look at what was raised during all of the submissions. I want this SPC to be a very active SPC, to be outward looking SPC, so that we look, because the reality is Wicklow County Council is very tight on resources, there is only so many staff and there is only so much they are going to be able to do, but we have such an enormous amount of expertise within our county and we need to make sure we use the SPC as a tool to reach out to those people, to engage them, get their expertise and use that to drive policy within the county and that is what I would like to do over my first two-and-a-half years as chair.

I think there is money set aside as leader funding as well and I really think as a council we need to make sure that that environmental money does not go back and get redistributed to other branches within the funding and that is something I would be keen to see. So, we will be looking at a mitigation plan, we will be looking at biodiversity and we will be prioritising that the adoption of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. Engagement of young people is going to be key in this, young people drove this, really brought it to our attention and I am delighted that Cllr O'Brien here beside me is going to be on the SPC because he does a lot of work with Comhairle na nÓg in his real job and we would hope to bring that expertise and get those people involved as well. So I like to thank the council staff and everyone who put in a submission and I suppose just so people are aware we will be using this SPC to make sure we do an awful lot in the area of climate change, climate action and biodiversity.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I was outside the chamber when this was first brought to the members here in April, with a megaphone protesting along with others, some of whom are in the public gallery. It's a privilege to be in the chamber and to hopefully be approved to go on to the climate SPC and to work on the submissions sent in by the public. I want to thank the staff and it showed in response to the adaptation strategy it showed in the detailed way they respond to all of the suggestions, even though a lot are to do with mitigation. It's worth having a mention on mitigation, I said this in my first day in the chamber, we have 12 years to turn this around, so we bear a heavy responsibility in this chamber over the next five years, the length of the next council term, we don't have the time to be sitting here in five years' time starting to talk about mitigation, it starts now and it will start with climate SPC, which I am looking forward to getting involved with. Again since April, it's worth pointing out, we have had the Amazon burning, Greenland melting and we have had a recent report from nature suggesting that Ireland is under severe risk of flooding due to climate

change, so we don't have time to wait around. We can do that within our resources and Budgets and we will work on that as hard as we can in the SPC. Just a specific point, I would like to welcome the action that is brought in bringing in a sustainable transport plan. We were talking about transport earlier on in the SPC, I would like to raise the question and it may be a comment or now or next month's meeting, in regards to the new funding that is being announced by the Government recently, the local authorities in regards to putting out electric vehicle charging points, I was wondering if Wicklow had had a chance to look at that and see how it would be implemented across Wicklow and with particular reference for Greystones, which is desperate for a charge point at the moment. Thank you.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Very briefly, again, there isn't much more to say, but I genuinely in terms of the staff and what they have presented today, I read a lot of reports, I even write a lot of reports and to see the commitment to this within the detail is hugely commendable, like I am in awe, reading through the submissions and seeing that every submission got a response and that is not copy and paste, that is not off the top of the head, that is detail, a commitment to an answer that people are looking for. I can't comment enough and I feel the plan, the strategy here today and it's almost like it's throwing the gauntlet back down on us and I am excited. If we recognise the journey from April to now, we should comment everyone who has been a part of that journey and those who have been outside the building challenging us and us taking on the challenge in here, I think it's to be recognised and I am really looking forward, we have a young person and Wicklow is doing a lot of firsts here and I think that should be recognised. We have a young person on an SPC, first in the country, we are taking the charge, we are not just seeking to be the first, I think we are authentically presenting ourselves as willing to be the first, I am really looking forward to the challenge that comes with that.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. It's just a small point, but it's something that I raised about three months ago. Congratulations on the adaptation strategy, and all the work done by the team, a huge amount has gone into it, but I am a great believer in the devil is in the detail and the small detail and this is a broad spectrum. Three months ago I asked about the plastic mug, the use of plastic mugs in the building and I was told they were going to be phased out, now I can see them around here today, I also see around here a wonderful idea, reusable bottle made of plastic, we should be leading from the front. We should be sending out the message that plastic is not a way to go. We have fish stock and our turtles being choked by plastic. We have all even the photographs of rivers and seas that are chock-a-block with plastic, we have to start phasing it out and the change begins with us and we should start taking ourselves seriously and looking at small things like that.

CLLR CREAN: Again I like to reiterate what people have said about the staff, it's an amazing piece of work and great to see the level of detail in response to submissions, I was highly impressed and yes I would agree we do need a mitigation plan as well, so it's great to facilitate that, the only other thing I would like to add is as the members have mentioned the climate SPC and I would be of the opinion that although we need SPC in terms of the mitigation and pollution plan, I think it would be dangerous at that SPC

would carry the climate actions really across all of the SPCs and we really need to make that clear and on the public record, even the housing SPC that I will be a part of that, going through different houses and making sure energy efficient homes are built, they are going to be key priorities, so I think across all of the SPCs we will all play a lead role and it won't just be one SPC, yes it will be a leading one, but it will be a leader of all other SPCs as well, so that needs to be really clear for the public as well. Thank you.

CLLR LEONARD: I would agree with Mags and Mary, I think we need to incorporate this action that all of the hard work which has been done into projects that are pending very soon, especially three major projects in Arklow, the sewage treatment report. The inspector recommended that ABS technology be used so that water treatment would be considered, a decision was taken not to take that route, but I would like to push to get the latest technology to make that water 100% reused instead of pumping it out into the sea, because eventually we will need to do that and now is the time, before the plant is built to incorporate things like that. The OPW are doing a glad relief scheme in Arklow, it's a hard engineered solution to the flooding in Arklow, I would like to see part of that being soft engineering and keep the green corridors and work with the river and biodiversity and mitigation as part of that as well, that is a pending project, there will be money there to do it and it could be incorporated easily into it. And then, the historic core in Arklow, there was a 1.6 million planned development down there, the stone for the historic core is a proposed to come from China, I would like that to be sourced in Ireland if possible and in a sustainable way. Nobody else wants to come on that so we will have to go for a vote on that.

ADMINISTRATOR: As proposed by Councillor Matthews and seconded by Cllr Scott pursuant to the provisions of the climate and low carbon and the national adaptation framework, Wicklow County Council resolves to... having considered the draft strategy, contents of the report and submissions received during its period of consultation and the SEA and AA screen reports carried out in accordance with the requirements of the SEA Directive, DIR 2001/42/EC and Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive.

Vote taken.

ADMINISTRATOR: That was 28 for and four not present. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 9 to consider the adoption of the Wicklow County Council traveller accommodation programme.

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, members of have been circulated with the traveller accommodation programme. The programme was drafted in conjunction with the local traveller consultant committee and following an extensive period of consultation, so it was circulated to the members on the 31st of May with the proviso it has to be adopted before the 30th of September. So I am not going to go through, there is a bit of a policy overview and legislation there that you can read at your leisure, but for the purposes of today, I suppose I want to go through our timelines. We have to adopt before the 30th of September and just to state our policy statement. So it's the policy of Wicklow County Council to provide standard housing options as well as group housing in accordance with the assessment of need. Now, obviously these housing options are provided in recognition of travellers cultural identity as an ethnic minority group. The outgoing plan

was prepared at a time when ethnic minority status hadn't been afforded to the traveller community, so this is a change in this plan.

So in November 2018 we did an assessment of need for traveller families in Wicklow and you can see the breakdown of the traveller accommodation, we have ten home owner, people in standard housing, we have people in halting sites and residents in basic services site, a lot of travellers in rented accommodation, sharing houses and bays on halting sites and authorised sites and those in emergency accommodation, the same for the general population. The breakdown of the assessment of need show that we had about 80 families that were deemed to be in need of housing or social housing options.

So, it's interesting to note that despite a lot of media commentary on traveller accommodation, over 75% of traveller accommodations would prefer standard housing. So that has informed our plan. Within the programme we have also retained the 1-16 ratio, so if we are allocating a scheme of houses with over 16 houses a minimum of 1 in 16 is allocated to traveller accommodation. So that is a minimum and we would be successful in increasing our statistics on that area, for example, we did 33 allocations of standard housing in the last few years. That is a significant amount. There is a breakdown of the assessment of need over the Municipal Districts, but as you can see, standard housing, 59 out of 80 is the preferred option for our families. Traveller specific accommodation, includes housing and halting sites and single sites is 21 with a total accommodation of 80 required in the current programme. We had particular targets, you can see the targets there in the current plan, proposed redevelopments and just updates there, for example, although we had proposed redevelopment in Silverbridge to construct three houses that has been considered premature, in light of the proposed road upgrade, so it's been deferred.

So what we have done in the interim period we have refurbished the units for new families and they have been reallocated with a further unit to be refurbished. Rocky Valley we looked at relocating families there, with the preferred options of families, we do listen to the family and work closely with them, they would prefer the site to be upgraded. Windgates, the preferred option is to upgrade the site. So our targets under the Traveller Accommodation Programme is, one of the proposals we had was the revamping of Ballintesteen.

So we are going to have to take out page 12, in the final paragraph we will be removing pending the outcome of that legal opinion. We are looking, we do have an implicit programme for development to consideration of lands available in a Municipal District that may be suitable to provide traveller accommodation. Again, I mentioned refurbishment Silverbridge upgrade to Rocky Valley and we are looking at consideration to changing housing bays to houses, subject to funding and available consideration in each Municipal District. We have a proposal for a specific group housing scheme in Rathdrum to accommodate an extended family grouping, who apparently are on the roadside and we hope to work in partnership with them. I like to

acknowledge the input of the local traveller accommodation consultant committee, the outgoing one and the new incoming committee, we had our inaugural committee last week and Cllr Joe Behan is our new chair going forward. We presented last week and they have partially endorsed the adaptation of this plan, so I would ask the members if they could see their way to adopting the plan today.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. First of all, could I formally propose the adoption of this strategy, I want to thank Jackie and her staff for the work they have done on it and previous members of the traveller consultative committee and the present members, the newly appointed members and the members of the last housing SPC who also discussed this strategy and chaired by Cllr Snell. In particular I would like to congratulate the two travellers on the committee for their input and the key to success in how we handle the issue of traveller accommodation in the future is positive co-operation between all of the agencies and elected members and travellers' representatives and the staff of Wicklow County Council.

I would make one point in my work as a public representative and I am sure many of the other members would agree with me on this, when you do find that travellers are in a situation of trying to seek rental accommodation, private rental accommodation, very often they are suffering double discrimination because if their name appears to be a traveller name, very often and very quickly landlords refused to entertain them at all. We know it's illegal, but it is most definitely happening. That is why we need positive discrimination measures such as one in 16 of every new unit being allocated to a traveller family and if they come up on a housing list that they are also allocated that house. It's essential we continue with that policy. I believe myself it's one of the reasons why so many young travellers want to have a settled lifestyle, they may want to travel at certain times of the year, but they want to have a home they can call their own and one of the concerns that the travellers representatives that indicated to us as members is that because of the extreme shortage of rental accommodation in this county at the moment, unless things change soon we will be back to a situation of having to deal with illegal encampments around the county. That is a day we do not want to go back to and we want to work positively, but we have to make sure that travellers have every possible assistance to get housed on a permanent basis and I have commend it.

CLLR SNELL: Again I want to thank the outgoing committee under the Chairperson Nicola Lawless, she did tremendous work over a five-year period and I have no doubt that Cllr Behan will continue that work that is being put in place. The SPC look forward to working with Joe and his new committee and indeed the housing section. Everyone knows that there is an array of complexities around the issue of traveller accommodation, but it goes beyond that, it goes into education and health and that is why we all have to work hand in hand and I believe that the Municipal District over the next five years, in each area, will have to also work with the SPC and with the local traveller accommodation, because we all have to find solutions, for the betterment of all of our citizens. So I want to thank the housing department for the amount of work that they put into this, I couldn't let today go without mentioning Eamonn McCann who is retired, Eamonn was

an stalwart of working with the traveller community. I know Eamonn is still there in the background if needed and there are new people who have come on board to replace him, but certainly it's about working together. I want to thank you, Joe, Jackie and the staff and certainly we will roll up our sleeves and work together going forward, so I would like to second this strategy.

CLLR McMANUS: Thank you, chair, I would also like to welcome this today, I think it's a really important piece of the housing puzzle overall and thank you to the staff who did work on this and like we were saying about the climate adaptation strategy, again the submissions it seems all got a detailed response as well and were considered so I appreciate that. My question was going to be about budgeting and how that would be part of this plan, it seems to be missing, but that is going to be teased out between the SPC and ELPAC going forward, I don't know if you can clarify that, but I appreciate it and welcome it.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I want to thank Jackie for the presentation, because the plan in its initial format doesn't show the level of work which has been carried out, so when you compare the two it's great to get that feedback. Just in relation to the plan itself and from that the maintenance of sites, I had the opportunity, with Cllr Corrigan and O'Brien to visit the sites recently and I think it's a separate issue to this plan itself, but on a separate matter we need to look at the maintenance arrangements at some of the site we have in place and specifically some of the fire protection issues around there. So I would, as a maybe we could have some specific reporting on what is being done and what is planned to be done in the areas going forward, but thank you for the plan itself in its current format.

CLLR BLAKE: I am a member of the SPC on housing and I join with the other members in thanking Jackie for the presentation and the work being done by the staff as well. I think the fact that, or the comment that Aoife has made there regarding the sites. Certainly one of the things that we came across down the years of the upgrading of the sites, a lot of those families do want to live in proper housing accommodation and there is opportunity for those sites to include a full living accommodation for the families that are in those particular locations, so certainly, again I would like to thank the whole committee for the work done.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I just want to commend Jackie and all involved on the report and just over the last five years, I have seen first-hand the work that was done and we did allocate some houses in the Municipal District there recently and had the unbridled joy of some of the people who were allocated the houses. I mean probably some conditions that were not suitable, but now they have new houses and we want to commend the County Council for how they have handled those. I know people were absolutely thrilled and I kind of wish the new Chairperson and the committee all of the best on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If there are any more comments, can we, do you want to go back to the questions.

JACKIE: Just to go back to one of the items for clarity. Joe Behan mentioned it, the possibility of increasing due to the lack of private rental accommodation and discrimination against travellers. What came from the last meeting was that it is an issue and there is corresponding wise illegal encampments as private rental falls in that sector. It has been put to the ELTAC, the proposal at the last meeting that a subgroup be formed to

examine legal encampments and the reason they happened and what measures can be put in place or is there lack of, as Cllr Snell mentioned education, so probably do some things that provide that, so that will mean the work with ELTAC going forward. The budgeting, there is a capital programme funding for the traveller accommodation programme, we applied to the traveller accommodation unit, for example, if we are going to be upgrading sites in Winegates we will be looking to get a budget for the traveller accommodation for that. We also have a huge amount of revenue expenditure on traveller accommodation and going back to what Cllr Kennedy and Blake mentioned. We employ caretakers to maintain sites and we do, we undertook a fire audit after the Carrickmines tragedy and that is to the fore at all times. On fire safety and the difference between caravans and mobiles and improving living conditions for our travelling community. So that is a constant part of the work in this area. We are also and again a proposal that has come through the ELTAC, we have arranged for fire training for our travellers in halting sites and that is being going on in October. We do a huge amount of work around fire safety in the halting sites and again just to echo what Cllr Snell said about Eamonn McCann being of great assistance to the ELTAC. He has been ably replaced by another member of staff now, but I think that is everything.

ADMINISTRATOR: Okay, so proposed by Cllr Behan and seconded by Cllr John Snell to adopt the programme.

VOTE TAKEN

ADMINISTRATOR: That is 28 for and four not present.

CLLR WALSH: Just wanted to come in before Jackie went in relation, she mentioned the rise in illegal encampments across the county. I know of two in our area and at least one of them is there over a number of year, much to the annoyance of local residents, just from the council's perspective, I know there was legal proceedings issued in one case, are we any near to finding alternative accommodation to those, don't go into too much detail obviously.

JACKIE: It's a matter discussed with sensitivity in the legal department and with the ELTAC. The problem with the legal challenge, not only can we take proceedings for trespass, we have to have regard to the fact that while we are taking injunctions we are a housing authority at the end of the day and we have an obligation to help indigenous travellers on our list, however we don't want to have a perception whereby a family is, goes and illegally encamps and is then housed, because that isn't fair. So basically how we deal with them is under trespass law, so it is a long drawn out protracted way to deal with illegal encampments and can be very costly, so where we can engage with the families under homeless HAP or bring them into our homeless team and try and find alternative and suitable accommodation for them. In a lot of illegal encampments, we might find they are not indigenous to Wicklow, so they are camping in Wicklow and hoping to get on to the housing list in Wicklow, perhaps coming from more crowded areas hoping to be housed sooner. A lot of travellers would look at us to put provisions on illegal sites to make them basic sites, but generally when there is health and safety issues there we don't do that, so we can go through the courts which is very costly and our preferred option is to engage with them through the

housing authority and bring them through the system that way and try and meet the need that way. But the reality is it is on the increase, but maybe with the next presentation on supply, I mean we are definitely seeing as Cllr Fitzgerald said we are seeing much more allocations happening and as the supply increase and the one in 16 kicks in we will hopefully see a corresponding reduction in the illegal encampments.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: This is just as an aside, it's following on from Cllr O'Brien's question earlier, it's not so much about the illegal encampment on the Murrough, which he referred to, it's also the illegal burning of rubbish, which is turning an area of special conservation into a disaster zone. It's incurring the wrath of people, there are so many people that are upset about what is happening there, it's been destroyed. Now I know there is a legal and ongoing process and you need proof of something, someone being caught in the act burning rubbish, but a lot take places at night-time and some as late as 2.00am in the morning. But there has to be some way, otherwise we could be looking at this same problem in two years' time, there has to be some way of going on it, that the whole area is being destroyed and it's supposed to be an area of strategic importance and special conservation, so if was any way it could be upscaled or prioritised or even put CCTV cameras, even on a temporary basis to try and solve the problems. Six months it's going on and it's getting worse and worse.

JACKIE: As a person who walks the Murrough regularly I hear what you are saying and we share the concerns on this matter. The burden of proof I won't speak on behalf of my colleagues in waste management, but we have had across the table meetings with waste management and housing because there is strategic issues to be looked at here and with the Municipal District, so we are trying to do a tripartite scoop on this, again we have to have, look at our obligations under housing and look at the burden of proof under waste management, because I think the thing is under waste management we don't have evidence of who is burning and who is dumping, we have a fair idea, by don't have evidence that is going to stand up in court.

We have looked at the idea of CCTV, again we have to be careful about anything like that, so these are all on the table at the moment, so we are hopeful, we have sought costs from two companies to look at in the short-term, which we hope goes some way to mediate the damage being done down there. Unfortunately our hands are tied with regard to proof, we are going to find it difficult to win in court without proofs, especially when we are looking at families that are indigenous to the county and are on our social housing list. So unfortunately that is the situation at the minute.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, to item 10, to receive a presentation on Wicklow County Council housing supply programme.

>>: Okay, there has been a number of queries regarding housing to include new members on housing in general and supply, as people are aware, housing is quite a complicated issue, involving them throwing a whole load of information out to the Department meeting which will deal with housing splice and the October meeting we will deal with the maintenance type issues, grants and funds and homes at the next meeting in October. So this will concentrate on supply. There will be an overview of supply and particular emphasis on the local authority. Other essential parts of supply and we will

deal with questions afterwards if that is okay with members? BREEGE: Good afternoon, let me introduce myself to the new members of the Council. Most of whom I have spoken to, but not everyone, I want to say congratulations on your election and I look forward to working with you over your term of office. For those of you who don't know me my name is Breege Kilkenny and I am a senior engineer and I am in charge, a manager of Wicklow's housing capital construction programme. The first slide, just to give you the background, in Wicklow, currently we are working under rebuilding Ireland, from which there are five pillars. So basically Wicklow's housing supply strategy, so it's beginning when there was changes in Government policy in 2009 away from the policy of zero build to policies of social housing and construction. So under the first policy document and then subsequently under the current policy which is Rebuilding Ireland, the slide you have in front of you.

There are five pillars of action to address housing and homelessness under the Rebuilding Ireland plan and pillar one is to address homelessness and for today, I have highlighted today, it's pillar two and three, which is to accelerate social housing and build more homes and then under pillar four, it's to improve the rental sector and pillar five to utilise our staff in a better and more efficient way. I am concentrating on pillars two and three. The next couple of slides are from the Department, they have a tracker system and basically under Rebuilding Ireland, the minister has set down delivery targets for each local authority and this is tracked quarterly and reviewed annually. So the current delivery target is for 2018-2021. On this slide I have extracted it, indicating the new building delivery targets for Wicklow over that period 2018 to 2021. Where this lies along our proposed delivery pipeline. So the orange light shows that what the targets are and this doesn't include voids and on the other side we will be above it. That is our plan by 2021. So in April of last year the minister set down a total supply target for Wicklow of 1,225 units over the period. Our housing strategy will see Wicklow in turn a total of 1,327 over this period. But, furthermore, we are also looking, in the Pipeline, beyond the 2021 period because everything is not going to stop again in 2021.

Again, just taking from the sheet, this is public and it's on the sheet, so this is what we delivered in 2018 and for that we had a total of 83 new social housing units. This was broken down into 28 if we delivered our own build, ten turnkeys and 45 par fives. This is our delivery stream for 2019. So Wicklow will see an increase in its total social housing supply to 272 units this year and an increase of 300% on our delivery from 2018. Again this slide shows an extract from the Government's tracker, presenting a breakdown of the social housing units as follows. 54 will be our own local authority build, up there in blue writing on the right. 172 turnkeys and 45 par 5s. Then, post 2019, from the following two years, 2020 and 2021, Wicklow will see a further increase in its own social housing delivery and an additional 475, again the blue writing on the right corner there. That is what we will deliver ourselves and then a total of showing 557. What I will say here is that this demonstrates a sevenfold increase in the number of social housing units that Wicklow will construct in this two-year period. Our

bumper year is going to be in 2020, I will show you those figures as they come along. So I will just bring to your attention that this extract from the Department's tracker sheet only presents what we have already achieved approval status. We, as I have said we have more schemes in the pipeline, but we haven't submitted them for approval yet, but they will be post 2021. So Wicklow will definitely see the delivery of more social housing units through par 5s and turnkeys that were indicated on this slide, so even though that is what is shown at the moment, as we see there will be other units coming through, like we are going to deliver more than 12 units of par 5 in those two years. Again I am concentrating on our construction programme and that figure is what we are going to deliver ourselves. Again, this is from the Government's tracker sheet, so you so you can see our delivery over the next three years will be more than what is being asked us of us from the delivery targets by the minister. Just to then give you the background, as I mentioned earlier, and again just to give you confidence in the numbers I have put up there, so you don't think we are blowing our own trumpet, without any substance behind it, so Wicklow's local authority new builds supply programme had two phases. The first phase was 2015 to 2018. Again, when Government policy changed. Our second phase is currently under the new build plan programme. So the first aspect of our strategy and that is why our units were low last year, we were concentrating on the greatest need, but also infill sites and we were only getting small sites for what we are working on and we are using the traditional build and construction. In the last year we had a review and realised we need to look at bigger sites and get bigger numbers and attempt to go through rapid build. This was discussed and brought forward through the SPC and as a policy change we will tackle the rapid build and we are now seeing dividends in relation to that. Our shift towards rapid build was necessary given the delivery target given by the Government of these 2,225 units and almost 50% of this will be - 1,225 and most of this will be required by local build and rapid build now. Just to recap Wicklow's total build in 2021 will be 557 units of our own and the total target for, under Rebuilding Ireland is 1,225. Okay, completions, 2018/2019. So by the end of this year we will have these 82 units. As we all know Avondale in Rathdrum, the old library in Arklow and some in Bray was delivered by the end of last year. In July last year we finally got two open and I think you are aware of some of the issues we had with a contractor in one of those there. Oak Drive is being allocated this month and Whitehall is for delivery in November/December this year. That will be close to the wire, but that will be 82 of our own units to date. So, again that is what we deliver, but what we have on site at the moment is 11 schemes. Kilbride Lane 42 units in Bray. We are waiting on that for a long time. The FCA hall, Farrankelly in Greystones. Delany Park is about to commence and Carrigeden, the contracts have just been signed on that one. So I have broken it down from our traditional build and our rapid build. Whitehall hopefully for delivery at the end of the year.

The PPP, that is what they are doing, anyone up there will see how quickly that is coming up out of the ground in difficult conditions with a lot of rock. Merrymeeting lands and Coolattin Oats, I believe that contract has been signed now. So, from completion in 2020 we will have nine schemes coming

in. This will be our bumper year of our own delivery of 226 units. We will see the delivery of all of those coming through and I talked about it on the previous slide. Then for 2021, we have 249 units. With Avondale phase 2, some of these will say, you voted on last year for those that are under 50 units. We are now going ahead to finish our approval process and get that on site as quickly as possible. Ard na Greine in Bray was voted through and Ashtown Lane and Delany Park, you voted on that last year. Greenhills Road we will be bringing that to the Wicklow Municipal District soon. Moneycarroll is on display. Three Trouts we have submitted that for approval. And the Old Fire Station in Arklow, again we will be bringing that to the Arklow Municipal District. Most of these were in the district, again to brief people to our schemes, before we bring it to a committee before we bring it to the Department even, so just to recap, under Rebuilding Ireland 1,225 units and Wicklow's new build, will be the 554 units.

I wanted to say something about the four-stage approval process, it hasn't gone away, but with the rapid build we are in negotiation, our CEO is on the delivery committee, and we are trying to reduce down the number of stages. So for some of our rapid build we are going to part A as soon as we get to stage one, effectively eliminating one stage of the process. So the rapid build is lowering the amount of time we are stuck in the four-stage approval process. With the new councils, just to let you know, stage one is site appraisal, where we have to get approval for the scheme in any format. Stage two is preplanning, you have to give a detailed costs report. This is the bit I have the issue with. The only cost report that can be a tender document. There is, there is that one and then post planning and pre-tender and then final tender approval. So the tender stage tends to be straightforward. We can get stuck between stage 2 and 3, getting the information and getting the approvals. But we are making progress and you will see from the scheme that went to Baltinglass, we actually got it through the four-stage approval process in 52 weeks, whereas the four stage is 59 and most local authorities are sending over 60 and 70 weeks getting through that process.

I will just mention to you, the little bit of colour slides at the end, this is a scheme we have in Whitehall, 34 units. There is 23 two bed and 11 three bed units. This was the schematic that came in from the design build contractor. Essentially it's a modular construction in terms of they are PEG units. This is the 3D model they produced at the time of their presentation for their tender. That is the time, it comes in the stages, they have to do a template of the unit and you can come out and examine it, so from our point of view, you can see all of the elements of the construction as it proceeds. And then I will just put these slide together, this is from about a week ago, this is where it's at on site at the moment and that is the internal, you can see plaster boarding ongoing internally and then there is another slide of the outside. So that is from the site. So thank you very much.

>>: Hello, everyone, my name is Rachel Gillespie, I am the homeless HAP finder for Wicklow County Council and also the staff member in charge of the HAP section. I will run through these because I feel like I am, I have a lot. So HAP was introduced as new social housing support on a phased basis. It

was roll out in Wicklow in December 2016. So all social housing supports can now be accessed through the one body, the local authority. Prior to this, prior to HAP financial assistance was given through the Department of social protection in the form of rent supplement. So on and off over the year, you may be familiar, had you to be on the housing list to be eligible for rent supplement and they changed the rules and you didn't have to. So now we should have the true figures of those in need of social housing support. Any household that is qualified for social housing support is eligible for HAP. So the only exception to this is if the tenants, or the applicant's circumstances has changed since the HNA and they can be now over the income threshold, so that is something to be mindful of. So we have 1,420 HAP tenancies created in Wicklow since the inception. Nationally 48,465. HAP was introduced in 2018. It's available to Wicklow County Council applicants and the intra-authority movement. So that that means that any applicant can remain on the list in Wicklow and rent through the HAP scheme in any county in Ireland provided they are under the income threshold for that county, and also the applicants need to be mindful there is different caps for each county. We have one central transactional service centre in Limerick, so all of the information is checked and assessed in Limerick.

So nuts and bolts really, household accommodation in the rental market in general, the contract is solely between the tenant and the landlord, Wicklow County Council are not party to the tenancy agreement. The local authority makes a monthly payment directly to the landlord subject to the rent limits. Tenant pays a weekly rent contribution to the local authority based on the household's income, so that will be the same as any tenancy tenant. They can be on the list for standard social housing. Dublin City Council through their housing SPC brought in awarding additional points in their scheme letting priorities for any housing applicants who took up HAP as a way of encouraging people to take on the scheme and to, I suppose be reassurance to them that they would be considered for social housing when their time would come up. Households can now work full-time. So that is the biggest change that has happened since rent supplement, where you could only work, I think it was 19 hours, whereas now you can work full-time. The household is expected to remain in the property for a period of two years unless exceptional circumstances apply. So there are maximum rents described by the Department, four or more children, or if we have a different family make-up, saying a mother and child wishing to share with the grandparent we have to go for a Section 43 determination from the Department. So in some stages we can get different funding, so they are declaring now the top ups, which is something that didn't happen under rent supplement. We tried to ensure that the tenant isn't spending more than 30% of the household income on rental payments, so that is the weekly rent plus any top up that needs to be under 30%. We do have a 20% distressing, so that is generally applied for homeless cases or where there are serious medical conditions, so there is just a quick recap for the different family make ups. See the additional 20% there. A quick one on my job, obviously I try to seek out potential properties suitable for people who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness. I work closely with the homeless team, if a property becomes available, if I haven't met the clients themselves I

liaise with my colleagues and try to find them a right landlord/tenant match. The main thing I can do is the deposit and two months' rent upfront, so we can pay out the full deposit and the rent for up to two months. I would be the single point of contact for the landlords and applicants and then the HAP application is given priority to make sure there is no delay in payments. The payment is made directly by Wicklow to the landlord and ordinarily takes ten working days. So we have 120 households up until last Friday, six in payment last Friday that assisted under homeless HAP. They are people who have been in emergency accommodation and people who are at risk of homelessness. So, there is just a few slides on HAP as a flexible policy response, so it's the flexibility of the private rental market, expands area choice where there is little or no social housing. Other local authority accommodation is an option to a transfer list, it was decided at the housing SPC that the default position would be to keep HAP accommodated tenants on the housing list for social housing as opposed to removing them if they didn't respond. So the default position is they remain on the housing list. Prevents families from being caught in a poverty trap that. Is one of the main benefits of the scheme. When you are in HAP, your income can go up, you will so still be in receipt of the HAP support, obviously the more you are earning the more your weekly rent will be, but at the same time the support isn't pulled from, so it helps families improve their situation, I suppose and just a couple of quick slides, these will all be circulated so you won't need to go through them in detail. RAS is on the decline because HAP is the greatest show in town at the moment, or so the Department thinks anyway, so there is less people currently on the rental accommodation scheme than there was previously because in some cases landlords are selling, but we currently have 390 households under RAS at the moment. So they will be circulated later, so my contact details will be on it, if anyone has any specific questions and want to get in touch with me, my office is opposite Jackie's and feel free to pop in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We can say on behalf of the interview panel, you are hired! Rather than having Breege and Rachel playing musical chairs we might just direct them to Joe.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just the first question is I didn't quite catch what the director said at the start about training or induction for, was that for SPC members or all members?

JOE: First of all, this is only part of the housing presentation, the second half will be at the October meeting, that will deal with homeless and maintenance and some of the grant issues. We would also have training with the SPC members, and we circulate that to members and all members can attain that at any stage on that training, but anything we circulated with the SPC will also be circulated to all members.

CLLR MATTHEWS: I would be interested in attending that session for SPC, the second question I had was the figure that was put up for part 5 or 2020 or 2021, that was only 26 units? Does that count all the part 5s in relation to new builds in the county that we would expect in 2021?

CLLR McMANUS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I have two parts to my question. The terms of the supply can I ask does Wicklow County Council utilise the repair and leasing scheme and if we could get the figures of how many units have been provided through those. I don't know if I can ask this, but I really

appreciated both speakers mindfulness of newer members and I would love to know what Rachel's experience has been, I don't know if she was here earlier, between October and now, what we seem to be seeing is an increase in demand and I am wondering what her experience has been in terms of managing that and particularly across the five MDs, is she seeing a difference? Maybe that is not a suitable question for now, maybe we can go back to it.

CLLR GLENNON: In the presentation from Breege and perhaps I missed something, just in relation to the presentation, the allocation of one house in Oak Drive in Blessington, that seemed to be the only house that had been built north of Baltinglass and perhaps it's something that on this occasion, it's quite a long constituency and it's 20 miles from Blessington and it's alarming there isn't something there in respect of the northern end of that Municipal District, perhaps I missed something, but that was a figure I came out with.

CLLR CREAN: Thank you. I have a few questions so I will list them all. The first one is, I suppose from the earlier question about having a comparator, I was looking back at 2018 and comparing that period to this period and there looks to be a 7% increase this year so far, so it's gone up, so my three concern, it's great to hear about the build programme, that is good news, but I think the need is growing and the question around affordable housing and then Brexit proofing as well, the fact we are lower towards the end of our target dates, is there a concern there. I am also considered in whether or not we have a services plan. I was reading there recently about the Housing Act and that ministers comment that part five, so affordable housing on a statutory basis, I know it's a housing SPC, but I would be interesting to know as a housing strategy, do we have a housing services plan or a plan to develop one?

Because that seems to deal with more specifics around making sure we do plan ahead and Brexit proof. On the Rebuilding Ireland targets I was hoping that maybe it's linked to the monthly CEO report, could we include the targets in that, so we can monitor our performance all the time. Again, I know listening to a presentation seems like, we are going to meet them by the end, but I think we need to be mind. Like I said, mention of Brexit and anything happening to the economy, we need to, not necessarily put everything towards the end in achieving those targets, so I have a concern on that. And I would like to know what the percentage of turnkey developments are in Wicklow, we could get some examples on that. Maybe there is some stuff on that, but that not for this presentation and just to find out again on the two schemes that you have that services site fund and that local infrastructure and housing action fund, are we applying for that? I know there is a development of Rathnew, but I didn't see it on the CEO's report and then there was the original application for Kilcoole, I have had that clarified, but I am interested can we get an interest on how we are utilising the scheme out there to utilise the public land that is there and make sure we are ready for that.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you to Breege and Rachel for their presentations. I suppose there is some positive news in relation to Breege, the Rebuilding Ireland targets, I have seen them with my

interactions with the housing sector there is a slight improvement, I think staff are seeing things easing up, but only slightly. There is still an emphasis on the private sector with 172 turnkeys, but our total build is 2021, the figures are positive there. Just, again, Rachel, I know she does tremendous work and I want to acknowledge the work she does as the HAP finder, but again there is concern, while we have 1420 HAP tenants, you are looking at security for your residents and it's great to have a HAP property, but that sense of security, obviously is there, the national figure 48,500, that is massive, so I just want to ask, are landlords willing to engage with the HAP scheme more, I know there was a reluctance initially, but does she find her experience has improved and again, maybe we need to look at affordable housing schemes going into the future projects that we have taken on?

CLLR O'NEILL: Again I like to thank Rachel and Breege for their work. As Cllr Glennon pointed out we only have one house build in 12 years, we have 300 people in the housing list on that area, but I am hopeful there might be news soon on the building, as you all know, there is about a quarter of the town of Blessington is in the county of Belair, and next March there is some starting there on the Kildare border. We feel, in the area, that it's not really fair that the services are provided by Wicklow County Council for the 336,000, the property tax goes to Kildare County Council, the levies go to Kildare County Council, but yet we supply the services. So what I want to ask the director, has there been any approaches made as regards the 10% of these 336 houses that are due to start in March next, going to our list in the Blessington area? There has been, I am aware of the great works done in Shillelagh and Carnew and Baltinglass as Breege pointed out the 34 units will hopefully be ready by the end of the year. So there has been great work there, but with the proposed 336 houses which will start next March and also I believe in the pipeline there could be up to another 600 and they will be built into there, if we feel that, some of those eye units or are there any plans to do so?

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, chairman, just in line with what my fellow councillors have raised, but just a specific question in relation to Blessington, there is council land and land that is zoned for housing, I would like to know, the sewage plan has permission now, so I like to know what is the actual plan for that council land in relation to social housing? [INAUDIBLE] is by far the social housing in any town.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I would like to thank Breege and Rachel for their preparation. Just two questions, in relation to the rapid build, I understand the planning cost development and construction process, is there delays still between the co-operation department on the approvals and the local authority approvals and was there a gap and secondly I want to know on part 8 housing developments, what is the basis of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála and a fast-tracking of that if that happens. On the HAP then I want to know, we were informed that you can rent a property in any adjoining local authority, normally that works both ways and I wonder is there any evidence in particular of Dublin local authority tenants where the thresholds are higher coming to other local authorities, like west Wicklow or south Wicklow and renting properties and what action can be taken?

CLLR P KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. And thank you, Breege, in relation to the presentation. I was just wondering under the Rebuilding

Ireland home loan mortgage scheme, have we had many applications for a mortgage and how many of them were successful?

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just in 2016 I sat here and we were facing into a dire situation, particularly in Arklow and in the Arklow Municipal District, we had built, I think 2007 was the last time we had allocated housing which was down on the Harbour Road and it was a dire situation for people on the housing waiting list and for the councillors and those involved. In the meantime Trojan work has been done in the last couple of years and I just note in its last year, we have allocated 61 houses, which includes the old library, the turnkey and seven in, or 17 in Delany Park, I understand from Breege, you are suggesting that 47, there should be some movement on the 47 in Delany Park shortly. So there has been Trojan work done and long may it continue.

The difficulty is for us now, obviously there is planning permission before the board and there is a sewage treatment plant hopefully goes ahead, there is another year, I am told by Irish Water because it will take a year before there will be any progress on it, but that would be welcome, if everything gets the all clear, I just want to comment the staff, because in 2016 I felt that we were facing into a lot of problems, the difficulty today is there is two private residences available on Daft.ie, we have no housing, as you know about and I keep in touch with you there and we are facing into a dire situation, because if the employment, we have a scheme on the old IFI site which is bouncing 475 jobs and 75 permanent jobs. We have the sewage treatment plant and we have an application for a primary care centre and all of those will create jobs and people wanting to live in Arklow, but we can't do anything for that. I want to thank the staff for the work which has been done over the last three years. I can't thank you for the years before, because we got no houses, but I am thanking you for what has been done. We had no social housing, we might have bought some, but it's given me some comfort to see people going into the houses in Delany Park, they put 7 in the library last December and I think by the end of this year we should have had 35.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 15 seconds.

>>: I am very quick to finish. I want to thank everyone involved to bring about this situation and it gives great hope to me and the 847 people still on the housing district.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, I like to start by thanking Breege and Rachel for their presentations. I suppose like any protects, any member, depending on their mindset and how they are feeling on that particular day can take the positives or the negatives out of the figures that is presented. So that is why I think it's important for all members, new and old, that they are aware that through their own Municipal District, through their own efforts as an elected member, they can come into Wicklow County Council and speak to members of staff. That has always been available to everyone, some people choose to do it and others don't. Some people like to focus on the negative and grab the headline, some like to be proactive and help their constituents and I think the vast majority will see the positives that has been presented here today. I would like to refer to Rachel's role and I know people are saying homeless HAP, placefinder, but I know from my experience of dealing with

landlords and that that when you introduce Rachel as priority HAP it has much of a more bearing on the landlords and the role that Rachel provides because there is a stigma attached to people who are classed as at risk of homelessness or from a homeless background and the reality is that the vast amount of people that present to Wicklow County Council are not actually homeless at all, they have been given their notice in their own private rented accommodation that they have six months to find somewhere else. The figures will reflect that they presented to Wicklow County Council, because that was something we wanted to change here over the last couple of years and not having people presenting the day they were to be out. The success rate of our homeless team has been immense. I would like to say in regard to Breege, Breege came here many years ago and took on this role and inherited an awful lot of historical problems and some of them housing estates are in each of the five Municipal Districts and they have cost a lot of money and I will refrain from naming any of house housing estates because it's unfair on the tenants within the housing estates, but the reality is that there is a huge body of works taking place in each of the housing estates and that is something that we won't have going into the future by making sure, with the help and guidance of each member of this council and our staff going out to meeting the Municipal Districts and discussing part 5s and 8s, people are not mentioning the acquisitions that took place over the last seven to eight years. A lack of investment from the Government over many years finally is being addressed, so thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I also would like to thank Breege and Rachel for their reports today, I think particularly for new councillors, it's very good to get that information and the figures and I think you are all in the housing department must be, the housing sector of Wicklow County Council must be one of the busiest sections and you have had your trials and challenges, I would say from about 2008 and it's great to see that the figures are going up with the allocations and particularly we can have great hope for the future - allocations. At the, during the Chief Executive's report, I asked him about the public lands, how much could he give the members about all of the public lands in the county that are owned by the council, but are yet underdeveloped and he pointed to this presentation now that it would be there, now we got great details about various areas but I wonder are there more lands? I presume there are more lands that aren't covered in this report that haven't been developed on yet, but are public lands? So, I would still like to get some details on that, thank you.

JOE: I will deal with most, one particular question regarding the geographical improvements and I will leave her alone after that. The part 5 question, now, that is only approved once we have in the system, we are 100% sure at the moment, it will be between 15 and 18, that brings the question regarding the turnkey, if you look at slide 5, that will answer the turnkey ones and you haven't got it there, I can't read it, but come back to me if you need the answer, what it does show is if we did this five or six years ago 100% of supply would be local authority only. Now, if you look at the other apartments, you look at, as Breege mentioned the PP bundle, that is 51 in Wicklow Town, that is an essential part 5, turnkey we advertised to available capacity in the private sector and in a lot of areas, particularly in

the Wicklow and Arklow area, developers have come in and have sold entire unit part of units that is an essential part of the delivery and it means it's quicker and there is other people working through the process. Slide 5 should cover that, if it doesn't come back to me for the exact answer. Sometimes it depends on timing. Particular question from [INAUDIBLE], we advertise, it is slow, there are few bites. I think we might have one or two cross plan, we may not have, it's very slow, there was a situation where local authority purchased units. Two parts to that, one is going into acquisitions and Government policy is to minimise acquisitions to concentrate on new builds, that is why, we are allowed 2024 year we may breach that, but in the scheme with regard to 226 that is less than 10% and the Government is, there a whole load of competing issues there... so with very acquisitions, we are capped and on top of that, we buy one or two in the private sector that are ready to go, they need a little bit of work they are turned over in a couple of weeks. If we build them, we have to explain, we have to, later on in the allocation, it's not really, we use it in the odd case, but it's not a, our first choice. I will come to the Blessington area. In Blessington there was no sewage in Blessington in the last couple of years and therefore that affected our supply in the Blessington town, however we had the Burgy land is in our radar, we had included it on the next version of the PPP, there is a candidate item there and probably the first choice at this stage, we also will come back to the areas to consider the same thing moving forward as a rapid build, so we are in the middle of that, but we are waiting for the Government to announce that.

Okay, also, I had breached the issue of part 5 in Kildare with the director of housing in Kildare and we will be talking to him again, so now I haven't forgotten about anyone, that is on my radar. Government policy, in the last couple of years it's been on social housing and our housing we, have gone through all the residential land and most of the resident land and we have taken the low-hanging fruit as people are familiar, because in each area we have gone back to councillors and we have produced two or three units per area if the land is there, but it's getting, probably the best of it is gone through and we are going through now, if anyone has a particular piece of land we will deal with it, but yes we have our next phase which is 2021 post Rebuilding Ireland on our radar, but we probably took the easy ones first time and also in the Department, the emphasis is on infill at the start. If you look at 2018 onward, anything outside towns that was relatively flat and took relatively bigger units in most cases we developed those, but the particular piece of land, they are getting more difficult and we have a spreadsheet of the land, residential land available for housing and we will, there isn't much left at this stage, but there are some cases where there is no information. Blessington and Arklow would have pieces of land there, but again we can't blame resources and planning and develop. When we have others with the infrastructure that is there. That brings us on to concentration in the last couple of years by the Department has been on social housing and moving on that, affordable has come in with part five last year, I think... we applied for funding on the various sites and we were successful this year in getting new land, however what they said was it was approval in principle, we still have a long set of negotiations on costs to get

the stage on for Rathnew, the Killincarrig, it will be in Greystones, regarding those, that is a little bit different, because it's not a state sponsored subsidised, one of the difficulties and challenges with affordable housing is to make them affordable. Land cost has to be included and have you to look at that service site requires, provides an incentive by making contribution of the infrastructure and leave the land cost out, so we will be back to the SPC and back to how the sites are funded and Rathnew being the first one there. The rapid build, I wouldn't say there are delayed with rapid build. That could be clarifications and negotiations on an ongoing with the Department, if you try to minimise that, as people go to the councillor, before part 8s and developing beforehand and if we look at all members we have had no difficulty with part 8s, even [INAUDIBLE] in situations where they have been there at the part, we all know roughly where we are going. At times there can be clarifications required for the Department but particularly rapid build there is an emphasis in trying to get these things done. There was a particular question about HAP and there is anecdotal information that there are some rentals, we don't think it's a major factor, but we keep an eye on it. We, through Rachel, we have good relationship and the agents or valuers to deal with that. I think there is a particular question I missed over here regarding mortgage to rent, if it was mortgage to rent scheme we have had a number of those this year, particularly people were mortgages are challenged I think and [INAUDIBLE] there has been a number of those if that was the particular question out there. Okay, I will leave Rachel to deal with the particular question regarding the HAP and the geographical area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I thought the database was going to be on the slide, we looked at the land bank and there is some sites remaining so we will give you a copy of the land bank showing what we have built and what is remaining.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you.

RACHEL: Just in relation to Cllr Mullen's question on the renting intra-authority movement. I flagged that at a workshop I was at. The concern was we would have an influx of Dublin people renting in Wicklow, but the answer to the question is that the caps are the same caps for Wicklow regardless of whether you are on the Dublin or Wicklow list. So if you are renting in Wicklow and you have two adults and one child your cap is €1,150, we only have a 20% discretion rate, where as the Dublin regional executive have a 50% discretion rate, but they cannot apply that to Wicklow . Also the Dublin authority is obliged to check that the rent price is in line with that area, so they would check with us, send us an email, saying if someone is going to rent a property in this area, this amount and they are confirming to us that they are going to be under the threshold and we would generally not turn it down, because it is allowed to rent in any area. On a general area, how we are getting on with landlords, I would find the engagement has been very positive, it's certainly a matter of building up trust with landlords and I find if I get working with them once they will come back to me and I will be able to give them other tenants and make more matches. I would invite anyone to come down to our office to see how busy we are and that is a reflection of how popular the HAP scheme is, with both tenants and landlords.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we have only 13 minutes left, so number 11 to

considered protocol in the opening of tenders.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just a bit of background on the 26th of August at the annual meeting at the local elections the elected members had... and the protocol passes that an elected member is entitled to be present, so the policy and procedures sets out the procedure in relation to receipt and opening of tenders which are not electronic, so submission have become mandatory since October 2018. They are submitted on an e-tender website after the expiry they are elected by one member. A for sign off purposes. Since the introduction of electronic tendering not all and a few local authorities have elected members present as a tender box cannot be unlocked until the closing date of receipt has passed. So it was agreed to have the protocol committee consider the opening of electronics and tendering and a requirement of elected members to be present. So following the consideration of the matter of protocol meeting in July, the committee agreed in order to demonstrate transparency that the presence of an elected member at the opening of tender documents when submitted non-electronically remain a requirement. It was recommended there should be no requirement for the presentation of an elected members at the opening of facilities, electronically, so if the members, so if the members approved of this we would refer the policy to the procurement unit of Wicklow County Council to ensure that it's implemented across the organisation in compliance with protocol and regulation. It doesn't relate to tenders received on paper and it doesn't relate to tenders that are received by email and where they can be, they can be open but are not open as opposed to cannot be opened, so if elected members are in agreement with that policy, we will proceed with it.

CLLR BEHAN: I have signed and been present at the opening of physical tenders over many years as a councillor. Normally there is a cover sheet, one page that indicates the price that the person is offering to do the work for and I think it's a very bad precedent to go down the road of not having an elected member present, no matter whether it's electronic or physical. Could it not be possible for the head page, the first page, the summary page to be printed and signed off in the presence of the person who is nominated member of staff while the councillor was there, so you open it, you print the first page, with the summary of the detail and it's signed then by the members. I actually think that is a far safer way to do it than say councillors don't need to be present anymore.

CLLR DUNNE: I notice when tenders are coming in, especially paper tenders are coming in and saying the closing date is a certain time and the opening of the tenders is day other two later and there is a scramble to find councillors after Monday and I am suggesting that when the tenders come in, if they are to be open be it a Monday where you would have a scattering of members around to allow the staff to find someone and open the tenders rather than sending out emails saying is there a councillor in the building? Surely a Monday would be a better day, when most of the meetings are here?

ADMINISTRATOR: Can I say in response to Cllr Behan, he is right, that is the practice at the moment, that is what is happening in relation to tenders that are received through that, the sheet is printed off and the member signs it, if that is the way the members continue wanting to do it, what the

discussion is around is what you are certifying as an elected member is that the tenders have come in, that they haven't been opened prior to the time or date and that you see the list, but with e tendering you physically cannot open tenders, an official cannot open the tender until the time period has passed. With other tenders that are received the submission at the residential dates of course the protocol committee are recommending an elect member should be present. It's up to the elected members if they want to continue with the current process, but we have just moved on and it's something that came out of the annual meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: A quick show of hands. To keep things as they are.

Show of hands.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And to adopt the new scheme?

Show of hands.

ADMINISTRATOR: We would have to have a proposer and a seconder and if there is any dissent we have to go for a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Aoife Flynn Kennedy propose and Anne Ferris seconded that.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Behan, you want to...

CLLR SNELL: I want to second it, I am probably here more than often than any other member, I have signed more tenders electronic and hard copy still available to do that, I think for everyone's sake I think it should remain as is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will take Cllr Behan's vote first.

ADMINISTRATOR: The propose the same, if you want to remain as is.

CLLR BEHAN: Just say old or new.

ADMINISTRATOR: If you want to say as is, say remain or new.

VOTE TAKEN

ADMINISTRATOR: So that is 20 for the new procedure, nine for the old procedure, one absentia and one not present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have to set a date for the council meeting before the end of September for the Local Adjustment Factor. So we have to, I think on the 23rd, Monday the 23rd of September to discuss the local property tax and the setting of the Local Adjustment Factor. Agreed? And then to note the first draft of the Wicklow County Council Annual Report?

ADMINISTRATOR: And, Councillors, just to say it is simply a first draft and we will come back to you. Just to note it.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I want to ask, that the only thing on the agenda or will any other motions carry over to the one on the 2nd of October.

CATHAOIRLEACH: 2nd of October.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Without a doubt?

>>: 2.00pm? The time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, 2.00pm.

CLLR CREAN: The minutes from the previous meeting, I didn't get to ask at the time, the matter ace rising there is a piece I would ask about the

harbour SPV, that was supposed to go back to that board and they were going to bring a report back, I was wondering is there any update on that? It was one of the actions from the last meetings.

ADMINISTRATOR: In relation to the special purpose vehicles. We will bring it back to the.

CLLR CREAN: It was said yesterday it was going to come back to the committee and a report to come here.

ADMINISTRATOR: We will bring it back to Sean, he is the director of services.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There is a question to the Chief Executive from Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, just in relation to the Sign Language Act which is coming into force next year and just to acknowledge in Section 66 the Irish sign language act are the duties of the public bodies, will they have their public meetings interpreted by an Irish sign language interpreter and that this would be made available and secondly following on from that, just acknowledging that members of the deaf community have a specific requirement accessing services and will they provide them under Section 6 of the Irish Sign Language Act.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The Act says that the council as a public body does all that is reasonable that Irish Sign Language is provided for a person who cannot hear or understand English or Irish or access statutory entitlement or services required under statute for public body, but for council meetings we have never had a request for that, and we do provide the live text streaming and also a transcript on the website on Wednesday following the meeting. We have never had a request and we do all that is reasonable and that would be considered reasonable. Certainly anyone coming in looking for services and has a hearing issue we can deal with that and we will apply whatever measures we need to deal with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before the meeting concludes, the protocol committee, when we met last the time, a couple of people thought they were on it and weren't on it and what have you, so to probably reflect an increased membership of the council and the more diversity we have in the council than previously, and to have a better balance of both old and, not old, previous councillors and new councillors we are looking at increasing that and bringing it to the next meeting, but to cover today's meeting we are going to ask Cllr Snell and Matthews to attend the meeting and it will come back to a full meeting for all the members to consider. Okay. The presentation for the special Olympians is on at 5.15.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just to let you know about the rates evaluation on the 9th of September at 6.00pm in in the county buildings.