

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT
WICKLOW COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN ON
MONDAY, 4th November 2019 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Elaine McCarthy

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**NON-VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH 2019 AT 2PM:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon members.

Good afternoon members. There is an option here. Just turning up the mics a bit. OK, so before we start, we'll have votes of sympathy. Lorraine Gallagher yes for Noel Belton father of our colleague Shane Vaughan and Francey Holland related to Cllr Dunne

CATHAOIRLEACH: To confirm and sign the meeting of special meeting of Wicklow County Council to consider the Local Property Tax and setting of the Local Adjustment Factor, proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and Cllr Stephen Matthews. And to confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Monday 7th of October. Cllr Gail Dunne seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake. Thank you. Item three to consider the disposal 3.68 hectares of land shown at situated at Bog Meadow in Enniskerry for a period of 20 years, as per the notice previously circulated and I think Mr Nicholson is going to give us a brief talk on that.

Mr NICHOLSON: Thank you. On the face of it this, is not a normal disposal resolution so I thought I better introduce it, especially for those members who are new, and those who might not be familiar with the what we consider here as the 'saga of Bog Meadow', which has been going on for a long number of years, we were asked to take over the file in 2015 to unravel an unsatisfactory situation but from the users, the community and council perspective, their interest, no leases in place, users were effectively stressing on county council property and nine acres of land in Enniskerry used by the community since 1977, there was a shared clubhouse that no club wanted or could have exclusive use of, a lot of work was done down through the years by former Councillors John Ryan and Christopher Fox and Cllr Stephen Matthews and in recent times Cllr Melanie Corrigan to resolve this long-standing issue.

And trying to find a workable solution to what was a big problem. But the series of lengthy meetings held with the council and users groups and wider community for the past number of years. And this culminated getting senior counsel advice to what

was the best way forward and the senior counsel advice was sporting leases would not be appropriate in this case, and the advice given was management group should be established with nominees from each user group and wider community to control and manage this facility. This could be the county council would lease the entire lands to this company who would be a proper established company with book of accounts and AGMs and would manage the facility on behalf of the community to ensure it was used by the community and by the community and ensure no-one club got control over the one facility the county council always retained ownership of the lands and the entire facility is always and will always be available for the whole community of Enniskerry, each club could apply for individual grants from their parent organisation, and the company itself could apply for grants for example for leader funding when the council can't apply a company could apply in its own right. Shared facilities, there was a clubhouse on the land and that would be managed by the company, because no one club was managing that. Also, of course, a lot of investment is needed in the area.

There are issues, talk about a playground for example, and this will allow the company itself to apply for funding for that. This is also modelled and can be used elsewhere, I was asked about it by colleagues in Bray, Ballywaltrim in Bray, there was a shared facility and I've been asked to talk to the Bray MD about using this approach in Enniskerry to solve that issue in Bray as well and happy do that. I recommend the approval of this disposal. Cllr Melanie Corrigan. The Bog Meadow is an area of land in Enniskerry village, it is used extensively by the local community, it is multiuser facility the football club, which is the largest club in Enniskerry and leading clubs in the country for girls soccer and has over 380 children in the club. The two schools use it for sports facilities on local sports days and Enniskerry and Kilmac games for training, the Enniskerry walking club and boxing club, they're a community tennis courts on it with 80 to 9 members in the club, small all-weather pitch which is unusable for six months of the year and clubhouse which isn't presently fit for purpose, there's a walking trail around the perimeter. By way of lease to the Bog Meadow

Management Company, this will enable the new Bog Meadow committee made up the user groups to maintain the grounds for all the users in the community. There are currently no common community facilities, no playground and no proper community hall, and no functional all-weather facility. Crucially this process will allow the committee, made up of the user groups to apply for national grants to develop the grounds to match the funds already raised by the community to improve the facilities and develop new ones protecting this area, for all its user groups. Thank you.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you Cathaoirleach and the director of report. We want to attribute to the people involved in all clubs and organisations in Enniskerry and throughout the county for the work they do on behalf of their communities.

But, you know, what's interesting about this is that this was never discussed at Bray Municipal District. Mr Nicholson's, there's another area in Bray that he's been asked by Bray Municipal District to sort something out. I don't remember us deciding that Mr Nicholson should be sorting that out either. And, what I'm suggesting, what

I want to propose is amendment to Cllr Melanie Corrigan's motion is that this matter be referred to Bray Municipal District for fuller discussion rather than taking up everybody's time here today, while I accept the motivation of Mr Nicholson and council and all of the people, Cllr Melanie Corrigan has referred to and I know Cllr Rory O'Connor has been active in this matter as well, as I would see it, stepping back from it for a minute this is Wicklow County Council walking away from a public facility and saying leave it up to whatever clubs want to get involved, they can apply for the grants, we're getting it off our books. And you know, the model that was in Charlesland I think is the model we should be having everywhere, that's a public facility available to the public and guaranteed to the public forever. And, if money is needed, well money can be found, and grants can be applied for and so on. I don't like the trend of privatising, even though it is not privatising for profiteering motives it is privatising a public facility to individual clubs, and while the term of the lease is 20 years, who knows how many of those very well-intentioned people involved today are

still going to be involved in 20 years' time. So, there are a lot of issues that the other, final point I'll make is senior counsel's advice was sought, we haven't seen it, and don't think we should make a decision on issues such as I think if it is quoted for other sports facilities in the county without seeing this senior counsel advice, my proposal is that we refer it back to Bray Municipal District for fuller discussion and come on the agenda then again at future meeting thank you.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thanks very much. And thanks for the presentation Michael. I think one of the issues that has come up over the last day really is I think we have all been contacted by a local resident in the area that isn't aware of the plans and seen there's a Motion of Notice now to dispose and so there's concerns I think from a community's perspective about the level of consultation. Now I don't know anything, I haven't been involved in the process at all but, if there's that feeling out there, the community haven't been involved, I think that's important that's addressed. The model that's been used, I know Cllr Behan was saying the

Charlesland was the way to go, I would caution that because that's a private company managing that and what we're finding is community groups cannot afford the rates that are being applied to this, so I don't know whether that's necessarily the right model either. The model Bog Meadow is applying for we're going to apply to Greystones area but there's reps from the local residents association and community on board hopefully and we're looking to start that now and that might work. But I think from a community consultation perspective, I think I would urge, you know, caution and if it is brought back to the Municipal District that would enable a level of consultation of the community could engage with, and I would support that. Thank you.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you, I'd like to second Cllr Melanie Corrigan's proposal, I'd like to thank Mr Nicholson for the amount of work they've put in this over the past four and five years, a huge amount of work put into it and the user groups in the Bog Meadow have been very much involved in it, and the Enniskerry Forum Group, there's huge awareness this was the idea that was being proposed, and huge

support for it as well. And the director has outlined it very well, this disposal will allow this then to go through to a contract stage, so this disposal is formality to allow the contract to be presented.

The contract is restricted in what can be used, it is only for sporting and those groups and there's a community management structure there in place, made up of members of the community and those user groups up there, and that membership can change over the years as Cllr Joe Behan has said, that's a good thing, but it allows the situation to be regularised the it is fantastic facility. That's why I got involved four years ago to make it better and Cllr Fox, Cllr Ryan and Cllr Melanie Corrigan and Cllr Rory O'Connor are involved now, that point is important. And allowing them to go for funding is also extremely important to sports groups and having security of the new contract that is relying on you to secure tenure is imperative to apply for leader funding or any funding stream and that's what these sports groups need - the security and ability to apply for funding. And by proceeding with the disposal today we can do that, regularise

the situation and allow the Bog Meadow to be improved for all users in Enniskerry. And another point, I was glad to see it, was the public right of way to the Bog Meadow has been maintained in this document and that's clearly shown on the map, so I'd be happy to second the proposal. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thank you. Well, like I completely appreciate all the work that's been done up to this point in terms of the Bog Meadow, someone who sits on the LCDC, I appreciate the intention and the vision for what the potential is for the Bog Meadow going forward. But I suppose as an elective rep, I would it would be remiss of me not to represent the fact that people have contacted me about the issue including the user group who didn't know about the process up to this point, so I kind of feel that there's, there is in the interest maybe of the integrity of the process, the cohort of people in Enniskerry who haven't been consulted and I know there's talk of a public meeting and that's a very healthy approach and it almost feels like one thing has come before the other so I support Cllr Joe Behan's proposals that

a good conversation is had at Bray MD, and the people of Enniskerry have an opportunity to listen to the vision for this, and to buy into it. If people don't buy into something at stage one there's a risk factor so there's no harm in putting it back for a month and kind of ticking some extra boxes in the interests of integrity and healthy process.

CLLR CREAN: I'd like to support Cllr Joe Behan's suggestion to delay it, I suppose I only have the one page document here to make a decision on and I don't think I'd be making an informed decision, it raised a decision for me, something in MD that impacts on the elected reps and other MDs and who they represent and their electorate so I don't feel I have the information. I think it would be a better process if it went through Bray MD first, discussion takes place, OK they can't make a recommendation but if something came more in writing than the one-page document that came with the disposal notice, I would be comfortable making a decision. I hear all the different points, they all sound relevant but I haven't met people on the ground or spoke to the community groups so I don't feel I can make that decision about another MD area

and raised a bigger issue about the centralisation of local government because I'm asked to make a decision on I don't have enough information so I'd support motion to go back to Bray MD first and then I'd be happy to make informed decision on it.

CLLR WALSH: This hasn't been discussed with the current municipal membership in Bray so it would make sense to run this through there first, the time line, does it make a difference if it is put back for the next meeting it would seem the sensible thing to do at this point?

MR NICHOLSON: No there's no timelines. Whether it is this month or next month the sooner the better is all I could say because they're anxiously awaiting application for funding but no timeline as such no. Just couple of issues that were raised. This is four years getting to this stage. There have been public meetings, there have been lots of consultation with community groups, the people on the management committee representative of the wider community as well as the user groups. It hasn't been brought to Bray MD, I can confirm that, it was done between the local community senior counsel and we trying to get this across the

line. And that's really it, there's nothing else that came up that I was asked to comment on, I don't think the Charlesland model would be a good model for the reasons stated, this a unique situation with so many users using the same piece of ground. And a shared clubhouse this was seen to be the only model and that's been confirmed by senior counsel that is working in this particular case.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thanks Chairman, just to follow on from what the director has said, there's a huge amount of work done on this and I think if I know Cllr Fox and Cllr Ryan are gone now but they would concur there is wide consultation on this, it seems to fit exactly what the bog users, Bog Meadow users want and to put it back by another month and delay something, when people come late to something I understand their concerns, but there has to be an element of trust that the public representatives have gone out here and tried do with the director and legal department and users are satisfied and I wanted to move this along, I don't want to see it delayed because all we're delaying is sporting groups and user groups in Enniskerry being able to apply for funding and regularise their usage and

making good facility far better for the community in Enniskerry and I don't want it delayed to that.

>>: Someone says there's a lack of clubs in the area, and I see there has been contact used by the soccer club and tennis clubs, who are the Bog Meadow Management Company who, do they represent, who do they represent?

MR NICOLSON: All the user groups, it is a soccer club, tennis club, there's a boxing club who are on the committee, they haven't located there, they're hoping to move back from Bray and a couple of community reps on that, I don't want to list out the names that would be unfair.

>>: But there's various people on the committee, and they will know this will happen, I will support it I don't think delaying a month will change anything.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, I just think if there's so much work done on this to date why didn't it come before the Bray Municipal District, it is in their area and I find it hard to believe that it didn't come before them. So I don't think a month will make any difference whatsoever, if there's been so much work put into it, well, we might as well go

the whole hog and tease it out and let people have their say and have some kind of a public a and allow people to have input in it.

CLLR FERRIS: Cllr Stephen Matthews put it clearly, this is going on four years and our respective former councillors they have put in a lot of work, and you know the committees dealing with this particular issue have put in a lot of work and indeed Mr Nicholson, it is right it hasn't come before the Bray MD, but, you know, I will take in good faith what Cllr Stephen Matthews said and you know other councillors have said, this has been worked on, and has been brought to this stage now and I think we should all have faith in that process. That disposal of notice, that was posted out to us on 23rd of October, and if members I think around the chamber here didn't know what it was all about, they had plenty of time to get on to the council to find out what exactly disposal notice was about and inform themselves rather than waiting until it is on the agenda today, and then making queries about it. I, I'm quite I will take the bona fides, what Mr Nicholson has said and I think it will be great for Enniskerry, if we put it off

next month we will be back here next month and voting in favour for it, I don't think putting it to Bray MD will make changes in it, I congratulate the people who worked on it for past four years, and I know if I had been here for four years working on it and I wasn't sitting here today I would be a bit annoyed that people didn't acknowledge the work that the councillors have been put into it. So, I have no hesitation in supporting the motion. Thank you.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thanks Chair. I don't think anyone here is discounting any of the work that's been done, we know to get this far in a process takes an awful lot of time and energy and work but sometimes it can happen that people outside the process may feel they haven't been involved. And, whilst I would have been perfectly happy to vote with this today, on the recommendation of the local district councillors from Bray, I think the fact there has been quite a lot of discussion on-line with many people saying they weren't aware of it, and we have been directly contacted by some as well saying they weren't aware of it, that is ringing alarm bells with me. And I suppose, I think it is,

a good model and to have all the different user groups is the way to go. But I think it is important so that the community on the ground also have an opportunity to hear what the model is about. And I don't think if it is four years in process, I don't think another month will make or break it. I'm just wondering, just to have a better understanding, has there at any stage been a public meeting held on this issue? And are there any councillors on the committee, because I know the one in Greystones we have three councillors on the committee and our role will be to engage with the broader community and the community reps are they, from the my understand something that this area was open to be used by the community as such, are they the people who are now represented on the committee? How are the community reps chosen I suppose would be my question, thank you.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you. I just wanted to support Cllr Melanie Corrigan's motion, I have been up to the Bog Meadow myself and seen the facilities it is very clear that co-ordinated approach to the use of the land and the clubhouse up there is needed. I'm only a very new councillor on Bray

Municipal District but fully aware of the process and history behind it. And from a personal point of view, wouldn't benefit from being brought to Bray Municipal District and back here again, I've kept myself informed about it and I visited the site itself so I would be very proposed to supporting it. I also, welcome the fact that the lands of the clubhouse will be used for community use and that's going to be built in the lease agreement and I think that the safety net and securities there in terms of the community and the facilities are being protected by that way. So, I would not like to see it go back to Bray Municipal District just to come back here in a month's time

CLLR CREAN: I wouldn't doubt the good work that happened and research that's taken in consultation, but as a new councillor I certainly think there's needs to be a different process making MD areas, I'm not taking the time, I only took a week, about you it is difficult to get out on the ground to talk to community groups and see what the different peace processes are. So it is not the doubt the good work that happened but the process going forward, I wouldn't like to think a

decision that impacted heavily on the people on Greystones and wider environment was going to be decided at the full council meeting and proper consultation hadn't taken place, even though I respect the fact it has taken place, there's disquiet among other people to think it hasn't, in the interest of good practice and good forward it is respect for that, and not undermining any good work that's taken before.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: I take Cllr Anne Ferris's point about the notice and the time line, so I totally also would like to acknowledge that the district manager of Bray makes himself available in this regard all the time but, to be honest, this landed yesterday for me, so I'm not sure how comfortable he would have been if I made a call on a Sunday, but, I can imagine myself being there to pitch this idea to all the user groups and community of Enniskerry as positive and transformative initiative, that's I have a comfort zone for imagining that but at the same time when numbers of people are contacting me asking that they be given this amount of time, to be involved one month I think that's worth considering.

>>: I suppose people and members have all been to the fore in that regard. And I would be supporting this, until I got an e-mail last night outlining that some of the groups who use this facility, know nothing about this process, and that begs the question, if they're using the facilities, why are they excluded or feel excluded today to a certain degree, I would urge all members four weeks in the life of something so important, is not a big issue and I think this could go back to Bray MD, eight councillors there could decide on this, you still have time to make a public meeting, I know there's been trojan work going on for four years and I commend the people who put the should are to the wheel on this, but it is more important for us as 32 public representatives to make sure that everybody is included, we always hear about public consultation and the importance of openness and transparency, and I think this is our chance to say put it back for four weeks and on the agenda it can be item one or two of the agenda in a month's time and I think the support is here, everyone in this chamber will support it, once that consultation has taken place.

CLLR FORTUNE: As I say, we only got correspondence on this last night, obviously we were aware what was coming up on the agenda and you would make assumptions based on this, but this information comes up, when you look and talk about the model going forward if the property going forward is vested in the total Enniskerry community that it isn't down to a company X or Y in the community, in other words it is vested in Enniskerry, every man woman and child of Enniskerry has ownership and no-one is excluded and board of directors in to manage it and the thing runs smoothly, to me that would be the model I would strongly recommend

CLLR O'BRIEN: Having travelled around the country as a referee and changing on the side of the road I recommend this, because especially children shouldn't change on the side of the road, four years of work has gone in this, and we should trust each other in the chamber for the work we've done, if it was put back about four weeks, I hope people don't make politics for this to make a headline and then put back four weeks and four weeks, the only people who suffer are the users of the ground so

I hope we get the vote on this shortly to be honest with you and move on thank you.

CLLR MITCHELL: Having listened to the news here and my knowledge of the previous councillors, Fox and Ryan, both having good contact with the village of Enniskerry, and what's being said is going on for a long time, I'm sure they would have a good knowledge of what is going on there, also, and other councillors who have spoken here, and Cllr Melanie Corrigan who proposed it would have excellent knowledge what goes on in Enniskerry and Cllr Stephen Matthews has been involved earlier. And I would trust the judgment of the of those local councillors who have been involved, and this, they have been speaking about this for much of the community in Enniskerry and I think we should get on with it and improve the sporting facilities in Enniskerry and on a proper basis going forward for the future and do it now.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thank you I too appreciate, and I can see clearly how much work has gone on to this, by councillors new to the process and doing research and people on the ground for a long time. For me it feels like we're so close to something

really, really brilliant, but, we're just not quite there yet and it is what principle will guide this, will the majority Cllr Stephen Matthews said the majority of Bray MD support or if we have leave no someone behind and have everyone on board with this, and for the sake of four weeks we can bring it to be something better, I don't know what political gain there would be playing politics for trying to make something just a little bit better, closer to being the excellent project it could be. So, that's my perspective.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Sorry, yes, I've only got involved in this since I got elected but as a parent whose children have always played and for the last 30 years have been playing football on this pitch, I've known about it for a long time and there's considerable public meetings over the last ten, fifteen years about this. Just on the committee, there are representatives from the schools, from the walking club, local reps through the forum, the community games and the boxing club, they've all been involved, since I've certainly got involved, they've all been in the consultation process.

CLLR LEONARD: I'm just wondering, at this stage

when so much work has been done and there seems to be a group of people that seems to be excluded could we past this today but put in a sort of like a clause the people who have been excluded be afforded the clans to pit sit on the committee as part of it. The community groups that use it.

Mr Nicholson: The legislation, is quite clear - the local authority says the disposal should not be carried out until - there no other options, you pass it, or you don't pass

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have proposals from Cllr Melanie Corrigan and Cllr Joe Behan if we take Cllr Melanie Corrigan's first and we end up and it passes we won't be taking Cllr Joe Behan's and if we take Cllr Joe Behan's first, we have a second vote.

MS GALLAGHER: About the legislation, and I defer you, it says the first meeting of the local authority held after the expiration of ten days after the which is notice are sent or delivered the local authority may resolve the disposal shall not be carried out, be carried out or that it should be carried out in accordance with the terms in the resolution. Paragraph D, if the local authority does not pass a resolution to paragraph B the

disposal maybe carried out. I just caution against voting for disposal resolution, if it fails, well, it can't be revisited for another six months. So, Cllr Joe Behan's is a new proposal it is not amendment so, if the elected members want to vote for the deferral first and then: Rather than have the resolution, what do members feel. >>: There are people who want to support this, but perceived not supporting the overall project by voting for Cllr Joe Behan's four week delay, I will support this, but want the people who sent that e-mail last night as part in a process, if you take the vote, obviously I won't be voting for the first proposal, because I want the four-week delay but the public will see Cllr Joe Behan and myself and others who vote against it as not supporting the project. That's not true.

MS GALLAGHER: It would require a new disposal resolution for next month to comply with the regulations.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Take Cllr Joe Behan's first.

MS GALLAGHER: So that's nine for, 20 against and

two not present. So, sorry three not present so we proceed with the vote on the disposal resolution as circulated proposed by Cllr Melanie Corrigan and seconded by Cllr Stephen Matthews.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I make an observation, I have a problem with what we've just done and I'll explain why, we have a structure in place where we have the 32 members in the council and five municipal districts and Municipal District is integral part of the decision process, and I think it is totally wrong that this particular item today has happened without being properly processed through the Municipal District and I just want that recorded it shouldn't be the case, we fight foot and nail to have proper representation and we shouldn't willy nilly allow it to be side-stepped. There's a process, and it should be followed properly, and municipal districts need to get more respect, I said this before, it is a matter of public record the way councillors are treated and integral part of our system and should be treated with respect.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We received funding under the village in respect of Aughrim, an upgrade of the amenities, installation of new lighting and

handrails in Delgany facility feasibility study and design plan, Dunlavin walking trail at historic route and Red Cross in enhancement to the district, through the village. Just mention one or two other items, you got notification in the commencement of the review of the Wicklow Development Plan to 2016 to 2022. It commences on Wednesday 6th of November, the started a process a marked by invitation to public and subscribe bodies regarding the review, submissions will be accepted in Wednesday 6th of November 2019 to Friday, 10th of January. So that's being advertised on their website and Facebook page, Twitter and public uses et cetera to assist the process we have prepared a webpage through which the public can view and download the development plan and process for making the plan which will be live from Wednesday. Submissions can be made directly will you the website via invitation port and submissions by post and e-mail there, there's issues booklet available to view and download from the website, copies by the council office and public information days by 13th of November, Greystones, a 20th in Bray MD, and 21st County Hall Wicklow, 27th Arklow municipal

office and Blessington library, there's a public information day also in relation to the N11, and M1's junction 14 improvement scheme, there's second public consultation and they will be there to inform the transportation office options developed to date problems constraints identified to date and the programme of advancement of the project. So, that's taking place on the 12th of November, from noon to 8pm in the Glenview Hotel. There's also, consultation in relation to BusConnects and the redesign of bus services, that consultation will take place in Royal Hotel in Bray on 18th of November, 11.30-5.30 on the nineteenth of November. I'll take the rest as read.

CLLR TIMMINS: These reports have very welcome and they should form a central part of our meeting and should, I think the bulk of the meeting should be taken up by it, not when we get caught up in other stuff that takes up excessive time. This is the core of what the council are about, and information that we should be the Bible about what is going on here. But I'm going to raise one issue and it is on page 16, town and village renewal, what we were applied for, the results from out last Thursday of the

allocations, I congratulate the five villages or towns that got funding. But I have to - was 250K, but just from the printout of all the counties, we're the lowest in the whole country, correct me if I'm wrong and that's a record now for four years, predating your time management, I know you've done a lot to do the funding that Wicklow gets but we applied for 750K from page 2016, we're the lowest in the country, could we have a review what is going on, I don't think we've that much less towns and villages, OK, it excludes the big towns, the four big towns like smaller counties with less villages and towns like Carlow, they consistently outscore up in terms of funding, two or three to one, maybe this time a little less, but we need a review where, we're going wrong, why are we failing to get our share of funding in village renewal, it is not a one-off year it is consistent outcome, and I'm concerned Wicklow is not availing of the funding it should be getting. Thank you.

CLLR PAUL O BRIEN: thank you and the Chief Executive for his report, can I welcome the funding for Red Cross village, for a small villages it brings visitors with the brewery and caravan park,

I want two items to discuss, I want to also welcome the new public, sorry, BusConnect routes in Enniskerry Bray and Greystones but the south and west of the county seem to be ignored. We have a 133 service, although improving because the Wexford coach it is still not the service that should be being provided by Wicklow Town and north wise, but what I'd like to see and I know Cllr Jennifer Whitmore and I commend Cllr Jennifer Whitmore for meeting the NTA but it is time we brought the NTA Bus Eireann down to the chamber here to grill them what is happening, because all the consultation processes they're carrying out but the services don't seem to be improving, so I'd like to propose we, invite representatives of the NTA and Bus Eireann down to a council meeting to hear from them directly and question them, and we have an excellent bus service going now from Wicklow to Glendalough, but I can't see it being utilized as good as it should be in the winter months so I propose in the winter months to transferring the bus from the Glendalough to Greystones in rush hour which would provide another option for the people of Wicklow to get to Greystones to get to the DART.

My second point then would be in relation to Brittas Bay and as we all know from reading the papers there's great interest in in it and it is one of the top attractions in County Wicklow not just Wicklow Town, but it is a corroding and it is falling into the sea. But from someone who uses on a frequent basis, I notice there's a lot of cars parking outside of it, in the wintertime, and the reality is that it is 4 Euro to park in the depths of the winter or height of the summer, or people going for a walk or run they won't pay 4 Euro for half an hour, so I would like to propose reducing the parking for Brittas Bay in the winter months, if the barriers can be recalibrated to reduce it to 1 Euro it would take the traffic off the road which would alleviate the congestion out there, and get away from the accidents that could possible happen out there. And it would raise much needed funds for Brittas Bay because people would spend one Euro to park in Brittas Bay but not 4 Euro, but that money should be ring-fenced to protect Brittas Bay or have better amenities, but we should protect our amenities better.

CLLR BOURKE: Yes I want to congratulate the

manager on comprehensive report as well and just to ask the town and village renewal scheme he highlighted I welcome the funding for Aughrim and for Red Cross but there were other applications there for Avoca, and Barndarrig and the groups are disappointed they weren't disappointed, will they be rolled over to the next round or have to make a fresh application.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you Cathaoirleach and Chief Executive for your report, I want to congratulate Delgany for receiving the funding for town and renewal scheme, and want to compliment you on the rolling out of the age friendly parking initiative I think that's really beneficial. A couple of clarifications, in the housing section, the references to pipeline schemes, when looking at potential units coming on stream for social housing, have I'm looking to clarify if planning permission is granted for the schemes and if not I wonder if it is noted if planning permission is granted or not for clarification. The second question I have in the planning section, which is listed other developments, I wonder can we clarify what they say are and whether they include AHD

applications or not?

CLLR MCMANUS: Go raibh maith agat. I just want to focus on it caught my attention immediately at the start of the report that in the 30 days of September there was 60 children in Wicklow presented as homeless. I don't know about everybody else, I went back and looked and I think that's up 11 since August, that's not obviously including vulnerable children who are in direct provision centres in Wicklow and I couldn't take in the rest of the report when I was trying to read it, because that's shocking to me, and I don't know whether we're becoming de-sensitised by the figures we're all the time we're bombarded with them, for me that's a priority, absolute priority and emergency, and I was thinking if you know, we had unexpected snowstorm we wouldn't be here we'd be out with shovels and 60 children in the county that's an absolute emergency. So, what I'd like to know, I looked underneath and appreciate the Chief Executive puts time and efforts putting the information we need to I think there was 46 between emergency accommodation and B&Bs so where are the other 11, what happened to them? I would

appreciate the picture what is the pathway out for children in the emergency accommodation and B&Bs and housing HBS I'm on it, for these 60 children that were just a month-and-a-half ago here in the building, what is the pathway out for them? And I would like to know if the Chief Executive and the housing department are having problems or coming across barriers, they want us to know about, in addressing that crisis, what do they need from us as councillors to do about that? And, maybe I don't know, do we need housing to be a consistent and child homelessness consistent answered item for us, until that figure is zero, because for me, we should never lose sight how shocking that actually is and how we should be emotional about that, and start to do something, that's a priority and emergency. So, Thank you.

CLLR BEHAN: Well said Cllr Grace McManus I think everyone in this room would thoroughly agree with what you said and support what you've proposed as well. Could I take the opportunity first of all to publicly single out a number of members of staff of this council for their sterling work on behalf of the council and behalf of the community I'm

thinking in particular on this occasion of Tamara Mulhall and Mr Bourke and they deal with people in disabled grants, they worked remarkably sensitively and speedily on cases where this is extreme you are Jenny and hardship for families throughout the family and because they're working quietly the work is never really fully discussed here but I just want to take the step of acknowledging those two people particularly, because many, many families in this county are grateful to the sensitive way they're handling their cases at a crucial time in their lives and I just want to make that point. And I want to make, to thank publicly Michael Flynn, I don't know if he's here today for the manner which he dealt with the residents I raised at the last meeting the local residents from Kilmac who had big worries and big concerns about a programme of work that's going to happen near the garage there, and he they came back to me to say how grateful they were with the courtesy and the way he dealt with queries. And hopefully we will get a resolution of those particular queries OK. So that's the good part of what I want to say, but moving on to slightly less

positive if you like, and I'll be very brief.

There's energy efficiency scheme operating in this county at the moment which is grant-aided by the Government. About two years proposed here or asked the Chief Executive appointed an additional engineering staff to housing section to get on with this, work because they're national grants available to this council and work is proceeding at pace in Dublin with this particular scheme.

Separately I had been making representations for a family of a person who has special needs who desperately needs some kind of insulation in his council house and I cannot believe having work, having progressed and agreement been sought this house is by passed now when the work is beginning.

Having made representation consistently, privately, that this particular individual who has special needs has been by passed I am not going to give detail publicly, I am asking the Chief Executive to talk about the housing department to talk about this issue. There's a vacancy in the Silver Bridge halting site that needs to be filled.

We had a job problem over the summer where there was incursion in the halting site by illegal

encampment.

And, there was a lot of money spent on security because of it there is a family already approved waiting to go into that site, can we please get on and get that allocation completed this week.

Because again, we're going to have a lot of problems on our hands if it is no. And finally, could I ask the Chief Executive to expand on few lines, in relation to the Whitestown dump decision in the court. Because what I read in the paper doesn't really reflect what he gives in the report. To read your report Chief Executive you might almost think we won some kind of aspect of this case as a council. I don't think we did, and either the judge's comments were taken out of context or the judge didn't make comments, but I certainly read the judge was quite critical of Wicklow County Council's involvement with the saga from the whole life of this dump. I would like to know where does the council stand in relation to the financing of the clean-up? And the cost that will be attached to the council as a result of what has happened here?

CLLR KAVANAGH: Mine was just one that I brought

up in September, and it was basically to do with the housing figures. Nobody would sit down to look at a set of accounts without looking at the previous year's accounts to see whether you made a profit loss or basically maintaining the same levels. I think it is unfair to sit here month after month and be presented with figures that are sitting there in isolation, we can't compare them to anything. We know our housing homelessness problem is growing, it is growing country-wide, we need to know if it is growing in the county as well. And in October, there were comparative figures for the previous year and I commented on it and thanked the Chief Executive now we're back to single line figures again, I would like to see the previous month and the previous years' reflected because we need to know are we reaching, we'll say are there peaks and troughs in homelessness and things that contribute to it? What causes the increase that Cllr Grace McManus referred to there? We need to highlight these or see them highlighted so if we could see those please thank you.

CLLR MATTHEWS:

Thank you. I'd like to thank the Chief Executive

of raising the issue of BusConnects and the NTA have listened very well to the first round of consultation, so it is very important people take part in the second round of consultation as well. And Cllr O'Brien spoke about, what it is fine for the north of the county but what about the south county, the other transport spine is the rail line and I see Irish Rail have gotten funding for delivery of 41 carriages recently. I don't believe any of them are earmarked for the Wicklow line even though there's a demand there and I think the frequency needs to be increased to especially from Wicklow up, anyway. So, I would ask that this council writes to the Chief Executive to the NTA, and Chief Executive of Irish Rail and Minister of Transport to allocate carriages to of the Wicklow line they take delivery of in 2021. Secondly, on the last executive's report last month asked if the Chief Executive could engage with the ESB to see about a timelier response to network faults, I'm wondering has that approach taken place and do we get response back from the ESB on it? And following on from that, in terms the LED upgrade, energy efficient up grade, throughout the county

as we remove sodium lamps and replace them with LEDs we will get increase in energy capacity on the circuits, could the council look at feasibility of fitting a pole mounted car chargers, where we free up from sodiums and go to LEDs? And I would suggest we look at Greystones as priority because it doesn't have any electrical vehicle charging points, could we look at that with the LED roll out.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks for the Chief Executive for the detailed report, it is the first thing I go to every month because it gives a general round up on hills the town and villages. While I congratulate the towns and villages that did get grants this year and in fairness to see the amount of applications put in by the community section in the council, was also a big indicators to measure improvement on previous years, but again it is staggering as other councillors have said how low down the pecking order rural Wicklow is to getting the funding, and Mayo, 838,000. Limerick, 585,000, Laois, 437,000, smaller counties with smaller rural areas are getting far larger sums of money, so there's something not going right here. And we do need to investigate what is happening with this, because

there are communities in rural Wicklow that are crying out for the funding, they're working night and day with the community facilities here and staff here going out of their way to get the projects and they're going in and getting back and we're getting the bare minimum of funds - that's something that needs addressing, because it is consistent at this stage, year in and year out. A question in relation to another project that's important to rural Wicklow and west Wicklow in particular to the Blessington Greenway has there been development on that front since? Because I heard there was meet that, councillors should be made aware of, because this is a local authority involved project and we should all be informed in developments on the Blessington Greenway.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Can I first play a compliment the team that put together county wide decision and it is like the Chief Executive's report, but more light shall we say, about us it is a very, very informative publication. I have two quick things - talking about the county development plan, I feel or have a feeling that this could be the most important county development plan we've

ever made so I would really hope that it will be the whole process will be resourced and that you will - councillors will play a significant role in the architecture of that, and my second point is the housing first, I understand Peter McVerry has been given the contract and for an organisation that isn't based for you and haven't a contract record here, how confident are we they'll hit the ground running when they land.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks for a comprehensive report, just observation, looking at the housing support figures and the number of people availing of HAP, again has increase interested 14,089 to 15,018 again that's a reflection in my view of the tremendous work done by the staff and staff dealing with HAP at the housing section. Just a query again on the rebuilding Ireland loans maybe of responded to this in the past but again looking at the figures, 115 received to date, 17 approvals and there's a gap in the figures there, really is my question, I know there was issues of the funding in that particular scheme earlier in the year. But we're told it is resolved but I'm wondering there's a gap in the figures, and lastly on the section of

the refers to the local enterprise office I want to highlight the work done for local business a Brexit preparations, there's a number of meetings with the local businesses and workshops and seminars, and maybe it is something we could raise at our next meeting to have a feel how the local businesses are prepared for Brexit and what experiences they're having, I know nationally there are issues and concerns still out there, but I think the Local Enterprise Office are carrying out their role in assisting people at this point, we might get a report in the future on that. Thank you.

>>: I have a few points, have we received any information on the electric vehicle charging point funds that was announced in August? I think there was funding for a thousand points across the country announced but I haven't heard anything since and I think it is important that we move quickly on this, particularly as Cllr Stephen Matthews mentioned areas like Greystones and west Wicklow don't have charging points so we need to get that infrastructure in as quickly as possible, in relation to the EVs, there was a suggestion last

week that bus lines, be used for electric vehicle cars, and I think this would be a big mistake to actually clogging up our bus lanes, particularly if we get a bus line on the N11, that that bus lane should be for buses and public transport and door pooling only and we shouldn't facilitate private cars on it in any shape or fashion, we need to make that clear as a council, that's not something that we would support. And I just finally like to thank the officials, we had our first, climate and biodiversity action, SPC last week, and I'd like to thank the officials all the effort they put in to bring in that committee together, it was a very positive committee. And I think, you know, one thing we're doing is that we're wanting to get this committee working across the county so, each of the committee meetings that are scheduled for the coming year will be held in district offices across the county and I suppose I put it out there to all the councillors, even if you're not on the committee you're more than welcome to come in and sit on the meetings, it is important because it is such an issue, that is really I suppose captured everyone's imagination across the county it is

important that you're involved in that process in some way as well, so I would absolutely encourage you to do that and welcome that.

CLLR FORTUNE: I would like to thank the executive for the report. Like Cllr Edward Timmins it brings focus to our meetings, a couple of items, The county development plan process as he says is kicking off, and what I would say at this stage as we quick it off I hope when we deliberate on the development plan, and we agree that certain actions should take place and are voted on by members, and are in the plan, are adhered to then by the system and we don't just ignore it, and willy nilly allow things happen, that totally flaunt in the county development plan. There's I have a very good example of it, I'm sure people are very aware of. The item, I'd like to raise as well, at our recent prelim on the Budget, I requested we look at certain areas, and not wait until the of December, to have a kind of a race-through meeting with nothing properly discussed, now obviously the Chief Executive on the day took a lot of wind out of what I was saying. But, I think there's a serious issue, that I'd like to get some answers on and Cllr

Behan raised it, I'm sure members read it in the national media, I'd like the Budget implications are resulting from the recent Supreme Court case in regards to the decision in Whites Town. I noted from the report that we were to have three years to clean up and resolve it. And there's obviously implications in that, and I'd like to know what they are, and maybe if I could ask, we're told or led to believe we could be talking over a three-year period of 100 million plus of cost. There was some remedial work done in the past that cost a lot of money, so that money now is wasted because obviously, what was done is now a part of existing contamination. What legal fees have been paid and what legal fees are still due? And what is the amount of them and what is the budget implications for that? And could the findings of the Supreme Court, we've a lot of new members in the chamber, who probably are not clued in for all kinds of reasons for this, it would be good if the findings of the Supreme Court would be circulated to us, because it is a matter of public record now. And, what about the accountability around all of this? Is there going to be, are the Gardai going to be

involved or what's going on, this to me, based on what I think I know now, and I did take the trouble to sit through one of the - bear with me, - to one of the court hearings and listen to what was being said so I'd like to get answers on that, because it could have serious budget implications for us, and we need to get clarity on it and also, we need to know, how it is going to be made accountable.

CLLR DUNNE: Again, Chief Executive thanks for your comprehensive report, two issues for me, one, county-wise, I have to, let it was decision and anybody who read it, there's so much information for the members of the public and I want to congratulate everybody involved, the sector thing, public lighting, it was mentioned at CPG meeting this morning, I can only talk about my area and how disappointed I am that a number of lights within the area have not been fixed and this is going on over a month for me and any of them that have been fixed. So some of them have gone out again and I'm hugely disappointed with the clocks changing, you know, the darker nights coming in, people like walking the roads, going out in the evening time and I am sea seriously concerned over the lack of

lighting within Wicklow Town especially, so maybe he could look into this and maybe I'd have some kind of answer on that.

CLLR MITCHELL: The issue of transport in Wicklow was discussed at great lengths and concerns were expressed in east Wicklow in particular, and the traffic jams on the N11, and the also, the lack of Irish Rail seems to have decided to ignore Wicklow as far as the public announcements are concerned. And that doesn't seem good enough, it seems that Irish Rail is quite content to keep the rail line empty at rush hour, this line is maintained at great expense of the taxpayers and there's two short trains at rush hour. It is essential that we get some of the carriages which have been ordered for it. And, I wrote a paper on this two years ago, and Irish Rail certainly ignored that, and we do need to make quite a considerable fuss, it is absolutely daft to have empty rail line on a full N11. In addition to that, there was also, a proposal for, improving doing some physical work on the tracks to provide more darts to Greystones I would act as a better transfer location, and also for the growing population of Greystones, and that,

Irish Rail ignored that too, but at least the NTA did get another engineering company to say that was feasible. So, we need to ensure that gets into the medium-term plans and we're not to bed off. And this, it is absolutely mad to have an empty rail line at rush hour. So, that was certainly discussed and we have been asked to meet the various authorities, I think this council should request a meeting with the minister and with the NTA about this, because, there's also a relevance to the N11 and trying to get the bus lanes on the N11 to get express buses to take the load thank you.

CLLR LEONARD: I would like to concur with Cllr Grace McManus and Cllr Joe Behan on prioritised our most vulnerable in County Wicklow, we can go through all the other things that link into that, but the intention of the day that's the utmost to alleviate any citizens, the library service is fantastic, it is brilliant and become our new community spaces, as someone who sits on the music generation committee I'd like to see the musical instrument scheme extended maybe to Bray and Baltinglass, it is currently in Arklow and Blessington, so that would be great to see that

extended and maybe part-funded. In relation to the destination towns and tourism Arklow is fortunate enough to have some Chief Executive and Michael Nicholson putting tremendous work in trying to get the Arklow pottery museum off the ground, this will be a key part of regenerating Arklow and creating jobs in Arklow and I would love to see Arklow being supported fully in become a destination, tourist destination towns, we have maritime and heritage so I would like to see that supported, in relation to the maritime business committee, I would love to see the on scene recovery of our coastline be regenerated currently there's an Oyster regeneration project and Stephen Cafe is heading it up with Maritime Business Committee and I would like a presentation to be presented to the full committee so they can see what is happening and fully support that, and a development, heritage biodiversity plan, there's tremendous work done on Brittas Bay beach but I would like to see that extended to our other poor beaches throughout the years, particularly our southern beaches which have been devastated by coastal erosion, industry and a bit of neglect as well so I would love to see

the regeneration of the dunes to be extended to the other beaches in Wicklow as well as Brittas Bay.

CLLR GLENNON: I'd like the report. Three minor points, it is nice to see some money came to west Wicklow on the town and village renewal, we're forgotten about to when it comes to funding, the second point I'd like to make is what has been raised by Cllr John Mullen, disturbing to think if there was a contract signed here during the week concerning the Blessington Greenway, that no-one had the courtesy to inform the chair of the Municipal District, Vice Chair or any councillors therein, I would think that's a breach of protocol. I think that the democratic involvement in the Greenway largely comes from the involvement of municipal councillors in it. I think it would be democratic deficit these proceedings without any municipal authority and I know the chair was not informed so I want to put that on record, and thirdly, I'd like with some amusement and no disregard to any of the points made Cllr Stephen Matthews is looking for additional rail carriages and Oliver O'Brien is looking for additional buses, west Wicklow can't get the bus to stop for lack of

a bus stop, that serves in Hollywood Dunard and Dunlavin, it is outrageous that hasn't been addressed, I know the Chief Executive has been trying to make assistance on the matter but something should be done, it is ridiculous what is going on.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you. Just in relation to Cllr Edward Timmins, town and village, yes there was some schemes that went in that weren't approved. Now, community section was out with all the various Municipal District in the year talking to towns and villages in terms of applications a lot are working on applications they got last year, they were working how the recreation and leader schemes and didn't have the application to come in at this point in time but we will provide them with every assistance any application that wasn't successful and pointing them in the direction of schemes likely to run on the town and village so we're going to keep that under review, like we did do very well last year, better than most of the country in terms of URDF and outdoor recreation, the community needs to be together, be supported by us and we'll keep it under review and we'll keep

a note to that.

I don't know if Mr Nicholson wanted to add to that.

I will come back ...

Mr Nicholson: Thank you in relation to town and village we go out at the start of the year we meet the groups Tidy Town groups, every group to shake the trees and get applications in, the scheme works against us slightly in that there's two categories, 0-5,000 and 5,000 plus, and we have one town that qualifies so it is not ideal from the Wicklow County Council point of view, if you look how we did from the other schemes they come from the same pot of money, I'm hoping we didn't do particularly well in town and village we will do under the recreation scheme as we did last year and toes RDF, those not successful we will put in next year and work and try and make them better than they were.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks Michael. Just, Paul O'Brien yes, we can invite the MTA down in relation to the bus service in Wicklow down and surrounding area, Brittas Bay, yes, if we refer to the SPC, in relation to the lower charge in the winter it might work out better for us as you say. Cllr Lourda

Scott in relation to the pipeline of the scheme, we have as presentations previously, 13,050 from 20 and 21, but we will outline in the report the ones that have the part A planning and when the aid is coming through. Planning other developments, we will have a look at that, to see if we can be support specific on. It Cllr Grace McManus in relation to the homeless, there's a lot of work going on in preventing homelessness and providing emergency accommodation in terms we have the housing first coming through now first and the homeless app has been successful. So, Jackie if you give more information on that.

Ms. Jackie Carroll: Cllr Grace McManus said 60 children in the statistics this month and that is unfortunate but that's a number of families comprising 60 children and not necessarily the same 60 that may be included in the statistics in the previous month. That's a fluid figure, what you see is not necessarily a static figure, they may not be in homeless accommodation, it could be notices to quit or waiting for HAP tenancy to come up, so it is not necessarily as stark as in the stats. It is a gruelling statistic but nonetheless

we have the lowest figures in the mid-east region for children in emergency homeless accommodation and the Chief Executive has said it depends on the as we said in the presentation previously. That's the homelessness.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Cllr Joe Behan the special needs one you mentioned I follow up on that and Silverbridge halting site, in energy efficiency scheme we have extra staff in the housing section in we have two senior engineers, previously we had one, we've two country surveyors and we've architects et cetera and working on a lot of other things, but, there is a grant here of 600,000 of energy efficiency, that's phase two, phase one is completed, I know they're working on St Peter's place Arklow and Wolfe Tone Square in Bray and there's executive engineer working full time on that, so we should see progress, I don't know if Declan wants to add to that, that's basically where they're at but there's a focus and work going on in relation to that.

Relation to Whitestown, the Court of Appeal, that came out last week was really an appeal by the owners of the site in relation to two issues, one

was the timelines in relation to the remediation works to be complete. The Court of Appeal ruled the timelines were, claiming they were too long, Court of Appeal ruled the timelines were necessary and appropriate, and didn't make any change to that. The second one was relation to costs, particularly to module one and Court of Appeal didn't make change in relation to that. They did make some changes in relation to costs preferential to other modules and you know, but the significant issues were the two issues I just mentioned and ruled expectantly in favour of the council.

There's a lot of work going on and consultants have been appointed and he has completed the geographical survey, river sampling, groundwater survey, full site investigation, and so the remediation plan and environmental assessment are done due to be completed in May of next year, and at that point of in time we'll know what needs to be done in terms of remediation, we don't know until then. The costs involved, again, will be talking to the department about that, we've had various meetings that welcomes this. They've covered the costs of the consultant costs to date, which is

250K, they have it identified for Capital plan, but we can't discuss it until we have the remediation plan and agreed with the owners of the site and possibly the High Court will be signing off on that, so we're working our way through that at the moment.

Cllr Mary Kavanagh, yes, the comparing to previous year, we'll include that in the future reports.

Cllr Stephen Matthews, in relation to the lighting, we're still pretty much at about 2-2.5% which is national standard but we have been on to the contractor, SSC, they have put more staff and resources into it, we have been working with the ESB in terms of expediting the response of this.

And I don't know if Michael Flynn wants to comment but we are working for LEDs which will come on stream which will be cost effective and eliminate the problem to significant extent of lights being out. In relation to the pole mounted car chargers, yes something we should look at, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore said we have correspondence to the grant scheme so he was engineers working on the locations for those and we will be making submission in relation to the grant. Blessington Greenway the progress that's made today, obviously we got the

funding allocation. We have appointed a consultant, which, we do, we don't generally do publicity surrounding consultant, sometimes we do for large schemes but usually have the photoshoot and around the signing of the contract and we'll do that when we're ready to go for contract for Blessington. What was signed was the appointing the consultant and they'll go off and do a topographical survey of the entire route, and do ground investigations, and then they will look at details in terms of the design of the route and the design of the drainage and any issues around bridges and couldn't at the lever bridges so they have a good body of work to do now, and what we will do is produce an information booklet for the public and keep the councillors, particularly councillors in Baltinglass regularly what is happening in the detailed design work which needs to be done. Just in relation to Cllr Dermot O'Brien, the housing first Peter Mckeever has a significant amount of experience in this whole area, housing first is all about getting the homeless people getting in the home first and following up with the wrap around support so I will be confident in relation to that.

And Cllr Gerry Walsh, the homeless HAP has increased, you're right there and there's significant work

CLLR MCDONALD: That that, in terms of rebuilding Ireland, funding has been resolved, anybody approved funding in the system that is processed, sometimes you have applicants who apply to us and local authorities Name so even though we grant it, they may disappear, so that explains the distortion in figures. Cllr Derek Mitchell yeah, we can pass on that information to Irish Rail and write in relation to that. The maritime, Cllr Peir Leonard, mayor time, business committee, and making presentation on the outdoor restoration project, we will have a look at that, and heritage biodiversity plan to other beaches and towns, definitely and something for the climate change SPC that we can work on that and Blessington Greenway, but provision of the bus stop, again we've done a design and submitted TII. I might ask Colin if he has any reply on that, but that's where that is at the moment. Thank you

CATHAOIRLEACH: To a brie presentation

>>: Sorry, just on the bus stop, there's a firm

of consultants appointed to look at locations for bus stops, we've obviously made Atkins are the names of consultants that are looking at bus stop locations nationally so we've made the case for Hollywood stop, parallel to that, we're also meeting with the landowner we've met him and in relation to obviously the footpath issue as well, the same landowner owns the land in relation to the proposed location are to the bus stops to we've engaged with the him and will progress those negotiations in relation to getting the necessary plan for the footpath and bus stops as well. Just in relation to the public lighting, I suppose, as the Chief Executive mentioned there's LED retrofit programme which is currently on going, we're part of the eastern region which is led by Kilkenny county council, there's a meeting in week in relation to bringing that forward so we'd hope the LED reality retrofit would move quickly and we'll start hopefully, next year in terms of retrofitting here in Wicklow County Council area, I understand this time of the year it is particularly difficult, it is more noticeable that the lights that are out. As Chief Executive said on average, we are, we have

the 2-3% of lights out although any one time which is in line with the national average, we are work with the contractors to speed that up, we're focusing on the areas where most lights are out, trying to get those fixed so that we can bring the numbers down, I would just say that obviously the report directly to the contractor, the lights where they're out if they are particular areas that are particularly bad or a number of lights out in a group if you let us know in the directorate we will take it up with the contractor and try that and get them fixed as quickly as possible.

NIAMH ODONELL: Hello my name is Niamh O'Donnell, I'm Artistic Director of Mermaid Arts Centre and appreciate the opportunity to sit and explain some of the programmes and activities that we have in the Mermaid, year in and year out. I know your agenda is busy so I will keep this short and sweet as I can and move quickly through the slides. It is a registered charity, we're established with Bray Municipal District, and within that we've grown the range of programmes and activities we present. We have extended our reach through the county and I'll talk about that in detail later.

We've vastly increased and informed people who attend the centre and we have established extensive engagement and participation programmes to different communities. And alongside that, we've worked not only the local profile but local and international profile. It is important to state that the Mermaid is for everyone. We are an open, inclusive and community-driven organisation. So, we're not just a venue, we don't just present work in Mermaid, yes we present a lot onsite but we also make work and create it, and we get it out on the road and we have a huge number of education, Outreach programmes and have as many activities as we can across the five Wicklow districts. So, I'll talk you through some of the statistics. We have 366 events this year with just under 44,000 people engaging in our activities, we run 44 events outside of the art centre and we have 3 over 3,000 children attending shows, we have more coming to music, but one of the things I shout about, while we're run regular educational programmes what our children deserve is to be inspired and enthralled not just to be educated. And we, do one of the things that is most important

in the work we do, is we try to engage for people who don't attend cultural activities ongoing basis, we're trying to tackle the perceived barrier to the arts, so we have 7,000 people attending events for free. So, we also support a lot of amateur work and it is something that is really important to us, we're not just about the professional arts, so it is about supporting local children, we have just under 1,500 children performing on our stage and showing how talented they are. We run a programme of community tickets where we target and specifically try to engage people from disadvantaged areas or vulnerable people, we work with addiction task force, and there will be more, 648 free tickets to families. 42 talks, tours, workshops with under 2,000 people attending, I'm going to talk more about the 23 performance for children with complex needs because it is an area we're working on a lot in the last year-and-a-half. But something I'm proud of, is we partnered, almost all work we partner and network with people, so we partnered with Jack and Jill Foundation and a company called Helium. To a family in Wicklow Town and Greystones, where the

children have terminal illnesses and there's nothing they can do, and we go to them, and that's something we hope to expand. Instead of me telling you all how great we are, I thought I might put in a couple of quotes from our own reviews from the Arts Council. So, Mermaid in last year's review was identified best example of the Art Centre Model in the country and recent years it set new standards what the arts centre can achieve. I see my graph isn't so clear there, so I'll talk you there you it. It is really important you understand the context that we work. So, that is outlining the population, age between 15 and 64, and we are constantly benchmarked and compared with art centres like Pavilion in Dun Laoghaire and Civic and Blanch and we compete for funding from the Arts Council. And if you look at the total figure there, the reality is that we punch above our weight, Mermaid achieves more because we have half the population they have to serve, and we have a much deeper or larger county. And also, the reality is, that presently we're getting between 25,000 and 35,000 more from the Arts Council because of the artist development programmes we run and our

community project. So, Wicklow Count Council is one of our key stakeholders and we're hugely appreciative of the support we get and try to deliver substantially on the support we get. One of the questions I'm regularly asked is are we not a commercial enterprise and one of the things I would hope to explain today is yes we are there's a lot of things we're registered charity but a lot of activities we do that are commercial, Christy Moore makes money from the Mermaid and we pile that money back into the structure and Damian Dempsey, all those people, we're making money on those events. But when we get subs what we do is to make sure that we're able to do a lot more than that. So, what the Wicklow support gives us, is the ability to offer a broad range of work to Wicklow audiences not just the commercial work and popular work but artists emerging, example was we were the first to book Foil Arms & Hog and now we're too small, now they're selling two weeks in Vicar Street, if you don't support that work, it just, you know, we need to platform them. Also, our educational programme workshops and work with young people with disabilities, or complex

needs, all of our engagement programmes that is what Wicklow allows us to do, it allows us to reach through the county to present outside of Wicklow, district even down as Arklow and certain extent in Baltinglass but I'll talk about that later. And I thought it was important to try to explain we don't plan our programmes in isolation, our programmes are designed to support and fulfil the key goals of the Wicklow County Council Development Plan and as well as the Arts Plan and we would work on an ongoing basis with the arts office in Wicklow. So, a lot of our work really is about community. It is about health and wellbeing, active citizenship and social participation, so, we do I a lot of work offsite in the public realm and that bottom picture is a picture of the lovely Paul Timony in a school where we worked for six weeks and it is so successful now this year we can trust ourselves and we'll be sending him to Blessington Community College to work with students there. So, we obviously believe in creativity for everyone, and democracy, equality and diversity are our main principles, but we talk our county remit seriously. And how we generally implement

that or the most successful way to do that is through a schools programme, so, at present we're working with 72 schools approximately and have about 7,000 schoolchildren attending or participating in events. The reality is of course I can't deny our geography, it is much easier for us to serve schools and/or public in Bray, east and west and we work with 28 schools presently but we also work with ten schools in Wicklow and we try to keep that nice and broad, we go to Newcastle and Rathnew and Roundwood and also have schools in Kilpeddar, Kilcoole in the Greystones district and it is harder for us to serve Baltinglass but we work in two schools in Arklow and we put programme initiatives in place in order to try to connect with people because it is too difficult to get them over the mountain range so we programme, so we partner with different organisations and we programme and try to run residencies in those areas. So, these are just a couple of examples, I can't run through them, because if I went over nine minute, seven I'm told - nine. So, we develop work and present with the courthouse and present work that say the courthouse can't afford themselves so for example

I am BABA we're working with a Wicklow based theatre maker with children. And we have supported activities in Glenree and artists and residents there we're trying to relocate them, we're going to Shaking the Bog we work with Chapterhouse and present in power security and Avondale house, we didn't manage to do that this year but will next. And other, this year, we tried, we try always to be instigators or facilitators of interaction, so Bray test value was not only in Bray, we went to Arklow, Blessington and Tinahely so that's something we're trying to expand next year.

Again, so I've talked about the local or the county work we're doing, in brief, only parts of it, but also something that we've been working on is building the profile of the art centre and the county. So, there's a quote from the theatre adviser to the Arts Council, he said: (quote on screen)

I'm going to give a couple of examples, this is one where this is an idea of where we're able to invest a small amount of money for work to be made, so we decided on an artist, they had a beautiful idea for a theatre piece, we gave her a small bursary to

write and then we got more money - 46,000 to make in the Mermaid and Abbey and Peacock stage and negotiated with another producer to take it to Edinburgh, we did 26 performance, four stars in The Scotsman and originator is on all this material, R Terek's loved it, funded it and recorded and broadcast in September and in February, it will be back to Mermaid and we're going out on a 14-venue tour nationwide and one example we commissioned three artists to make a film and this an example where we, because of the investment we're able to make in work. Then we're able to leverage more money, so we got an additional 56,000 to go on tour to bring that work to Clare, Mayo and Sligo and we submitted into a couple of international film festivals and I cannot believe but we won three awards in New York! Unfortunately, I wasn't able to go but, and Mexico, but we're very proud of it. And then, this is a work that we, as I said earlier, we're focusing on working with people with additional needs or groups with additional needs and ultimately in our plan we identified these people are just not served so I'm going to talk over this piece, but it is a Wicklow artist, her name

is Anna. We partnered with the arts office, and also with the Riverbank Art Centre in Kildare and with the civic and the can't think of the last organisation, we made a piece, partnering with Enable Wicklow and also, working in St Catherine's Newcastle, creating a piece for young people with profound complex needs, it was one-on-one performance, one young person their guardian and one performer for those, and we had the most incredible response to the work. A

physiotherapist contacted us after the show where she works with this beautiful young girl who has the therapy in the hydra pool and is not allowed to go into the pool with anybody else because of her behavioural issues, and she was so afraid of bringing her because she wouldn't get in, but Ciara, got in, because she was mesmerized, didn't notice anyone else in the pool and now when they go for her therapy she sings. For me on regular basis people say oh well the value of the arts or impact is a magical thing or mysterious, it isn't, because I see it every day and all of why you are support is that makes that happen and I want you all to be proud of the art centre and come and visit

us, and if you have anyone that you think I should work for me, I will come to you and meet for coffee and put a plan in place. We will pause that.

And I am done. Did I stick to time.

CLLR CREAN: Thank you for an excellent presentation, as someone new on the board the first thing I was struck for is community engagement, scope and number of schools, I really was shocked, I didn't realise that amount of work took place so that's why I'm delighted to see the presentation, and for me, really, I suppose, it is the role of the arts in our community and what makes the Mermaid as an art centre different from commercial enterprise in Wicklow is that potential you talked about there and access piece and build and capacity piece and I think at community level for us as public reps, in the way the GAA plays that cultural role for sport an art centres, they offer us the potential, to build that community level and definitely the inclusion piece is critical going forward. And I know, I certainly took that no pledge 2020 with the Children's Rights Alliance before I ran for the election and massive piece of with a they're trying to put at national level is

the right to cultural experiences for young people who are usually excluded and I think that's really important going forward and something the Mermaid Arts Centre can do, and there's potential around climate change and using the arts for communication with people, and building education awareness, so for me, that's the beginning of something, the role of the arts and the role of local authorities and support at community levels. So, it is great to see the presentation here and for fellow councillors to see it as well and I am certainly delighted to support at something like this.

CLLR LEONARD: Congratulations, amazing, I have a small studio in Arklow, no comparison, and I'd love what you're doing expanded in the wider community and it needs to be supported. Music, art, making, design, everything from a pen that is designed, it links into everything, in enterprise, everything, it is the ability to heal, I've seen your video there, I've seen people speak for the first time with hands and lump of clay, a guy that was nonverbal in his 20s, and that just, that pure healing. I've seen it full circular economy through the arts as well. With minimal funding and support

to the wider community, you could have many little hubs of artist studios being supported, I feel that there a lot of artist and creators and makers, are working from their back garden, there's very few platforms for them to even show their creations or to sell them even or be supported, and I'd love for Wicklow County Council to widen that support through the wider community through the Mermaid Arts Centre, and thanks a million.

CLLR MATHEWS: Thank you and your presentation which was delivered with your usual my paced enthusiasm and commitment and my ambition you have for the arts thank you for that. As someone who serves on the board of the Mermaid for the last few years, it is a privilege to work with you, and to see how much that you generate out of that theatre with a small staff, and a small budget and yet you manage to produce so much. And the other theatres that you benchmarked against and measured against, it really shows that you know, you've put Wicklow on the map compared to all those other places that are names of theatres that are just people are familiar with, and there's our Wicklow Mermaid Theatre up with them, and that's something we

should up be proud of. You touched on the commercial part of it, and while it is not easy to pick a commercial showing and know what you'll make out of it, it is probably easier the other stuff you do, which is harder to put a value on, where it is the Outreach, it is the working with people that might not normally have access to the arts or mightn't be included in the arts, or as we've seen this, people with special needs, and I think we're all blown away from that. And when I saw that first presented, I thought this is what it is about, and if we do a little more of supportive of that. And no matter what artist out there, whether it is musicians or poets or artists or film makers they all need a place where they can be nurtured and encouraged and given that break earlier on, in their careers, that elevates them to that high success like you mentioned. So, thank you for the presentation and thank you for all the work you've done.

>>: I have four presentations; can you keep it short.

CLLR SCOTT: Was that directed to me? I'll be quick, thank you very much for the presentation,

I really enjoyed that, I wish you could come down every month and give us all a boost by the amazing work you're doing. I want to echo particularly the inclusion of the work you're doing, it can't be underestimated, I've families I know with children with very complex needs and anything that includes them and gives them a little shaft of light on their grim days otherwise at the valuable there's not a monetary value that you can put on that. Just a comment, we were talking about the number of homeless children in Wicklow county and is there any Outreach you do with children in emergency accommodation, homeless? And we have children living in direct provision centres in temporary accommodation and direct provision centres, is there anything the Mermaid you could do? Or if you need assistance with that, do let me know.

CLLR MCMANUS: I will second both proposals, I would love you to come every month to boost our energy, everyone has a connection to the Mermaid, mine is to the best choir in the world Voices of Bray, because I'm in it and my parents are too. I have fond memories of going down, every year to see the community choir and see the fundraising they're

doing, the space, there's art on the walls looking at what is coming up next, what am I interested in, and it is a fabulous space. I wanted to say thank you for I think, you highlighted the importance of storytelling and accountability, if we fund this, you're taking it seriously and saying this is the story of the money you give - here is where it travels and that's very important in terms of transparency and accountability. But more so, the stories you've shared, show the human impact and the real positive work that is going on, and that is really inspires expiring, so I want to say a heartfelt thank you for that.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: I don't know if there's anything left to say after Cllr Grace McManus. I've seen my children on stage in the Mermaid, very much amateur, hip hoppers. And again I think it is that thing, you could nearly the Mermaid was being that was ambitious and exceeded the ambition, again and again, and again, and I think, it is one of those things you could test degrees of separation for anyone in terms of connection to the Mermaid and everyone has one if not more than one. My youth projects benefited from the ticket price reduction

which again is invitation for people who may not be have opportunity to be enthralled and inspired and that model of always looking for another opportunity to increase engagement, and to build connections, there seems to be no end to that. So again, I would say that a thank you from us, and keep doing it and hopefully there is more ambition and hopefully we will absolutely support that.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you and I would like to thank Niamh and welcome her here today. I think Oliver O'Brien said there, Mermaid has just gone from strength to strength down the years. And indeed it was the very idea of Mermaid or the County Wicklow art centre was the brainchild of former colleague of mine, Cllr John McManus, of what was the Bray Town Council and was supported unanimously, and enthusiastically by all the councillors at the time, and I think perhaps Cllr Joe Behan and myself are the only two members who would have been at the original odd turning for the Mermaid in Bray. And you know, what was I suppose, from the beginnings and the hope and dreams of the

people involved, just blossomed year after year, and everybody involved with the Mermaid, I was on the board at one stage, you can't help but be inspired by the enthusiasm, and I would certainly I would recommend that people go to Mermaid as much as possible. There are all kinds of varieties of shows on, again as Dermot said his children on the stage, I had still have a daughter who goes on the stage from time to time, but there is so much community involvement there, and I think it really has from the various things that happened, to happen through the years to the Bray Jazz Festival who have their yearly weekend there in May. It really has put Bray on the artistic map, and I would just like to congratulate you Niamh, all the people who work with you, and I look forward to seeing you again.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you was a fantastic presentation as a new member of the Mermaid board congratulations. I look forward to working with you and your fantastic enthusiastic team, I reiterate what everybody has said, I watch my children in amateur performances which is fantastic, delighted to see you're working with the

Shaking Bog Association it is a fantastic thing not to be missed. I work with them as well and Lakers point of view I want to thank you for all the support you've given them over the years, they would be lost without you, the support not allowing but, because it is a local theatre that they can access individually. It is very important for them a lot of their members would be regular customers in the Mermaid and the Monday Night Film Club you put on with quirky films it is incredible, thank you very much from a member of the public for all the work you've done thank you.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, thanks very much for your presentation, it was very enthusiastic, I have to say, I'm a big fan of the Mermaid and attend quite a lot of theatrical events there and a big fan of The Film Club. One of the things that happens whenever there's a crisis, is that people look to the arts to help because the arts has such an overall beneficial impact on people and the arts is the area that is first hit whenever there's economic cutbacks and we've seen that over the years. I know quite a few writers and artist whose are struggling to make a living, most can't, they

have to do it on a part-time basis but one of the most important things that the arts affects is the area of mental health. And I feel that without it, without places like the Mermaid and Pavilion and all those similar type multimedia theatres there would be a bigger impact on our young people who are suffering in unprecedented levels of mental health, one of the things I would like to recommend is that you dig a little bit deep and in particular in the area of we'll say articles as therapy for people with mental health issues, especially young people, because, we now have a crisis in this country, there is no money there for services for youth mental health and I know things like art leads to mindfulness which leads to creativity which really has a huge beneficial impact on people. And congratulations again and well done.

CLLR BOURKE: Congratulations on your success, you mentioned Arklow you did Outreach work in Arklow, I was wondering did you have links with Asguard Theatre Group and if not, would you be amenable to helping them out.

NIAMH: Yeah. OK, so, I really appreciate your

positive feedback, we absolutely agree that the arts is a fundamental right of every citizen and we try to do our best, we definitely would like to do more in Arklow, I don't know, I haven't got contact with, but I will now. And I think, I just reiterate any uses that you have in relation to, because it doesn't always be a large investment it can be small to make a big difference. In relation to the homeless children, we haven't actually any programmes but we are initiating a story telling programme within the direct provision centres to try to actually start there, and again it is a learning curve for us sometimes so we're working with artist called Felly Specks, and Mermaid knows we need to do more and there's always more to do and we'll do that. Thank you for all I appreciate your time. CATHAOIRLEACH: Now item six, to receive a general update of the time teams, so, it is lovely to have Grainne back.

CRAINNE MCLOUGHLIN: Ladies and gentlemen, I was going to say fellow councillors, can't say that anymore, but it is lovely to be back and thank you for the warm welcome I got early on. So, Greystones 2020. The term Greystones 2020 doesn't

mean that something is going to happen in a year, it means 2020 Vision for Greystones, and it was set up in 2016, a group of us got together because there was initial strategy for Greystones town around 2013 and with the demise of the Chamber of Commerce nothing happened so we decided to get together and there was things we need today do for Greystones, things that weren't within the remit of the council and we would do it, so, we were then following that, given the title of Greystones Town Team in 2018 by Wicklow County Council. It was just part of the general network and turning out to be a positive experience because we're actually learning from each other and meeting regularly, it is a platform to support and secure opportunity for development, social, cultural and economical, and we facilitate engagements at all levels.

So, what exactly are we? We're definitely non-political. We encourage holistic town; we engage with all the community. We support improvement of amenities, we improve pride of place for all in the community, and we partner with the public sector and particularly I suppose, Greystones Municipal District and Wicklow County

Council and I have to say, it was nothing to do with councils, we have fantastic support from Greystones and Wicklow because we couldn't do the stuff we do without the support. We facilitate events, we're unlucky in Greystones so far as we're not like Wicklow gets 20,000 for the lights and the team don't have to do anything, we have to work for our lights in Greystones. We get 5,000 from Municipal District and that includes the whole lights event we put on, so, we have to go and find it, so Greystones 2020 has taken over that, and if we didn't do that, there would be no lights in Greystones, we facilitate the Battle of the Bands and hope to put festivals on. I was involved in the arts festival those years ago and there's a push to do something new for Greystones and going forward we will do that. We source funding for project that the council aren't able to do, because, for some reason Dublin decides it should be a Town Team that should go after them so we got 15K for the bus stop that's age-friendly initiative and we're now, just achieved 38K for public plan I'll discuss that in a few moments. We manage and do secure those funding for the Christmas lights

which is the most awfulest job that anybody has to do, and I think the people and the team that do it are doing a great job. If we look at Christmas lights, cost us 20K and historically when the Greystones Chamber were doing it, they found it easy to get the funding, we're finding more and more the shops are saying we pay high enough rates so they're balking at the idea of paying for lights, so I'm not sure what will happen going forward, about you as long as we're around we will get that money. It is hugely important for the town, anybody who sees it, will see how beautiful it looks, it is on Saturday 23rd, everybody is welcome, we are twinned with Holyhead as you know and Holyhead Santa is coming over, it is supposed to be the Santa, so we have him coming along and we have 43 of Holyhead choir coming to join us and they will be partaking in the event as well. So, another project we're working on is a new art installation and landscaping proposal for Greystones Railway Station. If you go in the Greystones Railway Station which once got the award for the best train station in Ireland, well, it is certainly wouldn't get that now. And it does not

portray accurate image of the town. So, what we're doing is we're bringing up concept that initially started from the Tidy Towns and the proposal involved in effect the creation of a theatre set and drama as one approach the station by train. By providing very large portraits, two meets of famous and probably not so famous, people mightn't know who they are, people who had some connection with Greystones, we commissioned local artist, Mr Brush to paint them, we painted 18 so far and people such as Ronnie Drew, Samuel Beckett, Elizabeth Burnaby and others, so the real work begins. The images will be framed by a wave-shaped hedges which will the dual function of mirroring the coastal location of the town while unsecuring a unattractive fence. In addition, a linear history board will portray the development of the town of chronological order as one moves across the platform, beds will created with later providing a myriad of beautifully coloured plants particularly to coastal region such as Greystones, elements of marine village will be located in a tasteful way within the overall design and series of in illuminated planters reflecting the colour

shape and material of the common sea buoy will set down the stage set and sense of place, it is important, because Greystones is at the end of the DART line and the amount of people coming out of the station, it is vitally important that if they're going from Greystones it doesn't matter whether they're staying or heading up the Wicklow hills we show Wicklow in the best form possible. Bray did a fantastic job of murals in their staying, it took, I don't know how many years, probably 20 years to get them done so it is really important that Greystones has a fantastic station as well. So, as you can see, there's the one we've done of Ronnie Drew, so they're fantastic and you can see the list was them the cost of the proposal is going to be approximately 90K, and we are actively working with potential funders to secure funding. Irish Rail although happy with the proposal, will not support the project financially, they will ensure their guys will do the work, but we have to pay for the work their guys do, we've accepted that's the way it is. And that is one of the reasons that we believe, that the Greystones 20 Town Team can help in the development of the town,

using all resources and we are very lucky, we have people on the team who have huge resources and huge expertise, and nobody's on the team unless you can do something or offer something. If you offer nothing only turn up at the meeting you would be ousted quickly. We offer support to the local council and I feel because we do this, we get huge support back. So the next billet we're doing is this main street plan for Greystones and contrary to perceptions, most people would think Greystones got everything and it looks fantastic, it doesn't and the main street of Greystones is very, tired looking, and before plans are designed for the town, because ultimately they're going to be designed, nothing's done on the main street in Greystones, of the Church Road in Greystones since '98. We need to get overhead cables underground, but no point deciding to put up with plans by officials unless we have concrete ideas what we want the town to look like. We secured funding of approximately 30K, from leader and support from Tidy Towns and Wicklow County Council we commissioned consultants after a lengthy procurement process to undertake a public rand,

what is it? The parts of the town village or city whether publicly or privately owned available without charge for everyone to see, use and enjoy, including streets, squares and parks. The terms of reference are approximately from the shoreline right down to the harbour, having said that, we're bringing areas in together so we're looking at the gateways in town, public space network connectivity and permeability, legibility, signage, history and heritage, tourist destination and parking travel and public transport. And this is, and we feel that through public consultation, we will present Wicklow County Council because it is in connection with Wicklow County Council a group like us could not do a public plan unless you have the support of Wicklow County Council because, anything we do, we need Wicklow County Council to ultimately get the work done.

So, we've very tight time frame we started in August, and we're hoping we'll have the completed document by December. We've also had one public consultation meeting it went extremely well. And it actually went so well we have people contacting us, saying I still want something else to put into

it, which is great because we're not perspective with that, the whole plan is out in December with the next consultation phase because we'll have a draft plan made on the 23rd of November, you note that's the same day as the Christmas lights because that's such a busy day in Greystones and the library is allowing us to do the public consultation there, so we'll hoping to grab the people and get them to have their say. It is Paul Hogart a company from Belfast and Scotland, two are actually doing the work, they have extensive experience and won awards, I feel they'll do a fantastic job for us. The next thing that the next thing we did was a website for Greystones, and we were delighted to launch it in March. This took huge amount of time and energy because we didn't have the money to actually go and give it to somebody and produce it. Our total website cost us only 7,000 which we got 3,000 from Wicklow CC and we're obliged for councillors to agree to that, because God knows the Budget, we have in Greystones is small and we were lucky to get that. They've agreed with in Greystones to give extra 3,000 per year for the marketing of the website and that really helps too.

But the website itself is fantastic, it is getting fantastic hits, and the reason how we were able to do it is we went to people who were experts in the field of design, experts in photography, anything that we felt that they could be expert in, that we need for our website we went and asked them to help us with their website. So although we produced ourselves content and uploaded the content, you know, can you upload all the content you like, but if it is not laid out properly, it doesn't look good, don't worry about it, you have this website, have a look and you'll see a really, good website. OK. As I say, I got PC productions to do the work for us, it is really working I would recommend it for all the other town teams if you have a website, no point trying to do it on your own, get professional company to keep the social media aspect going and to provide constant content because that's the only way it works. So, some additional project we did, we did a proposal in for the broadband County Wicklow working with the town teams on tourism destination project, we're working with Triple A Alliance to making Greystones autism friendly-town and we've developed a

complete development plan for 2020, that will give us key time frames in order to achieve certain goals. We have a tiny budget, but we're achieving a whole heap and we are most definitely not trying to duplicate any of the work of the councillors, it is opposite we're doing additional extra to support them in their work and we work with Tidy Towns but don't duplicate their work in any way. We're definitely not Chamber of Commerce but like to be champions of the town and I'd like to thank you your town clerk and Michael Nicholson our manager because without the support of them and Rory and councillors, none of it would happen. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH>>: I'm going to take the presentation from Cllr Pat Fitzgerald so what I would say questions in relation to time teams bring them back to municipal districts.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just at the end of 2016, the idea of a Town Team was first mooted for Arklow and in January, 2017, we had formed a Town Team and there were 29 measures there that night including councillors and others, and the stakeholders

represented on the Town Team are Chambers of Commerce, an Garda, clergy, business community, Tidy Towns, Wicklow County Council members and officials and the official statement for Arklow is that the Town Team independent tends to contribute to the improvement in the quality of life for people living in Arklow and enhance the attractive it is of the town of a place in which to live, work visit and invest. The corporate objectives are to bring local interest groups together for benefit of the town to enhance character and traditions of the town and promote it as clean, safe, welcoming and prosperous town for all, and to promote high standard and cost effective services, and to work in partnership with other stakeholders to achieve more for Arklow. And the Arklow Town Team projects to date have Arklow in Bloom, Flower Basket Scheme, Town Centre Health Check which has been done. Ronnie Delaney Statue expected completion quarter 1, 2020, the roundabout sponsorship scheme which we have eight in total and two have, three are maritime theme. And Halloween Spook Tackler Festival and I'd slightly deviate, my grandson came to the night of the festival and asked me who is

that strange lad was over there, I said that's not a strange lad that's a Cllr Tommy dressed as a duck or whatever, sorry he was afraid of you. We had had an event to support International Women's Day, and audit which details strengths weaknesses and opportunities that the town has to offer. Our projects, John coming are about to happen are, installation of CCTV we expect that to have the first quarter of 2020. Shop front painting scheme, we have that every year, we percentage friendly programme, we got a rising star award in 2018. The other things we have a clean-up of Wooden Bridge and National Spring Clean Week and clean up the on-World Clean-up Day, some members thought it would be a good idea to light up the 19 Archers Bridge, that's the longest handmade bridge in Ireland and considered a famous landmark. Arklow Town Team were awarded a dementia friendly garden medal at 2018, I want to thank the Director Nicholson with his involvement in that. The development of the parade ground, new generation. 28 million and matching funding, 625,000 from Wicklow County Council was required and that consists development of the street scape and

building realm in the historic core of Arklow, detailed design is finalised and should start, the work should start second half of next year.

Refurbishment of Arklow courthouse required funding, works are due for refurbishing on ground floor for court services and at the same time we've had demands for office hub space and plans have been prepared to convert first floor in an office and digital hub space.

The corner projects are we have received funding for three bus shelters in the district under the community enhancement programme for the age-friendly, digital screen for the town - in the process of organising that. We're involved in the Arklow Greenway, application for refurbishment for the running track, we're considering blue flag application and applying for charitable status and autism friendly town. Current projects, I won't be too much longer. We're organising events around a 2020 world under 16-21, ranking competition which is to be hosted in Arklow in October and I want to thank the council officials for the co-operation in this matter. Arklow, Irish Ancient Town Project this will present the

heritage in the evolution in the town which leaflet link to the timeline map. The Pottery Museum which I would be very enthusiastic about, and application has been submitted for 2.5 million, it is intended to develop Arklow Pottery and Heritage Museum on the ground of the Old Abby Graveyard which dates back hundreds of years, and a case has been submitted under the 2019 community environment action fund that is biodiversity. And I'll finish by, I just want to thank the officials of the council for their co-operation and I have to say it has been an eye opener to be on the Town Team and I think we'll have much success in the future. So, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'd like to thank you for the first presentation inside the allotted time, well done. Listen, if you do have questions, and it is great we now know the work that's done throughout the county with the town teams, if there's specific ideas you heard that you want to bring back your own town teams I suggest you do it at municipal levels..

Thank you both for your preparations.

OK, to receive a presentation on Be Winter Ready. And I think this is my second time in two days, to meet Sinead, can I say I was lucky enough to go to the presentation or the Conferring Ceremony in Arklow IT at the weekend and Sinead was one of the recipients of her business degree, but, along with that, she also won the medal for being the best student of the year.

SINEAD: No pressure now, I just want to give a brief summary in relation to the major imagine framework which outlines responsibility to Wicklow County Council in relation to, its context originates from national risk framework within it then identifies flooding, heavy know, severe storms and I mean prolonged cold weather events, the framework was published in 2009. Part of that, is in relation to Wicklow County Council's context we are obliged to document major emergency plan, and our current addition is 2017 date, and two sole plans one in response to flood response plan and another severe weather plan. There's on-line training courses available if someone wants to become familiar with the content itself. One of the key aspects is we would regularly meet with

local authorities, our neighbouring local authorities, and our partnering PRAs and other supporting organisations. The because of that then, there's out of those there will be shared lessons and key, from the severe weather events, that previously, we have experienced in Ireland, I won't go into them in detail, but they're listed there over the years. The coordination for major emergency events is co-ordinated at National Coordination Centre, representatives there would be from other agencies and parent agencies as well. This does facilitate a more focused timely response by all agencies.

And you will remember back in 2016, that's Department of Education set a new level to red emergency events, this is the information emergency flow, from the national centre to coordination centre in the middle and all the way ought to onsite and there's the information flow, one of the key responsibilities for local authorities is that we have to have a severe weather assessment team to monitor weather alerts and they will come from Met Eireann and OPW, and our own crisis management team from the various municipal

districts will co-ordinate the information flow up through the various chain. A few pictures from past events. As quickly flick through them. They're representative of pictures and lessons we've learnt over the years and community resilience involved with them. It is multiagency approach to co-ordinating our response, it does include Civil Defence, Gardai, and mountain rescue and RNLi and including National Coordination Level from Defence Force if and when required. The Office of Public Emergency Planning are launching this week, they're public information in relation to promoting awareness for Be Winter Ready campaigns and there's a few available brochures and leaflets and Twitter page information. So, I want to hand you over to senior engineer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll hopefully not use the 30, I want to get the agenda cleared.

Michael Flynn: Thank you. Just very quickly to run through our winter maintenance plan for the year. Just first line there is winter service plan and that's available on our website and essentially that outlines our response to severe weather events, particularly snow and ice. The season

runs from the 14th of October through the end of April, so this is in operation at the moment, it essentially outlines our place, the personal involved and equipment involved and all available on the site if you want to look at it a little more. Quickly, this is the map showing the routes that we treat, and essentially what we've got is a priority system the red there is the N81, from Baltinglass to Blessington, that's our priority one. The yellow and green on the M11, N11, that's treated by the mark contractor and our priority two, are all the results in blue and they're essentially a regional road network and then we also have priority three, which is all footpaths as determined by the local engineer or overseer in Wicklow he can operate the ice system, it is from a group of engineers, and runs from 14th of October to 30th of April, we have engineer monitoring weather conditions and forecasts around the clock every day for the season. And, included there a picture of a typical weather station. These are dotted around the local network and they give us information in relation to temperature, wind speeds, cameras on it, and also sensors in the road

which will tell you the surface temperature and indeed whether the salt remaining on the road so, they're dotted around and we use those to inform us in relation to our decisions.

That there is a typical screen shot it is from the Baltinglass Weather Station, you'll see on the left, the solid lined is and the dotted is prediction, we make decisions around that. Just a bit of information around what some statistics, the length of road we treat on a typical night is over 500 kilometres.

For a normal gritting run we put out. 5 tonnes of salt, depending on the conditions, a typical rate is 15 grams, that depends how severe the frost or the snow is, it could be more than that, and we spend approximately on average 750,000 each season treating the road network. That there is a showing you the locations we've six salt depots strategically dotted around the country where we store the salt and where the lorries get loaded and deal with winter events. And that there, is a picture of a typical salting truck, snowplough on the front and gritter on the back and the driver and helper that goes out on that, they go out at

all matter of hours day and night and respond and they work at a phone call or text away any time to respond to that. So outdoor staff and particularly drivers and helpers do a Trojan work in relation to that.

And again, as have been mentioning Be Winter Ready will be launched on Thursday. And I suppose, just one final note regardless whether route is in a salting route or whether it is treated, drivers should always drive with caution, because, it is not an exact science, the fact we've salt a road in no way can guarantee it is free from ice so that warning should always go, no matter what routes are sapped there's the danger of plaque ice and drivers should drive with caution in salt, ice or snow conditions.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks for the presentation, just two brief questions, one in relation to the instance of flooding, due to the change and nature of rainfall in Wicklow, on orange and yellow alerts, is there increased provision by sandbag provision in each area? Because there's residents

and towns and villages that are experiencing flooding in areas that have not experienced flooding before and it is probably due to change in rainfall so access to sandbags is something, we can do to alleviate that. In second question in relation to know events and icy vents, just has the confusion cleared up whereby, if a local farmer or usually local farmer trying to clear his local road to allow neighbours get out that there's some allowance for that, in regards to permission they're not acting on their own trespassing - there's confusion over that over the years and prevented farmers from taking the decent action they always used to take over the years.

CLLR BOURKE: Just in following on there from previous councillor's contribution, farmers who have milk trucks coming in for collection during prolonged cold periods of snow and ice, find it very difficult to actually match up with the milk collection and have offered to go in the past to collect salt to keep their roads properly salted to that deliveries can come and go. Will that be allowed for in this plan, because I'm thinking of Ballymoney for the last number of years, there's

been requests and pleas from the farmers will, to, have their road opened up and kept open rather than having to dump milk because they can't always meet a truck in Wooden Bridge and Kinavany there's a group of farmers who find it difficult to take deliveries of collections of milk trucks coming in because of the steep nature of the hill. We don't prioritise those with our trucks as you know, so, will that be available if there's a very bad forecast, could farmer X or Y, pop out, get a quarter of a ton of salt for your depo and do it for us?

CLLR BLAKE: The farmers you're talking about, I'm sure maybe from now on in that regard, the usual question is our interaction with Wexford and Carlow county councils, particularly to the R747, we will do a certain section of it, and it runs part way in Carlow and back in Wicklow again, that's causing a problem down through the years, we have done our section but Carlow County Council often neglective in their aspects what level of communication do we have there in that regard with Cllr Doran, we have had both councils with interactions, that we done some roads and they have done as well so wondering

in the future, something we need to continue to have liaison with both local authorities.

CLLR LEONARD: Is there a dedicated line for councillors out of hours for imagination if anything occurs or is this just the general one on the website. And also, is there a plan in place, for clearing drains for this time of the year in Arklow specifically in the flood-prone areas?

>>: Just to say those, in relation to the farmers clearing roads, this arose particularly through the severe snowstorm we had, and we got clarification from the department that provided the contact of the local engineer and advised them what they're doing, and it is done with consultation that they are permitted to do so and insured to do so, so we've clarification on that, and in relation to Cllr Sylvester Bourke and farmers on routes, in addition to the routes I've shown on the map we have grit locations, grit stocks on hills located around the county and certainly, if there are particular hills causing problems, and again, contact the local area office or ourselves here and we'll try and deal with those. In relation to people coming and getting salt, certainly we

would help provide it, we have stocks available to do that, and that can be organised locally, by all means, but the first instance is have the hills have it in place before the event. And certainly, if the locations, where that's not happening let us know and we'll arrange that. And sandbags, yes, each area has a stock of sandbags, 9000 per Municipal District and they're available so we start filling those, or we now have arrangement with a quarry in the west where we can get truckloads of them at short notice, so we don't have concerns in relation to supplies of sandbags. So just the clearing of the drains, you may have noticed there's a bit of work going on at the moment, we've had a specifically designated grant from the department for drainage which wasn't available previously, it was over 230,000 this year, they doubled it to 430,000, so there's a drainage grant for Municipal District and you'll notice there's inlet's and runners around the county with that. In relation to, - the dedicated line, we have out of hours call service, so we call line dedicated outside of hours which is operational.

So, ring the number here you're through to a switch and that's connected so we have the out of hours. So then in relation to consultation with joining local authorities, we circulate that first slide, that's circulated to all joining local authorities, the contact details for the personnel managing winter services in the joining local authorities is contained in that. And certainly, if they are there are particular locations like you mentioned, Carlow, we'll make contact and see if there's issues of in terms of some routes perhaps not getting the coverage they might do. There may be an issue in terms of the timing of salt when you deal with it, our truck may not arrive at the same time as the Carlow truck or whatever, so we'll talk to them and make that call and see if we can sort those things out and if you have particular local knowledge in relation to that, let the Wicklow Litter Management Plan. 2019-2024.

Jim Callery: OK, good afternoon. Back with the litter plan which was first presented to the council back in March, before it went to public consultation, and we have made a number of

amendments to it, and we're here to propose it, for adoption if you agree. The plan sets out our policies and objectives as a local authority. Looking at enforcement and regulation with relation to litter, litter prevention and control measures, education awareness and community participation, so there's four main categories we look at in the plan. The plan is requirement under section 10 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, all local authorities must prepare Litter Management Plan. And the plan is there to assess, what are the main causes of litter? What are the problems we're experiencing across the county? What objectives we have to deal with those litter issues and how we can control that litter. We've been through the process of drafting the plan, consulting with the staff across the organisation, and examining some neighbouring local authorities' plans as well and seeing what they're doing, looking at best practice and looking at the relevant legislation and policy changes that have occurred since the last plan and then as I said earlier we went out to consultation first of all, consulting with the elected members of Wicklow

County Council in March and going out to public consultation. On the basis of that, we did a review of the plan, making amendments to it, and we now have that amended plan to present to you as members. What the plan does is it sets out what the legislation is covering litter, it defines what litter is, it sets out the response of responsibilities for different sectors, there's ourselves, the business sectors, general public, we all have responsibilities to work together and tackle the problem of litter. It is evaluating the type of litter, littering instances that occurring around the county and establishing what the priorities are. I don't think the priorities will be any surprise to any of you, we're all familiar with a lot of them, the things with the dog fouling, the convenience packaging, take away packaging that we're finding, litter thrown from cars, and things like signage, dumping of things and there's a long list of different priorities we have in County Wicklow. Getting on to the objectives and those of the plan, waste enforcement would be one of the four key areas we're looking at and our aim is to enforce visible presence with five officers

throughout the county, record and investigate all complaints received, from the public, and pursue all the waste activities taking action to stop them. Collaborate with partners in tackling the issue of littering and dumping so they would be organisations like the EPA, the Gardai and WERLA and PURE and ensures compliance by all relevant sectors. And increasingly, looking how we use technology to tackle the problem of dumping and littering. We're looking at prevention and control, particularly municipal level, maintaining adequate bin numbers, adapting locations, as needed where the bins are, where they're needed and ensuring the bins are expected and serviced, and street cleaning in the towns, and added course is given to municipal courses with the bin services and street cleaning operations, monitoring and regulating event, that occur, in our district to ensure they comply with the regulations and they have, a waste management plan in situ before an event takes place and they have the means of cleaning up after the event and tackling dog fouling with signage and bins throughout our towns and communities, and also monitoring litter black

spots, in our towns.

The education and awareness campaign would be working on a range of campaigns to target litter, so specific campaigns on dog fouling, gum litter, graffiti, convenes waste issue and campaigns on the general litter. We work closely with the schools across County Wicklow, particularly will you the Green Schools Programme but working with any schools that want to and providing they will with resources to looking at litter in the school and get the schools involved actively and tackling the issue of litter. We work with local community groups working on the issue of litter, like Tidy Towns, and the National Spring Clean which is an effective campaign every year, this year there were over 140 groups that took part in National Spring Clean doing local, so it is a big campaign.

Providing resources for the community and county of wide campaigns through the anti-litter grant and promoting a better approach to waste management and litter control in different sectors, in business community and householders, and again, using all relevant media to get that message out there, so using the press, radio, website and increasing

social media to promote engagement with the topic of litter. Community engagement is a new section we added into this litter plan, it wasn't there in the previous plan, it is a key part of the work we do, working with local community groups and getting citizen engagement in helping to tackle the problem of litter. So, we have this section in the plan now and about encouraging engagement by a range of different actors, like Tidy Towns, PURE and youth groups, getting them involved in helping us to tackle the issue of litter, promoting and supporting National Spring Clean, providing the materials that groups need. There are a lot of activity with people on the ground doing clean-up events, we need to support them and provide them with equipment to do the clean-ups, working with Tidy Towns so they can deliver their own campaigns, if they know what is the key issue in their community that needs to be raised in an awareness campaign, so we work closely with them with working with their campaigns at local campaigns. We have the annual awards, tidy towns estates and environmental awards which recognises some of the groups that have been active over the last year.

We also continue to fund and support PURE in the work they're doing and ensuring there's good liaison between council services and community groups across the county in tackling the issue of litter.

Following on from the consultation, and revision that we did in March, there was a number of small minor changes made to the plan, as it was presented, we had two public submissions made and the plan was revised to take account of those submissions that we received both elected members and the two public submissions that came in. So within the plan, there's now more references to the use of technology across not just enforcement but enforcement litter control and education and awareness, we've an addition of references to defacement of the public green with advertisements in several sections of the plan, and we have referenced signage but we were informed that defacement with stickers is quite prevalent particularly in the Bray area so we've addressed that issue in the plan and focus on preventing waste, that was brought to us in the chamber that people would like us to take action on coffee cups

and plastic bottles, that was something we were doing, and we want to knit those together and put focus on preventing waste items to lead to English in in the first place and references to citizen-led initiatives and campaigns on preventing waste to match that goal. OK.

CLLR MATTHEWS: There's two striking issues in that document that I see, one is that the number of fines prosecutions and fines paid in your four years has doubled which I this is testament to the hard work that's done in the section. The other thing I see half of the litter is cigarette butts, that makes me question whether you're doing hard work but are the businesses, that their clientele contributing to the cigarette butts, we know the types of businesses, we see it outside pubs and bookies, we see it outside gambling places. Is there anything we can do to approach those? The rubbish is emanating from their clients, from their premises so surely, they have some sort of onus and obligation to address that littering issue. And thank you for the hard work you're doing and the presentation.

>>: Greystones Tidy Town had contacted me about the issue, people aren't aware that the damage that cigarette butts can do, they're not aware they're littering the environment when you throw them down, but I was wondering, whether there are any plans, I don't see it specifically listed under the education programme, is there plans Bin the Butt Campaign, like Fingal has run, a public awareness campaign is important, whether that's community level at Tidy Towns or county-wide level so I'd like to see that happening. Thank you. Again on the data, while I appreciate the fines issue has doubled there's an interesting part when you look at fines issued for 2018 thirty five issued, 346 paid and prosecution six, which means 99 just disappeared, as in they weren't taken any further or it is hard to believe that 99 fines issued from frivolous or so had there is a gap, what happens to all the fines when they're issued, are we following them through to the end, so I'd like us to get better that the that, there's a gap where 99 were issued and nothing paid or prosecuted afterward. On the PURE project we all know the value of that project to Wicklow, and has the

funding been confirmed for that, because it is a thing that's running out in December, so I hope that we, from here we all send our best wishes to the Pure project and it continues, because without it, I don't know how we tackle it, on heavy vehicles that aren't covered properly whether its quarry vehicles or farmers vehicles that are going through towns and sometimes offload debris, that is litter, and it could be a public information piece rather than prosecution piece, because sometimes it is busy times of year for farmers and construction workers, but if they're inadvertently shedding their load it is litter and causes danger as well as everything else.

CLLR LEONARD: One is related to the campaign, maybe we could incorporate some sort of a I awareness for registered legal waste collectors to prevent illegal waste collectors to pick up from houses, maybe on a website have a list of registered waste collectors and one in relation to green waste I've had a lot of constituents residents associations doing good work in their the community but they've nowhere to put green waste and maybe

localised composting scheme that would prevent a lot of you know, fines and stuff having to be issued if they had alternative to put the green waste in allocated area.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thanks again for the report. Very, comprehensive and balanced works points, one is in the community, engagement section I think adds value but it is in relation and challenge because if we invite community engagement we also have to respond to community engagement, particularly, like the circular economies in there, because, again the report is putting us into the future and flagging the important things for us going forward. One question I have is that when the parking wardens are contracted to do the work in terms of looking at litter and taking a role there in terms of identifying maybe that's something that links with the cigarette issue is that is the parking wardens contracted to do this work is that working and something we'll continue to do? Thanks.

CLLR PAUL O'BRIEN: Thank you for a comprehension you were with me, when we opened an orchard, despite

everything we do there's dog litter, it is of the no matter what the council do at types, I spoke to a Brittas Bay earlier on, there's massive skips out there, bins and still people leave their rubbish lying around. What more can we do? Or what more can be done as a deterrent or a more publicity in terms of getting people to do the right thing?

Thank you.

CLLR BEHAN: Thanks Jim for the report and all of the work officials who worked on it. But just following on what Cllr Paul O'Brien did there, two of the biggest scorns in this county certainly in Bray is dog fouling and wanton litter generally and while we have this plan and it is great and go up on the website, we'll adopt it today, else, at the end of the day is it going to make any difference, without having some more serious national fines, plus imprisonment for people who carry on in such an antisocial manner. And in particular, dog owners who allow their dogs to defecate in public areas particularly where children have access, are an absolute disgrace and should be condemned out of hand by every single public representative here today. And I would like to know, have we ever

successfully pursued a dog owner for that particular practice? Or how many have we do? And can we target that particularly in the year coming ahead to really show and make an example of these people who are completely antisocial and irresponsible. In relation to bins, for a long time in Bray the attitude in Bray has been no we're not going to have bins, people bring home their rubbish this, policy is different, this policy is encouraging the placing of bins. I personally think, there should be more bins in towns such as Bray for people who want to use them. I accept what Cllr Paul O'Brien says, maybe some won't but maybe some will, are we saying there's a change of heart, at official level with regard to this former clamp down of bins because there was too much trouble or cost to empty them. Because I would welcome them if it is a change and what comments you might make on it, I would be glad to hear on.

CLLR FITZGERALD: We need to use more technology because his cases where I communicated with the council officials and obviously the people isn't know there was cameras there, the hidden cameras

but it served a purpose that obviously they must have got grasp of it and didn't come back, we're at the budget in November, and 2.3 million is to spend in preventing and controlling of litter. Throughout the districts, 207,000 in Arklow and but that's, we could do a lot with that, at the budget time in November. But the fact is it will have to be spent and 77.,000 on controlling of litter, and I notice, the payments of fines are consistent since 2015, only 7%, 70% of the people pay, 70%, 2015,16, 17, 18, so what's the use in giving litter fines if people don't pay them, 30%, what do we do with the 30%, do we pursue them, because I look here, there was about 200 weren't paid over the four years, and there's been, 22 prosecutions, now I'm aware, in the Arklow area, that there are illegal operators and I have property them to the council but I've seen nothing done about it. I have reported in previously, where one I seen it on Facebook that said the best person in Arklow to collect waste is person X, and I saw a person on a road getting rubbish and I asked them where they were going to south county Dublin, but unfortunately I couldn't catch them at the time, I couldn't catch they were

a bit quick for me. But I really think, that I'm not casting dispersions on anyone, despite your good work we're losing the battle with the illegal operators in some places because it is happening in rural South Wicklow.

CLLR WALSH: Look I'm in the same vain as previous speakers, looking at the figures again, we spent considerable reverses, 2.3 million, and 2018 and most is spend on education awareness, prevention control et cetera, but the same point as Cllr Pat Fitzgerald on the fine, I looked on that, the total fines generated 36, 00S there difficulty getting people before the courts with the fly tipping incidents, that's the one and the dog falling, again, just walked Greystones yesterday morning the seafront is evidence of dog fouling it is ongoing, it is disgusting to say the least, thanks.

CLLR MITCHELL: Yeah, I would like to say, greatest concern is about the dog dirt around the place, I think in Greystones and the sea road in Kilcoole, it can be a major problem, it is a disgrace with people leave it, and we don't apply fines to dog owners for this. And the local collection rate of fines it seems that to be bear that in mind and the

council should be lobbying through the general county council's Association of Officials, to try and change the law, so we can actually apply these fines to people whose dogs litter the place and make sure the fines actually stick. I don't think any other European society would tolerate such a low collection rate for fines.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thanks very much chair for your presentation Jim, I think, the issue of dog fouling, we're all talking about it here, it is the one issue that residents will bring up time and time again, because it is the one issue we're failing to tackle and it is a very, very difficult thing to tackle I think. A lot has to do with culturally, we need to be more prepared to stop seeing it happening, so that it becomes unacceptable, on every front that anyone will allow their dog to dirty path. But one of the things, when we raised previously in the grain stones district what we're told is under the current litter legislation it is difficult for someone so as they can, if they see a dog, defecating and it is not cleaned up, they

can actually give a fine - on the spot fine to the owner, but an awful lot of cases of what happened is the owner says that's not my dog or will give illegal dogs. We have dog wardens that take a dog that's not in control but don't have litter responsibilities and I'm wondering is there a possibility to provide dual functions to litter wardens and dog warden so they both, both roles can actually give the fines and if someone says well, hold on, I'm not accepting that fine because that's not my dog they can take the dog because it is no longer under the control of an owner. And I think that's something, that might actually remedy the gap in the legislation and I think all we would have to do is do that a few times and that sends a very strong message that we're coming down hard on this and it is unacceptable and people will have to start cleaning up after their dogs, I'm wondering Jim, if that is something we could consider.

CLLR PAUL O'BRIEN: I forgot one thing, we're talking dog littering and I mentioned Brittas Bay, but in Brittas Bay it is a problem for the horses that are going out in the carparks and beaches, it is disgraceful the amount of horse droppings out

there, which are considerably more than a dog's to be honest with you, so maybe we could look at that as well, my apologies as willing.

CLLR ANNESLEY: I'd like to commend the people that use recycling centres but then you have the shower who don't use them and that's with in with the Tidy Towns, the amount of litter that is he are recyclable, in Arklow we had bottles and can bins at the leisure centre and had them at Castle Park. They say had to be removed because of dumping left with them, so maybe when we have the CCT televisions installed we could replace these again or adjust the ones at the leisure centre, because there's some there. The other point is the charity shops, all over the county, the amount of rubbish that's left at the doors of the charity shops at the weekends, I drove down the main street in Arklow and it was piled high. Now, half the stuff, the charity shops don't want, they don't want mattresses left, so I presume that's up to the charity shops but surely there's something that can be done, whoever is dropping them will have been prosecuted as well. The bins in Arklow, every Monday morning I see a gentleman at 7am going across

the prig with the big bag he comes back and it is empty, we tried to alleviate by making the holes smaller and smaller, in one case when the Tidy Towns were emptying the bin because of the judgment is coming up, there was a box, you know the biological powder was in the bottom of the box, he lift the bin up and put the box down on it. I commend the work you're doing and especially PURE as well, because as Ian Davis said the amount of rubbish that's is dumped around and PURE is picking it up, it is onerous task you have but we have to get to the bottom of it somehow. CLLR CRONON: Thank you for the presentation and we had an issue in Dunlavin as well, unfortunately we lost them because they were being abused, every rubbish was dumped there, it wasn't just recycling but we're trying to get that rectified, dog fouling is a huge issue which I recently been made aware of in every town and village across west Wicklow and I know you're talking about Education Programmes Dunlavin. Education with the kids and that's maybe something that the council can engage with and help them along the way. In relation to PURE mile project it is the first time we got involved with it, not only

was it all of us getting out and picking up rubbish, but actually neighbours get together and we'd end up having coffee and lunch afterwards so ended up being a get together as well as getting out and the work done I know the funding is we only have up as far as December, so, I hope the council will continue to support there for the Pure project because it is a huge benefit to the towns and villages and of course our rural areas in Wicklow.

>>: Apologies, I'd like to come in on a few things that Jim, although he does great work he can't be everywhere, and one area is area enforcement, there was a question there, about the litter fines and the statistics which there seems to be a gap or loss of 90 fines every year, there's a reason, a number of reasons for that, main one is for us to make a fine stick, to make a fine successful, we need to prove that the person we've served that the fine is responsible and this comes to the dog fouling this a big area where we have difficulty and there's potential, what in what Cllr Jennifer Whitmore is talking about, working with the dog wardens, and it is best if we have a collaboration programme. We meet with the dog, or litter warden and dog

wardens, we will talk about that in future, it is difficult we've had years to address, we cannot sum militarily lift a dog, it has to be done under control of dogs legislation not litter legislation, unfortunately we can't mix the two, if you go in front of the judge, we would fail. So one of the areas where we tend to drop a fine is where we attempt to identify the person, so for instance, if a car regular, often what we'll find with a car regular sincere it is in the process of being sold or go to the person who is registered owner and find actually they're no longer the registered owner, they sold it a week early earlier or address turns out to be the wrong address, there's no policing, so somebody enters an address as their registration, it is only when we go looking to find the person we find some of these can be the wrong address..

We have to take that although face value and on appeals, there are a number of appeals to succeed if somebody showings or proves to us they're not the person we thought they were, so there's a lot of failures. And the other point is for us to bring a case to court after we've served a fine, if that

fine isn't paid, we serve a summons, it cost 650 per process. We're reluctant to do it unless we're happy to be successful, so we make a decision internally if we're not happy with the level of proof and often it is to do with identification of the perpetrator if you like. And occasionally, we'll have some fines run out of time, we have six-month period between when we serve that summons, serve the fine, and actually serve a summons. If we don't get an answer from registered mail or some of our searches, whatever in time, well then, we can't proceed with the summons and we lose it on time as well so that's the reason why there's a gap in the statistics as to where the cases don't go from a fine on to being a summons and only a small number, so only bring to court we think is successful and we have success, by and large when we get to court. So that's the reason for the gaps and statistics, and that's the reason why the costs are significant, because a lot of cases we don't succeed with. We take on board your suggestions. Jim you may - one other big issue that's mentioned, yes our PURE, our support is Pure Mile Project, of that has been sent to the department and there's

a request for extension of the funding for ten years, we hope we'll be successful and fingers crossed on that one, so there's an am a case gone in for further funding for the PURE Project

JIM: The cigarettes are the most common individual item of litter, and we've done campaigns in the past and targeted the businesses that generate them in particular, the pubs, betting shops in particular, and what we did in the past we talked to them and gave stickers what they could put up to enforcement officers to visit businesses and remind the responsibility to keep them litter-free and it is something that, I know one of the officers recently came back to me looking for more stickers, and is doing a fresh sweep of some of the businesses in his area, so it is something we can continue to work on, targeting the businesses, where the cigarette litter is generated is very important. Again I know the enforcement team have worked over the years doing inspections of heavy vehicles, carrying loads and making sure that they have adequate netting and cover to prevent spillage of materials, and again, we can look at doing a public

awareness campaign, on the transport of materials and avoiding littering from moving vehicles, the farming community and movement of goods. On the issue of illegal collectors, it is something that we've just completed, it is actually at the printers of the moment under this year's antidumping initiatives, try to remember which grants we're talking about here, antidumping initiatives, we did a leaflet for the five biggest towns in the county and in that leaflet it looks at the issue of illegal collectors and outlines some services they have available, locally, so each of the five main towns in the county it tells them about the local bottle banks, recycle centres, nearest civic amenity site which may not be in the town itself and tells them which service providers are operating in that area. It is trying to get that information into the community about what services are available to them, and also get the message out about not using the illegal operators that are out there, and I know as part of the anti-dumping initiatives there was some work done on actually trying to catch the illegal operators as well, so we're targeting that issue of illegal

waste collectors. What's the next on the list. Dog fouling is one that it is the one that comes up most commonly as mentioned it is difficult to prosecute, and we're also working on new ideas, to raise awareness, it is a difficult one, and behaviour that's very difficult to change. Dog owners, I'm one myself, it is not pleasant to pick up after your dog but once you get into the habit it is no biggy, but it is convincing those dog owners to do it is very difficult and challenging and they slip out of it easily we know the winter months the number of dog fouling increases because people think they can get away with it in the dark. And we've done a number of campaigns, audio devices I have a project I'm developing and hoping to roll out with Tidy Towns where we put in planters with signage on them about the issue of dog fouling and tree, in the planter, hanging bags from the tree joist to draw attention this is not properly behaviour, hanging a bag of dog waste and throwing it in the hedge, and we're rolling that out, and it is just about coming up with new ideas and keeping that message fresh. There was mention about working with local groups with the local Tidy

Town groups and campaigns, in my experience that is most effective way. We've done it on dog fouling and plastic bottles thrown from cars and where we've done combined campaign and Tidy Towns groups are getting seriously good numbers in terms of hits on their social media, places like Wicklow and Arklow they're getting 6,000 hits on their campaign, we will continue, and they can be more effective, and we'll give them that support, going forward to do it. Bottle banks were mentioned as well, the issue of bottle banks being removed and we're conscious of it, it is important service to communities, Arklow was mentioned there, just last week I was at a reception for Tidy Towns, for a the local Tidy Towns, and that was one of the issues they raised, they want one of those bottle bank sites brought back into the town, so I've been speaking to waste management to bring that in, once we have the CCTV coverage that's going in the centre of Arklow, we can put the bottle banks back in, and be able to catch anyone who is dumping them. Same for Dunlavin we will put bottle banks and CCTV coverage in to catch the dumpers. We've done it at a number of sites around the county,

using the technology and it helped us maintain some of our bottle bank sights so maybe it could help us to put a site back in like Dunlavin as well. And charity shops they are important service to the community and it is all about reuse, it is a great reuse model in town centres to have charity shops to we'll work with them and if we have CCTV coverage that shows dumping on the public streets outside of a charity shop I don't see why we couldn't link up with the team and get prosecutions there, we will need to work with the charity shops with getting signage in place so that people are warned about potential prosecution if they leave something outside the shop. But I think it is something we could be happy to welcome with the shop sector. Anything else I'm missing, I covered most of them.

Cathaoirleach: Thank you very much.

MS GALLAGHER: Proposer and seconder, by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Joe Behan, agreed by all, thank you.

Cathaoirleach: While Deirdre is coming to get presentation ready, item 11 to improve overdraft of ...

Proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke seconded by Cllr

Pat Fitzgerald

MS GALLAGHER: Cllr Stephen Matthews proposed this council writes to the CEO, NTA and minister of transfer transport to ask 41 new carriages for funding allocated some deployed by the Wicklow route. Secunder. OK. Cllr Derek Mitchell seconder, thank you.

>>: We have been asked by the asked to sign up to the Pollinator Plan. I will run over it and tell you what that means, what is the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and what it means for Wicklow County Council becoming a partner and exempling of some of the actions we might get involved in. So, it was produced in 2015, cross sector thing ...

I've a few slides here but go straight to a three of minute video. If that's all right and that's the three minutes, it is a project that myself and my colleague in Kildare produced with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, and explains the plan and what it is about.

Video: OK, so we're missing the whole voiceover for that, which is a pity, because it is a simple

way of explaining the whole thing, if it doesn't come up, I can do it.

It should have come up by now. I'll go back to the presentation because it is distracting. OK, you'll have to listen to me instead. OK, so basically, it was just to give quick introduction when we talk about pill Pollinator is most food and crops are pollinated by wild bees in Ireland, that's it. Over three quarters of pollination is carried out by bees and rest by other insects, of our bees, everyone is familiar with honeybee we have one species of them, 21 species of bumblebees and 27 of solitary bees, those who don't live in hives, so we have 99 bee species.

pollinators are declining, we lost a third since 1980, and then, one-third wild bees are threat of extinction at the moment. Why are they declining? There's a range of reasons basically because we're drastically reducing areas where they can nest and food and landscape that supports them so they're being made homeless, through habitat loss and lack of food crops and landscapes, so hunger and pesticide use and then climate change is impacting on them as well. So, national biodiversity plan,

on the websites has all the different resources for different sectors, when I mention there's a role for all department to play, one of the sectoral advice produce asked for especially for councils and that was circulated, and that lists, in around 30 different actions, that a councils can take, and for pollinators. The reasons to do it are obvious, it is good general biodiversity and landscape and supporting food production, and economic value of that.

And then supporting action on the ground like Tidy Town groups residents groups and all the work they're doing, and really a lot of those groups they're sector guidance and a lot of them have done lots in this area, so it is council maybe a leader of getting our house in order, and things like Green Flag award, Glendalough grave yard got the Green Flag award earlier this year, and so it would be great as another flag for that, that we could have that biodiversity, we're not asked to do all 30, but pick some of these actions that are practical within our own budget and management and see what we could do.

I'll just whisk through a few of the action, first

is looking at areas which are most for nature, natural areas, rivers, coastline and protecting those, very basic, within others we mightn't associate as much, which is native hedgerows, dry stone walls and preserving those kind of areas because pollinators need food throughout the year so no point in having one species of plant that blooms in summer and that we need something throughout the year so you need the ivy and the winter and willow the start of the year and everything in between for supporting these long-term. A lot of the actions, in the plan, that we've been asked for councils to have a look at is altering our frequency of mowing, so this is something that will make a big difference, so typically, a regime for mowing would be from verges and roundabouts, would be on 22 cuts per year and mulch the grass back in the plan is asking councils wildlife approach which is five cuts and removing grass and cost benefit analysis, it works cost neutral or better, if you do it this way, so change as mind set in each Municipal District we hope to have at one area we're going to say we cut five lifts per year which starts mid-April and continue on.

And then, can you have other areas you can cut on and lift a year, and this suits like large parkland areas where you let the vegetation grow long so typically you may have made a path through it, and cut and lift once a year and put signs up to show people, verges, and the same kind of system. Also this thing of you can have for road safety trim down where needed, on the road verges, but you might opt to do a layered system where longer vegetation in the background and that's a picture of all the things we're talking about, a parkland or field, that has long vegetation, and might have the other bit that's have has six week rotation and others that are mowed more traditionally, and using native seed is important, in approximately pollinator-friendly planting, native hedgerows and species are brilliant for this, consider putting in clever into the grass when we're planting up areas. It is simple butting in that helps pollinators a lot. The pollinator friendly planting, consider it in street trees or whether ornamental or native, there's ornamental trees that are good for pollinators and move away from the hanging baskets with the Buzzy Lizzies and

daffodils they do nothing for pollinators as all and there's a list of alternative plants that can be used in hanging packets and planters that are better. Run bees are another area and I know there's progress in districts on this, on some of the round bees, really, they're a spot that would suit some of the planting regimes we're talking about here and management regimes. Nesting habitats is important this overgrown hedgerows is providing vegetation for wintering insects and solitary bee, 62 of the 77 species have earth banks so they need the earth banks, so they're important and the whole idea of reducing the use of pesticides, eliminating it in places that don't need it, and then reducing it in areas that maybe it is essential, so, it's changing the ethos again, if possible. And then raising public awareness by putting up the signage and I know you see it all over the county, the manage for wildlife signs a really good way to let people know what you're doing.

And working with groups and having workshops and so forth, so it is the kind of thing we're doing on the council website we have the animation you

didn't see here but if you look you can watch it, we have another one coming out shortly. We've publications and lots of information. The last thing that the Pollinator Plan we asked to do was to track what we're doing, so, there's GIS, system, on the website, you go in and set up user name and track where you're doing, where your local authority and doing action so then it can be measured every year. So that's basically it, for us to sign up as partners we look to take on board, we say we're going to take on board the ethos and incorporate it things in county development plan climate change plan all plans and we consider, the first year we take on at least one action and five years three actions, so not looking for a huge commitment, just commitment really in ethos. And then we report back, and we track what we do. So that's it.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thanks very much Deirdre.

And thanks for all your hard work on this, I know that a lot of the work you're presenting today, it is taken a long time to get to this point for the council, and I know, even across the districts, we are doing a lot of the work outlined in the proposal

but we haven't formalised it by becoming a part in the plan yet so it is great at that point today where we will get to formalise that partnership and send a strong membership survey out that Wicklow County Council is taking this issue seriously. And it is important to get the message out it is not just a council initiative that on the All Ireland pollinator website there's actions and recommendations that every single person can take, whether as an individual garden owner or member of Tidy Towns or business owners, and that really, everyone within our community can play a role in this, and I think that's really important that we get that message out there. So, I any I'm conscious of time as well, so thanks for owl your work on it Deirdre and I propose Wicklow County Council become a partner in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, 2015, 2020. whatever type of works, this is what we'll judged on, I look forward to Wicklow taking a lead on these issues, thanks.

CLLR BOURKE: It is a very good plan and fair place to you for drafting it, we have a great opportunity with the new housing estates to incorporate it into

the landscaping and I'd like to see us do a bit more, especially in terms of the land we know, some of it, we're almost leaving derelict and we should incorporate that land bank into the plan as well.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks very much, I really welcome this proposal, I called for this a lot during the recent election and I'm very happy to support it. A lot of people contact me asking for specific actions across the county reduce pesticide and produce wild flower meadows so that's incorporated so it is nice to see it on board and there's great scope in the document, for just, the section on raising awareness of pollinator actions, and that's important through the community and schools and residents associations and estates, if there's guidelines to them, particularly externally managed estate, to do so there's scopes for that.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, yeah, it is great to hear all about the plan.

But, I hope to see an Action Plan drawn up and that, as well as talking about it, that it is actually implemented and even if we only start off small it is better than doing nothing, you know, even if it was like letting verges grow with wild flowers and

public areas, maybe one or two cuts a year and maybe if we have to put a little track through it, so people can walk in the public areas, that's what they do in the UK and it works well, round bees, things like that, I would like to see the pesticide/herbicide thing looked at, people say this is a difference between herbicides and pesticides and there are obviously, but, some people say herbicides which is what roundup is doesn't damage bees. It mightn't kill them, but it does actually interfere with them, it interferes with their life cycle and digestive system. So, there's no point saying that we want to protect bees when we use chemicals that actual damages and kills them. So, as I said, well done but I hope to see it implemented. Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: Can we have a proposer and seconder, is it agreed? Open proposer, Cllr Jennifer Whitmore.:

>>: Thanks very much for the presentation.

Reading from the royal geographical society, they were talking about the extinction of the bees and implications for humans.

And just that this was a summary there, yeah,

solutions prohibit not reduce the use of toxic pesticides which you've included, promote natural agricultural alternatives and perform constant research welfare and conservation, it makes an interesting read, I was reading it last night.

MS GALLAGHER: Just before Tom presents, can I have a proposer and seconder for the meetings of teh CPG for the 4th of March, 1st Of July and 2nd of September, 2019 circulated that was Cllr Rory O'Connor, Cllr John Snell and for the protocol minutes of July, September and October, criculated I if I could have circulated, Cllr Paul O'Brien and Cllr Stephen Matthews thank you very much.

Tom Murphy: I will be brief, the members have been circulated with soft copy of the NOAC indicator report of 2018 the report runs to approximately 12 a pages this, is the fifth annual performance indicators published by NOAC the members will be aware that the council's corporate plan which is currently being reviewed, sets out the high level goals for the councils activities. The corporate plan also provides a context and attract for the council's Annual Service Delivery Plan and the Annual Service Delivery Plan in turn sets out in

detail the services to be provided by the council. The standards to be expected and how the services will be monitored and measures.

So, it is within that context really that we have the performance indicators which help local authority to monitor and measure the services that we provide. NOAC which was established by the Government under the local government reform act is charged with scrutinising the performance of all local authorities against the relevant indicators, for 2018, there are 37 performance indicators which are increase from two from 2017, the 37 indicators cover a wide range of varies including housing roads, water, waste and environment, planning, fire services, library and recreation, youth and community, corporate finance and economic development. And the results under each performance indicator are set out in this report in a series of tables spanning approximately 50 pages. Wicklow as performed reasonably well across the 37 indicators, we've had good performance, particularly in the area of collection rates and housing loans, they have improved. The planning indicators are good, fire

service mobilisation times are good.

Library visits are good, number of trading on-line vouchers are up at the top, number of clients who received mentoring from Leo is very, very high. And we have a very good performance, we're on 2.51%, which is one of the best in the country. So, just to, to conclude then, NOAC in the report, encourage all local authorities to use comparators of performance when and where appropriate, to as to see what we can learn from one another and to assist us in improving performance generally, NOAC encourage local authorities to engage with audit committees, elected members and staff throughout the organisation in order to increase awareness and understanding. The management team considered this report in the last four weeks, they went through each of the 37 indicators, highlighting good performance and areas where we improve our performance, it was considered by the corporate policy group this morning and due to be considered by the welcome with be welcome audit committee next month. So, there's a lot of information this this report, so if a member has a query on the 37 indicators that they e-mail me and I'll arrange to

get a response from the out to them as soon as possible. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Unfortunately, we're out of time. So, I propose to take the notice of motions, there's two notice of motions I'm taking this as first items of the agenda on the December meeting, thank you all for your meeting.

MS GALLAGHER: reminder we have the Budget meeting on the 25th of November, commencing at ten and lunch in the canteen and we'll go until we finish and then at the meeting of the second of December, we have presentations to the retired and non-retired elected members that will be at twelve noon and we'll have Christmas lunch and council meeting then at 2, but I will be writing out to you about that. Sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, sorry to Cllr Rory O'Connor and Cllr Joe Behan I was hoping to get done this evening.