

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT WICKLOW

COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW TOWN ON

MONDAY, 7TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2019 AT 2:00PM.

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**NON-VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7TH 2019:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon. Members, before we start the meeting proper, if anyone has any votes of sympathy.

ADMINISTRATOR: For Patricia Kavanagh, sister of a former colleague, Joan, who passed away recently.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And Cllr Fitzgerald, sorry, the name on this is wrong.

CLLR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, I like to offer sympathies to the former parish priest in Blessington, he was there for many a year, and also to the family of the national, another... [INAUDIBLE DUE TO NOT SPEAKING INTO MIC) first to confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting on Monday the 2nd of September.

ADMINISTRATOR: Voted by John Snell, seconded by Cllr Matthews.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To credit the disposal of land shown on the map in Kilcoole, for a period of 30 years by way of a sporting lease.

To consider the disposal of 0.03462 hectares of land shown on the map, situated at Seaview Arklow, to the South East Cycling Club for a period of 30 years, can I have a proposer.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Sylvester Bourke. Agreed? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will just mention one or two highlights. The new mobile library was officially launched today, so that will be starting shortly, very welcome addition to our library service. We had the town awards last week, so on the 30th of September, in orbled for and Rathdrum and people generally agreed it went very well, we applied for funding last month, one was 500,000, comprehensive funding application for the restoration of the Victorian sea front provisions and also signage around the town. It also applied to the regional development fund for the content creation hub in Wicklow County Council so, hopefully we will have success on that. The ecotrail took place on Saturday, 28th of September, starting and finishing on Bray sea front, 1100 participants went up to the bray Head and other places. It went very well. Again it's going to get bigger, I would say, next year. A very successful culture night also, theatre right around the county. So I will take any questions on the rest of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: In relation to the Chief Executive's comment on the national enterprise awards I would ask for the neighbouring community, the very best of luck in the competition and I would like to say thank you to

everyone, from the Rathdrum point of view, especially the community that came together and worked together to make it happen, there was community representatives, Tidy Towns and business people and indeed representatives from Wicklow County Council as well. I think we did ourselves proud and the Rathdrum people did themselves proud and put their best foot forward and we are hoping we will get something, I think we are winners already, I want to thank everyone for all the work.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Just to thank you for the support in the area of housing for the comparison figures. Just in relation to BV accommodation and the fact that 32 children are BV application, I would wonder if we could get right now, the information in relation to them and what efforts are being made. Obviously the impact it has on those children and just in relation to housing first, the service provider was to be appointed in October and I am looking for an update to see whether or not it has happened and then in relation to the Sonas facility to check if the legal issues, regarding the handover there have been finalised.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I thank the Chief Executive for the report. Just in relation to the public lighting, I believe there has been put up there a number of occasion, people who might come particularly coming into the winter months. Over the last few years we were unable to provide the additional lighting because of financial resource, a problem with it. But, briefly we did put up the number of lights in Blessington road, so it was there for the last number of months now.

The big issue is there were estates that were probably built ten years ago and have no lights ever since. So they are sitting there, we are contacting the ESB and various different organisations within the council as well, all frustrated residents in the area, with regards to it. Now we looking to put a bit of pressure on the ESB with the fact that we are heading into the winter months now and that will need to be rectified. The second was in regard to a very small estate in Shillelagh with only a half a dozen houses in it. Again there is three or four lights in it, sitting there for quite a number of years that need to be taken in charge by the council. I filled in the forms recently with regard to taking it in charge, the lights are still there, unavailable for the people to be able to use them and again coming into the winter months I think we made to address those concerns.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you Cathaoirleach, and thank you to the Chief Executive for a report that is most comprehensive and informative. Just a comment on the section on the housing there, looking at the social housing list, in the comparisons there, with the last year, same period, there was actually an increase from 3,180 to 4,348. But it's to be welcomed to see the schemes there, we have the pipeline schemes and the schemes on site. Hopefully that activity will help to address, but again the homeless figures, the comparisons for August 2015 and 2019 we have an increase in the number of presentations by ten from 51 to 61 and again we are increasing the number of children, so again that is a concern. We still seem to be, in spite of the schemes that are on site and on the pipeline, we are still overly

reliant on our private sector and our HAP scheme to provide our housing. That is the situation at the minute, but I also want to just look at the homeless HAP and acknowledge the great work which has been done in that section. 131 households there, that said, there is 74 families there, 74 cases and 57 prevention cases that they dealt with, which is a great addition to that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, first of all thank you for your vote of sympathy on the death of my father-in-law last week and to all of the members for your good wishes. One question on the report and it's in relation to the roads programme. Specifically the proposal to put a third line on the N11 near Kilmacanogue, the off lane to service the garage and take some of the pressure off some of the other carriageways and hopefully increase the speed limit at that occasion. The first question is what happened to that project, it's not referred to in the report, I would have thought at this stage the work would have commenced on that and many hard-pressed motorists will be disappointed that it doesn't give any indication of progress on it.

Apart from that, I am sure a number of members from Bray Municipal District were contacted recently by a resident who lives close to the garage there who is concerned about what he saw in e-tender documents that were put in by the council here, which he maintains and I don't know, the answer to this question, I want to ask the Chief Executive this, he maintains there have been changes made to what was agreed in the procedure that happened at the last council in relation to that particular design. He maintains if it is now built in accordance with the tender documents it's going to result in extreme danger for the four or five sets of residents who live just before you come to the garage. So, I would like clarification on those two points, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I just want to pay tribute to the Ashford community on the Bank of Ireland Town Awards that were held recently. A wonderful effort by everyone involved, particularly the community of Ashford and the businesses, I have to give a mention to be Ashford Studios in Mount Usher for their hospitality, but a great effort by everyone involved and obviously to thank the staff that put such an evident in, particularly Susan and Joan from the Municipal District, so well done to everyone.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Again, I like to thank the Chief Executive for the report. We, I have been asking for a while now and I have had no answers as regards the situation and why we have, again we have 336,000 being built there, the works are starting two or three months and they are in Kildare, the part of the town. I have been asking for some sort of discussion to take place between Wicklow County Council officials and Kildare officials about the 10% allocation in that area. At the moment we have 10% that go to Kildare, we have 280 people on the housing list in Blessington. We haven't had a house built there in 12 years patient from one bungalow. I would like and the people of Blessington want to know what is the situation and are we going to

be left? Although these 336 houses will all be built in the village of Blessington, but as the border shows it it's in Kildare, they avail of our services, whether it be and they pay the levies to Kildare County Council, so we feel we are being hard done by here, so I would ask the Chief Executive to had, what moves are being made to help Kildare County Council, with regard that allocation. Also another one extra, you might have a look at, there is a group in the town there, most of these people live in apartments and whatever, but there is up to 40 of them there and for over 12 months now, they are looking for a piece of land for allotments and we are obliged, as a local authority, to supply land for allotments, whether it be the [INAUDIBLE] 1926 Act or the 2000 Act. It's in our development plan, but there is a ferocious struggle going on, in 18 months, where this part are looking for an area, we do have the land there, it's lying there 15 years, we do have the area and maybe by the next, by this time next month's report, there will be something there, something sorted out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I also want to thank the CO for his report. Just two items, can I also commend the staff of Wicklow County Council on their handling of Storm Lorenzo even though it didn't hit as bad as which thought I want to commend the staff. Just before that storm, there were five boats lost in Bray and two in Wicklow Town and there was very little about it, so I am wondering is there anything going to be done in the future, a system for the harbour board or the harbour users and also I want to echo what Cllr Cullen said in Ashford, in all of the efforts going on there is two eye sores in Ashford, the garage on the main street right beside the apartments and the houses and is there anything the council can do about these two eye sores? .

CATHAOIRLEACH: Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: I just echo, follow up on the same as Cllr Kennedy, it's been on the agenda for month after month and we haven't seen any progress, so a timeline would be right on that. I can complement the PPN on the training fare and Grace got to visit it on the day and I am excited what they will do next year. A huge amount of planning goes into that, also the LCDC, I see the review in the report. That is my soundtrack... again, I have just joined the LCDC and the potential for the impact that comes out of that is really, I think going to be realised over the next five years and it's doing huge work. I had some questions in the planning section, with the regional spatial economic strategy, are we done or does the minister have any more provisional opinions he is going to send back to us and a question mark around autonomy. Also, I wonder about the, in the planning applications on page 30 there is, I notice in the, in the section other has the highest volume and I wonder is there so much variety in the other that it can't, it can't be broken down into other heading, because when you look at something and the highest volume is other and you don't know what other is, I wonder what other is. Also, finally in the ICT report, just an update on the customer relations management system and how that will roll out into the Municipal District and this idea of ticketing system and how that will have a positive impact on the MDs.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you to the Chief Executive

for the report. I have two questions. The first relates to the Housing First policy, I am just wondering did we have targeting for 2018 and 2019 and if so what were they and did we meet them? My second question relates to, I want to ask about asylum seeker that we have in Wicklow. I now we have two centres, I believe in the county and while, if you got me started on how unjust direct provision is, we would be here all day and I know that is a national policy. I am wondering what role we have as a County Council in supporting asylum seeker here in our county in welcoming them and making sure they can access the supports they need and deserve and that might be useful for if it is part of our remit and our responsibility to have it, so if you could give me some feedback on where we are at with that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. In relation to the Public Lighting Report I note there is a downward trend in the number of open faults which is a good thing, but as we are approaching winter public lighting is going to become an issue again. A number of problems come to the ESB not attending so it's not electricity, it's out of the hands of the County Council, is there anything the Chief Executive can do to liaise with the ESB to try and get a more timely approach to deal with ESB and network faults.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Before I make my point I want to thank the council for the glasses they have today instead of the plastic mugs. Also, I want to say well done to the Tidy Towns Arklow doing so well and winning gold medals. My point also is the cumulative figures asked for in the last report have now been put in for housing, so thank you very much to that, so we can do comparative figures for 2018 and 2019, it's much easier to know where you stand. My point is in relation to the Municipal District spend on page 47, I just notice that there is a lot of money being carried over and there is an awful lot of money left to be spent and we are in October and we are still sitting down to discuss the next Municipal District spent and I just want to know is this really because of a shortage of staff or what? Because it just seems that we get one year to make a difference and the money isn't being spent and it's still there at the end of the year and we are ending up with a backlog which means the following year we are going to have more to do and I want to know what is the reason for that? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Whitmore.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thank you, Chair. I would like to echo Cllr McManus' question about the DP centre and the emergency centre. I would also like to say congratulations to Wicklow Welcomes who won an award for the work they have done in the area. This really set an example and an example that applies across the country. Other areas are looking to Wicklow to see how we facilitate it and work to integrate people into the community so, that was a really big success.

Just in relation to, I see that Dublin City Council have at the moment, they are looking to redevelop their market in Capel Street and to provide a retail and market centre. I am wondering is there an opportunity for Wicklow County Council to feed into that as part of our food strategy. We have

absolutely fantastic food producers in this county and those people, if they had a market in Dublin that they could access, I think that would be a huge advantage to them, whether the Chief Executive would even have discussions with DCC to see if there was some way we could not partner, that might be a bit formal but play a part in that process. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you, first of all I would like to congratulate Arklow Town Team, great achievement to get the gold medal. I would like to congratulate the director of services who gave them that boost to get over the line. That decision has been dated. To get the gold medal is fantastic. Just an public lighting, we are coming into the dark season, the clock will be going back shortly and definitely in Wicklow Town there seems to be a lot of lights out. Last night I drove across high street and new street and the place is like the black hole of Calcutta, there is that many lights out. I would like to thank Declan O'Brien his help when we tell him about these problems with the lighting, about you we need to put a big effort in at this time of year to make sure the lights are working in the areas because it's the most dangerous time of the year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and the Chief Executive for his report. I would like to say to the Tidy Towns well done for the fantastic work and achievements that we have recently achieved and just to acknowledge the amount of money in real terms that they save our local authority. And a more specific item in my own town, Kilcoole, there is two derelict sites sitting there for the last 7, 8, 9, 10 years and it is destroying Trojan work which is done by Tidy Towns in Kilcoole. They enter the competition every year, but they have no chance because of stuff like this, so I would like to see more focus on getting these particular sites sorted. And, on the lighting, again there was a good survey done in the Kilcoole area a number of months ago, in regards to lights that were out, but there are about four or five, I think it's about four or five at this stage, where the ESB need to come in and physically carry out important work, they have been communicated with, but it seems to have gone into a black hole and nothing is happening, so again maybe whoever in the local authority could liaise with them, I have been doing it, obviously in my capacity as a rep, but it's like talking to a wall, nothing is happening, so I think it should be, this year, basically they need to come and lift a pole, put in some wiring and replace it and they seem to be ignoring it, it's just not on and someone needs to explain what is going on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thank you, just about the bi literacy plan of action, in future, if the RSPCC get emails about the result of these actions like the survey and all of that so we could inform everyone around our area about what happens and what the results were, that would be great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, thank you to the Chief Executive for his report. Just on the waste management and the environmental services, there has been an increase in fly-tipping and illegal dumping in the south west and rural Wicklow and I am wondering on how

many cameras we have to use to combat this illegal dumping and closely work with Pure Project on excellent project that does great work, at the same time, the amount of fly-tipping or illegal dumping in rural Wicklow is increasing by the week and we need to be extra diligent and the one thing that does work is cameras that pick up license plates.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, just two things for the Chief Executive. One is following on from Grace McManus's comment a moment ago. In relation to the direct provision, does the Department be in touch with the council about the direct provision centre and if so when was the last time they were in touch with the centre and the other time was last year we had this conversation about the public lighting as well and there was, I think the Chief Executive was going to talk to electricity or ESB in relation to all of the outages we had coming into the winter. I am wondering what was the outcome of those talks and are we facing the same thing again this year right across the county, because there were hundreds of lights out last winter.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I can't let the occasion go without mentioning the N81, one person killed yesterday near Hollywood Cross. Recently 1.1 million was spent on the N81 north of Blessington and doing resurfacing and no one in the area, including my fellow councillors thought was necessary and no consultation necessary was taken place with the councillors in relation to the expenditure.

There is much more needy spots, widening the N81, making that safer, that 1.1 million could be spent. We feel we are being treated with contempt as councillors. A year ago we met with one of the TD,s who isn't inform us he was going to come and look at it. Extraordinary at the meeting in May it was voted 11-10 by one vote not to include it, by colleagues here who attended were, voted in favour of it, but they were outvoted. Like what are people thinking and just another tragedy, you can't put money on it, and it's, we just feel we are being ignored and treated with contempt in West Wicklow and Carlow and a bit of Kildare that nothing is being done, shelved again and just to highlight it to the Chief Executive. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I go back to the Chief Executive, I probably should have told you this before you got to ask him his questions. It is his birthday today, so we should be nice to him.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you. Just in relation to the HAP and the accommodation, we have a detailed presentation come up on that shortly, so if you could wait for that and all of those issues will be dealt with there. A public lighting, we certainly follow it up in Carnew and Shillelagh with the ESB and Airtricity, they have taken on some work in public lighting and in terms of percentages, our numbers are what they always were and comparable to the rest of the country. We will have a scheme, the full replacement of the LED lights will be done again, which will help, but we can contact the ESB in relation to the issues there. In relation to the unlevel parallel road on the N11. My understanding is, but the temporary assessment was done, there was only one tender, there was a lot of tooting and froing with the tender and all of the information is back now and they

are ready to appoint, in terms of the changes, there is always changes, obviously when you do detailed design and accommodation works in changes, my understanding is there an a meeting taking place with that resident to explain the accommodation works and to go through that in detail. I don't know if you want to add anything to that, Colm? Okay. Just in relation to Blessington, I will take that up with my counterpart with houses and what we can do in relation to the percentage of houses. The allotments, again, it's probably a question of funding but I will look into that and get back to Cllr O'Neill. In relation to the boats and the severe weather events, it's something we will take up with harbour master, maybe they could be comparative with the co-ordination centre with the is he veer weather team so it's getting the information straight out. It's a good point. The RSAS is complete, we are now proceeding and that will follow the local area plan so that process kicks off, so unless planning want to make a comment on that?

Again, Cllr McManus, Housing First we will come back to that. In relation to direct provision Cllr Kennedy asked us, the last contact we had with the Department of Justice was when the decision was made, but the asylum seeker, the people in direct provision and seeking protection are generally the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Now we had the Wicklow Welcomes got an award over the weekend and they are certainly doing a lot to help them and I know they are involved in Tidy Towns, the schools are involved, health services and we will help in any way we can, but they are definitely the responsibility of the Department Of Justice. Just in relation to the money that is spent, generally with the Municipal Districts, during the summer, it's the roadworks programme that takes precedence, as the big money has to be spent and it's this time of the year that the discretionary work gets done. I suppose it's a matter for the Municipal District and you can bring it up with the Municipal District, but I will certainly highlight that, but it's this time of the year that we will take the focus on those projects. In relation to Kilcoole, derelicts sites that register is kept in planning and there is a role for Municipal District, but we will follow up on the two of those. The biodiversity and the results of the surveys we will certainly get that information out, as soon as it comes in. Now, remember in relation to the cameras and the fly-tipping we will have a detailed presentation on that later, so you will have the details on the cameras and the progress we are making. In relation to the N81, we will pass all of that information on to the II it's their responsibility in reality, but we certainly pass it on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Just before I go to the next agenda item, I had received a suspension of standing orders, so I will just, do you want to read it.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cathaoirleach, there was a request for suspension of standing orders so in accordance with standing orders we get a proposer and a seconder to hear it at 4.30, it's submitted by Cllr Mullen that Wicklow County Council knows the increasing level of personal abuse and threats being made on social media against public representatives, Wicklow County Council ask that all public representatives assure that bullying language is not used on line and ask their supporters to engage in a respectful manner, Wicklow County Council will provide support to any representative being

targeted on line and engage with the guards to ensure that any illegal behaviour is investigated. Can we have an agreement to discuss that, I have a seconder? Cllr O'Brien. Agreed.

CLLR BEHAN: Before we go off the Chief Executive's report, Mr. Flynn was going to answer the question on that parallel road. He was in the public gallery, I would like to hear the answer, but particularly because Chief Executive you said there is always changes between a part aid and a tender?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No, when the part A is done it gives the indicative design and it then goes into detail design of the accommodation works.

>>: Just to outline the concerns, I think they are being raised by a particular landowner, we are meeting that landowner, the meeting has been rescheduled until Friday, but what was presented here and what went to tender are largely the same scheme. With the presentation we sat down with each of the landlords and came up with specific arrangements for each landlord in accordance with accommodation works and that came to the detail of the issue that has arisen, one landlord has an issue and we will join landlords, but we will sit down with them and sort it out. In terms of the overall scheme, we do have a project liaison officer and her role is to engage ongoing with landowners, or anyone who has an issue with the scheme and also in terms of the probe of the scheme we would have approached the site before now, the scheme has encountered no delays but finally we have an agreement with the contractor, we are waiting on final sanction from TI. To progress the scheme and we would hope to have that in the next week or so.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Just to follow up on what the Chief Executive said in relation to the Department of Justice. My question is quite clear, is there any correspondence from the Department of Justice to Wicklow County Council in relation to any direct provision in Wicklow, are they looking at any direct provision that the council knows of?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Looking for an answer on Ashford as well the garage and the apartments and houses.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will get a report on that and come back to you, if that is okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, item 5 on the agenda to receive a general update on the work of the Town Teams with a short presentation, I would like to welcome here the chairs of both the Blessington Town Team and the Wicklow Town Team, John Horan and David Shannon and also Christine Flood.

CHRISTINE: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. I am going to be very brief and just give a quick overview of the Town Teams and then, as the Cathaoirleach said, we have the Chairs of the Wicklow Town Team and the Blessington Town Team. So the Town Teams were established in, across the county and the guidelines, I suppose the impetus us for this came from the Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation, a framework For Town Centre Renewal. The objective of this document was to look at regeneration of towns and we are looking at regeneration of towns in a sustainable

manner. The action was first initiated as part of the action plan for jobs in 2014.

The framework proposes three steps. The document is available online for councillors, or, if you want a copy I can email it to you. A town centre health check and engagement with the wider community, the formation of a Town Team, or management partnership and I have to stress partnership is the key word in the Town Teams. It's a partnership between the business community, the local authority and the wider community. The third action proposed under the framework is development of the Town Centre Action Plan.

The whole idea behind the Town Teams, it's one vision and one voice, it's a collaboration and unity of message, because we have many different organisations working within the towns and doing amazing work, but it's really just to share that knowledge and to develop the synergy between the Town Teams.

Now, this slide is probably difficult to read, but you are talking about, these are the elements of a health check and it includes diversity of uses, a competitive offering, representation, commercial rents, accessibility, vacant property, environmental quality, public realm, customer feedback, perception of safety, commercial yields on property and pedestrian flows. These are just some of the things that are, the ingredients of a health check. I have to say the Town Teams were formed in an organic way in Wicklow and we didn't go about them step by step as indicated in this framework, but we are getting there.

Also, relevant to Town Teams and I am not going to go through all 13 criteria here, but this is a list from Failte Ireland destination towns and they are similar criteria, attractiveness of the town, public realm, things to see and do, accommodation, food and drink, retail, etc. Safety and security, etc.

So we have Town Teams established in Bray, Greystones, Arklow, Wicklow and Blessington and as I mentioned, they grew in a fairly organic way. Bray Town Team was established initially in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce and arising out of the success of the Purple Flag in Bray. It was established in 2014, or probably early 2015 and it built on the success of the Purple Flag. Greystones is probably not a full Town Team, it's kind of a hybrid in that it was established initially by the business community, they established Greystones 2020, but we generally treat it as a Town Team. Arklow Town Team was set up, we did a video for Arklow to promote business in Arklow and arising out of the successful engagement of the business community a Town Team was formed in Arklow.

In Wicklow, there was an initiative and Dave will talk about it a little bit more, there was Kick-start Wicklow initiative developed by Wicklow Chamber of Commerce and the Wicklow Town Team emerged out of the need to implement that plan. Then Blessington Town Team built on the success, Blessington had a number of organisation, including the Blessington

Forum. And they were successful in the enterprising towns, so the next step on winning the Leinster, Best Town in Leinster in the enterprising town was to form a Town Team to build on that success. I will briefly go through the stakeholders in the Town Teams, as mentioned, it's fairly organic and it's not a case of one size fits all, but generally speaking, these categories of representative, these are the stakeholders on the Town Teams.

Business and retailer, landlords, employers, Chambers of Commerce, tourism, hospitality, An Garda Síochána, tidy towns and schools and educators and of course council members and council officials are represented on the Town Teams also.

The action plans, again they generally cover things like public realm Tidy Towns business and retail, culture and heritage, greenways and tourism, marketing and promotion, festivals and events, transport, safety and security, finance and funding. So, I would just briefly mention Bray Town Team was established following the Purple Flag and they, a number of projects, now Bray Town Team needs to be really invigorated. It doesn't meet, due to the changes in the chamber and the council you need to get that going again and also, oddly enough when times were slow and Biggs wasn't great and we had more retailers and businesses engaging and I think it's a sign of the healthy economy that it's harder to, businesses are busy which is a good sign, and it's hard to get them to engage. But Bray has, it had achieved the Purple Flag status, it has produced a guide to doing business in Bray, which is, and it's currently working on developing a town centre health check.

Greystones, as mentioned, was established by the business leaders. We have various initiatives such as Christmas lights. The Greystones train station, I don't know how clearly you can see the illustration on that, but the plan is to develop artwork in Greystones train station showing famous people with Greystones connections and to generally relandscape and design the area around Greystones Station that both outside the station and inside on the platforms and, at the same time, celebrating some of the Greystones famous residents. Greystones are currently engaged in developing a public realm plan, again 2020 applied for funding for funding and Wicklow County Council is matching that funding as is Greystones Tidy Towns, so the consultants doing the work for Greystones and it should be complete towards the end of November. Greystones 2020 have also developed a new website in Greystones. Again, part-funded by the council and in partnership with Wicklow County Council. Arklow Town Team have done an enormous amount of work and quite a large Town Team, so they have done all sorts of things from flower baskets, was one of the first projects, town centre health check, they have done the destination town audit, design and development of the parade ground and business hub.

They have been awarded leader funding to build, to put a Ronnie Delaney commemorative statue in place. They have a Hallowe'en spectacular in its third year, they have CCTV going in at the moment, they have a shop front painting scheme and they are applying for a charitable status and looking at

Purple Flag status for Arklow.

That is the garden, the dementia friendly garden that again through the Town Team and the Municipal District this garden was made available through following bloom in 2018 and Arklow successfully put in a bid for it. So, Wicklow Town Team, and, again, I am not going to go into too much detail because Dave is here, and we will talk you through it, but these are some of the initiatives of the Wicklow Town Team before you, from the health check to the survey.

Then, similarly, Blessington Town Team and they have a health check under way, or they have completed a health check and they are on Phase 2 of the health check and they have various other initiatives, including the hugely successful Blessington greenway. Funding and finance and this is again one of the strengths of the Town Teams, through working with the local authority in partnership they have access to a fairly wide range of funding, some funding Wicklow County Council doesn't have access to, but we have partnered them in relation to leader funding.

Also, some of the Town Teams have submitted applications under town and village renewal and the Department is very keen, that some of these initiatives that are funded are proposed and supported by the community, so that is one of the strengths of the Town Team behind it, the CCTV scheme, again it's important to have the community support for these schemes. They have also been successful in getting sponsorship and the donations in kind, the expertise around the tables in these Town Teams is quite impressive and in you looked into the CVs of some of the participants, so people give freely of their advice and time and that is greatly valued and I have to acknowledge, partly because they are here, Dave Shannon is the chair of the Wicklow County Council Town Team and the Cathaoirleach is the chair of the Blessington Town Team and indeed all of the other Chairpersons of the Town Team, because it can be a bit of a thankless job at times.

We have already mentioned the Bank of Ireland Enterprise and Town Awards and again the Town Teams have played an important role in participating in these awards.

So, as mentioned earlier, these are some of the key attributes of a successful town centre and I think that is the objective of the Town Team. So, without further ado, I will now hand over to Dave Shannon, chair of the Wicklow Town Team.

DAVE: Cathaoirleach, elected members, good afternoon. My name is Dave Shannon, I chair Wicklow County Council Town Team and how did we get started?

In about September 2016 Wicklow Chamber approached a group of people to have a look at the town, just to, a different view, I suppose the chamber felt they were too close to it and we would get a number of people who would come and take a different view, or not a different view, but to put together some ideas. Out of that came Kick Start Wicklow which we

identified a number of projects we needed to do and we presented that report to Wicklow Chamber and Wicklow Municipal District Council. The most important thing we felt that the time was, apart from the project we felt were worthwhile, the most important thing was an implementation committee. Because, without an implementation committee, it would be lots of other reports that I have had through my desk when I was in the private, is that they go into a bottom drawer and they are taken out if someone asks you about them or they gather dust.

So, true to that, Christine came back and said, you are dead right, we do need an implementation committee and the best way to have the works that have you identified implemented is the formation of a Town Team. So with that the Town Team was formed, pretty much from the nucleus of the people who put the Kick Start document together. We had our first meeting in August 2017. Basically the aim of the Wicklow Town Team and we try to keep it as simple as we can is to make Wicklow a better place to live, work and play. Any ideas that come through the Steering Committee, if it doesn't pass that criteria, we move on, because we are trying to improve the town as best we can. Our structure is probably slightly different than what Christine has spoken about, in that we have A Steering Committee which consists of a chair, a vice chair, the chair and outgoing chair of the Wicklow Municipal District, a secretary, a finance officer, Wicklow Municipal District town administrator sits on our committee and all the team leaders of the different groups, of the different working groups which are greenway, park and ride, retail, public realm and commercial. Christine Flood attends our meetings and she keep us on the straight and narrow and advises us as to where we should and shouldn't be going.

Just recently in about the last nine or twelve months, Wicklow Town Team is a company limited by guarantee, so that is a good move for the Town Team. I am rushing through this because I think you have a lot of work to do, I just want to say at the outset if there is anyone who wants further clarification of the things we are doing or how the Town Team works I am happy to meet, thankfully I am retired so I have a loads of time on my hands. The ongoing project, the big stuff we are doing is the east coast greenway, which is the greenway from Wicklow to Greystones, we see it as our flagship project, with the help of Wicklow County Council, we got funding to do a feasibility study. That draft report is now just been made available and that is being begun through at the moment. On top of that we have a coastal protection report, from ARUP for Wicklow County Council and Irish Rail, hopefully that will be due around now.

The plan is, I think, that the Task Force will meet early in 2020 and discuss what the next steps are. Just on the east coast greenway, I did a report reading, I am not an expert but I thought it was in general positive. It's not without its challenges, there are difficulties, the main one being the environment and the protection of the environment, but I don't believe it's beyond the will of man that both the environment and the greenway, I don't think they are mutually exclusive, I think they can work hand in hand if we have the right approach and do the right thing.

The other thing is park and ride. That helps people living in the town to get in and out of the place easier, it makes it easier for visitors to come and visit us. Are piloting a park and ride with Wexford bus out of the Beehive, but a park and ride without a bus corridor is problematic and I am pleased to see that the NTA have responded to Deputy Donnelly that they are happy to meet with Wicklow to discuss the bus corridor so we are hoping that Wicklow County Council will arrange that meeting. I am not saying there is a solution, we, or our park and ride team have a picture or a clear view as to how they think they can manage it in the short-term, while the third line is being put on and all we want to do is get that message across.

The public realm is the public realm and Wicklow Tidy Towns will work hand in glove. It's a good collaboration. We have done a geophysical survey of both of those places and we are about in the next couple of months to put storyboards with pictures and illustration showing what those places looked like. I think those will be completely by the end of the year or early next year is the lighting of historical sites and the illumination of our historical sites. Basically that is brims, the abbey grounds, the churches, Billy Byrne, the black castle and so on, so hopefully that will be ready to switch on towards the end of the year, early next year.

The retail team, basically they carry out an extensive survey for consumers and retailers and we have got that report back, there are five pillars within that, we as a retail team will be working to implement those, the one we have started with, we have just put an 18-page parking proposal to members of the Wicklow Municipal District Council and how we think we can improve the parking and make it easier for people to come in and hopefully not affect their income too much. That proposes Wicklow Municipal District Council and they will get back to us.

Tourism, we hope by next week and by the way public realm, the lighting for that, we got it through funding with the help of Wicklow County Council, great work and we got great assistance done to help us get that. With regard to the heritage walk, hopefully by next year we will have a detailed and exciting heritage walk of the town and that is being funded by Leader. The other work we have to do at the time is the online promotion of the festival in Wicklow and we were launching a festival, which is the promotion of Wicklow town through the medium of Irish. It was a fantastic success and hopefully we can build on that over the next couple of years.

On the commercial, basically what we are doing is focus on the port area to see if we can bring a bit of life to that. The first step will be the new hotel which will hopefully get off the ground shortly. Wicklow County Council secured funding for pontoons and we are looking at putting that on the river and seeing how it works. And I think, we are basically, the commercial team is just trying to look at opportunities to bring business, commercial business into the town and that is what they are spending their time on at the moment. The digital group are going to launch their own website next week, again funding from that came from Leader, and one of the big projects

facing them is a digital hub or an e-hub and the research is being carried out on that by our working group, apprentices have been identified and we are working closely with the County Council to see where that goes, if anything.

I think on the future, I think what is the next 12 or 18 months for the Town Team, it's to bring all of the projects to fruition and make sure they are completed and then we move on. I think one of the things we have to do as a Town Team, I am 65, I chair Wicklow Town Team, there is a lot on the Town Team of the same ilk as me. We need to be engaging with our 20 and 30-year-olds to get their view, it's their town, they are the next generation, there may be areas they want done that we are not thinking of. With that in mind we will be doing some focus groups, some brainstorming with the 20-year-olds, 20 somethings and 30 somethings to get their views and hopefully get them more involved and engaged with what we are trying to do in the town.

This one is an pet of mine, we really need to look at Wicklow Town and how it fits with the retailing and so on and so forth and I am sure we will be going cap in hand to Wicklow County Council or Wicklow Municipal District looking for a few bob to do a survey on how effective pedestrianisation of the main street in Wicklow to see is it feasible, first of all, how would it work and with the environmental climate going on, in 15-20 years' time, long after I am gone it will be the norm, so if we can get a step ahead and have a look and see if we can do that. It obviously has to be done in conjunction with all of the business and so on. Our tourist team are working on developing a brand for St Patrick, that associates the town with it, we all know he came to Wicklow Town first, he didn't stay very long, but at least he came here first. We have to try and build that story.

Now, I think the other thing we are looking at is to develop three short-term projects we can develop in the next six to nine months so this by this time next year, they are thought of, implemented and completed. The Steering Committee is looking at those at the moment also. The other thing is we will try and do what we can to get the Wicklow Courthouse reopened. There have been a number of occasions when we have asked the question of the Department of Justice. I got two letters and I might be slightly exaggerating on them, the only thing different on them was the date was changed on the letter. So we need to work as a council, as elected to members to get the courthouse back into Wicklow Town. The other thing was Christine was talking about a public realm plan for Greystones. One was developed in 2008 for Wicklow Town. It's as relevant now as it was today. Our Steering Committee are going to look at that public realm plan and trying to take two or three items out of it where we can get it to fruition.

Now, that is what the Wicklow Town Team is doing, but I want to make it absolutely crystal clear, without Wicklow County Council, without members of the Wicklow Municipal District Council we wouldn't get anything. Most of what we are trying to do wouldn't be done. As well as having a chairman and the outgoing chairman of Wicklow Municipal District, each of the town councillors are also a member of each working group, so it's a partnership,

all we are trying to do, everyone, Wicklow County Council, elected members is to make Wicklow Town a better place to live, work and play. Don't get me wrong, I would say Wicklow Town Team is no different than elected members. We do have our moments with Wicklow County Council, we don't always agree with how they do the job, but nonetheless without their support and help, a lot of the things I have just mentioned wouldn't be done, so I think while we do have our differences and we don't always agree, we are all on the one page and that is trying to make Wicklow Town better. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, David and now we have John Horan from the Blessington Town Team to give us an update on their areas.

JOHN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Councillors, Chief Executive and the staff of Wicklow County Council. We do have a video, which, like all good chefs, here is one I prepared earlier. It happens to be one we had prepared for the private place judging which happened in the middle of the summer. It is two minutes long a but it will set the scene a little bit. A picture speaks a thousand words. If we can play that now if possible?

VIDEO: Blessington is a town in West Wicklow of over 5,000 souls. Built over the largest manmade lake in Ireland and bounded by the peak was Wicklow Mountains.

>>: It's a vibrant town and such a small town. There are so many people around walking the dog.

>>: There are so many GAA clubs. Rowing clubs, running clubs.

>>: We were basically looking for somewhere nice for our kids to grow up and Blessington seems like a really good choice. It's a decent sized town, it's got good schools and it's nice and green and close to the mountains, so it seemed perfect.

>>: These people have found a home in the town and have joined in with the general spirit of co-operation, whether they are individuals or new business.

>>: When I moved to Blessington first I moved into a small town where everyone seemed to know each other and I knew no one. Volunteering for Blessington first responders seemed to me to be a perfect way of getting involved and meeting and making new friends.

>>: We ran charities, so, over the last five years we have raised 5,000 euro for charity.

>>: Charity is a big part of the agenda. It complicates your relationship with your customers and your staff. It's essential.

>>: This spirit of community can be even all around the town, kept up by the tireless work of a Tidy Towns group in co-ordination with all of the businesses of the town, who also believe in doing the part around their area.

>>: People will be passing through the town and there is volunteers out, could be from 8.00am in the morning.

>>: But what Blessington does that is rare in these fractured times is they have planned together. For almost 20 years business and volunteer education and individual all meet together in the Blessington Forum. What they do run for volunteer groups, theatres and playgrounds, from parades, festivals, to smart town planning and everything in between. A shining example of their work was the creation of the 6km Blessington greenway, a public walkway along the lakeshore that links the buzzing town from the

ancient estate of Russborough House.

>>: That has been a wonderful addition, someone went for a walk to there and back.

>>: Now there is the Town Team, which brings together the forum and the local authority, allowing for even larger projects to become possible, such as the dream of the Blessington e greenway, a 40Km walk around the whole lake. Such projects can only be contemplated because much joined up thinking between local government and community which makes it possible to plan for real and long-lasting change to the world of Blessington Town.

JOHN: Thank you and I think looking at that there and listening to, there was a difficulty with the sound, not everyone was able to hear it as clearly as I would have preferred. It brought to mind the saying you should never perform with children and adults, in the modern world I say you should never perform with technology. Never rely on it. I want to give you a flavour of what we are at in Blessington, one of the last sentences in the video, if you could hear it, he said that the dream of Blessington greenway all the way around the lakes is close to becoming a reality, but it is very close to becoming a reality. This greenway idea started ten years ago, the community, with prompting from Wicklow County Council, some talk about reports that sit on the shelf, well the Wicklow outdoor strategy had a small paragraph that talked about opening up the reservoir in Blessington to more activities and that sentence was picked up by the forum, in Blessington and they said let's see what we can do, so they got a consultant in and they worked with the idea of building out a, he called it a walking and cycle path around the lakes. That was in 2010 and then the forum started to look at how they can do this and as a community body, he ended up doing what they call phase 1, they built 6.5km from the town to Russborough House.

Again, if not immediate active support, certainly there was a strong element of support from Wicklow County Council in that they granted us planning permission, or exempt planning status for it. That got going and that demonstrated that it could be done, that this special area of conservation, that is the Blessington lakes, you could overcome ecological problems, do the impact assessments and so on. That was opened in February 2014 and we said to the County Council, it's a multi-million project, we did that for a quarter of a million. It's a multi-million project to do it around the lakes and the Council got behind it and have developed the idea and got it to the point where, through the National Planning Strategy, the funding programme there and in July last year, through the good work of a lot of people in the County Council got €5 million in funding from the Department of weren't for a 42km greenway right around the lake and I can tell you that the final design and procurement team have been appointed, Chief Executive, in recent days or weeks and they are about to begin their work and it will go to procurement and that should be, the actual building of the greenway should be well under way early 2020, so how long that will take, it won't take too long in my view, but certainly in 12 months' time we should see dramatic progress towards the finalisation of that greenway.

So, it just shows what can be done when community and local authorities work together. If I can rewind maybe then, that is the greenway bit, to what

Christine said about the impetus for the Town Team. Blessington won Leinster's most enterprising team award that scheme in 2017 and there is a way of building on that, in the way of establishing a Town Team came from the County Council. It's a collaboration between the local community and the local authority and, as Christine again said, the Town Teams were grown organically, how ours have grown is two pillar, the private pillar, which is a community forum which has been doing good work in Blessington for about 18 years now, the Tidy Towns group, the second element and the third element, the business network. There have been various efforts to get businesses working together, but they have now come actively together as the business network, so they are the three community elements, the private element, of the Town Team. On the public sector side we have the main one being the County Council and the local authority. The education sector represented by the principal of the local community college and the Garda Síochána represented by the local sergeant. So those private and public figures come together in the Town Team and we meet monthly, I see it as effectively a communication vehicle between the public and the private sectors. It's a way of making sure that we are singing from the same hymn sheet, working off the same page, but we are all going into same direction. As to how we are structured beyond that, I came over here about 18 months ago and met with Dave, as chairman of the Town Team and with some experience under their belt and imitation being the sincerest form of flattery, we stole your idea of working teams and we established six working groups. Tidy Towns and public realm. Planning and infrastructure, business, tourism, cultural heritage, and healthy Blessington, which is a localised form of the Healthy Ireland initiative.

So, those six working groups lead out on various proposals and proms and greenways and CCTV's and the health check and the branding of the town. There is a whole lot of things, I won't go through them all. That is generally how we work. In essence, we had a lot of good relationships there with the local authority, with the public sector, we are building on those in the Town Team, and I would like to conclude by thanking the councillor, our local councillors, Cllr O'Neill here and your colleagues on the Baltinglass Municipal District Council. Jim Ruttle before you was a great help to the Wicklow County Council Chief Executive and the staff, some of whom I am not going to name, a lot of them have been very helpful and without whom all of the work that is happening in Blessington couldn't happen. Finally, we are on our town health check, we have met, we have our town health check team appointed, we met them this morning for the first time.

They are meeting the full Town Team tomorrow evening and they are developing a vision for the future development of the town. Some of you may have heard, I have concluded this competition running on east Coast Radio for people to come up with a good tagline for Blessington, building on the sort of thing, the outdoors and the one that won it and what will become the new tagline, which I hope you will hear over the next months and years is: ' Blessington, where nature meets history.' Thank you for your attention, I am happy to take any questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews.

CLLR MATTHEWS: Thank you for the presentations, Bray Town Team is revitalised at the moment, so to have a presentation from two enthusiastic chairs as yourself is an inspiration, but it is healthy in Bray. Just in relation to the Wicklow greenway you mentioned. The draft report is available, is that available for us to have a look at? I would be interested to have a look at the environmental impact assessment of that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will answer that. It isn't ready yet, because we have a draft ready because there is two big issues with that greenway, one is costal erosion and we need to see where that is going, so a parallel study that is going on, so early next year we will be able to mash those two together much the second one is the ecological side of it and there is a lot of extra work that needs to be done during the summer in relation to making a termination of that, so that is a nearing completion and when that is put together, early next year, we will be able to do exactly that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. First of all, thank you both for a very informative presentation. It can't be underestimated the amount of work that is being done by an all Town Teams across the county and I would like to wish them well. In particular, John, your huge endeavours on the Blessington Greenway, I suppose it's something that is going to make Wicklow stand out from the rest of maybe Leinster counties, but I think it's a fantastic project and I want to wish you well with that. On the downside, from the Wicklow point of view, when you said it took ten years to basically get it from the start to this point, and I know, through the Wicklow Town Team and the work that Dave is doing, we will be quite frustrated if it takes us ten years to progress the greenway from Wicklow to Greystones. Nevertheless, I want to pay tribute to Wicklow Town Team, who I am very closely involved with, I suppose any good team lead as good leader and Wicklow has a fantastic leader in Dave, that you have heard from. I suppose from our point of view on the Wicklow Municipal District, we have tried to assist, particularly in the public realm space of the upgraded works that are going to hopefully soon starting on Fitzwilliam Square which we hope will make a huge difference to Wicklow Town, obviously the current works of Wicklow Library, I was going to appeal to all of our TDs to get behind the redevelopment the courthouse in Wicklow, it's one of the services we have missed so much in our town and certainly the restatement with the Wicklow court services will be hugely significant to our area.

I suppose, the enhancement of Wicklow and in particular what Dave has said with regard to the proposed greenways from Wicklow to Greystones is something that will be absolutely vital to grow our town, as a tourism destination and I have no doubt that the work that has been done locally and the efforts by everyone involved, I think we will certainly get there in the near future and I want to wish everyone well in the Wicklow Town Team in the future. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I would just like to thank Dave and John for their presentations, very professional. I had the experience of working with Dave on the greenway so I know what he is capable of and during my time with Wicklow Tourism I worked close list with John, as Dave said he has plenty of

time. Good luck with what you are doing and the value it's adding to our county and again it's being done in a cost effective way. Well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to congratulate John and Dave on their presentations. I am going to confine myself to Blessington because that is where I come from, no disrespect to Dave. Your team have done tremendous work over there, involving the Tidy Towns, the forum and the business network. So I congratulate you on your day forward. I know you already mentioned Jim Ruttle needs a special mention from having gotten behind it from the early start. And Father Tim should be mentioned because he was at the forefront in the early part of this as well, who has since left us. So, thank you and well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you, John and Dave for your presentations. I am going to concentrate on Wicklow. First of all, I remember meeting Dave a few years ago, I know he felt the people were imagining to get some money into kitty to start these projects and he was frustrated with the whole thing and I think looking at him today he is starting to learn that there is different ways of getting some money to facilitate these projects. The East Coast Greenway is interesting, John mentioned that Phase 1 and I think that is the way we should be doing it as well, we should be look at different phrases. I think we need to find out which is the easiest part to do and start it. And we have problems within the actual greenway itself, nothing we can't sort out, but if there is part of the greenway that can be done we should go and do it, we shouldn't be held back because to do the whole scheme will take time and I think we should do it in phases.

Just when you were talking about the historic walks, I would like that tied in with the Cliff Walk as well, because it has provided great tourism to Wicklow Town. The amount of people using the Wicklow Cliff Walk is unbelievable. Every single morning if you go out there the amount of tourism is unbelievable. We still have a lot of work to do, Dave, and I think with the different committee there is an enthusiasm now, Cllr Cullen mentioned the library, at last there is things, at the moment seems to be doing in Wicklow Town and it hasn't been like that and Dave, you should take credit to that, your enthusiasm has carried forward and we are looking forward to seeing how Wicklow Town is going to develop in the next couple of years. I think you need to take young people into the fold and agree with John that they will bring enthusiasm, they know what is new and what the town needs and a different aspect of the people that we maybe do not listen to, so I think neighbour is a good plan and maybe to get it on to each forum would be a great thing. I am enthusiastic with how things are going.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for the presentation, as someone who is a new councillor in Bray, I appreciate we get to hear the stories of how other models are working. I get a sense that sometimes things go in cycles, and I am exciting about the potential for Bray to take some of what we have heard today and I hear strong words like partnership and I sense that this collective ownership is important in how you roll out

your work and I particularly appreciate that you look forward and that you see where there might be gaps, and, again as a youth worker, including young people in this shared ownership of the future of our area is critical or we will get to a point that we have done a stuff and they might tell us their real opinion on it. So, I appreciate having this slot today and I am excited about Bray, particularly taking away some of the learning from this and again looking at how we are going to implement it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Obviously I want to congratulate the two gentlemen and the people who represent for the magnificent work you are doing in your own local areas. I also want to thank Christine for your presentation at the outset. As Cllr O'Brien has mentioned the one word that came back at me strongly was the word partnership. I think what has been successful in Wicklow and Blessington is there is a proper partnership between the public representatives, the council officials, the business community and community leaders and for it to work in Bray, or any other place there has to be genuine partnership.

As far as I am concerned, genuine partnership has to involve elected representatives as well as council officials. I would be interested in your comments gentlemen on that particular issue, because in Bray we don't have a Town Team. Money has been extended on a survey without reference to councillors at all. If we don't have a Town Team, my assumption is that council officials decided that we are going to spend this money on the survey and I am looking forward to hearing the recruitment. At least we are going to hear the result at a future council meeting, but I want this to work, I think what you have said would give a lot of councillors enthusiasm, but it has to be right from the start and the foundation has to be that everyone who has a stake in the town is involved in it.

And I would just say that going forward, particularly in Bray, because Bray is the area I represent, if there isn't true partnership with elected representatives, it's not going to work and I would appeal to the executive, to ensure that we, as members are fully involved in every step of this process, but I would be interested in your views, gentlemen on the question of elected representatives being centrally involved in Town Teams.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR P KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you Christine and John and Dave for the presentations. John, I know you were in Rathdrum recently and you spoke at a public event there and it was very interesting, what I was hoping that Dave and John would come, if you are available, we would like to invite you to come to Rathdrum in the near future because we are working on setting up a group at the moment through Christine and I would love if you had the time that you could come and give us your insights moving forward. So, I would extend that invitation to you and hope to contact you in the near future about that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you to John and Dave for their presentations and to Dave, I mean, you said at the outset, Dave, that the Town Team of Wicklow was formed in August 2017 and you went on to list the achievements and

the work which has been done on that committee and I must say it's so impressive and well done to you and your team, of course. I work closely with you on the east coast greenway project and we are all excited about that and excited about what it will mean to the tourism offering for Wicklow in terms of economic terms as well as everything else we saw the difference that the Waterford Greenway has made, so it will be interesting for the coastal protection report, shortly to advance that. Just to John again, I worked with John through Wicklow County Tourism and in particular, the Blessington Town Team is involved through the very successful Blessington forum and again I want to congratulate you on your work on the greenway there and being successful to get that over the line. We all look forward to seeing that over the project being delivered in 2020, so well done to you both. I know as a member of Greystones 2020, we have had some great encouraging advice from both of you, so we hope to continue that relationship. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you to John and Dave for your presentation. Obviously your examples of Town Teams that are doing great work on the ground. The concept of Town Team came out of the government forum where town councils were abolished, it was a way of allowing a town to participate in an area with the local authority following those abolition of town council. I see the only town that doesn't have a town council is Blessington and you can see the work they have achieved. I don't think towns like Baltinglass could do with a Town Team and I notice that the health check which was supposed to be, I think Christine was suggesting that the health check would be a first step in establishing the foundation for a Town Team, but I think Blessington's example, the Town Team is blowing out its own health check and therefore the dynamics of bringing in the group of people to get that going makes sense in my view, rather than doing a health check and kicking the can down the road for the formation of the Town Team. I like to ask the officials with regard to the other towns in Wicklow and any other villages, where it would bringing it to a Baltinglass with a view to setting up a Town Team, would that be taken forward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Can I just comment the three individuals, Dave, John and Christine for, I suppose a very enthusiastic and not just for yourselves but for us, I am a new councillor. It's great to hear it, I think it's important for us to hear it but for the general public to hear. Some of this sound work is done unnoticed. I think we deserve credit. Of course I would be biased. I have believed that Wicklow Town has never reached its full potential and it's an exciting time to come on as a new councillor and looking at the new works on the greenway and the hotel on the quay. It's all illumination of the black castle, but I think we should look at the basics as well, in terms of public toilet. I was born and bred in the town and we always had public toilets, you know where I am from, the black castle area, I visit regularly when I am let in. The tourists coming into the town have nowhere, bar one public toilet in the town. Even know it's great with the grand projects we should also look at the basics as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: I would like to thank the presentations, I won't be on either

side, I am in Arklow. I think it highlights, for me, who chaired the Town Team for a year as Cathaoirleach and it's funny how the three Town Teams in the areas have different, I suppose set up, committees and I think I have learned from that here today. Also, I think the Town Team for me, in Arklow, have bridged a communication gap, I think between the public and the businesses and other areas that wasn't there for a long, long time and now we have brought them in, hand by hand on different projects. I think it also, as highlighted, I suppose the way some public people didn't realise the work of Wicklow County Council and the way things are done. Maybe not the way that we want things done, but the way it works and it also, I think, for me, has highlighted the passion and the love that other people have for our town, sometimes we can almost be very negative about our towns. I think when you bring people into a room, we learn from each other, we also realise what we have in front of us and what we need to have maybe more in front of us. In all aspects of tourism and businesses and for, as one of the men said, we want you to come here and live and play and work. I think, again, through the Municipal Districts, a lot of the work is linked through the staff and I would honestly say that the Town Teams, for Arklow, wouldn't be successful, only for the dedicated staff they have there and the knowledge, again through Wicklow County Council, but I think we all need to have a vision for our own teams and I think the funding needs to be looked at and I think without the leader certainly none of our projects would work and I think we need to give dedication to the credit of the leader who has always been there. Again, looking at maybe coming along down the next year to that network with the Town Teams because you can learn from each other and things we mightn't have thought of it working in other towns, so I think it's a credit for other people.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Again, I would like to congratulate John and Dave, I know, John for a long time in the Blessington area and I have been a founding member of the forum there and we have always got on well there, a group on the ground worked together, it's very important that we work with the board and elected representatives work with these groups. There is a, as Cllr Mullen said, I think it's very important that we don't leave other areas behind and if you look at the likes of Baltinglass, I would agree with Cllr Mullen that those areas must get the same attention.

We have Carnew, which is a very big area, all of these areas have to be looked after. I would like to ask the Chief Executive as well on the and this is all to do with working together, we must work together, we must work together on this stuff, councillors, voluntary groups, whatever, it has to be one group working together, so on the greenway in Blessington, we have been asked several times, councillors here, what is the situation as regards the granting of the 5 million for the 28km route. I mean we do have the, it's 28 around the lake, but there is two spurs over there, one to Russborough and another to [INAUDIBLE], so I know the people here put me under, we must accommodate working together, we must accommodate the people on the Lakeside. There are people in some areas and they are only rearing to go and get involved in this project, so there would be a fear that monies would go into a private business, such as the likes of Clonferris, that is an

extra 14km to be taken in.

What we are really anxious there is that the 28km run of the lake would be done first. That is very important that it would be the same, we want to see everywhere in West Wicklow up and working, but it would be a sin to think that the people on the Lakeside were left behind and that other businesses would be looked after. That is the main concern, so in actual fact people have said to me, there is meetings coming up with Cllr Glennon and myself coming up soon. But people have suggested that maybe it might start from Lough Erne, to ensure that it would include the lakes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Again, like previous members I want to congratulations both gentlemen on their presentations and I suppose my main concern is that there seems to be, in some districts, a lack of consultation with public representatives and I see that members that are not represented through East Wicklow and through West Wicklow today seem to be getting more out of this presentation because, as the district members from east and west will know, we have worked hand in hand with both of these Town Teams and lot of presentations through district chambers and through the Municipal District and indeed we have supported the Wicklow Town Team with a discretionary spend and we have always found money to, I think in a two-and-a-half hour meeting today because of the suspension of standing hours we are over an hour talking about this and while it is a good news story and God knows we need to get good news out there, but I think that there is an awful lot of important business, while I welcome what is happening and I fully support what is happening throughout the county, I think we have gone over an hour discussing this and there is only so many times people can congratulations both areas. So thanks, again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell, believe me I have a stopwatch here. I have only allowed people who asked to speak. Would you like to go back to the points that were raised?

DAVE: Cllr Kennedy, I am happy to, if you touch base with Chris Christine I am happy to give you my experiences. With regard to Cllr Behan, I don't want to get involved in an internal fight, but from my own point of view an Wicklow Town Team, I couldn't imagine the Town Team being able to produce and be as productive as we can without the Municipal District councillors and, like I said, chairman and outgoing chairman are still on our Steering Committee. Each of the representatives are on a team and I think I have been to the Municipal District Council maybe four or five times just updating on what we are trying to do. Updating as well, but that is, it is a partnership, you can get too flowery about these things, but if we don't work hand in glove. We have our differences and our rows, that is fine, at the end of the day we are all trying to do the right thing for Wicklow County Council. I think it was Harry S Truman said, 'It's amazing what you can achieve so long as no one is looking for the credit.' I think that is important too.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

DECLAN: I won't take more than 30 seconds for this. That thing about information change, saying we robbed some good ideas from Wicklow low before, the, County Council and Wicklow staff, knowing we were going to be here today we have set up a meeting next door an information on

greenways, so that collaboration is still ongoing and will continue. That in terms of coastal erosion, that rang a bell with me. We had a problem with Blessington, with lake shore erosion where they had eroded into the farmer's land, to such a point that how are we going to get there, the ESB were putting in rock armour to prevent it, they have done in such a way that a greenway can be built on top of it. So there might be some useful points in there. Finally on the point of elected councillors, critical, our six Municipal District councillors are all part of the Town Team and I know Dave has some involvement in working groups on his, so it's critical and important and thank you for the opportunity to talk to you this evening.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, both very much and Christine, for giving your time this afternoon. Those of us who do already work with knees two in particular Town Teams will continue to do so and in going forward for the Bray one in the new set up and hopefully it will be successful. Item 5. To receive a presentation on the draft County Wicklow Digital Strategy 2019-2024. I think, as part of this, after the presentation we will also take the motion that is there in councillor Tom Fortune and Mary Kavanagh. So first of all I will take the presentation and then I will take the proposal of the motion of Tom Fortune and then we will go to general questions.

SHORT BREAK

So, sorry now. So the result, picking out some of the main results from the digital survey. Well, first and foremost, a total of 935 survey submissions were received over 32 days, around a month, basically 91% of them were online. We did push paper versions in our libraries and our district offices and county buildings, but, I suppose we did undertake a marketing campaign, a digital marketing campaign online and that is, I suppose, we got very good number of submissions mostly through the online marketing end of things, through that way. I suppose the focus of the survey was on citizen broadband service, internet and digital technology use, online services and remote working, so some of the key findings, like the vast majority of people said that they had internet connection of 94%, but two thirds are not receiving high speed broadband services, so that is, I suppose the EU definition of high-speed broadband is over 30 megabytes download and over 6 upload. At the same time, half of people, it's obvious are unhappy with their broadband service. The smartphone was the most used digital device, so that has to be taken into consideration when developing new online services. There is a need for more public training and promotion, at I suppose council and government level. 95%, more of the top finding were 95% said they utilised digital devices for communication daily. Over 90% believe communication technologies are critical or important for their regional, economic and social development and, I suppose another main point was 56% of people said they could work remotely, at least one day per week. It's interesting, when you consider the commuter survey, so you are talking about on any one day over 20,000 people, who will be able to remotely work within the county, or want to. So the working groups were, under each of the core teams came together to develop a high level vision, key actions, key objectives and actions, which form part of the, which form the implementation plan, to the four areas are broadband and digital

infrastructure, Citizen Smart, digital economy and digital council.

So, on the right-hand side is your, from the assessment they had seven pillars and they are, I suppose incorporated into our four core digital teams. On broadband, just to go through some of the key actions we want to undertake with the strategy, under broadband and digital infrastructure, our vision is to facilitate the development of high-speed broadband and infrastructure. Our key objectives are to facilitate broadband, inform infrastructural development and high speed access to broadband and technology. That is for citizens.

That second key action I suppose is in line with, it's under the broadband build connectivity programme where we are looking to develop broadband connection points in line with the National Broadband Plan. That, when the contracts are signed, the broadband connection points are the first priority of that state intervention.

The free public wi-fi provision, we have won four vouchers from the EU with regard to the provision of free public wi-fi and there is a lot, there will have to be a tender process for the provisioning of that, so we have four vouchers across five Municipal Districts, but it will be a county-wide tendering process. The first of those was done in Donegal not so long ago and that is the first representative on that project.

Also, libraries are increasing their opening times and they provide digital access and they are improving their digital technology with the provision now of portable digital devices as well as PC desktops. Under Citizen Smart, the high level vision was to promote the benefits and use of digital technology in a safe way and to improve digital equality and digital skills and competency of our citizens. There was four key objectives under the Citizen Smart, identify and address digital exclusion and digital inequality. Support digital training to increase citizen skills. Raise awareness of the risk and benefits for citizens going online and support the development of smart communities. So, within that, your provision, I suppose some of the key actions were, was digital skills analysis, in partnership with educational facilities and that is ongoing.

Really the Citizens Survey fed into a lot of the key objectives of this working group, or this strategic theme. An awareness campaign will have to be undertaken, raising awareness for the benefits and the risks of going online and the digital, I suppose arena and we want to run a pilot smart community project. I suppose it will be dependent on winning funding through partnership with County Wicklow partnership. And, I suppose raising awareness of online safety and risks, I suppose it is in line with national guidance and I think in line with anything that would come from the online safety commission which has been announced recently. Under our digital economy working group and strategic theme, the main vision was to and encourage employment opportunities in county Wicklow in the digital age.

So, the key objectives is a digital hub development plan, utilise digital

technology and online supports to promote and effect heavily our market, our tourism and heritage. Promote and further develop business and use of online retail and digital marketing such as our trading online vouchers. Facilitate training of business people and the specific skills they need to exploit the online economy. So that is a lot of that work is done through the LEO office already. So for digital hubs, on the first key October objective, we have applied for funding in Clare month and Christine and our team would have been working on that with the LEO office, we have applied on a regional plan with the Baltinglass courthouse redevelopment and we have also applied for that courthouse redevelopment funding under the rural regeneration, I think, funding as well. And also, we will have to undertake, I suppose, a demand-led digital hub plan into the future from here on out, especially with regards fund, if you want to apply for funding you have to show how the requirement is there, the demand is there locally in order to win funding. Regards, I suppose effectively marketing your tourism and heritage we, have to enhance our website content, tourism, heritage and film and supports around that and we will be pointing a digital champion for retail. They are promoting the trading online vouchers that the LEO office are taking care of. Then, finally, under digital council, the high level vision is to enhance the delivery of Wicklow County Council's services to its citizens by its online services. Under the main vision there was two main objective, the enhanced customer care and engagement and this has been undertaken via, I suppose a new customer care unit and the customer relationship management platform which has been developed, which are both being developed at the moment. I think the CCU is being, going to tender or is in the process there.

The other key objective was to increase and promote our online services, so some of the actions there are open data, creating open data for basically any data that Wicklow County Council sees that is beneficial to be open data for public use or research purposes, will go on to opendata.gov website. We have recently developed an online consultation hub for consultations that were undertaken on any, I suppose, development. Improve, to improve our conference call capabilities, this has a beneficial, I suppose, environmental benefits, basically, we have better conference call capabilities, we won't have to travel as much to meetings in other areas of the county, etc, prove and also increase our online payment options is another key action there under the second key objective. I suppose one thing to mention is developing our online services will be in line with the new national services catalogue that is being produced at the moment.

So, on the delivery of the Digital Strategy, one of the key items is the monitoring section of that and the establishment of an oversight and monitoring committee, to oversee, I suppose, the carrying out of the actions. The thing will be to continually track the progress plan, identify areas of further opportunity and delay progress and to show progress of the actions by updating the implementation plan online, on an annual basis so. That is a key element for the strategy to be delivered, that committee will have to oversee and the responsibilities and timescales are set out within the implementation plan. So that is it. Any questions?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, thank you for the presentation. Before I actually put the motion to the members I am going to put some context around it, first of all I would like to say that I echo the concerns that other elected councils have expressed, for example in Clare, Roscommon, Sligo and Leitrim that the planning system is flawed, for the telephone masts to be 5G or 4 without a public consultation process, involving local councillors and local residents and schools. This has happened as far as March in Greystones. I also want to make it clear that I support the Government's national broadband plan to build fibre broadband, otherwise known as FTTP to all Irish homes. In fact, I believe the Government's resources should be confined to this service and not to be unregulated and potentially unsafe roll out of 5G. In calling on a halt to the roll out of 5G in this jurisdiction, the councils of Clare, Roscommon Sligo and Leitrim drew attention to the petition of scientists around the world who are opposing it who claim that it constitutes an experiment on humanity that is defined as a crime under international law. It ties into what was said in the presentation as well that the need for to raise awareness of, besides the benefits the risks and what the online safety commission need to be talking about. There are three main issues with 5G that people need to be aware of. The first one is that no research has been done on the biological effects of this 5G spectrum of radiation. Nothing on human health and its effects on the environment, birds, bees and plant life, nothing on the microbiome and its effect on antibiotic resistance. There is also our carbon footprint. We are consuming 10% of global activity, 5G will consume four times more electricity compared to 3G and 4G. Also both cups will run 5G and the legacy 3G and 4G together for ten years making it even worse. Why is this? 4G works off the large phone masts but as 5G is different it will use small masts everywhere, everywhere below the treeline. The industry led 5G promises it will deliver 1,000 times the download speed, does it mean the electricity usage will be 1,000 times higher or 100 times higher or 10 times higher. The fact is that no one in civil authority knows or seems to care. What will the 5G madness be and how much they will pay in EU fines. With climate change under the spotlight should a Government not effect such a climate impact study. Is the much-needed energy going to be addressed by the Government in its new policy promised this year?

Now, if I can make a few comments on people that who are, have spoken about this outside of Ireland. In, for example, in the 2nd of August there were 134,000 signatories from doctors and environmental organisations and citizens from 198 countries who called for a halt for 5G, including 5G from space satellites. On the 28th of September an interview by Tom Butler of UCC headed 5G wi-fi on steroids, he is a leading expert on the health effects of wireless technology and microbiome radiation. He said that given the precautionary principle it makes sense to him that school principals should be outlawing it on their premises. Also, in Brussels, back in April, the environment minister said "*I cannot welcome such technology if the radiation standards which must protect the citizens are not respected and the people of Brussels are not laboratory mice whose health I can sell at the cost of profit. We cannot leave any doubt.*" I

n February of this year, also in the Senate in the US, the wireless, or the industry people were brought before the Senate and they basically confirmed to the Senator that the industry had carried out zero health and safety studies on 5G and there are dozens of independent studies that indicate that 5G is a risk to all biological life. When this was brought up in the Dail by Catherine Connolly again this year, when she asked the minister about it, he said a few things but one thing he said was he had no role in the procurement of this project, which has been led by the Government sector itself and not been funded by the Department. That just, as the saying goes, beats banathir [?]

If I can put the motion to the chair, that Wicklow County Council has a social responsibility to serve, inform and protect the public and the environment from exposure to harm and therefore it opposes the roll out of unregulated 5G in the county of Wicklow based on the precautionary principle, pending the enact of by Dáil Éireann of protective legislation.

In the meantime it's advised a 5G working group be established who would be mandated to report back to the council of the potential harmful effects of wireless EMN on our environment and our carbon footprint. So I am asking the members, chair of Wicklow County Council, to approve the motion, as I say, there is similar motions have been approved already by Roscommon and Clare and Leitrim and Sligo and I understand this week Wexford have similar motions going before the members. Basically all that is being asked here is that we stop and we just talk and we check this out before we raise the head. There are lots of people have spoken very seriously about it with a lot of expertise and this is very important for, I believe more so for our children than ourselves, because of what is going on and there are better ways of doing it, so I would ask the members of Wicklow County Council. CATHAOIRLEACH: I have been lenient on time, Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: It's a very important issue.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is why I gave you the time.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I am seconding the motion. I want to second that motion and I just have some, some things I want to say about it as well, if that is okay. I just wrote them down because I did a lot of research on it before I decided to second the motion and basically I just want to start by saying that this is nothing to do with the roll out of the National Broadband Plan, this is a separate technology. As councillors we have a duty of care to the citizens of the country, we also have a duty to protect the environment. 5G is a huge escalation of traditional cellular technology. It uses more power through higher speeds and bandwidths.

Traditional 1G to 4G uses between 1ghz and 5ghz frequencies, 5G will use between 10-300ghz. 5G promises speeds of up to 1,000 faster than 4G. 5G signals are short and can only travel short distances without boosters so transmitters which boost signals will be placed at between 100 and 300 metre intervals. The higher number of radiation levels means people living in towns and cities will be constantly bombarded with radiofrequency radiation at unprecedented levels. They will have no choice because it will be all

around them.

Because it is invisible to the eye, we will never know what are the levels are, unless we carry metres to measure what is being emitted with public buildings. 5G is not to be confused with the broadband plan. 5G masts and antennae can be installed without planning permission, Professor Tom Butler, who Cllr Fortune referred to from UCC has written an article which states that the hypothalamus in a child's brain can absorb up to three times the level of radiation than an adult brain. The same found that the bone marrow in a child's skull absorbs it ten times greater than an adult. Maybe are urging that schools, hospitals and other buildings that house vulnerable people like the very young, old and the infirm are treated as sensitive areas where 4G is used instead of 5G or 5G routers are set as low as possible. We need legislation in the area along with changes in planning legislation to ensure that the number of masts and antennae are kept under control and at safe levels. American scientists, who carried out studies concluded that cell phones probably cause cancer if the exposure is close enough, long enough and at sufficient magnitude and more data in the area of Bluetooth and other radio frequencies is required to determine the safe levels for humans. There is concern that exposure to millimetre wave technology which is used in 5G may lead to permanent tissue damage after short exposure. Existing exposure guidelines must be revisited. Over 200 scientists and doctors from 36 countries appealed to the United Nations, the World Health Organisation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Your time, I will give you another 30 seconds.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I will just sum up by saying that we need to, we need to urge the precautionary principle, it should be applied for scientific evaluation does not allow for the risk to be determined with sufficient certainty. The nation's health, especially that of a child is paramount and we have a duty of care to ensure that we are not exposing them to unnecessary risk. We have a duty to protect future generations and that is why I am asking people to support the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. We will also take questions on the actual digital presentation as well, so if anyone has any questions on that and then we can do the, it may roll into one another and then we will take the vote on the 5G motion. So, Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, the question for Donal and can I just preface by saying thanks for all the work you did connecting with young people throughout the development of the strategy, even being brave enough to come in here during a Cathaoirleach meeting, fair play for that. I think it's important they are included as we roll something out like this. My question is about the working group, are they going to continue as is? The four working groups or is there scope to include others as you move into the implementation of the strategy?

>>: I suppose the implementation, the actions in the implementation plan, have a timeframe and I suppose relevant leads and partners to carry out the actions and that will be monitored by the monitoring committee. So, I suppose, new opportunities in the digital arena, I suppose something for the Steering Group or the monitoring committee to consider and they should be brought forward to them. If it's something that in the future, that is not in

the strategy, I am sure it should be taken into consideration, but the working groups, I suppose the Citizen Smart working group may continue. It has, or the chair would work a lot on the actions that are within that, so I suppose the Steering Group and the oversight committee are the real areas, they are to approach those committees and work from there, but certainly anyone that wants to volunteer to help out in any of the actions for the strategies I would say they would be welcomed.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR WALSH: Gerry Walsh thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you for the presentation. A point that was made to you on a number of occasions as we prepare for the roll out of the national broadband plan and something that became obvious during the election campaigns as we spoke to people in the various estates that have missed out on the connection of the fixed cable high speed fibre, where the suppliers seem to come into areas and cherry pick and they move on again. In the meantime we are talking about rural, I know the rural areas, but there is large swathes of areas within our town that are still left without, relying on copper infrastructure that is and, like, for example, people who have the opportunity to work from home are not permitted to do so with the service they are receiving, so just wonder is there any update. I know you have been working on this, with the providers trying to impress on them the need for this. I am wondering if you have any update?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Whitmore.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thank you for your presentation, Donal and for all of the work you have put in over the past couple of years on this. I would be really keen, I think one of the key things we need to focus on in the county is making sure people who can work from home are enabled to do so. So whether that is giving them the broadband capacity within their homes or providing digital hubs. I think that is really a focus and something we should be moving towards having a number of digital hubs across the county in the larger towns, I think would just enable people to work from within their localities and that would, in itself create economic benefit, so I would really like to see a big push on that, but thank you very much for the work you have done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: I would like to say that this, the lack of broadband is not just as Gerry Walsh mentioned, not just a rural problem, even, for instance, in Greystones, towards the centre of it there are a lot of people who can't get it and are apparently not going to be offered it. I would also say that there are also significant problems with the roll out of Siro, which was a surprise to me and certainly there has been problems with neighbours of mine being told they have to take down a number of trees in their gardens to get it and also outages of at least a week once it's been installed. So it isn't, it doesn't seem to be simple for them to install it either.

DONAL: I will come back altogether. I suppose regards the national broadband plan, in relation to Greystones, Gerry, I suppose, there was a consultation process undertaken by the Department of communications, the Department of rural development and the telecoms operators and any other stakeholders within that arena, over the last couple of months. In that consultation, that was on the national broadband plan intervention area.

So the mapping, I suppose, as you can see Wicklow is quite amber up there, mainly amber zone and that area represents, I suppose lack of high-speed broadband services. There are blue areas on the map and larger towns, that is basically, those larger blue areas are where telecoms operators have promised or are delivering high-speed services. Unfortunately the mappings system that was entered into the national broadband plan procurement process was done a couple of years ago and there is issues and I suppose irregularities and I suppose it's wrong, so that is why the consultation was undertaken lately. I made a consultation on behalf of county Wicklow, based over the last couple of years of any blue zoned areas that are not receiving or telecoms companies have no plans in the near future to deliver high-speed broadband services. Those areas were submitted to the consultation process, by myself and that basically a map will be rezoned before the contracts are signed with the national broadband plan. So areas in towns that are now blue stoned but are not going to receive commercially developed broadband will get state intervention to get high-speed broadband services through the overall national broadband plan state invention contracts.

On remote working, digital hubs, like we have applied, there are private hubs being developed in many of the larger towns and there is also ones available at the moment, or are being developed in Arklow and in Baltinglass and funding has been sought for Baltinglass and Claremont. I think thereafter, any Government or locally supported digital hubs need to be demand orientated, so it would be prudent to go ahead with an economic study on where the demand is, so, I would say that would be undertaken by consultants on our behalf and thereafter that prioritisation and across each Municipal District will be put in place. That is where I see that project going, under the digital hub development plan. I have heard of issues regards Siro or roll out of commercial, I suppose high-speed broadband services, in Virgin Media unfortunately there are cul-de-sacs or small pockets of areas where they haven't gone into. Under roll up and licensing system, there is no process to enforce them to go into any particular area, unfortunately.

We have tried to work at a local level with the local engineers speaking and trying to cajole the commercial investment into every avenue and every premises, but it doesn't always work out, it's a commercial decision to invest in our areas. Virgin Media invested 10 million in Arklow, Wicklow, Rathnew area over the last two years, SIRO have major plan, they have been delayed for a significant period but they are rolling out in Bray and Greystones and plan to and there is kind of a roll out, I suppose infrastructural plans for Arklow and Wicklow, so there are issues unfortunately with commercial developers, but that is that is to be taken up with their local work people on the ground and try to facilitate a different way of accessing premises.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, before we take the vote on the motion for Cllr Fortune and Kavanagh, I am wondering, Cllr Fortune, you know the planning and environmental SPC, could that perhaps look at it and report back to the council rather than setting up a whole new group, would that not be the SPC that would look at this.

CLLR FORTUNE: I think myself and councillor Kavanagh would like to be involved, can I also say that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you hit your mic.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I also say that there is a petition has already been signed by 1400 people asking us to adopt this particular motion as well. I just wanted to say that.

>>: [INAUDIBLE].

CLLR FORTUNE: A local one.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I wouldn't have a problem with that committee looking after it, provided they did feed back to us so we know what is going on, because I understand that it is quite expensive to set up committees in terms of staffing time and stuff like that, I personally wouldn't centre a problem, so long as we are reported back to.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And perhaps then maybe if that particular issue has been discussed at a particular SPC, if they would contact you so that you could literally sit in on it if you wanted. If you don't sit on a committee. Any elected member can attend any SPC.

CLLR FORTUNE: I understand that, but I do think that this is a really important motion and I do think it has serious and none of us are experts, none of us are experts and based on the expertise I have read, a lot of people have children, it has serious implications and the reason it does is because the industry hasn't explained or has admitted in fact it has done no health and safety checks, so on a purely on a precautionary basis, I think it's, as a local authority, we should, I think we should in principle agree the motion, by all means then pass it on to the SPC and have the discussion I am asking in the motion, but I think on a precautionary principle we should.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Then can we take the motion in two parts. What you have as part of the motion: 'It is proposed that a cross 5G advisory council or working group is established...' we also have the SPC. So if we can take the first part of your motion. Which would be Wicklow County Council has a social responsibility to serve, inform and protect the public and the environment from peak exposure to harm and therefore it opposes the royalties of unregulated 5G based on the precautionary principle, pending protective legislation by Dail Erin. Can we take that.

CLLR FORTUNE: That is fine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It's the Department of communications climate action and environment is responsibility for the health effects on radiation and I know the minister has looked at and that made new regulars for make the EPA. ComReg is the statutory body for the regulation of the electronic communication sector and ComReg has commissioned audit reports to confirm that licenses are compliant with their licenses. I am just saying this by way of background. They are covered by international guidelines for public exposure to electromagnetic fields for non-ionising radiation. It's reviewed by the World Health Organisation. The EPS is responsible for getting the inspection out.

The European Commission, and I won't go through them, they go through it, in relation to the queries on the electric magnetic fields and concerns from the 5G campaign, but that again can go to the SPC and we have our

planning policy in relation to telecommunications which facilitates the roll out of the national broadband plan and also the development of new masts and antennas in accordance with developments standard as set out in the appendix to the plan. I would say send it to the SPC and have a debate and come back with a recommendation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Matthews. Actually, can I hold it there. Can someone propose, I would like to propose a time extension that we will sit until a.30.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I second that.

CLLR MATTHEWS: I want to thank Cllr Fortune because I know a lot of people are concerned about it, however I am not too sure on what we are trying to achieve here and I am wondering if I could ask the proposers of the motion to explain how the opposition, how we would oppose this and what format that opposition would take? I want to know where they proposing a change of planning policy, in other words, that we would seek not to permit these masts and that is a change of planning policy which should go to the SPC, I would also ask would that contravene Government circulars issued in 2012. I don't think we can change our development plan if there is national guidance on it. Are we talking about having no telecommunication masts in the county. Because I don't know how we survive whether it's a 5G or a 3G or a 4G or a microwave mast or what kind of transmitter would go on the masts. I am not too sure. If we could flesh it out. I think the Chief Executive made a good point, this needs further discussion and it should be discussed at the SPC, I sit on that and I would be happy to discuss it.

CLLR FORTUNE: Now we are we are talking about two SPCs, can I just say, I agree with what you said a few moments ago, the second part of the motion can cover what Cllr Matthews is saying, it can go to the SPC, the environment and whatever is the relevant for that meeting or discussion, but the first part of it, should be put to the members, purely on a precautionary basis, because there is similar motions have been passed by four other local authorities and the indications are others are going to do the same. So I think it's a very mature and a very proper and indeed health and safety and in the interests of our children that we put the first part of the motion, as you suggested, to the meeting and hopefully we approve it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I understand obviously this happens every time when there is a big leap in technological advances, like we saw with the radio, people were freaking out with tin foil hats that it was going to damage their brain, things like that. But 5G has been researched by the World Health Organisation, it's been categorised as at the same threat as coffee. If we are going to ban this, I think we should ban coffee at the same time to make it equal. Currently 5G sends out 300 or less ghz, it takes 1 million ghz to cause cancer, so unless we got 10th G it will do no damage at all. Currently, but one thing I will say is we do need to look out for the masts because there will be an increase in masts and we need public consultation about where they go, because we don't want them ruining the beautiful view in Bray of the sea front, that is one thing we need to look out for and that is all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Just to answer Stephen Matthews's query about where he sees this going. I want to refer too Sligo County Council's motion which was passed and I would see ours, if it's passed taking a similar route, which

was that Sligo council calls, this was passed by the way. 'Delay the testing of 5G and 5G roll out in Sligo, call on ComReg to delay the licensing of the roll out, call on the minister for chases to establish the facts about the radiation impact of 5G, until a full assessment of the health and environmental with a report compiled and presented to the Oireachtas. '

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Whitmore.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thank you very much. I can understand people are concerned about this and when you look at the websites and what is available online there is some very significant charges being made on it and it all seems, there is a lot of science being thrown around on the different pages and so I spent quite a bit of time and I was trying to figure out, is there anything to the bases of this, obviously I am not qualified in this area, however I do have a scientific background, so my understanding of peer reviewed research, when I was going through it, I really couldn't find anything that I could pinpoint and usually when you went down the rabbit hole of these websites there was an anti-vaxxer, and I came across a.... there is allegations that there's a Russian conspiracy they want to stop it across Europe and the US.

So, there is a lot of conspiracies being thrown into the mix here and it's very difficult to figure out what is fact and fiction and I don't think that we are actually in a position to make that judgment and I do think we are going to have to rely on our institutions to do that for us, because we don't have the expertise. This could go to the planning SPC, we are going to be no better off, there is a lot of information and you would need to spend a lot of time to ascertain what is going on. Even when the name of Professor Tom Butler was mentioned, when I go on to UCC's website, his research interests are governance risk and compliance, so again there is another, I don't know what, where people are coming from and what their agendas are and their interests and what their actual expertise, so I don't know, I think we should rely on our institutions that we have in place to work this out for us.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I agree with Cllr Whitmore. It's my view, personally I don't have enough information about it, so to vote on something like that, I would find it very difficult to vote for it or against it, because I am not too sure the exact science about it and I am not sure what is right and what is wrong, the World Health Authority is saying there is no real risk to health, but I believe that, I think it's a reasonable suggestion that this should be deferred and sent to the SPC and brought back in a month or two where we can take a decision, because I don't believe that any of us are really informed one way or other and if it is put to a vote I will have to abstain.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I don't think any of us are experts on this by any mean, but I have a problem, my biggest problem with it is if hasn't. Until I am 100% sure that it's safe, I want it know if there is a mast beside my house, emitting something 24/7 when my children are living in that house and every person has a right to know if there is something that can't be switched on or off, we can all switch our wi-fi on and off, if this is rolled out it will be 24/7 and we won't have a say whether it's on or off. That is my problem

with it. I would like an independent study and I would push for the Government to make the right decision, I don't think it's up to us here, as Jennifer said, in the chamber to make decisions on this at the moment, we don't have the means to inform ourselves enough.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Look, listening to Cllr Whitmore and Cllr Ferris they are saying it's okay, but they are saying they don't know. I am saying because we don't know, none of us are expert, I didn't claim to be an expert in putting forward this motion, I put it forward based on gathered information and what I had read and what I understand and purely on a precautionary principle, I think we have to put, as you suggested already, chair, the first part of the motion for a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I suggested splitting.

CLLR FORTUNE: The second part go to the committee, but the first part be put to the vote, because on a precautionary basis we have to do that I believe.

CATHAOIRLEACH: After I said that Cllr Matthews came in with a valid thing saying should we not have more information, because what we are saying, therefore it opposes the roll out of unregulated 5G in county Wicklow based on a precautionary principle, we can vote on it if you want, or if the members want Cllr Matthews and Ferris seem to be suggesting we send it to the SPC and defer it and come back. So, do we take that as a, what is the word I am looking for? An amendment to the motion.

ADMINISTRATOR: It's a new motion really.

CLLR FORTUNE: I had a motion put forward that you in an a very intelligent manner recategorized in two sections which I support. I, as far as I am concerned with the motions, the motion, the second part of it should go to the committee which covers Cllr Ferris and Matthews input which was okay, but the first part of the motion, as you suggested, already, which I fully think should be put to the meeting and I repeat it again, we are saying we don't know, Cllr Whitmore is talking about science but at the same time that is not her expertise, so even if we looked at the schools around Wicklow and the towns, purely on a precautionary basis as adults we should be saying on a precautionary basis let's put it to a vote. I want it put to a vote because I want to vote on it.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Can I add even if it was referred back to the SPC, there is no one on that who is a scientist or a doctor or has electronic engineering, so what would achieved by coming back, they would be looking at the same research we have been looking at for the last couple of months. I don't think they would come back with anything affirmative or anything conclusive or anything we know more than we know here today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Sorry, what I would say is a lot of people who wouldn't have the same maybe particular interest in it, haven't made informed themselves as well as they could have and that if the SPC is going to look at it over the next couple of weeks or months, that they could go to all of the state bodies, they could go to ComReg and the Department of communications and climate action with the questions that have been raised here and get the information back and feed it into the members who could make an informed decision. I think a lot of people will vote here today, based just on a conversation, rather than own the amount of work that say

you and Cllr Fortune have put into it and I just, maybe feel that we are better off putting it to an SPC. That is for the members to decide. Does anyone want to propose that we put this to the SPC?

CLLR MATTHEWS: I propose it.

CLLR SCOTT: I second it.

ADMINISTRATOR: Seconded by Lourda Scott. We have two motions now.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we taking your motion in its entirety or half of it.

CLLR FORTUNE: We will take it the way you suggested it which I think was very good.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If we take Cllr Fortune's, most, the first half first.

ADMINISTRATOR: That is proposed by Cllr fortune and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh. The second part.

CATHAOIRLEACH: On whether we send it to the SPC.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The second one.

CLLR FERRIS: Could we have the wording for Cllr fortune's.

ADMINISTRATOR: Wicklow County Council has a social responsibility to serve, inform and protect the public and environment from exposure to harm and therefore it opposes the roll out of unregulated 5G in the county of Wicklow based on the precautionary principle pending the enactment by Dail Erin of the protective legislation. That is the proposal and the second proposal is seconded by Cllr Matthews and Cllr Scott is that it go, the whole motion go to the planning and environment SPC. Okay.

VOTE TAKEN

ADMINISTRATOR: So that is 17 for, 5 against sorry -- sorry 8 against, five not present and two abstaining.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Then we don't need to vote on yours. Okay, now, before we just start on the housing presentation there is a couple of quick items to.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number 9. To consider passing a resolution that Wicklow County Council sanction a borrowing of 1.28 million in respect of the housing scheme. Proposed.

ADMINISTRATOR: Seconded by Sylvester Bourke. Agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: To adopt the Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2018 which I presume you have read.

ADMINISTRATOR: It's come before you before, if we could adopt it today. Proposed by Cllr Bourke and seconded by Cllr O'Brien. To set a date for the annual budget meeting for the Wicklow County Council. That will.

ADMINISTRATOR: That will be Monday 25th of November starting at 10.00am, breaking for lunch and continuing until we finish the budget.

Proposed by Cllr Ferris and seconded by Shay Cullen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To consider the ratification of two elected members to the protocol of Wicklow County Council that is Cllr John Snell and Cllr Matthews.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Walsh. That is agreed. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, so housing, to receive a presentation on social housing.

CLLR BEHAN: What about the suspension. I don't mind it's up to the proposer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The proposer is Cllr Mullen. Can we take the housing and can you do your suspension?

JOE: Okay, this is to augment the information in the Chief Executive report. I suppose the size and complexity of housing it was decided to split the housing presentation into two parts. We concentrated last week on supply, sorry, last month, on supply, particularly in local authority supply and construction and HAP. Declan and Jackie are going to continue now. Declan is going to give a recap of the supply mechanisms and details the change from local authority construction to other forms of supply has increased supply. And there is a sum of the streams and the workflows involved and then Jackie is going to continue developing and understanding on the more traditional type local authority services. That was the plan anyhow.

DECLAN: Okay. Good evening, members, I will get through this as quick as we can. You are familiar with the five pillars of in rebuilding Ireland and Breege covered at the last meeting on the supply side of it and that is just to give an idea of how reliant we are on other supply mechanisms, besides our own build particular any in this year that a large proportion of our supply is coming from other sources. When we talk about approved housing bodies in addition to the two larger turnkey sites we have, we also have the central garage site in Bray which will be, it's at part 8 at the moment, it will be coming to the members in Bray shortly. We also have two other smaller sites in Bray, that are at design stage at the moment and we have a number of other sites under consideration, smaller sites, we also have the Carraig Eden development in Greystones. It's a development for Carraig Eden of 35 units supported living accommodation and that is, we have a contractor appointed and they should be starting in the next few weeks and we are hoping to have work completed within a year.

Another mechanism for supply is leasing, at the moment we have 20 unit, ten in long-term and ten in short-term. They generally, the owners get 80% of market rate and we are responsible for maintenance of the property. Then there is enhanced leasing which is managed by the housing agency, generally in excess of 20 units and they get a higher rent, but they have to maintain the property, it can be for up to 25 years as well. We have a lot of meetings ongoing with investors and development companies and we are look at various properties and sites around the county, so that is ongoing. Affordable housing, the Department brought out a circular a couple of years ago with criteria for what would make a site suitable for affordable housing. We assessed fine around the county and five were considered economically feasible.

They then brought out these service sight funds and they made an application for our service sight in Rathnew for a possible 20 units and we have been successful in that, so that is ongoing at the moment, we will have further discussions with the Department to flesh out the detail on it and we are also considering two mixed tenure sites for affordable housing. The allocation scheme was adopted by this council back in June and it's important to stress that like there is no point in people applying, there is no application process at the moment, it's only when we have an actual scheme available that we will be invited applications and that is when the scheme of priority will kick in at that stage. Acquisitions, we have a programme of them, we purchased 24 direct any in 2019 and we have 16 been acquired by

an approved housing body through a different funding mechanism. Our repair and leasing scheme, we haven't had a lot of success in that. A lot of application, a lot of interest in it, but for various reasons they haven't proceeded and in a lot of cases the properties, the work needed on the property exceeding the 40,000 limit, in other cases people decided to sell the property or do the work themselves.

There is also the vacant house scheme, we have been looking at that over the last number of years and we have looked at in excess of 300 properties and trying to trace the owners. These are properties that are identified through the census and other methods, through geo directory and local knowledge. We have reparations on nine of them and started the process on five. That is a slow process, but it is ongoing. Our existing properties, it's an ongoing, any time a property becomes vacant we generally upgrade the properties to the housing standards and we completed 80 in 2018 and 72 so far this year. So it's a rolling programme. There is a lot of work involved in it and we are expecting the number to increase significantly over the next few years as new properties are rolled out. In some cases people are moved due to overcrowding or downsizing or other reasons, so that then generates a vacancy we have to look at as well. It's a combination of contract and direct labour and we get a lot of help from the Municipal Districts on doing that work.

The housing grants, these are generally for disabled persons grants and older person grants. They are provided between private houses and council houses. Our allocation for private was 1.7 million and we are nearly a million so far this year, our allocation for council house was 500,000 and we have spent 423 so far this year. This also is, we feed it in with our allocation process, sometimes if we know from a grant application that somebody in a council house has a particular need, due to health reason, we look at our allocations and see if a move would be more appropriate than doing work on the house in that case. Energy upgrade works, phase 1 is ongoing, nearing completion now, we did 420 units this year, that is generally the houses that have a cavity that can be pumped and we insulate the attics as well. We have ongoing surveys mostly on Phase 2 and as part of that, a number of phase 1 houses are still being identified.

We have just ordered a contract for our first Phase 2 works which is in St Peter's place in Arklow and we have services ongoing in other Municipal Districts to roll out further contracts. The next one we are looking at is one part of Wolfe Tone square in Bray. Our allocation in year was 600,000 overall. General main continuance we are reviewing that at the moment. Generally the reactive repairs are carried out in the Municipal District. Central heating provision we had a budget of 150,000. All of that work is completed. We prioritised that based on age, to prioritise older people first for central heating and then we have boiler maintenance programme and electrical upgrades where works are identified. Inspection of rental properties, private rented properties, we have a target from the Department, which is 15% of our total properties and that includes all private rented, so it includes HAP, RAS and the inspection for housing need

and also then targeted inspections, risk-based targeted inspections, so that is ongoing. Over to Jackie.

JACKIE: Thank you. Joe mentioned I would be looking at the traditional end of the housing so we are all familiar with the concept of the housing list, that is where I will start. That is where we meet our clients first and foremost, when they apply to go on the housing list. The list is the list for social housing support, it's not just the list to get a council house.

So, at the moment, we have 4,248 on the list. Of that there is a sizeable number that are in RAS and HAP. So by virtue of people being in the list they qualify for RAS and HAP and all of those social housing supports. There is eligibility criteria there, they must demonstrate a need for housing and there is an income threshold which we have, on our network we have looked for review and it's under review nationally, but it hasn't actually been advised to us as yet.

So, under the scheme of letting priorities we allocate our properties, the members adopted the scheme in 2018, we had amended it to include choice based letting which was requested of us nationally. Applicants are considered based on the points system and or priority status, so you are familiar with the points system and the fact there may be extra points given for a particular disability or medical or compassionate or elderly. The way the allocations teamwork is that they liaise extensively with the RAS team, the HAP team and the homeless team. Just to give a better overall look to the allocations and try and maximise the stock with the people.

We do a lot of transfers and what was downsizing is now called right sizing, so if someone is in a four bed house and has a one-bed need we will look at getting the four bed house back and providing them with more suitable accommodation and then benefit to families in that regard. We are looking at reviewing it in 2020 again because at a recent review of our traveller accommodation programme on equality grounds, we, the TAP quota of 1:16 isn't contained or stated in the allocation scheme of letting priorities so we may have to go back and revise that to put that in there. Also, Declan mentioned the disability strategy and how the grand feeds into that. That is at the forefront of our mind, if a bungalow comes up the first area we will look to disability or elderly impaired.

This is a nice slide. This time last year it wouldn't have looked as good. You can see the allocations for 2019. I have included the AHBs, they are still nominated social housing applicants. They are nominated and they get a social house basically. They are in accordance with the scheme of letting priorities and the AHBs have to have regard to the minimum 1:16 quota.

So, it's the same as our social housing programme. As you can see there is a significant increase in supply which is very welcome. It's also very rewarding, in housing at the moment, that we are able to give out houses to people that have been on the list a long time and we are beginning to see progress in that area. The increase in supply impacts on every aspect of housing. So there is a significant increasing workload there. So that is like

266 allocations so far in 2019. Social housing tenancies, the differential rent scheme. The differential rent scheme is based on household income, it was last fully reviewed in 2016, the scheme was, we have been awaited a differential rent scheme for a number of years now. We are still awaiting it. We are considering a local review of the scheme in 2020 and we will be putting that through our SPC. We undertook a major rent review in 2019 and now our weekly accrual is... arrears are running at over 1 million and the team are working flat out on that at the minute. Estate management, again we have a tenant liaison officer, she deals with antisocial behaviour and issues raised by residents. She has established really enduring relationships with the HSE and Tusla and Garda Síochána. One thing we know about housing is it is not just bricks and mortar, it has to be a holistic approach. To this she sits on a mental health board because we have noticed a significant number of increase with tenants presenting with enduring mental health issues that we have to provide supports for them. She has a significant case load, trying to get cases into court for breach of tenancy. Again there is a huge amount of work with the Garda Síochána and we have a good relationship with them. The antisocial behaviour strategy is under review and it will be wrought to the SPC next year hopefully. On the nice side the State Development Grants we allocate them to improve estates. Incentives for tenants, purchase scheme and mortgage allowance, they are still ongoing, they weren't stood down.

Rebuilding Ireland home loan, I won't dwell on it. We have 265 applications this year, this is since its inception. We have approved 90, the decline rate seems high, but that can be declined by the housing agency based on credit, the ability of repay and other things that the applicant might have. That they could not sustain a loan. Obviously we need to have regard to that. Then on to homelessness. The members are aware we sit on the Mideast Region Homeless Forum and we had advised on action plan for homelessness, we are starting the review process towards the end of the year and it's our long-term vision for addressing homelessness in the region. Basically it plans advice and reports, it's strengthening preventative policies so we are all working together to ensure that prevention is key to how we address homelessness. It addresses the needs of the long-term homeless in long-term emergency facilities. Within the region Wicklow is the only one without an emergency hostel. Our budget, for 2019, direct expenditure we are looking at 800,000 of which 80% is recoupable under Section 10 funding.

We have had five presentations of homeless in 2019 to date. We have 37 families in total in emergency accommodation, including our own doorstep, that is when we use our own social housing stock, where families may not be able to avail of bed and breakfast accommodation for particular reasons. One of the queries that came up earlier was about children in bed and breakfast, these aren't the same families, there is transition in and exiting out. There is a constant flow. I think the statistics we have given on the Chief Executive's report, which show you the lengths of time that people have been in long-term emergency accommodation, but there is always key support work given to those in emergency accommodation to ensure we can

transition out the benefit of homeless HAP and they work closely with these, as does the homeless outreach officer. It's understood, you may not always see both sides of a story about homelessness. Some people presenting have complex needs that have to be managed and that have contributed to their homelessness and it can pose health and safety risks for emergency accommodation. If something doesn't look right, there is probably another side to the story.

One of the things we had written into the plan this time around was the data capture. At least if we can capture that that will inform us going forward on how we can put policies in place, for example there is a high level of notice to quit, we have people exiting from prison and how we deal with that. We have a lot of protocols we have to put in place as part of our plan and the data will form that process. The homeless help finder is very welcome addition to our team. I won't dwell on it, but just to say that it was provided to 57 prevention cases. That is significant. That prevented 57 households were falling into homelessness.

Short break.

>>: It's not just about bricks and mortar. We recognise that for example, some people are close to housing, day ever services in Bray. And we have a very good history of providing supported accommodation models throughout the county, we have a great success with transitioning from homeless, into medium supported accommodation and throughout to our shared housing. We have a lot of examples where it's worked and will continue to build on this model. We can't call it Sonas anymore, because they have left the county. We are going to have to rename it. We are caught up in legalities at the moment which we are reworking on, but I will keep you posted on that, we are trying to put the pressure on to get the legality sorted on this. The capital assistance scheme is useful scheme for us to progress because it works with target groups, disability elderly, homelessness and they have, we are going to have our first care lever, this is where children are exiting foster care and need to be assisted into permanent accommodation. Peter McVerry has purchased one of those.

We have identified an absolute need for emergency high supported accommodation in the north of the county. We have identified a property; we are at a preliminary design stage and we hope to have an application with the Department hopefully by year end to progress that by 2020. That has always been included in our homeless action plan and included in any strategies we talk about in partnership with the approved housing bodies. The cold weather initiatives, there were some queries on that, it's proposed to recommence the cold weather initiative. We have an agreement with Dublin Simon and they operate beds for us. It's a 12-bed facility, it provides night shelter. We have good occupancy last year, but what was crucial last year is that the key support work undertaken by the support worker, with

the clients, to ensure they are on the housing list, that they understood they could move into supported accommodation, so we are proposing to do that key support work prior to the CWI, we are starting with, with storm Lorenzo we had 7 rough sleepers that came in, that was good, showing they are willing to come in and use the facility. Sometimes a lot of the entrenched rough sleepers won't avail of the opportunity to come in.

That is it. Traveller accommodation, you adopted the traveller accommodation programme in September. One of the learnings we got, was that despite the media, the majority are seeking standard housing not traveller specific housing. Transient sites even though it's part of the culture and the lifestyle it's not a priority for travellers in county Wicklow, they have asked us to state that, that it's not a priority given the current priority and we need to concentrate on the current housing in the plan. There is an increased number of homeless travellers an increase in illegal encampments which pose costs for us for legal cases. The traveller specific accommodation is seen as positive action. 1:16 is only a minimum, in recent allocations it was more than that. We are looking to progress Rathdrum group housing scheme going forward and we hope to engage the AHA for travellers in that regard as well.

The Part A for Silverbridge was Deferred. My last slide will answer some of the questions on direct provision. This is where we are welcoming 190 refugees, these are Syrians and this is under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme it's nothing to do with direct provision and asylum seeker which is not dealt with by housing and Wicklow County Council. The committee is led by CCSD. All of them sit on it. It's the Gardaí, Tusla, the HSE all sit under that. We have formed a housing subgroup which is meeting tomorrow, just to nail it down. We have identified areas for resettlement, we have purchased extra houses and delivery by approved housing bodies has been identified as part of the solution and we are commencing the roll out of the programme, probably towards the end of this month. The programme implementer has been appointed, they are currently recruiting the workers. So a lot going on. That is me finished, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you for the presentation. One item which doesn't appear in the presentations is rural cottages. There they were something that was common in its past and were successful. I would ask we consider reintroducing them. You often have people who live in rural areas that don't have the finances to build or apply for planning to build themselves, but they have a bit of land they are willing to give to the council to build. Really these people want to live there because they have lived all of their lives there, their parents may live beside them and nearby and they really are discriminated against, vis-a-vis people who qualify for rural planning and can afford to build a house. I would urge this area be looked in again. I have come across a lot of places where people are in rural areas and they are doing something like putting a mobile home nearby because they can't afford anything else, they don't want to move into the town and they are in a dilemma and they are people who have land and a site that the county could avail of and take ownership of and receive rent. I suppose I am

disappointed over the last couple of year, it's few and far between and it seems to be something that is disappearing and I would ask that it be looked at again, because it could solve a lot of the problems of homelessness in rural areas. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I have a real concern that we are going to run out of time, so I am going to take them in sections of three, then Jackie can answer, so once the clock runs down, it runs down. Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Good news to hear good news around the social. I witnessed some good news recently. It's good to see that. About the emergency accommodation for North Wicklow, is that for families and single people? In light of the fact that a lot of responses to homelessness is based on single men, the traditional approach, where if we look at the stats 60% are families. We need to respond to that need. At the moment I was talking to someone, they said if someone is referred as a woman with a child they would be sent to a woman's refuge. So for families and women and children there should be emergency accommodation. The other thing, I know we are stuck for time I would have appreciated my motion that I have on the Notice of Motions there on the use of public land for social and affordable housing to be integrated with this presentation the same way that Cllr Fortune motion was integrated with the previous presentation, because it ties in nicely. My concern with our social housing provision is one that the bar in rebuilding Ireland T is too low. We shouldn't be aiming for that, we should be trying to do added value for that and if we are using public lands for private builds we need to be clear why we are doing that. I would agree with a tenure mix, but that can be social and affordable. The affordable issue is the most alarming concern. It's going to be a massive issue over the next few years and we need to address that. For me that means that public land needs to be prioritised for social and affordable, that being the mixed tenure.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I as newly elected councillor I want to thank Jackie and grainy and the team they have been such a great help to me coming in green. I would like to ask how fairly things are done. Is the points system for allocation of social housing, I have had a lot of people coming to me that have been there a long time on the list and it's something that is becoming aware to me is that there is a points system in place, I am not sure how it's assessed and what is the public knowledge of that points system. Sometimes the people that shout the loudest aren't the ones that need the help and how is that, is there an analysis of that, or are they sent out letters to show them there is a points system, do you tick these boxes, are you suffering from mental health and the different things and that would be something that I would like to be looked at.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Jackie, if you want to take those.

>>: Jackie. Cllr Crean spoke about the emergency accommodation and the singles versus families, the proposal for North Wicklow is a mix. The site would be a model of emergency, medium high support plus families. So we were looking at a low rise apartments or, of that ilk, so it wouldn't be just for single individuals. Yes, there is a huge rise in families. Homelessness. That has been a feature of housing crisis. It's starting to slow down and reverse a bit. The women's refuge piece, people only get accepted in there if they are fleeing domestic violence and that has to be part of the piece for them to be

selected there. I can't discuss a particular case.

CLLR CREAN: I can come back to you on that.

>>: Jackie. Then the points system, it's stated how that work, you get points for time on the list and each year you are on the list and location and points for medical grounds, you get points for, there is priority status within the list, so I can go through that with you.

CLLR LEONARD: It's not for me, it's the people on the social housing are they aware of.

>>: They are. We try and get extra information, do you have a recognised mental health issue, or do you have a disability. We try and get...

CLLR LEONARD: It doesn't intermittently.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It can't be back and forth like this. If the director wanting to come in.

JOE:: On the rural question, there is no scheme in the Department, I know the year last I discussed with them because there were a number of queries but there is no scheme, there is currently no scheme, all things are under the four stage process for larger schemes.

>>: Can I come in, you just said public knowledge and people shouting the loudest, there is always going to be conversations in public and on social media about who got what and who didn't get what. We stand over our scheme and we stand over our allocations that are done under the scheme that has been adopted by the elected members of the council. So the people on the list know they get, it's a points-based system. They know that length of time on the list is primarily how they are allocated housing and if there is additional information on their file that affects them, for example, a disability, there will be extra points afforded to them in that regard. So I don't know how...

CLLR LEONARD: It's a lot of people that I have spoken to don't...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. Declan, if you want to come in on the rural cottages.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you for the presentation, it was obviously an awful lot of good work going on, as a new councillor I appreciate hearing what is going on. Declan, I have a query on the statistic on the 300 vacant properties that were investigated and the Compulsory Purchase Orders on nine of them. It seems like a phenomenal volume of potential use that is in the county that we are, can't tap into. I was wondering is there any more detail on what is the delay or are they just not useable or is there any way of tapping into that resource?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Mine is two observations more than anything else, just thank you for the presentation and having worked in a housing department and more local authorities I know the absolute amount of volume of work that goes on in the housing department and it's to are that reason I suppose I am questioning the tenancies court officer and just one seems very little for the county or maybe I have misunderstood that, maybe it's more than one for the county. Just having that done that role previously and given some of the challenges and family challenges that are evident by the condition of some of the stock in the county, I would imagine that there would be a need for more there and the other comment is in relation to staff support, the staff that are working in the housing department, I am just, I

suppose I am wondering and again it's from working in this area, what sort of additional supports they are getting. I know from my own time working in this department, there would have been people working in the Department and it can be quite a challenging environment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: I like to thank you for the detailed presentation as well and all of the great work that is taking place. Just a quick question on turnaround times for relets, is there an average on that and is there a discrepancy for Municipal District to Municipal District and if there is a longer than expected average waiting time, is that due to budgetary constraints or over reliance on not enough contractors. Would you like to comment on that, thanks.

DECLAN: On the vacant properties issue, a lot of the properties weren't suitable for council housing. Some of them were too large, in rural areas where we wouldn't have a demand. So, we also have a lot of difficulty trying to identify owners of properties, some of them then after we identify them were put on the market or were let by the owner, so they weren't all suitable, as I say, we have about nine at the moment that we have recommended for CPO, where we feel that is the best option, obviously we try and explore other options and try and push repair and leasing, or offer to purchase straight out or try and encourage the owner where we can identify them to do something with the property themselves. So it's not to say they are all suitable for social housing either. On the turnaround times for the relet properties, it isn't generally due to budget costs. That isn't an issue, the average time it varies a lot. Some houses with can be turned around in a few weeks if there is little needing to be done to them. Or sometimes it might be a house that was done up in the last few years, but some of our houses they come back in very poor condition, due to the age of the property, not always due to the fault of the tenant and they need extensive works done and they could take eight or ten weeks to do. We have had delays with getting contractors, certainly, as contractors are very busy, we have to work off a framework for procurement reasons, so we are limited in the number of contractors we can use in different areas and they can be delayed. Sometimes the same contractor might get two or three houses and they have to manage between those, there is various reasons for delays. We do work to turn them around.

JOE: Just on the estate management, that is one person, but there is a team around that person, if you want to put a person that is a full-time job, but there are other backups or supports there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you for the presentation, certainly a reflection on the work that is being done by the housing section of Wicklow County Council. I know we are talking about one-off houses but one of the big issues we had a problem with from Dunlavin where we had no water in the past, to Kiltegan where we had water problems and Shillelagh and Aughrim and Avoca. All of these because of the fact we can't provide social housing in the future, because of the lack of facilities there.

It's creating problems for people having to go on to the list in Arklow or elsewhere and putting pressure on the Arklow list as well to be

accommodated and we don't have, our ability to be able to provide new housing for them in some small towns and villages. I know the CEO in the past here has given a commitment he would engage with us and with Irish water as well, with trying to resolve the issue of providing sufficient funding to upgrade the sewage systems in a lot of the small towns and villages. Thank you, chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Cathaoirleach, thank you, it was an excellent presentation and it shows you how hard the Department is working, it's probably one of the hardest working departments in the County Council. Just a couple of points there, the group housing scheme, when do you have a timeline for that? I met that family who are hoping to be the beneficiaries of a group housing scheme in Rathdrum and I would like to push that case as fast as possible, because they are a decent family and deserve to be housed rather than left where they are. Secondly, manager, why don't you continue and push for more social housing for the County Council, given that the €300,000 a week in rent is flowing into the revenue account, surely you would be able to balance the books better in the future if you had more social houses on your books, because I know from previous budget meetings you raided the housing rent generally used to balance the overall revenue account in the County Council and an extra few hundred houses in the housing stock surely would benefit the council's revenue account into the future? Rather than leaving it to the approved housing bodies to pick up the slack for half of the proposed expansion in housing stock in the county. Why aren't we doing that? And taking all of that for ourselves?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: You said there were 4,348 on housing support and unfair question and I won't get the answer today, how many are looking for social housing and how many are on low income that need housing support? That is the first question. The second question on the HAP system, I am aware of other councillors, there is extreme difficulty in some of the other properties. Now you have to check them in certain periods, is it ten months that is the time? Eight months. That doesn't happen all the time. I mean some of the accommodation is less than what you would like to live in. The problem is as some tenants say to me, if they are forced out of the house there is nowhere to go. So it's a situation that is a very difficult situation for the tenants. I have lodged some issues there and I want to compliment you Jackie and Joe. I have had my light on for a long time, I am just talking for a minute there. I think my light was going to someone else by the looks of it. I want to thank the staff for the work they are doing. In my opinion, most people on the council know how the points system work because it's been relayed to them on several occasions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you want to come back on this.

JACKIE: Cllr Fitzgerald said about the demand versus need. Traditionally we would say that the need is probably a third of the actual list that is traditionally how we worked it out. You can see a lot of people availing of social housing support, their housing need is deemed to have been met. So if you look at the fact that there was net of 2,400 outside of, that were in RAS and HAP. Their housing need is deemed to have been met, so you would take it that the other 2,000 would be in need of social housing

possibly. It's not an exact science. The HAP inspections, I will let Declan answer and the group housing scheme, the timeline for the group housing scheme that is referenced in the TAP. It's going to be two to three years down the road before delivery, but it's at preliminary design stage at the moment, it has to go to detailed design and we have to get KINA [?] Board, they do the liaison work with families and the site that is available would be available for building pending the completion of the Rathdrum scheme.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

>>: The numbers for HAP, I don't have the exact figures to hand, but I will get those, the up to date figures for the where we are at on the HAP inspections.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Thank you for your presentation, I just have to two questions. In terms of the work being done in Wolfe Tone or part of it, a constituent was on to me about whether her house was going to get done or not, it would be helpful if we could have the rationale for where what is being done and what the priority. I understand it can't be every house at every time, but I it would be helpful if we could tell them why. In terms of choice based letting, I know I asked you, Joe, and you said that choice-based letting is usually started in places where the allocation system isn't working, but are we moving towards choice-based letting in terms that it does give agency to people on the housing list, but it might stop time wasting so where are we at with the movement towards that and what are the challenges?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Again, thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you for the presentations, they illustrate the vast amount of work being done by the housing staff. Jackie, in your presentation, you refer to the increase on the traveller accommodation section, you refer to the increase in illegal encampments and just to elaborate, I know in our area we are dealing with a particular encampment and I know there was a legal process initiated and there was other arrangements in place to house the occupants. I was alarmed and concerned to get, to get a call in morning from a resident in the general area stating that this particular family have moved out of the site, but someone else have moved in and it's suggested by arrangement. So I am wondering the council's policy on securing these sites when these, the occupants move out for whatever reason, to prevent further encroachments.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Jackie.

>>: Just to go back to Cllr McManus. Choice based letting, we were obliged to put that into in our scheme nationally. We generally don't need it in areas of high demand because we have no trouble with people taking up allocation. But if we end up with houses in areas of low demand, where it could be decimated by someone who is on the list for two years we would look at a county-based approach for that and advertise out for choice based letting. It's worked in other areas, for example, Kildare is working successfully with choice-based letting, but again it depends on the areas of demand, how and low. It is contained within our scheme, so we will look at doing a pilot if it's appropriate to do so. Cllr Walsh, I am reluctant to discuss the legal encampment because it would involve discussing a family and as the housing authority I have to be mindful of that.

>>: Just the general policy of securing...

>>: If that is not notified to us we work closely with the guards. We would look at, recently the guards were able to use their powers to move families on under the miscellaneous provision act. If the people on the legal encampment, if people are illegally encamped are on our housing list and indigenous to county Wicklow, with very to be mindful of our duty to care to them as a housing authority. This is where the difficulty comes in. We have to go under trespass law, it's difficult to prove proofs and to get people who have witnessed incidents to stand up in court for various reasons, so it's quite complicated. The particular site you are talking about is with the law department at the moment and that is probably as much as I can say on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I won't delay. Just picking up on the last point that Jackie is saying, there is a serious case in existence at the moment with trespassing that is causing horrendous intimidation to a bunch of residents and it's scandalous at this stage that it's still being permitted. I have said this before in the chamber. I attended the high Court on two occasions in relation to it really and truly it's, I am astounded as an organisation we haven't been able to sort. It could be sorted out as we speak in the next couple of days because of things that are happening and I think it's essential that we do it to be fair to people, because we are not being fair to people.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I won't allow you to respond to that, because we only have two minutes in which time, if it suits the members we can go to item 8, to credit the adoption of the county Wicklow council litter management plan.

CLLR WHITMORE: What about the suspension.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go for the suspension, but this has to be done before 5.30.

ADMINISTRATOR: If we are doing it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So are people happy to adopt the litter management plan?

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, unless there is a reason for having to do it today I would prefer us to have a discussion on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, we will leave it until next month.

CLLR BEHAN: I am sure people would be interested in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John, if you want to speak briefly on your suspension of standing orders.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, chair. Is this working? Just, I was advised this was the best way to do it, but basically I will read it out, that Wicklow County Council notes the personal abuse and threats being made on social media against personal representatives, Wicklow County Council asks all public represent yourselves to be leaders in ensuring that bullying and threatening language is not used on line and ask their spores to engage in a respect of manner. Wicklow County Council also asks anyone who is being targeted on online to engage with Garda Síochána. Look, social media is used by all of us. It's a way of getting in touch with your constituents, you about there are frequent issues of people going beyond the line. I have been talking about it, we need to nip this in the bud at the start of a new council. Which want debate and engage with debate, but let's keep it polite and respect each other.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I know everyone is tired so I won't keep everyone all night. I do feel passionate about this and I thank Cllr Mullen for his motion. I spoke about this at our Municipal District council meeting. The reason I say this is over the last few weeks I have noticed it's got worst. I was going to say some of the older councillors, but they might say as a new councillor this is what you are signing up for, that doesn't mean it's right. In my other life, my role, I am the President of the referees in Ireland, so we are well used to abuse to be honest with you, but I have seen the other aspect of abuse online and I have had to visit my members in hospital after they have been beaten up.

So, I want to say as an elected representative I have every much right to be here as everyone else. My viewpoint should be taken as seriously as everyone else, as I take everyone's else's viewpoint, this thing of naming and shaming people on social media has to stop. We are a democratic country, I respect everyone else's here, I respect everyone else's opinions and all I am asking for is the same in return, so I would urge elected members to consider when they are posting things on social media or even in the media itself, to remember that they have families, we have families and the officials have families too and to bear that in mind. Thank you.

CLLR WHITMORE: Thank you very much, chair. I was really glad to hear my colleagues were putting in forward. Particularly over the weekend, there was documentation that was handed out around the Charlesland area in Greystones from a particular group who an anti-immigration, very much Ireland for the Irish type of group and I posted something on it on Facebook and I have literally spent the past day dealing with abuse online. It has now moved to Twitter and I will expect tonight I will be dealing with it on Twitter. I have been called all sorts of names and frankly it's unacceptable, but you can see that level of discourse, not just in online trolls but how we deal with each other as professionals in the social media sphere and I do think that we need to recognise that there are people behind, they are roles that we are all individuals and we have families and we are here to do what we believe is best and I think rather than knocking everyone down all the time that we should be just trying to work together for the people of Wicklow. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Maybe I have a slightly unusual experience in that I have experienced online trolling twice both times before I was elected, so once during the repeal campaign and once in the lead up to the locals and sadly it was to do with very personal things about the way I looked or my gender or sexuality and that made me laugh a little bit because if they don't have something to say about your politics they will go for what hurts. I want to share three things I learnt. The first thing I noticed that my friends were watching me to see how I would react and by taking some time to deal with what people were saying about me and to be resilient to it in the sense I noticed that other people then started to react like that as well and we need to be mindful that people are watching us, when we are getting abuse and how we handle it and we have an opportunity to showcase resilience in that regard. Secondly, I learnt that you have to have red lines so I just delete comments that are abusive. I am happy to debate policy and if people want

to question mark and I don't mind to be named if I voted for something and then being tagged why did you vote for that and I give my rationale, but I won't accept abuse, again that shows for young people, especially, you wouldn't let them be shouted at in the street, so why would you let them be shouted at or why should they let anyone shout at them on their pages. That leads me to my third point. I appreciate this is being brought up, because we know how bad it feel, so I can't imagine what it would be like if you are a young person being abused and you don't know yourself or you don't have your scaffolding of support, so I would like to keep an eye on this and maybe we need to lobby or make points for legislation to come in to protect our young people in that regard, but I agree we should be leaders and I appreciate that you put forward this motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I went into politics to help people and I was very saddened recently to see a communication that carried a message that upset my family and to say I was only in politics as part of a group to gain and what I got out of it and I am absolutely abhorred and so are my family. That message has gone out all over the place. That is not the way I am and I think the person that wrote it should apologise for it.

ADMINISTRATOR: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, just listen to the elected members, this is becoming an increasing issue as people use social media. I know you are talking about the difficulties that you people have experienced online, but just to say that we have an acceptable use policy in Wicklow County Council. The purpose of the document is to outline the policy for the safe, professional and proper use of Wicklow County Council's computing online and messaging system. The procedure applies to all users of the information systems and any services accessible from those systems by any users from Wicklow County Council. This includes permanent and temporary staff members, elected members, independent contractors and subcontractors and staff or partner organisations or any other user of the information system and related services provided by Wicklow County Council. So user of the information system are expected to abide by this and all other appropriate policy and procedure documents relating to the use of ICT systems and devices. So all users of Wicklow County Council's information systems and related services are expected to use these resources in an efficient, effective, ethical moral and lawful manner. That applies to always of us, I know what you are talking about is about the abuse and experience that you had and that is a huge issue, but I will circulate the acceptable use policy, it's no harm to recirculate so we can all recap on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, sorry yet again we didn't get through the agenda.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Behan's urgent question. So, Cllr Behan liked to ask the question the cost to Wicklow County Council of the event hosted by Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, the cost was €23,388. The value of the media covered was estimated to be €350,000, so based on the estimate the nationwide programme broadcast in July and based on sites visited by the Royals possibly generated another 300K. So they have a report here from the media consultant which says that internationally it's recognised that editorial in a TV programme on print and in radio is valued

at three times the rate card cost as impacts more people. So TV3, 5.30, 23 seconds.

CLLR BEHAN: That is okay, it was €23,398. I just want the cost.

ADMINISTRATOR: Do you want that circulated.

CLLR BEHAN: Yes, no problem.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There is a lot of motions that the council prepared answers to, I am going to ask you to send out the Notice of Motions, if you are unhappy with the answer you get contact me and I will get it put back on to the agenda. Or contact Lorraine and get it put back on to the agenda.

CLLR O'CONNOR: If you could do a special motion day, because it's so backlogged in a sense.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you get your, we will see how many there are, of what is there that come back and then we can look at that, one will he would have to have a special meeting. Certainly I won't do that until January because we have a meeting in our budget meeting is going to be in November and then we are going to have our council meeting in December and we are not going to meet Christmas week, so it would be, if we are having a special meeting for motions it won't be until January, but if you look at your responses in the meantime and we will see how many motions are and we will try and get to them.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Okay.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Can I ask a motion, the 5G motion be circulated can I ask that the result of the 5G motion be circulated to other councils?

ADMINISTRATOR: If you want to.

>>: Thank you.

ADMINISTRATOR: It wasn't agreed at the council meeting. She it's gone. Of course we have protocol here now.

End of session