

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD VIA
A ZOOM CALL

ON

MONDAY 11TH JANUARY 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

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JUDITH MELEADY

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon everybody, can you all hear me? Can I just start off by wishing everyone a happy New Year. It's a different type of New Year and we are where we are, and we'll keep working for our constituents in a safe manner. Before I get into the agenda, I would ask Lorraine to do a roll call.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you Cathaoirleach. (roll called) Okay, mobile phones should be switched to silent. It's advisable to locate yourself in an area where there will be no interruptions or distractions and please do not leave the online meeting without notifying the Cathaoirleach. Please keep your microphones on mute. Frame the camera correctly so you can be seen clearly. Members should inform the meetings administrator by telephone if you lose connection in accordance with the provision of standing orders thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Lorraine. Now votes of sympathy.

CLLR O'NEILL: Sean Crowley of Arklow. Sean passed away two-days ago and he was secretary of the Irish amateur boxing association for many years and

secretary of his local club in Arklow and secretary of the Wicklow county board of the IABA and I would like to offer my sympathies. Sean was a lovely man and very helpful to all the clubs in the country and offer my deepest sympathy on my behalf and I know was a popular man in the Arklow area and my colleague Cllr Fitzgerald knew him as well and Sean was very grateful for the help that Cllr Fitzgerald and Wicklow County Council in their help over the years with getting their premises to the state that it is it's a great club. So, Sean will be really missed, and he worked right up. Although he was in his early 90s, he worked right up to the last for the boxing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There's good few hands, Cllr Cullen is next.

CLLR CULLEN: I would just like to send my condolences to his wife Susanne and family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Cullen. Cllr Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: My Sympathies for Peg, two of her sons work for Wicklow County Council and great well-known person and sad to see her go. Thank you, Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Dunne. Cllr Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I just want to go back to Sean

Crowley who was a personal friend of mine and hugely involved in the boxing club and Arklow Credit Union and a great asset to the community. So, I want to offer any sympathies to his family, and he is a huge loss to the town.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Fitzgerald. Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Sympathies to the Byrne family on the sad loss of their mother Louise. Her husband is a long serving member of the fire service. So, the Byrne and Monahan family and Louise's dad Shay passed away. So extended sympathies.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Walsh. Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: It's okay. Cllr Dunne already done for Peg.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to offer a vote of sympathy to our fellow Councillor, Sylvester Burke and his family on the sad passing of his father.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Timmins. Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: I'd like to offer a vote of sympathy to Michael Lawlor on the passing of his wife Greta and I would like to pass sympathy to Michael and Erin. So, I

am sure all the members here, you will know Michael, or you will know of Michael and you will join me in this request.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan did you want to come in?

CLLR BEHAN: It was just in what Ann said in relation to Michael Lawlor's wife Greta.

MS GALLAGHER: There are a number of staff. Gavin Brehan and Larry Roe and Alice Doyle and mother-in-law to Mary Doyle and Annette Jameson and I would also Cathaoirleach for Sean McCourt, Mark and for Lila Faulkner a sister of our colleague here in Wicklow County Council.

CLLR KENNEDY: I would like to offer sympathies to her family and thank the members for their condolences and for myself and the family on the passing of my father over Christmas.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: I would like to pass on sympathies to the Burke family and the Lawlor family on the death of Greta. Also, to the Wilson family on the death of their son Anthony Wilson who passed away last week, his father is an outdoor staff member here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Vincent. I would like to

add to that to the Kerins family on the passing of Maura from Rathdrum. So, we take a moment to remember the families and the pain they are going through at this time. Item number one on the agenda is to sign the minutes for the meeting in December. Proposal for that? Proposed for Cllr Ferris and can I have a seconder for that? Cllr Wash.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To consider the disposal of 0.0237 hectares, 0.059 acres or thereabouts of land situating in the townland of Templerainey, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms Teresa Enright, Ballymoney, Arklow, Co Wicklow as per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Tommy Annesley and seconder for that? Seconded by Cllr Bourke.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed by all? Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number three is to consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest by way of transfer order in property situated in the townland of Wicklow being 17 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow to Mr John Sexton and Ms Louise Sexton, 17 Seafield, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow as per notice previously

circulated. Can I have a proposer for that. Cllr Dunne and seconder? Cllr O'Brien.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number four is to consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest by way of transfer order in property situated in the townland of Ballygannon, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow being 34 Centre Road, Ballygannon, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow to Mr James (otherwise Seamus) Driver and Ms Helen Driver, 34 Centre Road, Ballygannon, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow, as per notice previously circulated. I am familiar with this one so I will propose that myself. Can I have a seconder? Pat Fitzgerald.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Number item five. To consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest by way of transfer order in property situated in the townland 38 Mountainview, Blessington, Co Wicklow to Mr Eugene Tyrrell, 38 Mountainview, Blessington, Co Wicklow, as per notice previously circulated. Can I have a proposer for that? Cllr Glennon. And seconder? Cllr Cronin.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number six is to consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest by way of transfer order in property situated in the townland of Knockanrangan Lower, Arklow, Co Wicklow being 37 Fernhill, Arklow, Co Wicklow to Ms Elizabeth Doyle, 37 Fernhill, Arklow, Co Wicklow, as per notice previously circulated. Can I have a proposer for that? Pat Fitzgerald. Can I have a seconder? Cllr Bourke.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 7. To consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest by way of transfer order in property situated in the townland of Corporation Lands, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow being 10 Glenside Road otherwise 10 Colley Row, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow to Ms Margaret Duffy, 10 Glenside Road otherwise 10 Colley Row, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow, as per notice previously circulated. Proposal for that? Cllr Snell. And seconded by Cllr Dunne.

MS GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 8. To consider the disposal of the Freehold Interest by way of transfer

order in property situated in the townland of Arklow, Co Wicklow being 38 Fernhill, Arklow, County Wicklow to Ms Mary O'Neill, 38 Fernhill, Arklow, Co Wicklow, as per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Annesley.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number nine. To consider the disposal of 0.2017 hectares or thereabouts of land comprised in Folio WW4484 Co Wicklow at Property No 293, Plan 18 at Millands, Coolafancy, Tinahely, Co Wicklow to Mr Martin Hennessy and Ms Eleanor Hennessy, Millands, Coolafancy, Tinahely, Co Wicklow, as per notice previously circulated. Can I have a proposal for that? Cllr Blake and seconded by Cllr Mullen.

MS GALLAGHER: Agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number ten is to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report, December 2020.

CH. EXEC: Just mentioning a few items first, Covid-19, we have an increase amount of staff now working from home that are contactable by email and mobile et cetera. The offices are opened by appointment only. Libraries are online and there is a

very good home delivery service, and the recycling centres remain open and planning continues as normal. In terms of roads and our own road staff, we're doing emergency works only. Critical infrastructure in terms of roads is allowed to proceed. So TII and NTI decided their schemes will proceed. So, the various footpaths they will continue. In terms of housing, the housing projects will close but there are exceptions for schemes completing and will be completed by 28th of February. So, there is allocations ongoing there and it's just snags to be completed and similarly Jameson Heights in Kilmacanogue, it will be allocated by Bray in the coming week. Rathnew, similar and a bit of work to be done and Killbride Lanes there is 23 completed. FCA Hall, Wicklow Town close to completion and a project in Greystones that will continue and Fairgreen Manor in Dunlavin most units are complete and Rathcairn House in Baltinglass will continue and Cecil Oaks in Wicklow and Granville Hill in Tinahely that's currently being finished. So, the rest of the schemes will stop until the end of the month. Second thing I would like to mention is the town and village allocations and good schemes approved there and remedial works on the village blocks, Lara, adaptation

to facilitate digital hub and big one for Scotford for the provision of community shop and cafe and meeting places and housing units and playground. And Avoca development of picnic areas and Annamoe footpaths and safety measures and last item is the fire stations. We did well in the fire services capitals allocation and one for Baltinglass to commence construction in 2023 and one in Dunlavin to commence from 2023 and both 1 million Euro and one new fire tender. Take the rest as read Cathaoirleach, take any questions.

MS GALLAGHER: Just before we proceed. This is our first statutory meeting held by zoom and just to advise that the press are present thank you Cathaoirleach.

Cathaoirleach are you on mute?

MR CURRAN: Yeah, he is on mute, I think.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you hear me now? Cllr Lourda Scott did you want to welcome in.

CLLR SCOTT: Just three points I want to raise. I welcome the opening of the new Greystones Park before Christmas and this was something very much anticipated by local residents for some time and a very valuable resource as we go into other lockdown and it's been very widely used. I have already had complaints of littering and overflowing bins and I would ask that

Wicklow County Council ask SISK, who manage the park, to provide a litter management going forward and particularly in the summer months when there will be increased footfall on the cliff walk. Myself and Cllr Doyle were notified of an incident where staff members were not wearing masks, and this is a breach of guidelines and I was just wondering if you could state what the management instructions are to the staff of all the council's recycling measures. And thirdly back in September 2019 I raised the question of the provision of sign language interpretation. I was just wondering could you update us on the progress for this matter? Thank you, Chief Executive.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will take them in three, Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Just one question and I mentioned to the Chief Executive about turnkey projects when we advertise for turnkey projects should we just be more specific in areas we're looking for or against because one developer is unhappy, he has been turned down in Rathnew and it's something we should be more sure about when we advertise.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, I would like to

compliment the county planner staff in the effort for securing funding for the fire stations in Dunlavin and that's very welcome and is there any update on when the rural regeneration fund will commence particularly in relation to the streetscape and the parks as well, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Timmins. I will bring the Chief Executive in now.

CH. EXEC: Thank you, just in relation to the Greystones we'll have a look at the litter situation and management plan and bring it to the attention of SISK. I wonder if we're better off without litter bins and force people to take their litter home. There are guidelines with regard to face masks and that's been issued to all staff and staff have been trained and we have three or four people employed to travel the county and carry out inspections to ensure people are complying. So, if there is any issue, we'll follow up on that and ensure there are no breaches, but we have people employed to look after that. The sign language skills we'll have a look at that in terms of the customer care centre and I will come back to you on that the Cllr Bourke in terms of housing, turnkey, there are some areas where we don't have a demand for housing so obviously it's not a

priority but maybe in future adds we'll be specific in the areas where we do have high demand. The IRDF tender documents are almost complete and I will come back to you with a start date on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Chief Executive. Cllr Dunne. We can't hear you; you are muted.

CLLR DUNNE: Can you hear me now, just a question on lighting. Airtricity seem to be carrying out a lot of work around the place and I am glad to see that, we have a number of sites, one in Ashford there by the school going out by the Coop and a number of sites where they have done some work but it's taking a long time for the ESB to come back and power up the lights and I am just wondering would it be worth our while to invite the ESB into the Council to find out why it's taking so long. It seems to be taking a period of time. The one in Ashford, it's a dangerous stretch of road and we really need to prioritise that. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: First of all, I just want to get clarification on policy and playgrounds, are we in a position to leave them open or should we have them closed? The second point is I want to congratulate

late Michael Nicholson and his team with the recent announcement of the town and village funding. It will make a huge difference and it's very much welcomed and my third point is probably more serious point, I am sure people are aware that the uplands areas were inundated with people parking in what is well outside their five kilometer radius and it caused a lot of difficulty and there was cars abandoned and the weather was poor in terms of ice and snow and I know the Council had been putting out messages in terms of the Sally Gap being impassable but we need to emphasise or enforce to people they shouldn't be outside their five kilometer zone. It was scandalous what went on, it was absolutely crazy, so just in terms of our communication Chief Executive, if we could keep that communication going in conjunction with the Gardaí, that's important.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Mags Crean

CLLR CREAN: Just to thank the Chief Executive for all their work and now with schools closed again staff with under more pressure and they are always professional, and I would like to put on record thanks to them all.

In relation to housing there is two part-fives listed for Greystones but there is a lot of development in

Greystones. Part fives were not included, and I wonder if it's possible to get a report or something in relation to this in writing, so I have information on the issue. Two, in relation to housing just to put on the record that was a housing development approved at Greystones MD level for a site in Greystones that I opposed on the basis that there are biodiversity issues. So, I would like to put that on record here that I still have concerns about that decision, and I wonder if there is any way it could be visit for discussion. Three, just coming to the ICT, it's great to have the press here but I am concerned with zoom meetings, I know there is a live stream, I have looked at that and it's not very accessible in terms of literacy and older people and people with impaired vision. I think if we look at some kind of webcast or something, I think it's a major omission and an issue for us. In relation to environment, the last environment, 2020 it was discussed at a designated bathing area. At the end of that meeting it was agreed it would be looked at so just want to know what it means in terms of timeframe and finally from relation to procurement. This is back and forth in relation to green and social value. I just want to see, and monitor are we implementing it out.

I did get an email back to query I raised about the kind of social value criteria, green criteria used particularly in the active travel and the mobility schemes and Colm came back but, in the plan, there is KPIs around the number of tenders, so it would be great to get quantitative data. It's really important we start taking note on that on our procurement.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to the Chief Executive.

CH. EXEC: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, just in relation to the lighting we can certainly get the ESB in here. We can raise those issues and I will ask Colm to come back in relation to that. Policy and playgrounds are the same as the national policy which is to keep them open. So that's what we're doing at the moment and they have their different reasons for that in terms of kids playing but that's the national policy. The uplands area I agree with you, we're in constant communication with the Gardaí and if they ask us to close the car park, we always do it and that communication will be between us, but I agree with you, we need to get the information out to the public as well because there were some dangerous scenes over the weekend, so I take that on board. Cllr Green, we can

get a report on the part five in Greystones, what is coming through and when it's likely to come through et cetera. The ICT issues, in relation to that, we have the live streaming in addition to the zoom and the live streaming is something that's effective. Staff et cetera will look at that and it's more cost-effective as opposed to webcasting. In relation to the designated bathing areas, we'll certainly pass on to the environment section and procurement, it is a policy number four in your procurement policy, and it's passed on to all our consultants. Sometimes it's not always possible to get a particularly green option but we will get to that and together with what you requested there in relation to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just to relation to the meeting.

MS GALLAGHER: This is our first statutory online meeting, the press are present. The public are not precluded, and we have the live text streaming, and we are the only county council in Ireland that does that. However, we'll keep under review the area of live streaming our meetings moving forward in terms of cost.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine.

CH. EXEC: Just in relation to the housing schemes

approved in Greystones, we agreed MDs would approve their own part eight. So, it's done and dusted and voted by the members and doesn't go anywhere else after that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: I had a couple of questions on mostly on the roads and that was the roads section doesn't mention there are certain other things in the capital budget, there was also other things in the 2004 levy scheme, Delgany Road improving and the other point in relation to enterprise and enterprise centres, Cairn are due to supply one of the enterprise centres as part of the development. So, it's useful and there are some questions over the dog park as to whether or not people do or don't agree with what was built even though it did get full planning permission and we need to try when a company is supplying something as part of a planning permission, we should get on top of the specification of it and it should be imminent. I would like to get on top of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Just in terms of the energy efficiency and just wonder if it's possible to put in some of our targets so we get a sense of progression and we'll be

judged on those. So it would be nice to get a sense of it in terms of progress and otherwise just to say, congrats again on the county wide magazine and also give some credit to all the Lier stuff, it's something that's very prominent and you can see by the data and stats that the Enterprise Office is doing is really important and valuable job and the last thing I would say is, the community response forum as well doing really important work and I imagine this will continue and all the commitment to having cohesive response across the county is having an impact. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Just the phase five lockdown period in March, April what contingency plans are in place in relation to tenants paying their rents? Bear in mind we're back in that situation, just to prevent that figure rising again to a large extent. The other question in relation to the outdoor staffing levels and I raised this at the budget meeting. There is an increase of six in the last year, I mentioned in particular the situation in Greystones where the outdoor staffing levels have been depleted and there was a promise there was two new operatives to be supplied there. So just wondering,

the finished goods, if there is an update on that and the last is on the -- or the start grant plus schemes and the ones approving but not paid by the end of November. So just wondering if those have been paid in the interim?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Walsh.

CH. EXEC: Delgany to Blacklion, I know the CPO is ongoing and the whole intention is to proceed with that scheme. In relation to the enterprise centres, we have seen quite a high-quality design and one is a community enterprise centre and the other is an office block, they haven't come back since but it's part of the planning permission before moving on, they have to build the enterprise centres, so I will come back to the members on that. In relation to the energy efficiency, we have the solar panel starting here in the Council Cash Park and we have the foyer, the energy standard was improved there, and the members rooms were all fully insulated, and a lot of work has been done in the fire stations. So, a lot of progress being made, and we would have a done a lot of energy retrofitting, so we'll have windows and doors and roofs and heat pumps et cetera. So, all that will increase our numbers, so certainly including that in the Chief Executive's report.

Just in relation to housing arrears, last year we had a rent review and always people's rent goes up et cetera and arrears go up, but they usually level off after a year or two. COVID hasn't helped and door to door collectors aren't going out. So, we're trying to get people on a household budget and direct debit and payroll deduction, just to make contact with all our tenants in relation to how they pay their rent when we don't have that service and hopefully when COVID finishing the rent collectors will be out there something and it's something we're working on. The restart grant. I think it's all paid at this stage, 15.8 million has been paid out between restart and restart plus. The staffing members, we have replaced/filled all the vacant GSS posts, so there are people acting there and they have all been filled. So that resulted in about ten two posts and we took on six extra last year and that's moving on and we'll replace that as we need and that's the workforce plan that's agreed with the unions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks for the report, last week we had very poor weather and a lot of rural roads, a lot of them don't seem to have been gritted enough to relation to keeping the roads safe for users and I was

aware I thought we had a winter emergency plan where there would be gritting points for local landowners, but they have been depleted and have not been restocked in quite some time. So, I would hope you could attend to that and follow on from that in relation to footpaths and footpaths last week were quite treacherous with people trying to access pharmacies. It might be an idea to have public access points for gritting in various villages and towns in the county reviewed to make sure we have quick and easy access to that, even for volunteers to do it to keep the paths safe. And finally just the Pure Project which is as we all agree a flagship project that this county spearheaded, has only been renewed for one year and it's seeking a multi-annual budget and I think it's one of the projects that this county can really be proud of as regards a project that's led by Wicklow and could be easily rolled out nationally in regards to managing our environment and tackling illegal dumping and I hope you are following up with other local authority colleagues to make sure the Minister has just to sign the multi-annual funding and does so as soon as possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I just can't see them. I

see Cllr O'Neill up there now. Sorry, Cllr Fortune. I didn't see you. Sorry.

CLLR O'NEILL: Just if I can ask the CEO regards the COVID and the list we have there as regards housing developments that can continue, what is the case with other developments, housing developments? Because of what regulations are in place to enforce that? Because in West Wicklow it seems some work is continuing on estates and they are not covered in that list. Number two, just to echo what Cllr Mullen said there. In the West we have had a fairly treacherous roads and how well are we prepared for bad weather in rural roads and the sand and salt we would usually have out, and we did start with yellow bins a couple of years ago that could be placed in areas that are needed for gritting and I think that we should redouble our efforts that these yellow bins are in place in rural areas because it can mean people having to get out or not get out. There are some areas around the lakes or whatever and we have them at the bottom of the hills or the council staff know where they would be, but I am a little bit concerned, do we have the amount of salt and sand for a bad winter if we do get something like we got three-years ago?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Neil. Cllr Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: At the beginning of the report the CEO said about staff working from home which is good to hear and also there is mobile numbers, and will they be distributed to the relevant councillors and also great to see the report on the mobility allowance, but I have one or two questions on it in the sense of, I know there was public awareness about the availability of the grants. Is that telling me that all the applicants have been fulfilled and there is, I suppose, funding there? And if the money hasn't been spent will we lose that, or will that be carried over? For priority applicants to say the very low level, has that been fulfilled? Also just like to say it's great to see the customer service being put in place and how it's working, and will this be reviewed to see if there are any pitfalls that can be improved going forward? And is that housing grant available in the sense of heating and insulation and is all the stock brought up to standard and one or two dealing with some damp issues and are there grants available for that and going forward this year will our own stock, all levels be able to be brought up to standard?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Murphy.

CH. EXEC: Yeah, just in relation to the housing stock, we'll be surveying all the housing stock and the idea is to bring all the stock up to B2. So, it may mean revisiting stock and that work will be continuing in this year, 2021. In relation to the housing grant aids for people with disability, we can only go into houses where the people will allow us in and dealing with emergencies at the moment but any grants that were approved will be honoured and that scheme goes from year to year. In relation to accessing staff. If you contact the main customer care desk if they are at home, it will be transferred to the home and a lot of the senior staff have mobiles but there shouldn't be any difficulty contacting staff. In a lot of cases if you ring the number of the staff member and they are working from home it transfers automatically. The housing just Councillor O'Neill, just finished at 6 pm on Friday and in some cases just had to do works today to close them up but the only exceptions were social housing which could be finished by 28th of February which I mentioned earlier. It's not up to us to enforce it. The Pure Project, I don't think there is a problem with ourselves and I will check with Wesley to see how that's going. In relation to the roads and the

footpaths, I might ask Colm Lavery to come in on that one. The yellow bins and the grit, certainly something we can look at. Footpath repairs we're allowed to under the restrictions. I might just ask Colm to come in.

MR. LAVERY: Thank you Chief Executive, we have the winter maintenance plan in place, you will see the group written map is set out in the magazine so you can see the route, and which is grit on a daily basis. We have been made aware in some areas where a farmer asked for supplies of salt so they can grit local roads and private roads. And where possible we provided those supplies. So if there are particular areas in the Baltinglass some of them have been brought to our attention and I followed up on that as well and normally where there are yellow bins in place those stocks have been refilled but if there are particular areas of concern either let myself know or the district engineer know and we'll do our utmost to get supplies of salt out there but just to say we have been doing double runs in the last week or so in terms of the bad weather that we have had. So, our gritters have been out at least twice at night time. There is no gritting tonight. Thankfully, there is a rise in

temperatures, but we have a maintenance plan and we're fully stocked with salt and we hopefully will be able to meet any of the bad weather events that may come our way this year but if there are particular areas please let us know and we'll do our best to supply salt to those areas. Maybe when I have the meeting as well, just to refer back to the LED and the public lighting, it is fair to say we're having difficulties with getting the ESB to attend to faults. We have a lot of faults actually fixed ourselves by SSE Airtricity and we're waiting ESB to attend where there are cable issues that we can't deal with and we're fully aware of that issue in Ashford and a number of councillors and members of the public and we have been on to ESB into terms of trying to speed them up in terms of getting them out. We'll continue to push that as well and SSE Airtricity are also using their contacts in the ESB to speed that up. In terms of the faults, there is a bit of a push to try and get those down. The figure you have in the Chief Executive's Report states there is just under 500 faults that figure is down to 381. So, we're at 2.56% of the stock of public lights currently out and these include the ones ESB are required to fix. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thanks Chief Executive for your report, as usual it's very comprehensive. Can I wish everybody a very happy New Year and hopefully the mad virus disappears as quickly as possible. Just to start with housing and perhaps if I could get some kind of maybe some more detail on the capital advance leasing situation. What is the programme behind that and how is that delivered to us and can I also get an understanding of what the pipeline is for part five housing that's coming up and maybe particularly in the Greystones district area but in general I would like to know and also in the homeless supported accommodation, what is the current situation for homelessness? It's still a very, very serious problem. And just again like some others mentioned on the energy efficiency upgrade, I would like to know what the plan is across our own district in particular and what the plan is for that and also I would like to suggest at the next meeting we would talk about climate change and how we're impacting it in our decisions because the recent decision that Cllr Crean and the CEO referred to, I think that was a really disgraceful decision and perhaps you might confirm

that we're going to indemnify the residences in Burnaby Court, Lawn, Avenue and Millbrook and are we going to inform the insurance company based on that decision that there is no floodplain there because there was the bases of your decision? So, some other questions as well Cathaoirleach. Can I get an update on the tourism strategy and where are we with it and what is the plan over the next four to five-months? And the Glendalough Master Plan and just to get a picture on what is happening there and also the Wicklow Naturally Training, what is behind that and what is involved in that and also the food poverty? Can we get more detail on that one? And finally can I just say well done on the restart grants, I have received some feedback, very positive feedback on that and I think that's been dealt with very well and we have done a super job and as a local authority in general I think we have done a super job in regards to the whole COVID world we're living in right now and I would like to thank all the various departments that are doing great work but there is obviously lots of questions that need more detail so maybe Chief Executive you will come back to me on each of those.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much Cathaoirleach I just have a few questions, firstly thanks to the staff and all the communities in their successful projects for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and we had great success with the Stratford project for the community cafe and we have great news with the two fire stations. So, thank you very much for all the work on that. I also just want to echo Cllr O'Neill and John Mullen on the gritting situation and the only other thing I wanted to mention was Irish Water, we had Councillor clinics, I am still waiting for a reply. So, thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Sorry, I was on mute there.

Happy New Year to everybody and I would like to echo Cllr Fortune's desire that we'll get through that pandemic as soon as possible and get back to normal. I have two issues I want to raise; they are not necessarily from the CEO's report but very important one is five-years ago there was a meeting held in the Grand Hotel about the coastal erosion and all the local TDs were there and there were assurances given that something would be done such as funding sought. I'm on the Greenway Committee and I know it may or may

not happen, in the meantime the coastal erosion is continuing and the whole of the Wicklow Walks, the Murrough and it would be a disaster if anything happens to it. So, given there was assurances given five-years ago is there any way that funding could be sought to put groins in along the beach which was the recommended solution, and it was given to us by a consultant and came up with a plan and break waters out in the sea or groins along the beach. If you look at old photographs about a hundred years ago there was groins along the breach, just cement blocks to halt the waves hitting the delicate shoreline and take the impact out of the waves and I think they would have a huge impact on the Murrough, and I would like to know in there is any plans to seek any funding to do that because five-years passed and nothing has been done.

Second thing just back to Cllr Scott about communications boards in the new council offices, I have had a request from a parent of a nonverbal child to me to see if communication boards could be erected in one playground in every location. These communication boards are particularly free for use by children with various kinds of disabilities, any on the autistic spectrum who can't communicate verbally but

can communicate on these boards and I think given the number of children who use these playgrounds I think it would be hugely beneficial. So, what I'm really asking is, can some kind of funding stream to tap into to seek these boards, they have recently been installed in Meath and they have been very popular and well received and I just wonder if Wicklow can do the same?

CH. EXEC: That sounds like a good idea and certainly something we'll investigate and come back to you on.

On the coastal erosion there is a daft feasible report done covering the whole coast of Arklow right up to the Merrion Gates, it's funded by Irish Rail but also ourselves and the OPW have been involved in it and its various proposals, for the area you are talking about its offshore break water but it's a different solution in different areas, it's only just complete and it's with Irish Rail and their board at the moment. It's going to be big money. 200 million to cover the whole coast but it's necessary to protect the rail service and also in terms of the Greenway you mentioned. So, it's something that really has to be into the next national development plan, it's a big scheme. What I will do is I will contact Irish Rail and Arup Engineering and see if we can get a presentation but there is a lot of work and

proposals done and cost benefit analysis and preliminary costs. Just going back to Cllr Fortune. In terms of Wicklow Naturally that's a company that came out of the Wicklow food strategy. So, looking at food producers in the county, they are looking at the training which is something that you mentioned in providing training for each other and training in general. They are looking at possibly a food distribution centre and a food integration centre and linking into the Dublin market. And they looked at food poverty and they have done a mapping exercise in relation to that. What are the issues and what can we do about is it and they are looking at food waste, maybe we'll get a presentation for the full Council in relation to that. In terms of tourism, one is Glendalough and that's been led by Failte Ireland and ourselves and I know the Wicklow Municipal District and local stakeholders' group is meeting on the 21st in relation to that. It's the whole national park and the signage and what is needed, and the advantage is they have the grants, and they will be the people giving out the grants and there is a very good chance for funding, so something we need to be careful about ourselves and liaise with them, but consultation is difficult. The

other areas that they are looking at in terms of looking past COVID and what do we need in terms of accommodation and hotels and guest houses and holiday homes and hostels et cetera and what is needed and how do we attract people into the county. So, there is a report done on that and the other side is making town centres more attractive and a lot of work there in terms of the public realm and the other area is marketing. A lot of it is online and the focus at the moment is the summer season for 2021 staycations. So that's the stuff that's happening at the moment in terms of tourism and working continuing and meetings are on zoom but there is a lot of stuff there look beyond COVID and seeing what we can do. On the housing I might bring Joe Lane in if that's okay Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

MR LANE: Okay. Cllr Fortune sent an email regarding those and you will get a specific reply on that but on the issues raised. The flood report and the clarification given to elected members including the one on the continuation is the commitments that the local authority give. Anything else is a matter by the private company and that will be dealt by email to you.

It might be better giving a -- I can go through the capital advances scheme, it's a funding mechanism for approved housing bodies where they get a percentage of money as a grant and then they pay repayment and availability. I might get a website and forward it to you individually or do we want to detail on that. I might be better off breaking it down and giving it to you rather than going through it today, it's just a mechanism for the approved housing bodies and they can have two methods of funding house, one is the capital advance scheme and the Newtown scheme with be an example of that, and the rest is a funding, it's a mechanism paying a mortgage that they take over 20-years. But depending on certain areas and depending on the rental value in the areas, the percentage of the rental value or the shadow rent based on the market value of the area may not fully pay the mortgages and they are issues and therefore they also get a capital advance, but I will give you a better report on that, just more of an explanation and we'll also give it to the SPC also. Part fives, yeah, they look on average we're getting about 25 to 30 across the county a year. We'll include it in the Chief Executive's Report. The problem is sometimes we

won't be able to give the commitment per area because sometimes there is a timing issue between when we think we'll get them but included in the report for something like the amount given the previous year compared to the next year and then the amount per area or something like that. But it doesn't, amount per area will be a bit problematic.

CLLR FORTUNE: Just on that --- there is a massive amount of housing being built in Greystones.

MR LANE: You have to accept it is 25, it's 25 last year and the year before. There may be some in the future in the scheme but that's what we're getting and it's on the rebuilding Ireland website.

CLLR FORTUNE: Does that answer all the questions I asked? You are going to answer me separately?

MR LANE: Yeah.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you Joe.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLEESON: Thank you for the report and I would like to join on welcoming the two fire stations in Baltinglass and Dunlavin and I know there was a lot of hard work and I would like to acknowledge the Chief Executive in that decision and yourself Cathaoirleach also involved in addressing the inadequacies in those

two stations. So, in regard to the money for Stratford, I think it will make a tremendous difference to a small rural town in West Wicklow and I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of Minister Donnelly in making sure it wasn't forgotten about on this occasion and it's important to acknowledge inputs when they are meaningful. I know he worked hard on it on behalf of the committee. Finally, I was going to ask Colm about the white line at the top of the Wicklow gap, but the weather is too -- I would like to thank Breege and Pat and Dermot and their work has been tremendous, and no holds barred in getting the job done here by all of them. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: The first one is in relation to the purchase scheme, still a question there over it. On page 9 of the Management Report there is a comment that social housing on Council owned land, there is a preferred proposal identified. Could I have some indication on what it means? And the last point, there is a lot of criticism in terms of social housing completions and it's only fair to acknowledge the work that's been done by the Housing Department in completion of housing, whether it's rapid build or own

build or turnkey but a huge number of houses have been delivered and it's good to see the projects out there will be completed and people are desperate to get houses and it's important we continue, so thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Blake. Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you and thank you for the report. Just two things, we're delighted about the town and village money and want to thank the staff for all the support they gave us on putting in the application. Several years money and application has been put in for the town clock restoration and the community garden is going to be great and there will be a part eight on the pedestrianized area. The other point Cllr Kavanagh was saying about the community boards and we had a motion in about community boards. So that was proposed and granted at the last CCSD meeting, so hopefully after Christmas Mike Nicholson will look at getting those in the playgrounds so we're delighted that was passed. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Not a lot of questions in those two so I will add in the next two speakers.

Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, in relation to the report that's with Irish Rail on the coastal protection, the Chief Executive said he understood it's with the board at the moment. It's been with Irish Rail and delivered by the consultants since August, that's five-months ago. If they are not going to read it, can they just give it to us, and we can read it. They cannot take five-months, surely, we're as entitled to have a look at it and five-months is completely unacceptable.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Winters, Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you and I want to thank the Chief Executive for his report. A lot of good work done in Wicklow Town at the moment and there was an announcement before Christmas in relation to the Abbey Grounds and I just wonder has there been an update on that situation?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, I will bring you back in now.

CH. EXEC: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, we had some queries from the parish priest and hopefully that will progress in the right way. We'll be hoping that we can

advance that, and we have a grant of I think it's 500,000 from Failte Ireland. So, the report on the coastal erosion, I will try and get a presentation in relation to that and I will contact Irish Rail and it's something we need get out there and it requires significant government funding. So, it's something we need to push, Cllr Blake, the tenant purchase scheme, the reason it doesn't succeed is people don't have the income or they failed the income test or have existing commitments and the scheme is applied as fairly as it can. Unfortunately, we're governed by the rules. There is an appeals mechanism in place. Building council houses on council land we have built a number of houses; 1,321 I think it is in total at the end of 2021 and there will be a new programme starting after that. So, we'll be going out to buy more, land and we'll continue to do that. I think that's it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Chief Executive, Joe did you want to come back in? Okay. Cllr O'Neill. You wanted to come in there on something. You need to un-mute Gerry.

CLLR O'NEILL: Yeah, are you there? It's just my colleague and friend Cllr Glennon, he has high praise for a Minister from Greystones in regard to interference

with funding. I don't think it's appropriate that any Minister would get. I don't think we should be promoting any TD from that side of the county over here and in regard to interference with these projects and grants, I didn't think it's right. So maybe we might be better leaving these lads out of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr O'Neill for that comment. I don't think there is anything else showing on the Chief Executive's Report, is there anybody else showing, I think I have got everybody. I don't want to leave anybody out. Okay thank you. Just my own comment on the Chief Executive's Report, I would just like to acknowledge the work that the Chief Executive and the directors and management team and all the staff. The work they are putting into all the applications for funding right around the County. I would like to put on the record and thank all of the staff and yourself Chief Executive and the management team on behalf of all the Councillors present. So, thank you for that. Item number 11 on the agenda is to receive a presentation: An introduction to proposed local authority climate action training programme, Tuesday 29th January 2021 and climate action update from Wicklow County Council. Alan Dunney, are you

with us? You are very welcome and thank you for taking its time to be with us today.

MR. DUNNEY: I will share my screen.

(comfort break during presentation).

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Alan and thank you for the presentation, there is certainly a lot of work going on in the background and its very important work and work we all need to engage with, Alan I have to bring in our own Director, Breege Kilkenny. Alan, can you stay with us for a few minutes?

MR DUNNEY: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, so I will bring in Director Breege Kilkenny.

MS KILKENNY: Thank you very much. Can you hear me. I will just share my screen. Everybody sees that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. We can see that.

(Presentation)

CATHAOIRLEACH: And thank you for that presentation and it was most informative and most enjoyable. Can I bring in Cllr O'Connor?

CLLR O'CONNOR: I just wanted to come in as the Chair said, to say how proud we are to have that

information laid out. As you know this is a new SPC and we went through a storm, general election happening and losing our two Chairs and then a pandemic and even with those two things happening all members of the SPC have been working really hard and well. Just one comment which I think could be applied to other presentations in the future from a Council perspective is to have all the sustainable goals in the corner, so we know they are being followed. That's a really good habit to get into, thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thanks, Breege and Alan as well for an excellent presentation but not a perfect one either. There was a lot covered but there were a few gaps in it there that I would just like highlight where I would like to see for consultation with the farming sector. There is no information on what the farming sector are doing to mitigate climate change. I would like to see more of a hand in glove working together. Just to caution about one thing, it's gone a bit casual in the way of, let's throw out glyphosates. It's a very important part of farming and a lot of tillage formers are considering switching from ploughing to direct drilling which means no tilling and the huge amount of diesel that's saved in

that is colossal because the build-up of carbon in the soil. It needs the use of phosphate for the destruction of the weeds before drilling and it's something there is not enough awareness of, and I would like to see members keeping an open mind on this because a lot of farmers would like to switch to the tillage system.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Just to thank all the Climate Action Team. It's a pleasure to be working on the SPC group, there is great cross-party cooperation and the other SPC members, as we work towards a common goal and that's reflected in the work that was shown in the slides here, just worth mentioning as all the work progresses and new policies have been drafted, conversation must be kept at the forefront in Wicklow County Council as to staffing levels. It's great to have the work being rolled out and a policy on paper but they must have bodies on the ground to put them into effect. I was glad to see the awareness and education piece highlighted and I wonder are these presentations available for the public. I am contacted regularly by the public and it's just so important to keep informing the public of what work is being done and bring them on the journey with us. So just like to know if the

presentations are available and if they can be sent to the elected members and spread them on our own social media pages. In terms of the roundup, I hear what you are saying, in terms of what we're doing in climate SPC is looking at Council's use, in terms of spraying around spaces.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thank you very much it was a really interesting presentation by both of you and there is obviously a lot of work going on. So well done to the climate action SPC group. My point is in relation to glyphosates and having account to farming and reiterating what Cllr Scott said, my query is in relation to the Council's use of it outside of farming. In time glyphosates will be ruled on in Europe and Ireland is still one of the only countries still using it and it may be banned and there will be an alternative substitute product. But you mentioned the foam stream is going to be rolled out in Bray. I would really hope following quickly out from that it will be rolled out in the other districts as well, it's just not healthy and it's not good for biodiversity and it's not unknown that wherever it's been sprayed there are bodies of bees and other pollinators found, it's even happened in the estate

where I live and it's shocking given that the demise of pollinators is and how important it is to keep them alive because if anything happens to them we're in serious trouble. So, I really want the foam stream to be rolled out as soon as possible. Thank you. Breege
Kilkenny: Cathaoirleach, do you want me to answer any of those?

MS GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach are you on mute?
You go ahead and answer that, if you want to come in.

MS KILKENNY: Grand, so just to address the issue and yes, Cllr Bourke and Cllr Scott are correct. This is just in relation to the Council's use and also, to address Cllr Kavanagh's query, we have purchased the foam streaming as a pilot in order to get it in here because as you know we have to follow through the procurement process. So that will be part and parcel of this year is to actually follow a proper procurement process and, but we needed to find out the effectiveness of its use to begin with because as you know dealing with Japanese knot weed there is suspicion as to whether or not the foam stream will be effective in its use. It was also a way for us to get to started. So, the Bray Municipal District just showed its initial interest to get it off the ground. Maybe we can

rotate it until we get our framework up and running to the various districts, I am particularly interested in its use in Blessington and the Baltinglass district as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you hear me now? Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you and brilliant presentation and very insightful and just again, I give, I won't with over what Cllr O'Connor and Cllr Scott said in terms of the recognition as a member of the SPC myself agendas are only as good as the team driving them and we have a serious team there compassionate and passionate about this issue and one thing I was going to ask Alan in terms of the roll out of the training, how important do you think it is? There is a broader team and that's all the senior elected members of staff and it's critical that everyone sees themselves as part of the team and sees a role for themselves and one thing that strikes me is the tension in politics about short termism where there is an emphasis or focus on short termism and there is always a tension there in terms of the political life span. Like if you can comment on that. Thanks, Cathaoirleach and I know it was the first thing you said, the climate was the thing that stood out in terms of their contribution to Wicklow as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr O'Brien, Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: I just have three questions. One is in relation to the pre management piece and the community planting, it's good to see that and hopefully there will be more data on that and secondly the public lighting. I think the LED rollout is brilliant. Are there any plans to improve smart lighting just in terms of being safe? And thirdly then in relation to the climate change piece and proofing, I know there was a report done in the States and the UK had one around local authorities' stock and public housing in the US context, where those houses were most at risk because they were usually built on bad land or floodplains. So, are there plans to do an audit of the local authority stock in relation to climate and flood risk?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Crean. Alan can you take this one from Dermot and if you want to take Cllr Crean.

MR DURNEY: Just before I go to the two most recent ones, the round up for the glyphosates, I would say all counties are trying to do trials on how best to replace glyphosates and Kildare County Council are trying to get so much research off the ground with Maynooth

University. So, I might talk to Breege and Mary about that to see how we can coordinate that work. In terms of the training Cllr O'Brien, it's an extensive training programme and all 28,000 staff will get training and it will be available to every member of Irish Local Government and it's only one of the many tools I suppose that Local Government is using. You have climate action mainstream through your corporate plan. Wicklow were the first county to establish the climate action SPC and there are the climate action indicators and there is the training and there is mainstreaming climate action through the delivery plan and getting it down into everybody's PDPs and working with the existing networks to get into us communities and older person's council and PPN. And all we'll do is remove one more barrier that's there, so for me it's a bigger mainstreaming piece. It needs to go into everything we do. But definitely it has, like you have seen the presentation there from Breege and the work that's going on in Wicklow is amazing. And on the housing stock there is no real plans to do a reasonable review of housing stock in terms of flooding or anything like that. A lot of that work has been done by the OPW. So those GIS layers are available if an audit is

required, I suppose would be my answer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thanks, can I bring in Cllr Fortune now.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, first of all just thank Breege and Alan for the presentation, very informative and very well I would suggest, put together. I suppose the one comment I want to make, I think the training aspect of this is very important and I personally, as some members might be aware, I get frustrated when we get a whole lot of information that seems to be fantastic, but we haven't been told about it. I would ask that all of the members are kept totally involved and up to speed because at the end of the day we're the ones going to end up pushing it and driving it in addition to the staff. So rather than trying to spread it to the world which is fine I don't want to see any of the members excluded. Cathaoirleach thanks Tom, can I just thank Breege and Alan for the presentations, there is a huge amount of work going on. So, can I thank you for that and wish you every success and please continue to educate us as you move forward because we all need to be part of it moving forward. So Breege thank you for all the work you and your team are doing and Alan all the work you are

doing. The climate, we have to look after it because we need to hand on to the next generation. So, thank you for all the work you are doing, it's something in the last couple of years we have all got interested in, but I didn't realise the volume of work you were doing, and I did enjoy your presentations. So, thank you very much for all of that and everyone would be in agreement with me for all the work you are doing.

CLLR SCOTT: Can I ask that all the presentations are made available to the members?

MS KILKENNY: Absolutely. I will send them on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going move on. To ratify the appointment of Cllr Erika Doyle. Proposed by Cllr Ferris and seconded by Cllr O'Connor is that agreed? Agreed. Correspondence Lorraine. Do we have correspondence?

MS GALLAGHER: After the meeting in September, we received an acknowledgment from the Department on Monday 21st of December. Elected members will have been circulated with correspondence from Andrea Dunne. So they were circulated with an email on 6th of January about the requirement under legislation to return your local elections of disclosure and it has to be back by 31st of January and this morning you would

have been circulated with another email asking you to complete the declaration of interest and that's required by legislation and it has to be back by end of February to the ethics officer and then elected members were circulated with correspondence from the department of health dated 24th of December 2020. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine. Members I am very conscious of the fact there is a lot of notice of motions, I am going to try and get through some of those. So, the first notice of motion is Cllr Lourda Scott. So, Lorraine I am going hand over to you.

MS GALLAGHER: This is Notice of motion on the name of Cllr Lourda Scott. It's in relation to the issue of period poverty which has been raised in the Oireachtas by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus. This petition has been referred to the Department of Health and that Department sought the views of the Strategy Committee and the extent of period poverty in Ireland, particularly schools and universities, students and homeless and those in direct provision and recommendations for possible measures to address the issue. A subcommittee has been established and chaired by an official of the Department of Health and

there is a representative of the local authority. The subcommittee met on two occasions. Dun Laoghaire and Dublin City Council participated in two pilot projects. It's recommended that Wicklow County Council await the report and recommendations of the subcommittee and the national strategy committee on a sectoral response to the issue. In the meantime, it's suggested that matter can be referred to the Community Cultural and Social Development SPC for consideration. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Lorraine. That answers that. Item number two is Notice of motion on the name of Cllr Anne Ferris and Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR SCOTT: Can I just reply to that please, I just want to make the point that I think we can involve ourselves and help the people in Wicklow who experiences period poverty at the moment while we wait for the subcommittee to convene. We have a serious pandemic going on at the moment which is accentuated the problem with period poverty, and this is noted by Homeless Ireland and I acknowledge what Lorraine said in terms of the subcommittee and there is a commitment in government to providing free sanitary products in educational settings. However, at the

same time we have to acknowledge the study which showed 50% of Irish teenage girls find it difficult to find period products. So, what I would like to propose while we're waiting for the recommendations from the subcommittee we can still as a County Council provide a basket of towels and products. I have been working with Lorraine Hunt, so I would like to propose that we still go forward with that proposal rather than sitting back and waiting, I don't know if it needs to be discussed further or the Executive is happy with that.

CLLR FERRIS: I want to support Cllr Scott and I think it's very timely. I hear what Cllr Scott says in response to the official reply to the notice of motion and I think we shouldn't wait until committees meet on this, there is an urgent need for this motion. We should take action on this motion. Showing leadership in Wicklow County Council is very important and I think there is enough of us women on the county council to be cognisant of the need for young women and teenagers have this need and there is indeed what they call, a period poverty in the country. Dublin City Council and Dun Laoghaire Council did adopt a motion similar to this and put in place the products in their public buildings and I think we shouldn't wait. I think

we should show leadership here now and go ahead with this while we're awaiting the reply back. I note, it's going to be referred to the CCSD of which I am a member but that probably won't meet for two or three-months, so I think we should take action and again I thank Cllr Scott for bringing the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine can you come back on this.

MS GALLAGHER: I have been keeping in contact with my colleagues and other local authorities, Wexford County Council piloted in their library and I think Cathaoirleach if you leave that with myself and I will liaise with Deirdre Whitfield with a view to progressing it further. Is that okay?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Item number two is Notice of motion on the name of and again Lorraine can I ask you to come with the response.

MS GALLAGHER: In relation to the accessibility of the website and the Council aims to have an accessibility website to assist blind, visually impaired and on occasions PDFs are uploaded and such files are the signed minutes and agenda of meetings. The files are originally PDFs and you can upload unsigned minutes

and agenda to the website. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CLLR: It's great news, this motion has been down since November 2019, I think. It's great news it's will be more accessible because as you mentioned the Lorraine people who are blind have difficulties in reading the PDFs and they are entitled as anyone else to access the files uploaded. So that's good news again and perhaps at maybe next month you might give us an update on it as well. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Can I just say thank you for putting that motion in and it's items like this that will come under our accessible and inclusion committee and I think it's great to see other councillors bringing forward motions like this instead of me always. But also, it's commenting on any documentation that the council is sending out. Whether it's the full Council or there are the districts for our own staff. We need to be conscious of large print and all that and even at our events we need to be conscious of that. So, it's a way forward but I think it's great to see that motion. Really appreciate that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number three is Notice of

motion on the names of Cllr Grace McManus and Cllr Dermot O'Brien. Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: This relates to figures in relation to child homelessness. The data on homelessness and breakdown of clients in emergency accommodation is in the Chief Executive's monthly report. It's not considered to have it as a specific agenda item and also to note that standing orders sets out how the order of business is discussed which is agreed in advance with the Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that's answered there to be fair. Sorry, I think if you listen to the response it was answered. I am moving on because we never get through.

CLLR MC MANUS: Cathaoirleach, sorry, I have been waiting for a year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'm sorry Cllr McManus, this has already been answered.

CLLR BEHAN: A person that puts down a motion is entitled to speak on it. The Councillor is entitled to speak on their own motion, and you are completely out of order Cathaoirleach to prevent the Councillor speaking. We should hear what she has to say.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr McManus go ahead.

CLLR MC MANUS: The motion calls that we would have space to discuss the data as a stand-alone item on the agenda, not forever but because of the numbers that I am seeing in child homelessness every month, I think it is it constitutes an emergency, and we need the space to formulate a response to the emergency. I see it's in the Chief Executive's Report but we're not getting to drill down into the issue and not getting to monitor the issue and I want to make sure we're looking after our staff who are under pressure with those numbers, 488 presented up to November 2020 that including children and that's during a pandemic. So that is emergency levels for me. So, I am asking is that it's on the agenda as a stand-alone item, there is so much in the Chief Executive's Report that we need to talk about and that's really important work but so is this and I am very worried about what message we're sending out if we don't prioritise this issue, what could be more important. So, I am asking if the other councillors agree that we create that space to take action and respond to the numbers we're seeing in the Chief Executive's Report.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It's a fair point but the point is, Chief Executive can you come in?

CH. EXEC: We'll keep it as an item. I know we had a presentation, and we'll get something from the housing SPC in the next month to deal with housing in detail and maybe do one on the construction programme and one on the other housing issues and deal with it in detail on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I think we should have an opportunity to have a vote on this particular motion Cathaoirleach, unless Cllr McManus, you are happy with what the Chief Executive just said there now?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to go back to Cllr McManus are you happy with the response?

CLLR MC MANUS: I'm happy to bring it to a vote but if Councillors want child homelessness as an agenda item, I am happy with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy. You are muted Miriam.

CLLR MURPHY: That one was my last one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. I think there is somebody else trying to come in. Cllr Leonard, did you want to come in?

CLLR LEONARD: I just think it really is a baseline and there is an awful lot of unseen homelessness and

things being masked and its baseline of who we are as a society and it's a very real problem and I commend Grace for bringing it to all of us.

CLLR CREAN: Yeah, I appreciate you have to chair the meeting and keep us on time but when there are motions for over a year, I think it's extremely unfair to not giving her a right to reply. I have a motion sitting from for a year and I would certainly like a right to reply.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine can I bring you in.

MS GALLAGHER: The standing orders. Standing orders or resolution of the Council for transactions at such meeting, other business set for in notice of convening the meeting and notice of motion and Cllr McManus is looking for a space to discuss the matter of the homelessness figures and that space can be created within the Chief Executive's monthly report. I suggest we have a protocol committee directly following this meet to go discuss it there but if the members wish for a vote I can.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, there is an awful lot of stuff we have to get through each month and there is an awful lot of important item in the Chief Executive's Report. I don't think we should be highlighting

something as well as when it's in Chief Executive's Report. I think it would be useful and people can ask questions on it and I think it would be useful to have a presentation on what is being done in relation to it at a meeting, but I don't think it should be at every meeting, that would be my view.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR MCMANUS: The reason we have put this to a motion is to see if people feel it's necessary, so I think I would like to go to a vote on it because I think it's necessary to have as an item. It's so important it should have a place on the agenda. So, I would like it to go to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, obviously it's a huge issue and everyone knows that. But the reality is that the spaces created there on every meeting through the Chief Executive's report, we spent an hour and 20 minutes on the report alone, the space was there to ask any question on any item and particularly the item and if we go down the road of putting it in, this will be an item on the agenda, as long as I am on the Council for over 11 years there is always homelessness. Governments are all trying to deal with

the issue and we in Wicklow County Council are doing the same. Cllr McManus is a member of the SPC the same as myself. This is an item on the agenda all the time and I believe the presentation the Chief Executive asked we provide in the next meetings would be very worthwhile for all the members because everyone needs to grasp what is happening in Wicklow County Council particularly on this issue but right across council and I think you are setting a dangerous precedent and if it goes to a vote, 32 Councillors will all vote for it, I do believe the reality is any member is free to ask any question on the Chief Executive's Report and that goes for homelessness the same as any other issue and previous speakers have asked issues at most Council Meetings and got the same answers, doesn't stop them asking the same question.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have three more speakers and there is three minutes.

CLLR WALSH: Could we have a report or a presentation on the next meeting or the February meeting on the issue of housing and in particular to focus on the issue of homelessness and we can revisit it thereafter.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Walsh. Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yeah, just picking up on what Cllr Snell was saying, I think the managers' report should be three-hours rather than one and a half hours. It's such important work for all of us and we should compromise on what Cllr McManus asked and I think a compromise is we should agree what she's proposed for the next three-months and I think it's a very serious issue and it does deserve that attention.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy no. Lorraine can I come back to you on that. Sorry Cllr Ferris. I didn't see you.

CLLR FERRIS: How do you miss me with the purple hair. I want to say that Cllr Grace McManus, I know it's an issue very close to her heart and she's spoken about this at the Bray Municipal District meetings but I honestly Grace if you don't mind me saying so, I don't agree we put it to a vote because the perception will be if we don't vote for the motion it will show that we don't care about the problem but that's not true, but it could be swung that way and I think the item would be on next month's agenda on that part as you said Frank, the part of the Housing Report that will cover homelessness. I think we should listen to that and Cllr Snell is right, it's on the Chief Executive's Report, Joe

Lane was sitting in on the meeting, but if you put it as a separate item on the agenda you are setting a president because some other Council might want something else. So, what I would say to you, can you leave it, even if you withdraw your motion and you know, that there is no decision you can withdraw your motion and we can have a listen to the housing item presentation that we'll get at the next meeting and then we can come back to your motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr McManus is that all right with you because we're just out of time.

CLLR MCMANUS: Well, I think, I am happy not to put it to a vote, but I think Cllr Fortunes suggestion of it being an item for three-months, this is a precedent I would want to set. Every month for about a year I ask questions about child homeless figures and we're seeing them on the increase every month. So, I do think we know more than that space, I don't want to divide the members and not interested in spinning it anyway and I have listened to what people have to say, so as a compromise for the next three-months there will be a small part of child homelessness and if it's not adequate I can resubmit the motion. Is that agreeable?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that's agreeable and I want to thank you for your understanding on that and look. Members we're out of time, we have just gone five. I would ask you to.

MS GALLAGHER: I make it ten to five.

CATHAOIRLEACH: My watch is a minute past five. Apologies, my watch.

MS GALLAGHER: You just got ten-minutes back of your life.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I didn't realise it sorry. It's green on time, I think you are right. So, we'll take another one.

CLLR O'NEILL: I had my hand up there, I am very supportive of what Cllr McManus motion there, but I would agree with Cllr Walsh, in West Wicklow we don't even have accommodation for people who are homeless, emergency accommodation and it's something that's very important. So, I would go along with Cllr Walsh's approach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We're on a hundred percent with Cllr McManus on this. Item number four is a Notice of motion on the name of Greystones Municipal District Councillors. Lorraine?

MS GALLAGHER: We have received a response in Irish

Water and the reality is fountains are considered a commercial connection and subject to sections application to Irish Water and will be subject to commercial water charges. These section supplies are regulated under the CUR regulator. While as an organisation we can promote the reduction of single use plastics. The above position may change at some point and we're keeping in contact with Irish Water, that's the answer to the motion Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thanks Lorraine. Does somebody want to come in from the Greystones district? Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: I hear what Lorraine is reading out to us but it's not Lorraine's fault, but I think it's a ridiculous response.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Anybody else? Cllr Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: I just want to echo what Cllr Fortune said, we can't pursue water conservation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is it something we should be bringing up at the clinics with Irish Water and something we should be asking our colleagues as well. Item number five. Notice of motion on the name of Cllr Mags Crean.

MS GALLAGHER: The Gardaí do have powers to deal

with such events, the law and public order offense is set down in the criminal justice public order act 1994 and it deals with how people behave in public place, it's an offense if you don't comply with the Garda's requests. The opinion of the law agent has been sought and a local authority can make by laws in relation to the use, operation or protection regulation management of any land. Where it's of the opinion that it's desirable in the interest of the common good to do so, that the activity or the matter should be regulated or controlled by law and any nuisance should be controlled or suppressed by law, but a byelaw may not be made under the subsection. So, firstly just in relation to that, when the council makes a byelaw it excludes lands other service not under its control and a byelaw may not be used by purpose and the third one is the Council has duty of care to its staff and employees and the suggestion of enforcement of which a byelaw would oppose a risk to staff or agent of the Council. And any issues concerning posters and leaflets are governed by the litter act of 1997 and the opinion of the law agent is it would be ultimate.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks Lorraine, it would be happy to

keep the motion for the next meeting but just to make a quick reply. I put the motion in was at the beginning of COVID when there was an issue in the media, so at the moment there is a little bit of a space to look at this and I think that that legislation is going to take some time to come and when it does there will be delays and we need to show a time and already people question function and powers of local councillors we need to say we have a roll above and beyond and we have powers and functions, there is the whole issue about the byelaws so same argument could be made they are covered by the Gardaí and our criminal law but we can still make byelaws like those, if they do where we feel it's in the common good of the local community that the activity are other matter needs to be regulated or controlled and if you look at the UK there is this approach until there is a more national approach and I spoke to some organisations over the last number of months and there is support there for us to look at something like this as a valuable interim measure and I just would like to get a bit more of a debate than just the end of the meeting and just to make it clear it's not about going back to an issue that's already been debated. It's about discussing

access to health and women's access to health and that's the way I want to frame the discussion thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Lorraine.

MS GALLAGHER: Normally in my experience in relation to byelaws when there are issues of complaint or incidents, I am not sure Cllr Crean, you and I had a long conversation about it, and I know where you are coming from.

CLLR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, I would oppose that motion in a big way. The right to assemble and the right to protest. I have heard nothing from Gardaí. I think it's not right, what you have in the States at the moment is people can invade Capitol Hill and get away with it and then the blacks can't assemble. It's a dangerous road where we don't allow people to assemble and protest. Once they are peaceful. For us to try and bring in bylaws I think we're going nowhere. Once they are peaceful assemblies of people, I fully support the right of people to meet and protest.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach I just want to support Cllr Crean's motion. Maybe we need more

discussion of the byelaws and the role of the Council. These so-called peaceful protests have occurred regularly outside our maternity hospitals in particular pre COVID and they were extremely distressing for women and their partners attending those hospitals for all sorts of reasons.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry Gerry.

CLLR SCOTT: Just let me speak. Thank you Cathaoirleach. I just want to say there is a very good valid reason for Cllr Crean bringing this motion, I would be interested to hear if there is been any protests outside of doctors' surgeries and clinics in Wicklow and I do think if the motion was passed or maybe amended Cllr Crean, we should be asking the relevant minister Donnelly, we should be asking him to accelerate legislation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Crean can I come back to you, there is three or four other people and if my watch is right, we have about half a minute left. Can I just ask you and I think there is three or four people looking to come in and to give the notice time that we leave it on the agenda because I think I will bring to protocol to see can we hold a meeting to see can we deal with all the notice of motions to give them the merit.

CLLR CREAN: Really appreciate that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Last week was the Young Scientist and we had many students from Wicklow and I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the students and the teachers and their parents and I know Cllr Fitzgerald wants to come in on this.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I just want to pay tribute to a young girl from Arklow, Elizabeth Burke and she's the daughter of Cllr Bourke and Lizzy was very successful and received the overall award and I think it's a great honour for this county as well as the other people that did well there and for her family and I know she's a very successful Gaelic footballer and I just want to congratulate her, it's a great achievement for the County and for Arklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: It was a fantastic achievement, and I am so proud of them. So, thank you for acknowledging it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I want to congratulate her and also like to thank Joanne English, and this isn't the first time Joanne has been successful in achieving such a high status in awards and they are really the leaders

Wicklow spearheading all of these and thanks a mill.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you members, I will pass on those and I just realised how Cllr Kennedy is always one step ahead of us, he is in a different time zone. Now I know why.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I got a watch for Christmas and I didn't set the time. Can I just suggest something that the Council, on behalf of all of the members, would write to the schools. I don't think there was that many schools that entered, I think there was about six and we get the list of the schools and achievers that got recognition or prizes and the Chief Executive would sign that letter on behalf of all the members wishing the school well and wishing the students the best of luck in their future education. I think they are the future of tomorrow. Can I just thank everybody.

MS GALLAGHER: It I just come in just to go back to Cllr Scott in relation to the sign language, so I have just got confirmation I just wanted to confirm all the laptops in the customer care facility can facilitate sign language meetings and these can be pre booked with the customer care hub, team following COVID of course.

CLLR MURPHY: Can I propose an evening meeting for the motions because with people back home schooling, it's very hard to have morning so maybe have an hour some evening.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring that to protocol.

CLLR MURPHY: Maybe an evening meeting would be more benefit.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am conscious of the fact that people have put notice of motions and they are subjects close to their heart. So, I want to make sure they get the time. So, thanks everybody and thanks for participating and I am sure when we bring it to protocol Lorraine will circulate the date and time for that meeting, is that all right with everybody? Thank you very much everybody.