

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD
ONLINE VIA ZOOM

ON

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

MYCLEARTEXT LTD:

**Certify the following to be a non-verbatim transcript of the
stenographic notes in the above-named action for communication
support.**

J Sinnamon

E McCarthy

**TRANSCRIPT OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 1st 2021:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members, can you hear me? Good afternoon, members. You are very welcome to our meeting and thank you all for being here. I will go straight to Lorraine, maybe you would do the etiquette.

ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, this is the first meeting that we have members of the public joining us and what we were trying to develop a system where we could separate members of the public from elected members, it's trial and error today, so if we could ask all elected members if you want to contribute you need to unmute yourselves. So I would ask you to be very conscious of your background noise, please. Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will just go on, so mobile phones should be switched to silent. Please do not leave the online meeting without informing the Cathaoirleach to ensure a quorum remains. The chat function isn't working for this meeting, so please use the hand function. If speakers could keep their camera and microphone on when speaking and when you are not speaking, for now keep your microphones on. So, Cathaoirleach, that is the etiquette, so if we go for a roll call, first. Cllr Tommy Annesley, just a second. Cllr Tommy Annesley? Are you present, Cllr Annesley?

CLLR ANNESLEY: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Joe Behan.

>>: Present.

[Roll call was taken]

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Anne Ferris. I know you are there, Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I think she is having issues with her microphone and camera.

ADMINISTRATOR: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien.

ADMINISTRATOR: Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Tom Fortune.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Peir Leonard.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Grace McManus.

>>: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Derek Mitchell.

>>: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr John Mullen.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Miriam Murphy. Cllr Jodie Neary.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr R O'Connor.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Gerry O'Neill.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Lourda Scott.

>>: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: John Snell. Cllr Edward Timmins.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Gerry Walsh.

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Irene winters?

>>: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Anne Ferris? Paul O'Brien she should be in shortly. She just text me, she has had to shut down her laptop.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Miriam Murphy?

>>: I don't see her.

ADMINISTRATOR: And Cllr John Snell. Okay, Cathaoirleach, we will move on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. Anyone any votes of sympathy.

CLLR O'NEILL: Can I offer our condolences to Patsy Glennon on the death of his aunt, Eileen Cashman, to the entire Glennon family, may she rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I just want to pay my respects to James O'Reilly of Griffith Street in Arklow who died over the weekend. James and his family is well-known in Arklow and was a member of the council staff for many years. A valued member of the council staff and died at a young age.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Pat Fitzgerald. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to be associated with the vote of sympathy for Patsy.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I come in quickly?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR FORTUNE: I think we should remember anyone who has died in the county in the last month, particularly families who have been hit by Covid, I think we should remember them today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR BEHAN: Just a suspension of standing orders.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Come to that in a minute.

ADMINISTRATOR: Yes, for members of staff, for Michael Walsh, father of our colleague, Gail Walsh. For Maureen Quinn, mother of Patricia Devlin and for Ursula Drew mother of Ursula Drew in Bray Municipal District.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Also to Barbara Doolan, her sister died and a vote of sympathy to her.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't want to leave... Cllr Cronin did you want to come in?

CLLR CRONIN: I like to extend my sympathy to the family and also to Barbara Dolan.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

CLLR DUNNE: I want to be associated with Barbara Dooley's sister who died recently.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will just take a minute to remember all the people who have passed away as the members have said and indeed as Cllr Fortune has said in the last month.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Eternal light grant unto them oh Lord.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan, you want to come?

CLLR BEHAN: I want to propose a suspension of standing orders for 4.30 for the following motion. That Wicklow County Council calls on the Government to allow a

full open and democratic vote on SITA before it is ratified. I know, members have been contacted by very concerned people around the county and beyond. Cllr Kavanagh is seconding it and I know it has the support of Cllr Crean and others, so rather than going into the detail of it I am proposing that we suspend standing orders at 4.30 to discuss it for five or ten minutes, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in agreement with that? Cllr Pat Fitzgerald you have your hand up.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want clarity on this motion. We are discussing, or trying to discuss here a motion which deals with national Government. This will be looking for it to be debated in the local Government and I am not in favour of this motion, we have enough local issues to deal with, without trying to deal with national issues.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Similar to Cllr Fitzgerald we had to have a special meeting to get through the motions some of which are for a long time. The SETA was in 2017 and my understanding of the suspension of standing orders was they were going to be reserved formatters that were of urgency to the County Council and I don't think this qualifies for a topic that can come up for suspension of standing orders. It can certainly come in as a motion in next month's agenda, but it cannot come up as a suspension of standing orders and I move that we don't take the suspension.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There is number of hands up. There is a proposer. Sorry, there is a number of hands up to come in. We have someone wanting... wanting to note the suspension of orders to go ahead and someone who wants the suspension of standing orders no to the go ahead. Just so I am clear, Cllr Winters you are proposing it doesn't go ahead.

CLLR BEHAN: A point of order.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am trying to work my way through this.

CLLR BEHAN: Hold on a minute now, I made a proposal that we suspend standing orders to discuss the issue. Now if we are going to discuss the merits of the issue now, that is fine, let's discuss it, but for anyone to say that we can't discuss national issues under a suspension of standing orders that is hilarious because we have done it many times in the past. There is an urgency about this because there is a chance that this will be voted on or discussed in the Dail in the next two weeks. We won't have an opportunity to talk about it in February, Cathaoirleach, as I have already submitted the motion to suspend standing orders in advance. I submitted it

last night. I ask that that be voted on. That is the motion we vote on now, whether we suspend or not.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going bring in Lorraine here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Well the request for suspension of stand orders is contained in standing orders, so request for the suspension of standing orders should be submitted to the Cathaoirleach or administrator in writing. That has been done. It should outline the nature of request for standing orders and contain the name of the elected member proposing and seconding. That has been done. It has been read to the meeting. If clarity is required the proposer will be invited to provide clarity to the request. The request will be put to a vote without discussion. So, Cathaoirleach, under standing orders, if there is any dissent it takes, it's a two third of the member's present who vote in favour, for suspension of standing orders, so if there is any dissent or agreement we need to go to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you, Lorraine. There is a dissent. So I am going to go for a vote. So, Lorraine, I will ask you to call that vote now.

ADMINISTRATOR: This is a vote whether to defer standing orders for hearing at 4.30pm or not.

[VOTE TAKEN]

ADMINISTRATOR: So we have 16 for and 14 against and two not present. So the motion is defeated.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, could I just make a comment here. I think it's a great pity that what has happened here is that Fianna Fail and Fine Gael And Green Party have come together to prevent us in Wicklow County Council debating an issue which could result in the removal of the power was our courts in future to hear issues that are raised by multinational companies, based in Canada.

CLLR SCOTT: Not all of it...

CLLR WINTERS: I thought the suspension of standing orders was so you couldn't talk.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Excuse me please, I am moving on with item number one on the agenda. To confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting held at Wicklow County Council on Monday.... proposed.

ADMINISTRATOR: Is that agreed?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed. Any matters arising? . No. To consider the Chief Executive Monthly Management Report and a copy was attached. I would ask in relation to the housing presentation here, in the Chief Executive's report that will be covered in item number, the next item. All right. So maybe we would hold our questions. Because it is important. I am going to bring in the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will mention one or two issues and I will take the rest as read. Just on Covid, the update is pretty much the same as last month. We are still in Level 5. So again the offices here we are taking appointments. A lot of staff now, up to 75% are working from home. A lot of services are still open, housing, general services are open. Housing construction is closed. We are allowed to finish schemes that were due for completion by the end of February. I think today that is extending to the end of April, so that is something. We will be hoping in March to be back up and running. Roads, again we are dealing with schemes that were deemed to be critical infrastructure, also emergency repairs and that is it really. Otherwise the outdoor staff are stood down. Water and emergency services are running as normal. Plan environment, as in the civic amenity sites are open. Libraries, home deliveries are taking place. On the community side, the Community Call activity is down. We still had 60 calls last month. 16 for collection and delivery. Four for social isolation, engagement and support, medical needs 6 and information was 34. The reason they are down is a lot of people who are isolated looking for shopping are going directly to the volunteer. It's still open and available to people.

The Keep Well Campaign is the focus of the Community Call. That is looking at keeping active and being outdoors. Keeping contact, staying in touch with people, minding your mood, switching off and eating well. There is three subgroups. A small amount of grant funding is available to us. On the Staying Connected and the Minding Your Mood there is information and Christmas cards were distributed. Winter care packages distributed to older people throughout the county with 500 delivered in December through the Meals on Wheels group. Tablets to nursing homes to enable residents to keep in touch. Family Carers Ireland. Tablets to use with those they are caring for and network and get support from other carers. The Wellbeing Webinar which is responding to Covid-19 challenges. There is support through the community alert group other community organisations to develop local registers through local knowledge with the guards. They have a [INAUDIBLE]

dissemination of an agreed key messages through text alert systems and sending out messages in relation to mental health, etc. In terms of keeping active, there is three exercise booklets, a new batch of activities for all.

Older exercise plan and Be Active at Home booklets have been printed. There is a lot of engagement with different groups and targets requiring copies. It's been advertised on all social media platforms and the Wicklow People. There is six runs running at the moment. Students in Bray are taking part in this. Transition class and other classes are participating. There is a 5K and a 10K on the 1st of February, creating a lot of interest. Virtual classes, five-week intermediate class and a six-week men's only fitness class taking place and there is online classes for children and teens with physical and intellectual disabilities. Being creative, Switching Off Jenni is business in a group for 55 plus. Nature is Good for You an advertising campaign on East Coast Radio. Including planting of native trees, garden and biodiversity. My Place, My Heritage, ukulele lessons and Bray area partnership, storytelling and local folklore, six weeks on Friday from 10.00am, from January 29th to 5th of March.

So that group will continue to meet on a fortnightly basis. It's rolling out those softer supports at the moment, but also the call centre is still open.

Second one I might just mention is the visitor experience and management master plan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park. We had a presentation of that in Druid's Glen at the last full meeting. It's proposed to run a public consultation from the 22nd of February to 12th of March with press releases carried in the local papers the week before. So it will include Zoom drop-in sessions from 4-8 on the 23rd of February and the 11th and 12th of March. There will be an email questions option. A website consultation on Wicklow.ie and again it's as much a consultation that can be done with Covid and all of that information will come back to the consultants and the Council in due course.

One last one on the NTA sustainable transport measures grants. Those grants will be increased this year. They will be up to 7.5 million and we typically got around 2.5 last year. A lot of schemes coming through. Now it's been agreed at the moment, but a lot will be familiar to you, Arklow, Woodenbridge Shillelagh, Bray Dart interchange

consultancy for the new footbridge. I am not going to go through them all. The Arklow and Greystones Traffic Studies are in there. There is Putland Row, River Dargle Cycleway. In Baltinglass the footbridge... sorry, Blessington. But there is a whole range of them. 7.5 million. What we will do, I think, is make a protects to each of the Municipal Districts in relation to the schemes that are going ahead in those districts and we can take feedback etc then. They have also given us approval to take on a significant number of technical staff which can stay in place for five years because as you will have noticed, the focus on walk and cycling, particularly in town centres. So those staff will start a recruitment process now as soon as we get the normal approval. So I will take the rest as read, Cathaoirleach, if that is okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just have a couple of questions in relation to the parallel road at Kilmacanogue. I welcome the fact that the next stage of the work has started. Traffic on the inner lane is going close to the entranceways of the few houses that live there. A few signs warning people that they are passing by residential houses would be in order.

Can I bring your attention to the fact that when people are coming towards Kilmacanogue from Wicklow, so northbound, there is a sign indicating that the junction at the old Post Office at Kilmacanogue Village it's a triangular junction, it's not, it's a roundabout. And it can be confusing for people who don't know the lay out, I am asking that sign be changed. I have also been told that people who are diverted on to the bridge over the N11 at Kilmacanogue, in some cases are not aware, that in fact it's a single lane carriageway rather than the continuation of a dual carriageway and there have been a few near misses and I am asking if signage can be put on that bridge, the actual road bridge at Kilmacanogue to indicate it's a two-way rather than a one way.

Last point is in relation to the proposed greenway from Kilmacanogue to Bray, I raised this at a recent meeting of Bray Municipal District to be told that in fact Bray Municipal District as a body doesn't really know very much about it, even though it's in our district. I asked on that occasion for a presentation to be made by the people who were drawing up this particular plan to come to Bray Municipal District at an early stage so that we can have an input into this, rather than be given a fait

accomplish at the end to vote on. So I am asking that that presentation take place as soon as possible to the members of Bray Municipal District. Thank you, chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: I have some brief questions. One in relation to the Creative Ireland strategy and the heritage section of the report. I know at the moment, given the decade of commemorations that there is a programme for 2021 still being prepared. I know in 2016 there was allocations made to the Municipal Districts and I wonder if the funding could be earmarked for each area to commemorate and mark 2021, but also other commemorative events over the next few years rather than it being a last-minute decision that could be earmarked and put into funding. Also in relation to tree grants, the environment section, I am wondering in Greystones there has been a lot of mature trees cut down and a lot of development. Is there an opportunity with these grants for mature trees to be brought particularly for the Greystones area and planted? Is this in relation to public lighting faults, I have been doing a lot of reps in this particular area, particularly for older people and I find it frustrating that Airtricity, each call gets logged and there is no priority given to a housing area that might have older people. I know it's about transparency and fairness, but one case is all older people I am dealing with on one road and they have no light and they don't know when it will be done. One in relation to the green and social procurement. I asked at the last meeting, I was looking for details on number of tenders where we have put in sustainable procurement, because this is in our sustainable procurement plan for the KPIs.

I had particular questions I sent in looking for the number of tenders where we had social clauses. I still wanted to get that report, because I think it's important and it ties into the SITA, the impact we will have on local initiatives at a national level. Then, finally, that is it, actually. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, I will bring you in, because there is a fair bit in what they have both said.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I get clarification, my system dropped down, are we discussing the CEO's report now or what are we discussing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We are discussing the Chief Executive's report.

CLLR FORTUNE: I want to see what we are discussing I missed the start of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will bring you back in because there is a fair bit in what Cllr Behan and Cllr Crean have said.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The parallel road at Kilmac that sounds reasonable we can deal with that quickly. If Colm wants to bring in, he can, but I have taken note of that. The greenway from Kilmacanogue to Bray, I don't see an issue with that. Cllr Crean, again the allocations in the Creative Ireland strategy, we will flag those with the MD as soon as we know what they are. The tree grants for the mature trees. They are more effective needs to say in terms of carbon deforestation, so that is a good suggestion there. The public light, we will take notice of the issues. Certainly I agree with you, if there is older people involved, we should try and get it off as quickly as possible. Certainly if you send in your details in relation to that. The green social procurement, we will prepare that and get it out to you, Brian Gleeson is looking at that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. Director Colm, did you want to come in to clarify anything on what Cllr Behan had said in relation to signage at the junction in Kilmacanogue.

COLM: Yes, the works are currently undergoing and on the parallel service roadside of Kilmac. Look, our senior engineer drove the route this morning to check, to make sure there was no issues in relation to it, so I will bring the issue about the signage to his attention. Indeed they are continuing to meet the RE, they are continuing to meet with the land owners and the petrol station in relation to issues they have in relation to the temporary measures that are put in place for the roadworks which I think is just up in the last week or so as they moved over into the parallel service lane. I will bring to his attention the issues with the signage, Cllr Behan. Just to say in relation to the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross greenway. As you know we went out to public consultation in December on the various route options so, we can get a presentation to yourselves in Bray Municipal District in relation to the route options and obviously that will feed into decisions taken on the preferred route for that, Cllr Behan, so we will arrange for that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. So, the next one is Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I want to thank the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report. As Cllr Fortune alluded to, we have had a difficult month with Covid-19 and I believe we need to be giving hope to some people. I have seen that Pfizer or going to announce another 40 million vaccines for Europe, but it's in

quarter two. I have already contacted the Chief Executive about vaccine centres, is there any further update in terms of vaccine centres for county Wicklow? Things are coming to the fore. I was wondering is management making any directions or appealing to people in power to make sure that the council staff are vaccinated not ahead of health service or vulnerable peoples but I believe that for continuity of local Government council officials should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Quick question. Just in Rathnew where the new Aldi store has opened up previously, just the traffic lights and the lighting in the area is dark. I have had a good few constituents on to me saying it's a dangerous area, it's a junction there. It's an accident waiting to happen and before that happens maybe the council could get on to whoever the SB or Airtricity to get that area lit up.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you, a very comprehensive report. I want to raise under public lighting we have a stretch in road in Enniskerry, the Monastery Road there is nine lights. I have raised this and I have been told that the trees keep knock them out when they are replaced. I think something needs to be done there, there are a lot of older people using that road, a lot of young people would be walking it at night, so I would like to see that looked into. I welcome if Bray Municipal District gets the preparation on the greenway. This is something that is really badly needed. The people of Kilmacanogue are very isolated they have no way of walking from Bray to Kilmacanogue at the moment. Whilst during lockdown it's not an issue, I think when the schools are back and people are back at work it will become an issue and it's something that has to be addressed and the greenway would go a long way into that.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: In relation to vaccination centres we are in contact with the HSE on the basis we are going to be as helpful as we can in terms of making premises available, or if they are using their own premises we will assist in traffic management, whatever they need. So there is a number of sites they are looking at. As soon as I know what is the preferred site I will send out a message and let people know where that is going, but that is the basis on which we are going.

The vaccination of council staff, it's being dealt with at national level and they have a priority list firefighters is one, that is there. The next one, another one that is included there I think will be frontline council staff that are dealing with homeless people and

the bulk of council staff then will be at a level below that. But they are prioritising those two cohorts at the moment.

Cllr Dunne, I will come back to you on when the traffic works will be complete. I agree with you, the traffic lights are there a long time now, they need to be up and running. The Monastery Road in Enniskerry, again we will look at that. There is a problem with the trees but also in terms of getting lights back on. I will come back to you with a date.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Thank you my apologies to are not appearing on the camera, I am feeling unwell. I was great to see the works on the Strand Road Plaza kicking off. I would like something clarified if that is okay. The newer images that were circulated show the plaza at the front of the aquarium on Strand Road with no marked clear cycle past. Now the original plans, the Part 8 that was voted on showed a linked cycle track and that is what my folio councillors have been telling people would be coming.

I am keen to know, I presume there has been an oversight there and plans haven't changed. I would be very disappointed and really need some kind of an explanation if they have changed as to how they have changed, considering it was a Part 8 voted on and on whose authority it was changed, I am hoping that these images were just artistic impressions rather than the finished product, because it's, I think a recipe for disaster and not what was voted on if it goes ahead as was represented in those newer images. So just some clarification on the cycle track would be welcome.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune. You need to unmute, Tom. You are on mute.

CLLR FORTUNE: I hit the wrong button and I went into some other entity. So.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are grand.

CLLR FORTUNE: I have to get my spoke in or I will be very upset. Thank you, chair and thank you, Chief Executive, as usual the report is excellent. I just have a few questions and comments. I know you are going to touch on, you are going to do homeless later, so I won't get into that, but could I get, can we get, I would like to get some kind of make up or status on where we are with HAP and some of the challenges we face with it. And can I get an idea of how many houses we would be projecting around the approved housing bodies? I note in the report that the part 5 is

saying we will get 25 houses in 2021. I am taken aback by that when I see the massive amount of houses that is being built in north Wicklow. The adaption grants I would like to get an idea where that is going. Can I say also well done to the Community Call group, I think they have been doing great work and I wish them well with everything going forward. Can we also, I like to get some more info on the good work that the Bray partnership are doing. So we might get a broader outline on that. Can I also say well done to Cllr Dermot O'Brien, on the great work he is doing with Comhairle na nÓg. I think he does a super job and that needs to be acknowledged.

Also, I asked this before, is it possible get a couple of one-pagers on available funds. Bit of a ready reckoner, I would certainly like it and I am sure the members would feel the same. In regards to CCTV, the data that is collected, am I right in saying that Wicklow County Council hold the data but if it ever needs to be reviewed the guards come and look at what they want to look at, but basically am I right in saying that Wicklow County Council hold the data?

Can I also then just say a special word of thanks to the fire service. We had a very serious situation developing in Kilcoole over the weekend with flooding and the fire service were absolutely brilliant and I would like to pass on comments, maybe, Chief Executive, you would make contact with them on my behalf to say well done to Chief Hayden and his staff. They were super backed up by the civil defence and they got great assistance from Irish Rail and the National Parks and Wildlife. There was a very serious situation averted and I would like us to write and thank them for the great job they done for us.

One last comment, Chair, if I may. I think we need to, some members might not agree. I think we need to revisit our stand orders in relation to voting. I think the two thirds majority is anti-democratic and is too controlling. Because the vote in actual fact that we took was won 16/14 and then because of the two third rule it loses. I think it needs to be revisited and I would be proposing that we visit that and I hope someone will support me to do that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just before I go, bring in Cllr Leonard and Cllr Fortune. I know you blipped out, but the HAP presentation and the adaptation grant is going to be dealt with in the presentation.

CLLR FORTUNE: Sorry, I didn't mean to do that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are fine. Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I just wanted to thank the Chief Executive as usual for his report. I have two marine and water related items. First of all it's in relation to the dredging at Arklow Harbour and port. I want to ask if the Chief Executive is satisfied we have enough water depth for foreseeable activity, in particular SSE and the works that will be going on for the windfarm. We need to look at dredging the mouth of the harbour and ensuring there is enough water depth for the ports for Arklow and for Wicklow going forward. Then in relation to the Arklow Flood Relief scheme. I want to ask is the council sure it has fulfilled its obligations in relation to the Aarhus Convention. I know with Covid it's difficult and the engineers have working hard and it's a massive project and undertaking and I am appreciative of the work with myself and other councillors. I do think we were promised a public information day that never happened and I think there is a lack of public consultation with the stakeholders and the people of Arklow for such a huge project that will impact not just our generation, but the generations to come, because they will be left with the legacy of it. In particular I would like these problems to be ironed out before, prior to the project going to planning, I think because of the nature of the project itself, it's flood relief and a flood protection scheme that we can't afford for any objections. So I would appreciate if the people of Arklow were listened to what they want for the project prior to planning permission so the whole project can proceed as fast as possible and construction can commence.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Leonard. I will bring the Chief Executive back in now.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to the Strapped Road Plaza, I might ask Colm to come in to see if there is any design changes. I am not aware.

COLM: I am not aware of any changes to design myself. I don't believe there is. I will look at the images you have mentioned, but the whole purpose of the Strand Road Scheme was to insert a bicycle lane in front of the plaza. So I will collect it out, but it's probably just, as you said yourself, just artists' images that have been used to portray what work has gone on and hasn't delineated the cycle track, but I will check it out and get back to you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Okay, just in relation to Cllr Fortune as I said, the HAP, we will have a presentation on that in the next item. They will also be looking at the adaptation grants and housing supports in general. Next month we will have a full report on the housing delivery, so that will look at exactly what is coming through over the next five years on the affordable and the approved housing bodies and their own construction programme and on part 5. I can assure the councillor, that every housing scheme that going ahead at the moment there is 10% part 5 coming through. That is condition of the planning. In relation to the Bray partnership, they gave a presentation last Wednesday, Michael Nicholson is there, he might give a summary or else we can get back to him. It's a big programme.

MICHAEL: I can, in relation to... [INAUDIBLE] the Bray resource development project, they delivered a lot of in the Bray and gropes areas in particular. So we have work to do with certified course [INAUDIBLE DUE TO NOT SPEAKING INTO MIC] job market programmes, start your own business groups, health and wellbeing, online learning, English language proficiency and in relation to the Greystones area was the work in the pool area. Engagement with Ken mayor women's group to develop a story telling resource. To hold a creative personal development course. Arts and workshops [INAUDIBLE]... assist the Newcastle community care. Etc, so loads of work going on in the Bray/Greystones district.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will get that, as Cllr Fortune said, the one-pager on the available funds. They keep changing, but we will get something out on that. The CCTV, the County Council is the data controller in relation to the CCTV. So if a community CCTV is installed, on the Monday morning if the guards want it they have to come to the councillor and we will ensure GDPR. We have Mark on, just in relation to the flood relief scheme and the dredging.

MARK: Two things. The first in relation to the conversation with the wind farm operator, we are meeting them, some of the harbours team are meeting the developers of the wind farm tomorrow to discuss their requirements and we will be looking into those questions with them and discussing the position with them, so if we can assist them or make sure that facilities are available, they have acquired a piece of land and they are hoping to develop it for the O&M facility and we will be meeting them tomorrow as it happens. So we will raise the issue we have raised with them to make sure we are aware of their requirements. I understand that the draft

requirements they have for O&M are considerably lower than the freight vessels but we will talk to them and make sure we can assist them if we can.

On the Arklow Flood Scheme we are aware we haven't been able to have a public information day. It was our plan over the last number of months to have a public information campaign. With Covid restrictions we haven't been able to do that. We are planning to launch a series of documents over the next week or two, with which will make available to the district members initially and then put them on our website. These will be broad descriptions of the scheme as we plan it at the moment. A list of the various changes we have made in the last number of months. The scheme has, if you like, design has come to a head and we are now ready to launch it, or present it to An Bord Pleanála. Before we do that we will have a digital event of some sort. We will give the documents to the members and we will publicise them, they will be descriptions similar to the descriptions we have used before with the members, but with visualisations as well. Photographs with super imposing on them what the scheme will look like. We will open up a short consultation period where people can email in or call in questions to us. We will have FAQs as well, trying to, if you like pre-empt what the questions people will have and describe as best we can the scheme as we plan it at the moment. That is before we go to An Bord Pleanála, but we are planning to have a virtual public information day, and it will probably take place over a week or so to allow people to comment and come back with questions and we will try and clarify the scheme as we have it developed, we are nearly there. But we do plan an event in the last couple of weeks. We are working on the technology to get the best method out there and we will go to members with information when we have it available.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Mark. I will bring in Cllr Anne Ferris now.

CLLR FERRIS: Can I say at the outset, my apologies for coming on late. I was trying to get on in 1.50pm and I had technical problems and it resulted in me having to shut down the computer and restart again sorry about that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Not at an all.

CLLR FERRIS: I like to thank the Chief Executive for the report. I don't know if it's been mentioned in my absence, but I would like to pay tribute to the Bray Municipal District for the increase in litter ratings. They have gone up to far it's fantastic to see. Bray is the fourth largest town population wise in the country. I think for a heavily

populated town it's a great effort being carried out. I like to thank the Bray Municipal District's, or sorry the management team, all the workers in the council who have contributed to this, the Tidy Towns Association and every individual who helps to make Bray a litter-free place, I just wanted to mention that as Cathaoirleach of The Council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr R O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thank you, Chair, just two things I want to mention. One on lighting. In Cloverhill in Bray the lighting has gone out by the bus stop which is used by young and old people alike. Also I want to second what Cllr Corrigan was saying about Monastery Road. The lighting has been out for a long time. If that could be tackled that would be great.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of points. There is very bad flooding on the Murragh at the moment. It's very soft underfoot. I know we are having a presentation on coastal erosion and I know it's a long-term thing, but I am wondering if there is any short-term work that can be done, maybe some kind of a covering with shingle or grit to strengthen what is there, because it's disappearing by the day since that storm. I was up there earlier today and it's dreadful. The other thing I want to say is that Fitzwilliam Square is coming on very well and there has been a lot of complementary comment about it. People who were sceptical about it at the beginning are convinced it's going to be the centre piece of the town. There is one or two little areas, I know it's not quite finished, but are tending to look very steep and I have asked for it to be looked at and I really just hope that if it is proven to be steeper than it used to be and I believe it is, because I often walk down that part myself, that some kind of barrier will be put at the end, or it will be broken up with a bed or one or two trees because I know what is going to happen, people are going to start using it as a short cut and it really is very steep. Then, just on another point, I am just slightly confused about the start of the meeting, the suspension of standing orders. First of all I want to concur with what Cllr Fortune said about the two thirds majority. I would certainly second having that looked at. I think it's very unfair and undemocratic. The other point is I am now utterly confused as to whether we have set a precedent where we can never discuss a national issue under suspension of standing orders. I am on this council five years we have always discussed national issues. It doesn't matter whether it was the Children's Hospital or anything that was

going on in the country. We represent Wicklow, but we are also part of a much larger group which is councillors nationwide. They regularly send in motions to the Dail, they circularise other councils such as ourselves and I want to know have we set a precedent now where we can never discuss anything at a national level again? Because that appears to be what happened.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Kavanagh. Before I bring the Chief Executive in I am going to bring Lorraine in on that point.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just in relation to standing orders, every elected member is circulated with a copy of the standing orders once, after they are adopted or after they are amended. We have amended ours at the request of elected members much the standing orders, each local authority back in 2002 would have received a set of guidelines in the preparation of standing orders and they are set out in the schedule 10 of the Local Government Act. These are standing orders and they are made by you and fairly consistent across the local authorities.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. Chief Executive, can I bring you in now.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would agree with Cllr Ferris there, it was a great result for Bray to go from 19th to 7th this year. It's been assessed as clean to European norms, very significant. I put the comment into the report that An Taisce said that main street, Bray Head, Bray Harbour were all very much deserving of the top tier litter grade. Not only were they very good with regard to litter but well-presented and maintained. So deserved compliments to the staff and the MD and also the Tidy Towns group. We will certainly follow up on the SSB in relation to Monastery Road and Cloverhill. Cllr Kavanagh we will ask the engineer to look at those two areas in particular, short-term in relation to flooding in Murragh and long-term in relation to the proposals. We will get him to look at the gradient there at Fitzwilliam Square and if there is an issue, how can we put in something to prevent any slippage or anything happening there. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I was going to come in, I think you are putting it because I want to talk about the housing adoption grants.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am putting it back, it's in the presentation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: I asked about Rathnew, I don't think I got an answer on it, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

Are you there, Gerry?

CLLR O'NEILL: Sorry about that. I want to express my gratitude to the, our CEO, I am delighted with the news that the red lane, the foot path around there, it's an old walkway around from the village back around and it's used for many years, but we were always short of about 1800 yards of that foot path and it's also the way to the primary school on the Red Lane. It will mean a lot for the people, so I just want to say thanks, we are delighted with that news. I know in Hollywood there the foot path has been completed there, so that is good news here. But again I wanted to pay my gratitude for the news there that the Red Lane will be completed after all of these years.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just on a point of information in relation to the Arklow Flood Protection Scheme. The members discussed this September and we felt it could be useful to Mark's team if we invited the OPW engineers to come down and visit us to discuss various enhancements that we felt could be put into the scheme, but we haven't heard back yet from them, to my knowledge.

I have asked Minister Harris to put pressure on Minister O'Donovan to grant us that audience. It's just to realise we are conscious of what is happening and we are trying to help to make improvements to the scheme.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Can I ask Colm Lavery to come in on the lighting situation.

COLM: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. We have provided and paid for the traffic application, we have provided this information to the ESB and on to the developer. So obviously it's a matter for ESB to actually connect the lights. Unfortunately it can take a period of time, which we have seen in other towns throughout the county. So look, we will check that the ESB have been provided with the relevant certification from the developer and we will try and get them to prioritise the connection. I can understand the difficulty it causes from people coming from the Aldi site trying to get back on to the main road in Rathnew, so we will check it with the ESB and try and push it on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Director Lavery and Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will follow up with the OPW in relation to the Flood Protection Scheme.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, everyone. We will move on to item number 3. To receive a presentation...

CLLR WALSH: I was trying to get in there. You may have missed me. Just two quick questions. Following on from the housing and rent arrears, the high figure on that. It's great to see there are alternative payment arrangements being facilitated for rent, housing and rental arrears. Just following on from that, our housing loans and our mortgage customers there, that through Covid measures have suffered financial difficulty in meeting their repayments. A loan restructuring in place, what advice would the CEO give to those customers?

The second question I had was in relation to the Age Friendly Schemes. I had question in relation to the Mill Road and Castle Carrick sites. How is that going to work? On the CCTV, Cllr Fortune raised the issues around GDPR, we did raise this with the Garda Commissioner we had with them in November. We are looking at ways to circumvent that, because ideally what is needed there is a live feed, a live stream into the Garda station for that to be effective. I think the Gardaí are in agreement with that. Hopefully there will be a situation around that and we will have a live feed directly into the Garda stations. I want to acknowledge the work being done by the LEO office around the Brexit issues, the trading online vouchers and the businesses, the online workshops and the clinics, that are being carried out. So fantastic work being done, much-needed work being done there for our small businesses in the challenge that Brexit presents.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Walsh. Chief Executive, do you want to respond to that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I agree with the councillor in relation to the LEO. They have done some fantastic work. 500 training sessions. Similarly with the business continuity grants 283 grants. Plus all the mentoring and they have been working a lot of overtime in relation to that. Community CCTV, we will have another look at that, but it's the GDPR regulations are there and we have to accept that. We will have a look at it. I might ask Joe Lane who is coming in now and Jackie in relation to the housing loans. If you could come in there. The Old Age Friendly Scheme.

CLLR BLAKE: Can I come in there?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR BLAKE: I know you are going to discuss the homeless later on, I think it's fair to say that we have acknowledge the fact of the number of local authority houses and housing that generally come on stream from Blessington to Baltinglass and Carnew to Tinahely. A huge numbers of houses have come on stream and are in the process of doing so. That's had to be acknowledged. In regard to rural housing, they are like gold dust rural housing. We have two in the Tinahely area. One outside Tinahely has been boarded up and another outside of Carnew has been boarded up for quite some time. I would ask that Joe Lane take an active interest in bringing those house on stream.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will ask Joe to come in there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you there, Joe?

JOE: Yes, Helena and myself will deal with the two boarded up the relets. One is a long-term one we are aware of and the Tinahely one I will have to check the list. As regards Gerry Walsh, the back garden units we, will be back to the Greystones area when we have those done, but they are infill units in addition to the programme. Our maintenance team... we pick off a few, like we had a couple of years ago in in Carrick Villas so there is a few scheduled, but when we have them finalised we will be going back to the elected members in the area for those particular ones. They wouldn't represent a major part of the project, but they would represent an additional units in bigger gardens, because there is a number of bigger gardens there. As regards in general and one of the questions came up in regard to Part 5 in general. Declan next month will deal with supply and we will be wiser then regarding when we will get back to the scheme at that stage. There was a fairly comprehensive report given at the SPC, if members want I will circulate it on Part 5s. It details the difficulties, particularly regarding the performance indicators regarding where to break them up by year. Sometimes when people can see stuff coming through it can take years before they could, they come to fruition. So I think we might circulate that, either Declan will synopsis it for the meeting or in the absence of that we will circulate it. Was there a building loan, not quite sure what the question was, do you want to repeat that question.

BRIAN GLEESON: I can take that. Just on the housing loans, there was a mortgage break scheme that was in place in 2020. That was available, we had a number of borrowers who availed of that. To date we have been told by the department there

will be no further scheme for 2021. But that could change as things progress. At the moment there isn't a mortgage breaks scheme for 2021. It finished at the end of 2020. If there is any change on that, obviously we will be letting people know as soon as possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All right, I am going to move on to item number three and it's a presentation from the Housing and Corporate Directorate. There is two parts to this. Jackie Farrell will take the first part and Helena will take the second part. Jackie if you are there.

JACKIE: I am going to give you an overview of the housing scheme and I will hand you over to Helena you have had a chance to look at the presentation, I won't dwell too much on it, there is the policy context on which we operate. Obviously which have our national policy, Housing for All and we were work on the Rebuilding Ireland and the action plan for homelessness. It's to facilitate the provision of sustainability high equality social, affordable cost effective housing accommodation to meet the strategy in accordance with Government strategy. There is eight objectives there under which we operate. So, just, as you are all aware we operate a waiting list for social housing support. We have certain eligible criteria that people have to fulfil. We are receiving an average of 30 applications a week at the minute. We undertook a recent social housing assessment there which finalised in November. At that stage there was 4,487 people on the list for social housing support, that includes 280 RAS and 1,440 HAP need. The housing need not met is over 2,000. A common on the restrictions and how we are operating, there is only a small impact on our services. We are continuing to deliver up to and including Level 5. We have a protocol around short-term needs when we are assessing applications at the minute and rent supplement can be used as a temporary measure of support for these clients who are on that and it will be assessed in in the short-term. Obviously the members have adopted a scheme of letting priorities and that is how we allocate our properties. We are looking at a choice-based letting scheme nor hard to let properties. I have shown an allocation by years. You can see there has been an exponential growth there. In 2016 we only had 31 allocations so it shows the increase in supply. We are continuing to allocate in the pandemic, obviously we have guidelines in place to protect staff and clients. This table says it all it shows the work that has been done and the deliver which has been happening. We are prioritising target groups, so we have put a huge focus on disability. You can see 66 clients were allocated under

disability but also under the transfers. A lot of those would have been right sizing or moving people from unsuitable properties to properties that were more suitable for their needs. To disability, homeless travellers, resettlement and care leavers, so the total allocation for 2020 was 325. Our rental income, we have 4,530 houses occupied. Our weekly represent accrual is the guts of 300,000. It also had an effect on arrears which stand at 2.2 million. We are tackling that the whole time. This has been impacted on by people's income reduction now in the current climate. So a lot of work is ongoing in adjusting people's represent. There is no door-to-door collections at the minute so to find different ways of allowing clients to pay their rent. We have 4,500 clients. We have a tenant liaison officer who deals primarily with antisocial behaviour. There is a significant case load, there a high level of drug use, issues regarding mental health and family breakdown. They are the primary causes of the complaints. We have an antisocial behaviour strategy in place, it's outdated so we are reviewing that in terms the [Joint Policing Commission](#). We have built a lot of relationships with the local Gardaí and the HSE in relation to mental health professionals, so we link in with them to ensure we can deliver on this. Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan, maximum 320,000. You can get 90% of the value of the property.

To date we have received 383 applications. There is a significant approval rate, but also a significant decline rate. That is primarily where people don't have capacity to repay. The underwriter is with the housing agency. The underwriter is the housing agency, so they will determine it on the basis of credit ability and repayment capacity. So, it's quite successful scheme, there is big uptake on it, but as you say, the approval rate is 150 and 383. Then to homelessness, we address homelessness, we sit on The Mideast region. Kildare is the lead authority and Meath and Wicklow sit on it.

The members adopted the last plan in 2018, which was the homes action plan. So we identify priority areas in addressing homelessness and I am always banging on about this, but the big thing is prevention. If we can help homelessness happening we have a better chance of dealing with the, or and addressing the issues that have caused it. So emergency accommodation, obviously we have a significant amount in that. The quality provision, we spend a lot of time on developing exit strategy fours

clients and we ensure that the health and welfare supports don't work alone and that is where the multiagency approach comes in. I am hoping to have the draft updated plan for presentation for next month. So that will have been informed by, I suppose the learning from this plan, the current plan that is in place. That is just a flavour of the expenditure in the Mideast Region of the current action plan. You can see for Wicklow our spend for 2020. Our draft figures at the moment are 1.3 million. A lot of that is spent on the bed and breakfast accommodation, but the bigger amount will be spent on the supported accommodation piece. And then the emerging trends. So I suppose you can't tackle homelessness until you figure out what is causing it in the first place. A lot of our work has been done on analysing the trends and the statistics that we are seeing. So we analysed the households placed in emergency accommodation for 2019/2020. The following contributing factors were highlighted. To failure to obtain accommodation following notice to commit was a big one for family homelessness. Substance misuse was another one. Mental health is a big deal, we are looking with the HSE to resolve or put in sustainment where there is mental health issues. It's certain one of the big flags in the region. Family breakdown. That is increasing with Covid. Release from prison, increasing with Covid and domestic violence, sadly increasing with Covid. So we are seeing a lot more presentations in the presenting public at the moment under these categories. So that is what, that is the number of families in emergency accommodation at the minute. We have the lowest in the region. We only have 14 households in emergency accommodation. People are put into emergency accommodation as a last resort. We look at open door accommodation for families if we can, but if all else fails we have emergency accommodation. That is 14 families who may be single individuals but also with children. Can you see the breakdown over the duration of three to six months, nine to 12 months and you have to understand that if families are in bed and breakfast for a long period of time there is usually a reason behind that. Here is the presentation for 2020. Number of new presentations 565, repeat 70. We do have some people who would be cyclically representing themselves. Number of families 270. Of which there is 361 adults and 500 children. Now, when I say presentations, these are people who contacted us because they were either at risk of homelessness or homeless. 565 people weren't put up in bed and breakfast and emergency accommodation in 2020. 500 children weren't homeless in 2020. You have to look at the figure, the presentings could be a call for advice or assistance.

Our whole approach is on prevention and intervention. That key to how we work. You can see own door accommodation. Particularly where it's families we try and use council stock where people. This gives us an opportunity to for the family, how they sustain the tenancy. Do they need support with that, are there antisocial behaviour. This isn't their permanent accommodation normally, however some families have settled in and behaved very well and have kept their tenancy. We have created permanent tenancies in some cases. So it's own door accommodation.

I should say that the emergency accommodation. It's not the picture you get in the media of ten people in one room. Generally emergency accommodation can be self-contained units with their own kitchen and sitting room. They have access to laundry and dining room facilities. So they are not as bad as portrayed in the media. We work hard with the providers to ensure it's as close to a temporary home as possible. So homeless HAP has been a huge success in Wicklow. As you can see we only established it at the end of 2018. So it's only had two years in operation. We created 306 homeless HAP tenancies of which 143 were homeless and the rest were tenancies. Two from direct provision. This is starting to take hold at the moment, clients leaving direct provision. I will go into that after. The prevention tenancies. If you look at them. That is 161 families prevented from becoming homeless. Then the 143 who would have exited emergency accommodation. We work tirelessly establishing relationships with landlords to ensure they are comfortable with the scheme. We liaise with the household established needs, we establish relationships with property agent as well. We will have landlord whose ring us to see if they can work with us and then she supports the homeless households. So there is really good results there in homeless HAP.

We can't, we are just administrators or house suppliers. We don't have the social care skills that are, the housing bodies bring to our collaborative approach. We work with the approved housing bodies to give a holistic approach. We provide the properties and the approved housing body provide the support and is targeted to the particular support needs of the clients. We always work towards putting in key support works to ensure that an exit strategy has been defined.

The Homeless Family Facility has been progressed to Dublin Simon and should be kited out shortly. That is families who are at risk of homeless or are going to be temporarily homeless following notice to quit. We use the capital assistance scheme widely. We have committed to providing accommodation for care leavers. These are young adults leaving foster care whose relationship with the family has broken down and they need to be given supports for accommodation. There is a visual of our largest properties at the minute. So you can see at the start of the year, I suppose the very first one would have been this one. It originally operated as a hostel and then morphed into a supported accommodation facility. We have capacity for eleven people there. They have long-term licenses and they are supported into moving on into alternative accommodation. Either with supports or social housing or private rented. So we have a huge move on there, constant flow of progressions there. So it really works. The model really works.

San Remo on the right hand side that is our latest success. 20 capacity at the moment and this is high support. 24/7 high support accommodation. This was the piece missing from Wicklow, so we are delighted to get us become on track. It's operating so well at the minute that the Neighbourhood Liaison Committee has now reduced its monthly meetings to every two months because there are no issues associated with this. Intensive management, intensive case management, a lot of key working with the clients to ensure they move on and it's complicated at the minute with Covid, because we can't just take people in off the streets we have to self-isolate them, maybe in association with the HSE before they can take up, so there is a little bit of a delay in the referral process at the minute, bird trying to tighten up on that. That is due to Covid. So the model works, you go from rough sleeping into possibly San Remo. Then go into one of our shared houses and into shared accommodation. So that model is really where we are pushing to be all the time with this cohort of individuals.

You can see on the bottom left that is Carrig Eden in Greystones, again it's a supported accommodation for a particular cohort of people who have exited addiction, but now need to exit homelessness, because they may not have references or may have been in Mountjoy for ten years and may need to build up

that portfolio with themselves. So this is supported accommodation. So the model really works.

Housing First, again another string to our bow. We are rolling out the implementation plan on a regional basis. We reached our first target last year. It's targeted towards really chaotic rough sleepers who would have a dual diagnosis of mental health and addiction. It focuses on the fact that we are not saying to them we will give you a house if you get rid of your addiction, we are saying we will put the house first and work with you on getting you into accommodation that we can work on your needs. Peter McVerry Trust was appointed as the programme implementer. Identifying clients and sourcing of properties is very difficult. One beds are very scarce. So to date three of the five were social housing units and three were provided by AHB.

I mentioned previously mental health issues. We have to work closely with the Department of Health, because the mental health issues we are seeing arising in homelessness and people who are using their homes due to their mental health are huge.

So we co-funded, we work with HALE, which is an AHB for mental health. We co-funded a sustainment officer last year, the first, they were in operation for about six months of last year and already we have shared client base of 11s who will be accessing mental health facilities in Newcastle, but our tenants are in HAP tenancies. So the supports have going in. We have had huge success with this, so we tend to keep with this for 2021 and beyond. So there is a few of the challenges for Covid and homelessness. Guidance was issued nationally for vulnerable groups which was homeless, traveller, Roma. We don't have Roma at the minute, Kildare and Dublin are primarily where you have Roma. We have to concentrate on homelessness and the travellers. They brought in new emergency measures to protect tenants as well and they are prohibited from issuing notice of eviction. So the members adopted traveller accommodation programme at the end of 201. One of the learning that came from this is that the majority of travellers are seeking standard accommodation. In 2020 we made 27 allocation locations. Even though it would be seen as a cultural priority for traveller, transient sites are not a priority and for instance they asked us to state that in the programme which we did. There is an

increasing homelessness in travellers. A lot of them would have lost accommodation over the last number of years. At the minute we can't move on unauthorised encampments so we have had to put in welfare facilities. Again national guidelines to provide national welfare facilities for travellers on unauthorised sites. Our positive action that is where we allocate a minimum of one house in every 16 we allocate to travellers. That is actually, we far exceed that on our allocations that. That is there as a bare minimum. So the account, we underestimate, we do an annual account of traveller families every November. There is the breakdown of the families in the county. So we would be looking at, the ones we need to be looking at for social housing support are the ones that are chairing with families, unauthorised sites and possibly in private rental, depending on the list of time on the list. We have had 15 families in group housing. We have AHB tenancies. So Helena will touch on that later. There is HAP and RAS and short and long-term leasing. You can see the total is 2,462. So their housing need would be deemed to have been met, but that doesn't mean we don't look at them for social housing when they are coming up on allocations. Leasing is started to increase exponentially. HAP was very successful. 144 availing of HAP. There is a corresponding decrease in RAS. So another area that house has been involved in is the Irish Refugee Protection Programme. We are dealing with Syrian families. Just to give you a flavour of what resettlement is and the images there are quite compelling I suppose.

The allocation was 119 individuals which compiled, we thought it was 38 units but it's more like 45 units. It's a mixture of local authority and AHB properties and we ensured we would have a geographical spread throughout the Municipal District. The Refugee Resettlement Committee is led by the Community and Cultural and Social Development. It would be the HSE and account KWETB and the guards, all the people who need to be there to provide the supports for families coming in.

I have to say it's been very successful to date. The partnership approach with the AHB, where they purchased extra properties, we identified areas where extra supply was available and so we are actually coming to the end of the programme. Which has been very positive for everyone involved, I have to say. It's not homelessness as such it's a humanitarian response to a huge tragedy for these families. So we are anticipating that we will complete the resettlement by March 2021. And I am going to

finish off and leave you with a couple of images there from Aleppo and the families fleeing for their lives basically. I will hand you over now to Helena.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Jackie, for that in-depth preparation. So I will bring in Helena Fallon now.

HELENA: I am just going to share my screen. Okay, that is okay. Let's try this now. Does that come up there?

CATHAOIRLEACH: No. It's not up yet, Helena.

HELENA: One second. Okay, I am going to talk about the maintenance and upgrade of stock. So the first one is reletting of vacant properties much we did 48 properties were worked on and were finished last year. Now we did 62 the previous year in 2019, but there was a lot of delays due to Covid and also the requirement that some of our direct crew ended up working in county buildings and putting up perspex screens and working on, in Shoreline putting in measures. So there was a lot of extra work for them. It voids the option being looked at in the combination of contract and direct labour managed in the Municipal Districts.

Just to say the Fabric Upgrade Scheme will be brought in for relets in 2021. Okay, housing grants. So this is for the DPGs. So the process and inspect works/adaptations undertaken for persons with disabilities and house adaptations for persons with disability.

In 2020 we spent 1.1 million. The previous year we spent 1.7, so there was a reduction. The trouble is we have little reduction in these grants, so they have to get the work done. So there were delays in applications and getting the work done as a result of Covid. On the social side we spent 678,000. We spent over the allocation. So a small decrease on the previous year I think we did well on that one. Phase one is the cavity infill and the external wall insulation in general. We did 90 houses. All tenants have been contacted in that regard. They will be, once the contract offers are allowed back, it should be done soon.

The phase 2, 15 houses started in Wolftone Square. It's started for the moment. We are inspecting properties, again it's a little bit of a problematic getting out to them in West Wicklow and Glenealy. We hope to get it out by Easter. Also last year the department told us we have replaced windows and doors of the units improved

under Phase 16 I know this has come up with some of the councillors. A lot of them were done because they were single glazed. That was the only criteria. So 21 houses were upgraded. It did cause a bit of unhappiness on people who didn't receive it and didn't understand it. So I know a few councillors approached me about that. It was only for properties that were single glazed.

They're doing the detailed design works to project. They're completed now and the procurement, they will be going out to a contractor, should take eight to ten weeks and hope to start in April, and it should take about nine weeks, so June/July they should be constructed and start producing power, it is never a 20-year period at fixed rate. That's a photo montage what it will look like, it takes over the car ports over the front car park in. So, housing repairs and maintenance, the repair works were generally on budget. Central heating provision, we had 150,000 we spent it all, which was good news, we got 32 properties done.

So, boiler servicing, we had 490,000 budgets, we got 59% all oil and gas boilers were serviced, and safety checked in 2020, including boiler replacement and underspend was due to COVID-19. And housing condition survey we're awaiting an initial scheme on that.

So just to say with the HAP, environmental health officer and RAS and targeted inspections, targeted 1326 set by the department and we achieved 700 we couldn't do inspections throughout the year and again, we can't do them at the moment.

Target of 1600 for 2021.

Traveller accommodation, Ballinteskinn. Three houses, detailed design stage and tendered documents completed. Stage three department, awaiting approval to go to tender, Avondale Heights, approval received for funding from the department, ongoing discussions with proposed tenants on draft design. Barndarrig, revised Stage 1 submitted in department for funding approval. DPG in Ashford completed an extension, and Silverbridge Bay, four days refurbished and allocated and bay five awaiting. Age-friendly schemes this is a new initiative of ours and the idea is to provide initiative for people to move on to downsize so we've three age friendly schemes in Greystones, front and back garden and site of the side of Carraig Eden, this is designed for older tenant and offered to

residents to over 60 wishing to downsize the local area. The tenant will remain in their community in age friendly designed home with high comfort and low utility costs and a family home back and the incentives are that especially in Carraig Eden you have magnificent site overlooking the sea so they will be in effect giving up their three-bedroomed house for one bedroomed and a lot of people obviously wouldn't do that, but, this is the incentive they will have a sea view and it will be incredibly comfortable for them and suitable for them as they get older.

So just the three schemes are Mill Road stage one approval received November at the site survey carried out in December, and the preliminary design is under way. In Castle Vilas Stage One approved received site survey carried preliminary design underway and Carraig Eden is age-friendly friendly apartments, procurement for architect for the draft Part 8 last week and it is going well hopeful we get the schemes done and could get 18 hopefully family homes back for the 18 different units.

OK, I think that's it.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you Helena. I'll ask you to take that down now.

HELENA: It is my asthma, sorry, I haven't got COVID-19.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thanks Helena and Jackie and I'm sure there's lots of questions. I will go to Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And we were very government to get that presentation at the housing SPC during the week as well. And my genuine thanks to Jackie and the team for the amount of effort and time that's gone into it. It is very clear they've given us an absolutely comprehensive overview of what is going on and the challenges to us now to give it equal time in terms of analysis and supporting and maybe taking some action what we've learnt.

Something that I'm, my first reaction what I'm struck by is it seems there's a lot of work going on, but that it is almost like I can imagine our housing department swimming upstream against the tide, I'd be very concerned with that figure of 30 new applications a week for example, coming on to our social housing list. And, so, when, and I know there was a debate

around the motion that brought this on the agenda, but I actually appreciate where we've got to because we're taking a more wide-view of the situation and seeing the trends and I appreciate even some of the analysis there that Jackie provided in terms of things quickly causing problems and mental illness as a problem. I have a couple of yes that I would appreciate I'm not sure who would be best suited to answer them. But I actually noted in the order reported we will be discussing later there's a rent debt policy mentioned, and I'm wondering if there's a role for members there to input into that or have a look at it or maybe the SPC, and where is that in draft form or where is that?

In terms of the notices to quit, obviously in 2020, there was a suspension of evictions during pandemic at certain times and I'm wondering how did that impact the presentations of people at risk of homelessness, was there a concentrated amount when those bans were lifted, and did that cause additional pressures or how was that for the team?

And then, in terms of the HAP, and the place finder that work is obviously phenomenal because as we know, it can be very difficult for certain people to access the rental market so would there be more data available in terms of has the HAP team noticed any problems with maybe discrimination for some of our clients?

Or are there any problems in terms of certain areas in the county that is more difficult to secure HA., properties than others, that kind of information will be useful. But just to say the intention with the motion and with this work is for us to try and support the work that's going on and we have national colleagues, some in Government some not that we can work with and it is our job to feed the Wicklow friends back out that way and especially support staff who maybe, I imagine in very stressful situations given some of the numbers and stories we're seeing but I really do appreciate all the work that went into it, thank you Cathaoirleach.

CLLR KENNEDY: I will take them in threes and Jackie and Helena would decide which to take them in answers. Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much and thank you very much to Jackie and Helena for those presentations. My query is I was going to bring it up at the manager's report, but I'd say I'd wait until this

presentation. My query is in relation to the circle housing development we have here in Dunlavin the tenants were told they were given their letter of approval over a year ago now and they were told originally in March they were moving on and then because of COVID-19 obviously that was moved to the end of May, then moved to August, then November, and it is February now and we still don't know when those tenants will be moved in. Any time I raise it at the council meeting I'm told I will get update; I still haven't got one. I have contacted Irish Water about it because I was told that it was an issue with Irish Water connection, they have told me no, it is actually an issue with the developer. There seems to be a lot of back and forth with finding out what the actual status of the estate is, but in the meantime, we have a number of tenants left in limbo, they don't know whether they will be moving this year or not. We have a number of landlords not knowing are the tenant moving out of their houses should they renew contracts and to be honest there's a lack of communication here between the people that have been offered houses and I think if we could improve communication and just give them an update, let them know what the situation is, because they contacted me, I'm sure they're contacting my other colleagues as well looking for information. And you know, it would do no harm to let them know what their position is, it is really not fair the way they're led on this long to believe they're going to be in their houses. And Municipal District back in December we were told they would be in at the end of January now we're into February and we are still in the same position we don't even know what stage the houses are at. Another issue I have come across over the number of months is in relation to older men who are living on their own, they're in rented accommodation at the moment, they're on the housing list for a number of years but unfortunately, they can't get a council property as they're not entitled to a two-bedroomed house and not enough one-bedroom houses available to them. This is a huge issue across the whole of west Wicklow and I'm wondering, where do we plan on going with this?

Like what are we meant to say to these men left in accommodation that's not suitable, there's nowhere to go, some are living with their sons and daughters and family members who have their own families to rear and it

is really is a very ditch situation for them to be in. Thank you very much.

CLLR KENNEDY: Can I say to members it was a great presentation there was detail in it but rather than each and every member thanking to Helen and Jackie for presentations, go to the questions, we will be getting to the end of meeting and saying we didn't get to this, I've thanked numbered on behalf of everybody present so if you would work with me on that one, Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you Cathaoirleach.

I was going to say thanks for the presentation, but thank for the staff for their hard work, as someone on the housing, SPC I sat through the presentation last week and it was superb, I would like to thank you Cllr John Snell who is the chair of SPC, he is always in command of his brief and fair in the presentation. I didn't get to speak on the motion as Sinn Fein last week because my internet went but I'll take it in good faith it was put forward in that regard. But I want to know off the housing department as elected representatives is there anything, we can do to help the housing department because I know we are in difficult times. I also want to know is the housing department staffed sufficiently, I know in other counties there is more people involved in housing. My last question is, is there anything the homeless team would have done differently had this motion not been submitted? Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Jackie do you wanted to come in or share it with Helena there between you.

JACKIE: I'll start with Cllr Grace McManus's query and references the notice of motion, I tried to browser it in the presentation in that the charge homelessness motion in notion, that was discussed at length at the last meeting, you can't discuss homeless any unless you discuss family homelessness, we have to take them as a whole, I want to make the distinct very clear. If children are homeless it is as a result of something that has happened to their family, that's why we looked at the emerging trends, notice to quit and family brackens and mental health so child homelessness is a factor that something that happens because

something has happened to the family. All we can do, to say we want to achieve keeps on the agenda, we achieve zero homelessness, is kind of that's never going to happen, let face it, that is never going to happen because there are always issues contributing to family homelessness. So, what we had to look at is how we will address it and how we're going to resolve it and that's why we have put all these initiatives in place, and I think we're doing a very fine job of it at the minute. The rented policy I will ask maybe Brian to take that afterwards in the role for the members. The notice to quit, if you look at our figures for last year in families presenting there wasn't a significant difference in the numbers from this year, so, while we did in the region, we were very concerned about the lifting of the moratorium on notices to quit having direct impact on the number of families happening it didn't happen on the ground at the time. Having said that we have in place, nearly in place the former building in William's Road which was identified dealing with families who were at risk of becoming homeless following notice to quit. The only notice to quit we can actually be giving during level five restriction sincere extremely antisocial behaviour and we don't have any of those happening at the minute. So, and we're not seeing a huge number of evictions or notices to quit at the moment. I know there was the RTB has enacted new legislation on that following the guidelines that came out through COVID-19. HAP and place finder have asked about data on problems with discrimination or areas which are more difficult. If I can HAP landlords in North Wicklow, I would being extremely helpful, it is like hens' teeth in Bray and that's having impact in families who are homeless, they have to move out of the area, a lot refuse to, it is difficult with north Wicklow because there aren't the properties there, we will put out a plea for properties very shortly and see can I work with and create more relationships there.

Problems with discrimination - we had it was raised at the SPC about possible travellers' group in Wicklow raise are raised there's discrimination amongst travellers or against travellers in the private rented market.

So that's seems to be a difficulty they are experiencing, landlords aren't

allow today discriminate whether people are going to be HAP or not, but on the ground, it does transpire that landlords don't want people with HAP and some cases, and they're entitled to not take the people we send to them for viewings.

So, but we can't determine what exactly was the cause of them not getting the tenancy.

The feeling in the Wicklow trends, rental basis we do all that data analysis and feed it up to the national networks, so it does go up the line, we report weekly to the department and give them our quarterly statistics also, so the department is very well informed of the regional statistics.

Cllr Avril Cronin I'm going to, Joe is going to answer that one, just to say that we wouldn't be communicating with the clients there anyway because denominations, we nominate through SICCO, they do the offer letters.

Issues around the development Joe will come in on that, and then, you mentioned older men living on their own, yes, it is an issue and not just in west Wicklow. They're not entitle today two bed house they only get the private rented figure for one bed house and where do you plan on going with this, from this allocations on social housing we are looking at kind of a 1.5, two bed property for older people because we need to be future proofing their accommodation, they may need care or family member staying with them, so we're looking at that overall but definitely in private rental sector, relying on homeless HAP support they're not going to get the funding to do the two beds so really they're I suppose, their endgame will be with social housing and we will look at two bed units where required.

Cllr Paul O'Brien - can we do anything help the housing department?

I can think of loads but won't go into it.

No, there's not much, we're managing, we're welcome the support of the councillors, we work closely with all of you and it is very much two-way street, information you can give us when required and the way we work, we work closely with all the members, we've always found you hugely supportive so no you're doing fine, there's nothing more can you do to help at the minute. I think that's all the questions?

HELENA: There's one thing is disability grants in the private homes, just

that we are very generous allocation, 1.9 million and sometimes it is you know people have to apply for it and we're not getting the level of applications so that can be an issue for us, we've gone to GPs in the past and asked them to put up a notice on that but we're still sometimes finding it difficult to get all the money spent. And I mean, there are three different types of grants, in one of them, HOP housing for old person grant you don't even need medical grounds, that's for anything structural improvements, leaky roof, electrical wiring you can get up to £8,000 and it is people over 66, so, you know, and in fact it even says people under 66 for extreme hardship. So, there's an awful lot out there, and maybe I should send more information bi-out about that, and so, if you know of people who are struggling in that way or need repairs on their homes. And just to say they're privately owned but also, it does include provided by approved housing body and rented from the landlord obviously with their permission, but there are other categories in there as well so perhaps I can send on information and you could help out in that regard, it would be fantastic.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Jo do you want to come in there.

JOANNA: In the regarding in the absence of that, it is still contractual issues between SIC CO and developers, but the contract is between Circle and developers, and there's, more than we would normally handhold, we would hope we would finish fairly soon but there's no point, it has been a marathon it wouldn't be learning too much good ones from this one, but anyhow. As regard, Cllr Paul O'Brien and the councillors, first of all, a year ago or something like that we said regarding homelessness to get people to present everybody worst case scenario was people presented at the last minute and became an issue. You have done that and continue to do that, so it is one thing. Yes, another thing, pre-Part 8 you but once we come in and talk to you and get a feel for a part.

It then nearly becomes not set in stone, and I know it is very difficult for members because they haven't got the feedback from the local

councillors but once we share our thinking at that pre-part 8 meeting we then talk to the department, they're kind of, they set a ceiling or floor where we're going and on top of that, we put resources in there, so, if people can feed in early pre-part 8 at the meetings and know where the deal breakers are, it makes life easier for us, about us it creates a problem afterwards because it builds up its own impetus at this stage. And the second a drinks links this together, Declan will be with us next month to do the programme going forward. Jackie pointed out earlier on, their allocations is over.

300, from now on let's assume our supply will be in excess of 300 units. We will land, if elected members, particularly in north Wicklow area we have a dirt of planned there, we need to go back in the market.

We're looking for turnkeys and particularly looking for land, so, councillors want to link in with us there, any ideas at all we would be very keen to look at areas there.

Some turnkeys and lands we've looked at has come from the elected members either at local, when we did the trawl in 2015, local areas, some we can't progress and there's a reason why, we'll go through land, and we will quite keen on that at the moment but again, a lot of that is north Wicklow, it is where the problems there again. OK. They're there, I think that's them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a couple of a couple things there, the figures that the numbers of presentations and particularly when you see the child presentations and I know it was mentioned the don't turn up on their own, but I suppose that's what brought this about, Cllr Grace McManus' motion. So, am I right in thinking then they're not unique presentations and that there is possibly quite a bit of duplication there, and if that's the case and that's the way the numbers are presented is it possible to get any clearer breakdown of unique presentations to maybe give a more accurate picture?

Just something else there, on the energy upgrades, I know we're early days with micro-generation schemes but has there been any thought given to that?

If there has, would that be something where the benefits of that, where the energy is sold back to the grid or the tenants is that too early to speak on that, and Jackie mentioned this as well and something that I was going to suggest in terms of HAP for landlords - I think we really could do with selling it to them with some kind of a little advertising campaign or something going out, to let the landlords know of the benefits of the HAP scheme because HAP seems to be where it is at at the moment and they're like hens teeth and there still is misinformation out there. As well as discrimination, discrimination-based ethnicity or skin colour or marital status so I think it would be great if we find a way to break through to any landlords that are out there, thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: My background is working in housing and local authority so that's probably I get a lot and many I can deal with the queries come in straightaway. But for those I can't, I'm just wondering if there have been changes to the requirement signed data consent form submitted in or whether or not the use of PPS number is enough to make representation so I can get clarity on that. The second query is around Silverbridge and my thanks to Helena and her team of the work that's done there, it is fantastic, I wonder if there's future plans from exit and entrance of that site. Last question is the housing condition survey. There are queries coming in around people wanting to look at upgrades done on their home and I know Frank mention it had a couple of times and I'm wondering have you any idea where guidance will come in for you around that and how you're going to manage it, and what areas you're going to look in first, thank you very much Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

As Jackie says, you're doing a fine job.

Just a few questions - on the adaptation grants, like if we've only spent X amount because of environment and all that kind of situation, are we allowed to carry that money over, can we keep that money and add it to whatever budget we've subsequently get, it gives us a bigger on going spend?

Also, I think a councillor touched it from information perspective, I as you said I think you do a fine job in housing I really do but the information could be better that comes out to ourselves because we get a lot of the queries you get directly, we get them maybe before they go to you or after they've gone to you. So, it is very important that we're on the same page. Now on the HAP, yeah you talk about the targeted of 1326 and 700 achieved, I know Erika said about misinformation and that's a reasonable point is there also a challenge in the amount of money available where you're competing in a market where you're although a disadvantage from the word go because of the amount of money is not up to what it needs to be?

On the age-friendly schemes, that's very interesting that programme I must say but how is that going to be done? How are the 18 or 20 or 30 clients how is that going to happen?

And on the adult one the 361 adults, I have to be careful how do that, because I was asked a question two meetings ago and I was told I'm very narrow about it - there's 361, I'd like to get the breakdown, Cllr Avril Cronin covered it well, get a breakdown of that because within that adult area there are specific problems and because of the very nature of the way housing needs to be done there's an element within that 361 who don't get any look in at all or crack of the whip so I'd like to get a breakdown of that. And also, in when we're putting people into emergency homes and I know we have to do our best, but is the quality of homes always better than basic, in other words are we, through no fault of our own, are we being fair to clients?

I'd like to get an understanding; someone mention about the PPS number maybe talk to us on that as well. Fundamentally is couched around, I think it is really information. I find in the current climate I'm busier than ever which is great, and I love it, because I love to be busy. But I think information is very, very important to us and if we have the information we can talk to people, we can explain to people that as well. So, they would be my thoughts but thanks again for your presentation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Jackie back to you.

JACKIE: Tanks, Cathaoirleach ...

The number of child presentations, the duplication, we started putting in the presentations there so we can see clearly the second line was repeat presentations of the 70 households. So that's where we tried to analyse the data better for you, but we'll keep improving for you...

I've lost my train of thought, we tried to improve the statistical information that's given to you, so you can see number of new presentations and we've put in the line of new PP presentations of 70, again, don't the figure of 500 children, that's 500 children of the 270 families, so it is 270 families we're talking about, it is emotive and queues the information a bit. But it is 270 families we're talking about that contacted the council to assist them with addressing potential homelessness or assisting them with homeless any I don't know if that answers your question, Cllr Erika Doyle. The HAP, yes we're going to do a targeted campaign to try and entice landlord into the HAP regime and we're finding it successful, any landlords in the scheme are finding it very successful and are coming back to you with tenancy end by virtue of the client getting social housing or moving on to alternative accommodation and they want to work with the council again with this, a lot are fill tropic but getting the funding as well, so they're happy enough with t just moving on to Cllr Tom Fortune said about the amount of money available. Yeah, if we push up the amount of money available, for HAP we're going to skew the market. We can't be pushing up the private rental market our maximum of 1250, is sufficient for somebody to access accommodation in County Wicklow. North Wicklow would be higher than that, but, if we up the maximum, the rents will probably increase, obviously outside of the rent pressure zones. But, so far as at the minute one area of HAP where there is problems with the rental income available is the single individual where 600 is the maximum available to them per month and that's sufficient to get a house, maybe only in certain areas of county but not in the urban areas so we have made a presentation from the mid-east up the national route on this, and that's been looked at the minute, it is raised as something that is contributory to homelessness for single individuals so we're taking that part very seriously so we work to try and get increases where they're required. Cllr Pat Kennedy, the data consent on Cllr Tom Fortune

mentioned it also, we had agreed that we just required the., PS number and date of birth and happy to engage on the basis of that. So, yes, that's fine, we don't need a form or scanning forms in, once you give us the date of birth and PPS, we're happy to engage. So, Silverbridge and housing conditions survey I'll leave for Helena. Cllr Tom Fortune information dissemination, I'm not quite sure, you mentioned, we were putting as much information as I can into Chief Executive report but if there's a specific area you wish covered let me know and how we can improve, you mentioned 361 adult's breakdown, I'm not sure what you were looking for there, if you wouldn't mind ...

CLLR FORTUNE: What I'll do Jackie is I'll drop you a mail on it OK, and maybe, while I have the ear for a quick second, just on your comment on HAP and north Wicklow I understand exactly the were Dick amount you would find yourself in, and take your point about the rents but the problem is in north Wicklow where a person won't probably get a house for 1200, it means that they're faced with a situation of moving to some other district in the county which in lots of cases is totally impractical because they lose their family supports and everything else because while they're trying to get a house they still have to live and school and everything else so it tends to ignore that problem and I think that problem needs to be addressed. Thanks

JOANNA: With regards to the HAP rates are set nationally so unless there's an issue with them, that will be dealt with at national level. We can't change them here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Thanks Jackie, as Helena to come in there? You all right Helena, is everything covered?

HELENA: Yes, Silverbridge, TII are obviously doing the N11 upgrade, and they're coming I believe this year, coming up with preferred route, they obviously own the whole route along there. we may look at other alternatives such as electric gates, but we will have a look and risk assessment on that and come back, housing condition survey, that's

obviously the department is going to be bringing that and again, it should be this year, I imagine. Again, I think it was supposed to be last year so I think it should be this year. Adaptation grants, you were asking Cllr Tom Fortune about carrying the money over - I'm not sure if we can do that. But, we could certainly ask but, certainly I found the department in reality they let us spend more money on the social than the last two years they've given us more money, so, in effect some of that money does seem to be spent elsewhere, if it is completely spent, aim related schemes how are they allocated, I'm not certain, I imagine people over 66 or 60 a and offered to people in the immediate area, perhaps everybody will be written in the area to ask if they're interested in the scheme and looking for three-bedroom family home to be right or down sized and would they be interested and if we don't get enough people I imagine we broaden out to Bray or Kilcoole, and then maybe down from a three-bedroom to two-bedroom and fill them that way and get a house back for each of these, that's what I imagine what will happen but presumably this is for Jackie to decide ultimately.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I ask people to keep their questions prompt and to the point because there's 11 people waiting to come in so Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. First of all, just like to compliment the staff in your area, a lot of work has been done and land we owned and supply of houses and all, so, it has been unbelievable. To lead into the problem is affordable houses. I'm concerned about we won't have land, we won't have any land in my area for any affordable houses and I'm wondering what will be the solution there, I read recently a couple in Dublin, nurse and a guard, couldn't afford a affordable housing, if you lead into that again, in the county development plan we're going to de-zone houses and I'm just concerned that the lack of housing in my area we're going to create a property bubble and the people who are be looking for affordable housing are going to have problems getting on to buy a house. So, it is going to be a problem because we won't have any,

we've no land so I'll leave it at that because I know you're under pressure.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just I rang the department this morning there because there was a list of housing estates or housing developments that were allowed to continue there, but obviously the two in Arklow were asked to stop, the one up at the lane and out the Bail Road this morning it look like some houses wouldn't need three or four months' work on them so I'm asking the question and the thing is I think from the reply I got from one of the officials there could be a resumption of construction up in March, didn't give a date but there is going to be, as I understand it, it has been looked at and the question is has there been contact between Wicklow County Council in the meantime. And just on the Helena has been talking about, I asked a question at council meeting it is in the minutes, could we not divert some of the money the 1.9 million for social housing, and I rang the department about that, and didn't get a great answer. Now, I want to, I'm not getting into work there's massive work done on housing adoption grants, very difficult for them, everything was done that could be done, but at this stage we're told to spend 60% of what we got last year. But the question is going to be difficult this year because as I understand it, a lot of people don't want to go in their homes and that money possibly won't be spent. So, I'm asking the question again can we ask the department to divert some of the money for social housing where there's a huge amount of issues. And I go through a lot in Arklow here and in Aughrim and yourself chairman knows, that, we have approached the department, I know Helena alluded to it, there's not enough applications from people for housing adoption grants or for the mobility grant can it be diverted where it will be spent.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks.

BRIAN: From a financial point of view, it would normally be allowed interested year to year if we hadn't spent anything it is a new allocation the following year so that's normally the case it is a different expenditure

line. So, we can ask the department but, it would be very unlikely, normally it is you spend, you claim what you spend so while there is saving on the actual grant allocation, it means also we didn't actually spend the money so there's an underspend on expenditure and an underspend or under receipting on income as well.

So, that's normally the case. But as I said, we can officially ask the department, but I wouldn't expect a positive response because it is a separate funding programme all together.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I was talking to the department in relation to what the councillor said there, that at the moment we can only work on schemes we expect to be finished by the end of ten, all I can do is extend that to the end of April so there's new legislation coming out today that will allow us to do that so, Bell Road and TASCAs construction and education are priorities to come back in March so they're only hoping. If they're hopeful I think we should plan on that basis then that hopefully we will be back early in March. They don't know because I asked them the same question as you do. One other thing that came up today when I was talking to them, Cllr Gail Dunne raised the issue of affordable housing, there's a new affordable Housing Bill at the moment that that is three areas, one is affordable purchase, whereby local authorities will be able to build houses now on their own land for affordable. So you get them a subsidy 50,000 for the likes of Wicklow so we sell them at 50,000 below what it cost it is built effectively of the individual clients can do the charge of 50,000 goes on the property so they buy that out over a period of time and being a claw back, second part of the legislation is to shared equity where somebody buying a house that is in public category will be able to get a loan from a new company set up for up to 30% of the value but don't have to start repayments for that for a number of years down the line, just adds to the affordability. And third one they're look forge is cost rental. And just another question that came up today Cllr Pat Kennedy asked it in relation to the asset management surveys, that, there is, that survey database, that survey is prepared now so standard survey we use when we're surveying houses. It is also ICT package procured that will all

the data goes into, and what you will fund now, starting this year, is energy retrofitting to bring houses there B2, triple glazing, internal and external heat pumps and what they want is to start on the losing this survey, this asset management survey to get all the information on the house, so once start using that, and that will start and getting extra staff in relation to that, doing those surveys and also energy retrofitting programme so it is a start. If they do what they're saying, they roll out the programme it will help the continue of our stock because everything comes up to B2, even houses done up to, whatever, so we come back to revisit those, that's update.

CLLR SCOTT: I will be quick some questions have been answered, and just on Government with the - and there's 100 ways to go back to housing stock. I was wondering if Jackie could comment there on breakdown of those quotes for Municipal District. The rental properties were well below target in 2020 I presume it is due to COVID-19 and the same issue this year and wondering how they plan to address that or need additional resource to keep on top of that. The final comment I would like more information on the emergency accommodation piece. I know Jackie mentioned the presentation, you know that it is not what we see in the media you will at the time and if you elaborate a bit in terms of Wicklow's council's oversight on the matter, if there's staff and premises are being trained and also something that did come up is there an issue with people having low connection and allowed access for accommodation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Jackie can you come back and answer any questions covered.

JACKIE: I will take Lourda's one about the emergency accommodation. For example, we sent out expression of interests two years ago to accommodation providers to see were they interested in working with us in providing emergency accommodation, part of that was that they had to sign up to having over and above a room, bed & breakfast, there had been to be facilities for the families to live as a family and outdoor space, there had been to be where possible their own access and laundry

facilities. Over and above what you normally see from bed & breakfast accommodation where you leave it in the day. Our clients are allowed to leave the emergency accommodation during the day, which is hugely positive, that is built in with our emergency providers, one of our emergency accommodation providers in north Wicklow, actually had self-contained units within the property, so we utilised those for family and proved very successful and, are a small apartment within the bed & breakfast complex so we tried to be careful when we can, obviously for some individuals, they may only want the bed & breakfast and things link in with the family during the day but they are allow today stay on the premises, they can prepare food, they could do their laundry, and the family end of things especially in Arklow and Greystones particularly, so, yeah, we will put a piece of work in that, and will be looking, we're trying to maximise using our own stock to give their own front door and that's an initiative we tend to progress, it gives us ... Is that OK.

CLLR SCOTT: In terms of access to the emergency accommodation, just is there any issue with refusing access to locals or anything like that.

JOANNA: Because we have a local connection piece in criteria, we would, every local authority would operate on that basis in relation to homeless presentations, however, because of COVID-19, the minister did announce before Christmas that people who presented as homeless were not be to sent back to Tipperary to present as homeless if they're presented at Wicklow. Now, this kind of did present a problem for local authorities pause traditionally we would say if somebody arrived and spent 25 years in Dublin, and they've heard that Wicklow's opened up a new emergency accommodation piece, and they can access it by presenting because we can't have regard to their connection, it could present problems for us. We haven't seen it as yet, but I know the local authorities would have the same opinion in that we would be facilitating people who have a connection to Wicklow primarily. However, we haven't turned anyone away as yet. If they're on the Dublin list, we would link in with the Dublin authorities and see if we get them accommodation in Dublin. So, it's, we haven't seen a huge influx yesterday as such and hopeful we won't. However, I suppose, this is the way the thinking is

going because you can see in the new national strategy one of the objectives is for the housing passport, where people can be on one housing list and generally go into local authority area and use their years apparently to be on the list. But again, that's just idealistic or an initiative in the new national strategy, it hasn't been rolled out as yet but for the moment we're managing the presentations on the basis primarily local connection but will help out somebody from outside the authority.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helena are you coming in now?

HELENA: To talk about the HAP inspections, it was we were supposed to do 1300 last year and we did 700 and next year the department have increased our target to 1650 so it is another 30% increase, and you know it is ambitious considering we can't even do any HAP inspections at the moment and won't be starting until March or April, probably April, we only have one inspector, he would be doing the 1600 inspections in eight months which is 200 a month, I just, I just don't know how we'll meet those targets, even if we got new staff there's obviously a training of at least four weeks by the time they're up to speed. It is an ambitious target that's always I had to say. Cllr Scott, I didn't hear you; it was about voids.

CLLR SCOTT: The Government announced there's 100 void returns of housing stock in Wicklow, if I have that information correctly and I was wondering if there was a breakdown of Municipal District as to where the voids are or if you've had thoughts on that, it was a press release about a week ago, if that rings ago.

HELENA: A hundred voids did you say?

Yeah, sorry, I'm not sure about that, I will have to check that one.

CLLR SCOTT: I can send you an e-mail or I have OK, appreciate that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Gerry Walsh. Are you there Cllr Gerry Walsh?

CLLR WALSH: Two questions partially addressed one first to HAP payments and rentals allowable and rent pressure zones I know some areas, in Dublin, in certain circumstances there's maybe a 50% above what the payment is allowed is in certain circumstances is payable and I think maybe 20% of the rest of the country so does that still - is that an

issue in addressing the HAP issue sourcing properties there from landlords. I know you addressed it, but is that still there, to raise that to a certain percentage, is still 20% or does that exist. The other part is to do with inspection inspections and Helena spoke to that but drop off inspections due to COVID-19 that has had a knock-on effect on properties that's being delivered.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks Chair, just a quick question there. It is in connection with the rebuilding Ireland home loans that we had 383 applications which is probably, and we had 115 approved which is in around 30% a couple of questions I have is do we have an allocated fund per year for the rebuilding Ireland home loan or is it down to individual applications? And if we did have a fund, did we meet our allocation on that?

And I suppose, the other question is really around the information and the promotion of the rebuilding Ireland home loans to our council tenants to see if they want to avail of purchasing a property. Because a lot of people that are in council properties, some people would like to purchase their property but aren't sure of the way to go about it. So, I think there's certainly something in terms of the information that we can give to the tenants that may avail of them looking at the rebuilding Ireland home loan, but I think it is a fantastic facility and we should be promoting a lot more.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks, I will be very brief. Something that emerged from the presentations in terms of concern around drug use and mental health presenting and how that must be a huge challenge in terms of allocation and maintenance and I just, again, thinking, to what extent is that an emerging issue because I'm saying as member of drugs and alcohol task force it is emerging issue in that space and I wonder if it is something again we can shine a light on and try and build some cohesion around we might respond to that in a way that kind of has a positive impact. But how big is the dual diagnosis element, how concern something that as something that might grow over time?

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Paul O'Brien just before I bring Jackie

back in there, members it is 23 minutes past four, I think we should possibly go for time extension and go to 5.30pm, there's still a number of people looking to come in on this particular item is that all right with everybody. Everybody agreeable to that. Thank you. Search in agreement. So, Jackie I bring you back in there.

JACKIE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, Cllr Gerry Walsh was inquiring about the HAP, Dublin has uplift of 50% and we are 20% and employ that in north Wicklow area across the board because we have to. So, we did put in submission from the region to for Kildare Meath and Wicklow we get the 50% also because obviously our property indicators to measure to Dublin impacts on our rents in north Wicklow. So, we have done that but didn't get any comeback on that. Cllr Shay Cullen rebuilding Ireland, certainly yeah. We do have funding provided for but don't have to meet a target as such, Bryan might want to come in on that, we have funding allocated to cover our loans on building facilities, do you want to comment on that Brian.

BRIAN: It evolved over the last couple of years, the programme started in the middle of the year it had a rolling allocation, and has changed now in the last few months, the information that they've been giving us allocation for new loan approvals it is about 10 million for 2020, there's a previous allocation carried over of 7 million for loan approvals that have been improved on previous years that still have been drawn down so, every going forward, every allocation annual allocation will take into account I suppose, funding that still has to be drawn down from previous allocations, or approvals in earlier years and what we expect going forward into the future. So, so far, our allocation has been sufficient and as I say, based on the information we have to hand for applications on hand and I suppose another point to make is I suppose in most cases people mentioned the number of applications that have been declined, as Jackie said earlier, that's coming from the underwriters and the housing agency rather than decisions being made by Wicklow County Council, it is based on information that's been provided by the underwriter and it is rejected by them for funding reasons, rather than Wicklow County Council. The majority of the applications that are recommended by the

housing agency underwriters would be approved by Wicklow County Council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Brian.

JACKIE: You mentioned promoting the initiative, we would have it on our social implead platforms, on our website, we didn't do a targeted send out to each tenant but it would be included in our County Wise magazine goes to every household in the county so we will look if there's information on our tenant and look at. Cllr O'Brien, drug use and dual diagnosis with mental health it is a huge issue and task force you will be well aware on the different agencies we work with to address the issues. Numerically I suppose we would see it primarily and presentations we would see it in a lot of the single individuals, so you have the numbers for single individuals presenting a lot of the causes for homelessness in single individuals is these drug use and mental health addiction.

It is, something that we are prioritising to address through all our programmes, you'll see with the housing first you have intensive case management team which comprises of professionals and support workers so they would be targeting the mental health and drug use and making sure people are taking their methods and keeping appointments it is intensive management of the client. I suppose it is something, I had asked could I had asked to sit on the drug task force so I'm hoping this will happen this year to bring the piece to the table I suppose, and, but it is a problem, we're also seeing it within families as well. There's a lot of family dysfunction due to addiction, due to mental health issues and the problem is for somebody, it is all well when somebody has a diagnosis, at least they will be linked in with the medical professionals, the hidden problem is when someone has a hidden diagnosis and won't be given but still behaves chaotically and present chaotically and all the issues, we can't do this without the Department of Health and HSE so it is ongoing problem and trying to tackle bit by bit but we would welcome any intervention or assistance and support in that area.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Jackie, I hope that's everybody covered

there. Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah, just I'm not going to repeat what Dermot and Jackie said there about dual diagnose and it is important to connect all the pieces of the jigsaw, that it is not simply putting a roof over somebody's head you have to have the services in place to support the person. Just in relation to the new Customer Services hub, Jackie and the way it is working, is it creating more work from where I'm looking at, there's a lot of paperwork going on and I want to know how it is affecting staff and benefiting you to be efficient or is it working and is there going to be are there plans for councillors to get in the system and see the rep numbers or where a housing rep or any rep is journeying along, are there plans for that?

And lastly just in relation to the single persons men and women and shortage of housing accommodation, I don't think we'll magic one-bedroom units out of the sky so maybe look at alternatives or a shared housing system for people to opt into, I don't know whether that's something that might work, or you know for younger people that might want to share a house with somebody else and make use of a larger house with two people sharing it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Finally, thank you Cathaoirleach.

Quickly - just want to ask the manager there about the affordable housing scheme he mentioned. Why there are such discrimination against divorced people looking for affordable housing I have reps from the divorce couple who are being excluded, and they can't get help at all are hoping maybe as well as first time buyers included in this new scheme you will allow divorced people, previously divorced people to qualify as well because it is a big issue for, one particular couple that have been asking to represent them. In relation to Joe Lane, I wish you luck for land question, you need to talk to Breege about the fact we're proposing to shrink development boundaries in most of the villages, and de-zone large amounts of land around the county. That will severely impact what land will be available for land purchase so I just want to flag that, that is

something we should talk about. In relation to what was said about the grants for boilers and private people I want to caution there I had constituent who had to abandon his application there before Christmas, probably rightly so because he hadn't paid his property tax and that's something members need to be aware of, that there are people out there who haven't paid property tax and not eligible for that grant apparently. Final will I in relation to Airbnb and short-term letting has that impacted, I should think it positively impacted houses available for the HAP scheme. His a few more but, I want to put good word to repairs office. Repairs office seems to be swamped, I think they in more help in there to catch up and get through the repairs that are ongoing. It is unfair to load it on one or two individuals who are carrying the full burden to get a lot of repairs done thank you.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, I'll try to be as brief, great to see so many houses being built but with up to 30 families presenting a week, that doesn't really augur well for the future. I want to mention a couple of problems that I come across regularly, one is that people who are in HAP accommodation often have living in substandard accommodation with mould and damp and heating not working and things like that. They're afraid to complain. They're afraid because they fear they will be evicted. I think, no house should be let under HAP until it passed inspection. I realise there's a backlog of inspections but there should a policy going forward, at some stage no house will be let under HAP until it has been checked out. The second problem I come across is people who have been on rental supplement for years and when they go to inquiry whether they are on the list they're told they're not on the list. Through some way or other disappeared from it. Now, it could be they didn't submit forms they should have or whatever, but as far as I'm concerned there has to be concrete way of dealing with people, keeping records straight that once a person goes on a housing list once they cannot come off it until they take themselves off it. Not pulled off it by anybody else because it must be dreadful to hear you've lost seven years on a housing list, it is unforgivable. Not saying it is always true, but I'm just saying in some cases. I'm sure something has happened and then briefly, we've a

situation here as Cllr Gail Dunne referred to, we have a property bubble in Wicklow Town, there's hardly a house for sale that will impact on HAP so that's a long-term problem coming down the line. OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Jackie, back to you now.

Jackie: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CLLR BOURKE: Airbnb and impact on availability of houses, we anticipated and nationally we anticipated a huge flux of houses back into the rental market. We haven't seen so much of it in County Wicklow or the region, but I suppose it is early days, yet we don't know how that will pan out. Your other queries were for Helena a I'll hand you over in a minute. Cllr Mary Kavanagh 30 families presenting, 30 applications from people and individuals to go on the housing list four-week, that doesn't mean they will be accepted on the list. They may be people living in adequate accommodation, so we don't be accepting them so just to put that point in. People in HAP, I'll hand that to Helena, and then rent supplement query, somebody is on a social housing list it is up to them to ensure their information is correct. When we did the HNH social housing assessment towards the end of the year we wrote to everybody on the list, advised everyone on social media, and advised the members who put it on social media platforms also, we did a huge campaign and we advertised in the papers, also, we also gave them a time limit for responding, we then rang them and emailed them and rang them again and wrote to them again so we gave them every opportunity to remain on the list. Now I do understand that some people don't alert us to the fact that they're address details have changed and circumstances have changed but, really with 4,500 people on the list, we're not going to be retaining on the list who don't respond to our correspondence. As I say, the members of work closely with us on that, if you find somebody should be on the list that isn't and came off it for example, we have policies around homelessness, if somebody is in homelessness, we don't take them off the list but they're the only policy areas we look at in that case. The rent supplement at some stage were given to people who weren't on

the list as short-term housing support, so you didn't necessarily have to be, in sometime throughout the 80s, 90s, so that's where that historically lies, we do look at appeals compassionately so if you have a compliant taken off the list and is feeling aggrieved about it, several come to with us the individual case and we'll review it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks.

HELENA: One is the inspections if there's housing, if people are aware of houses, we mightn't not get to the inspections but HAP have a special time frame and we get out as soon as possible but we do risk based audit where we perceive, we move up the list immediately, if people are aware of housing that they feel inadequate we'll inspect them under private rented, especially mould that's not acceptable so if there's issues out there, tell us, we will look at the houses, trick in the Wicklow area, if there's issue afterwards as homelessness we'll deal with it under homelessness, but people shouldn't live in inadequate housing and we do risk based inspection on top of anything else, that might save Helena answering that, and second one is, Jackie hinted it there but housing need assessment is bigger than the need assessment, it feeds into the state's investment so if we don't know about this demand throughout we're not going to have it in our programme. It might take us a few years to get to people, but if we're not aware of the demand and state doesn't see it the investment programme is affected by it and up to the last year, 2015-2021 targets from based on the demand, so, we have to, I mean, Jackie and I have to know about, a lot of questions are coming in and department inspectors are pushing us towards one bedroom need because the information is fed into the housing need assessment and demand, if we don't have that information, it affects the investment from the state. So, people have to keep us informed and it is only a matter of keeping that information up on a regular basis and checking with us.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy enough that's covered.

HELENA: Obviously if we inspected a property before, we can't do as Government scheme, we're required to do it after the HAP has been

issued. There is an issue on mould, most complaints are around mould and often there isn't mould, at the beginning and mould develops over time and sometimes it is how people live because they don't ventilate the property properly, they're drying clothe inside the property and number of issues that cause mould, I'm expert about this myself and you just got to keep it well vented late, and modern houses are even more of a problem with the amount of insulation, there isn't a ventilation there, there would be in an older house

CATHAOIRLEACH: Now Lorraine would you take the one in Cllr Peir Leonard's one in relation to the customer care hub.

LORRAINE: By way of innovation, it and council chamber is looking absolutely smashing and under normal circumstances we would be welcoming the elected members in and introducing them to the systems et cetera, else, but look at we look forward to that in another day, about you just to say the team were down there they're in place and operating COVID-19 restrictions, call volumes are higher than normal but dealing with as much as possible, incoming post volumes are increasing because we're advising customers to make their postal applications where possible. So the customer care team, servicing the motor tax, revenue counters by appointment only and advising customers with online and postal, if elected member want update on their representation or query, just e-mail the Customer Services address and that will be provided in terms with interaction on the portal system that's certainly where we want to reach to in terms of the whole management system and CRN system so maybe in a month or two, depending on the agenda we'll give elected members update on the Customer Services hub.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

A lot of the issues have been raised but I wanted to highlight some just question to Helena, as you said there's one inspector, HAP inspector, would that be the norm in the other local authorities?

Just to see comparison to other county councils and what way they're

running that, and also, is the high rate of success from an inspection I know that if a tenant does make a complaint or whatever, that the recommendation goes back to the tenant, and not to the person who was in the house. And are the landlords upgrading the recommendations in a quick manner because I know I recommended one or two issues and I don't think the landlord has actually to my knowledge updated the conditions?

Also, on the disability adaptation grants and ability aids, I've always had against this. I've always had major concerns about money not being spent over the previous years. I can understand this year is different. But the last year because of COVID-19. But is the small aids and appliances grant, is the small jobs have they all been you know completed? Is there work assigned to that?

And also, to Jackie I have concerns of people in disabilities and older people in congregated in settings, maybe a year or two years as cases has been and what is the requirement of getting back into independent living as our motion was passed last week, that's a vital motion that I appreciate the people of Wicklow approving that, but as other councillors said, it is not just putting a roof over people's houses, it is combining the resources which maybe is not some of the county council's responsibility I would say either, but another link that we have failed on, probably around the country again is the relationship between the our local occupational therapists, these people are the people who are going in regularly to the clients service users, they know the requirements, they know what way they live, they know their daily living. Not some OT occupational therapist who was employed by Wicklow County Council as an agent, who don't know these people, who don't know what way they live, in a system they live, and I have major concerns with that. Major concerns and I'm sure that's again, not specific to Wicklow County Council, but we I know before local authorities, that the local OTs had three monthly meetings with their districts, and they built up a fantastic relationship with the housing officers and it really was successful. It really, really was and I think that link has failed. I also would have concerns about the Customer Service of which Cllr Peir Leonard spoke of, there is no feedback on our recommendations

of when we sent in. We're asked to send in the data or PPN number and date of birth, those are on the people's files we already sent in, so we shouldn't be asked that and no comeback to the person looking for the assistance or the councillors, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

I just, if Helena could send us out that information on those additional grants. That would be brilliant, and the way people can qualify. I do know for some of the grants some people have said to me look it is not a huge amount of money, I can ill afford it but don't want to ask for three separate quotes because I know all of the electricians or plumbers that's involved and I'm only going to be give the business to one of them and feel terrible to ask the others to make a quote when we know they're not going to do the business. That's it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just briefly, more or less on the affordable housing and I'd welcome the minister's announcement a fortnight ago, some light at the end of the tunnel for people caught between two stools where they don't qualify for social housing and income, they can't get the mortgage. So, I'd absolutely welcome that. There's a quite a few people in West Wicklow that could assign to that, and I'd be anxious who had more calls who are excited about this announcement, but how quick we'll move on in west Wicklow with this affordable housing. I'm not going to be - the county manager there, I understood they would be built on council land and then I thought Frank said they could be built on sites, one-off to people that would qualify you know. So, I'd like to get a clear on that, and at the same time I wonder you know, we are seeing a move on building houses in west Wicklow, we have Dunard not Dunard, but Dunlavin, Baltinglass and investments where maybe there is up to three or four projects starting. We believe that they could be maybe housing agency or council houses in the long run. They're built by private developers, but it would be great if the local authority got a hold of them and at least some of these. But what I would

be asking is would there be any pocket I mean with the likes of housing agencies, they have a 25-year lease, they only lease out or is that across the board with every housing agency, if not there could be there might be room there for maybe X-amount of houses, in these estates that could go to the people who would qualify for affordable housing and section would be affordable housing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Gerry. Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

Yeah, I just want to take this opportunity briefly Cathaoirleach to commend Jackie Carroll and the housing team in relation to the San Remo facility in Bray. I think Jackie from the very outset when we were talking about proposing this provision for the homeless was on top of her brief, she was always available to the members and always available to the people from the local area, to answer their questions and as she said earlier, very near the top of her presentation there, that the neighbourhood liaison committee we set up with the Bray east councillors and the local neighbours, has been very, very successful and so successful indeed that we are only meeting once every two months now instead of once a month, but we couldn't have done this without Jackie and her team and I want to compliment her.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Jackie do you want to reply to those questions?

JACKIE: Thank you Cathaoirleach, going back to, I omitted to respond to Cllr Peir Leonard, had mentioned about single units and how hard they're to get. Just to say the housing agencies is working with us on this also trying to source single units and hopefully we'll get something out of that this year that identified one or two in County Wicklow that we're able to hope to purchase by HCs and nominate people to. Also, Cllr Miriam Murphy, and I'll speak about my end of things there, as you're aware we have housing disability steering group and work closely with the HSE and people representing the disability groups on that. There's a lot of initiatives coming down the line in disability at the minute for example the application form for housing and disability there's a new form coming out

and currently screened by the data commissioner and women' hope to have that in quarter one. The national disability strategy for housing has been extended to our current strategy is extend today 2021, and we will do the consultation piece in May 2021, so online consultation beginning in February, and that will be advertised by the department, there's a study being completed by a student from Africanity how the housing Disability Steering Groups are working, and this will help inform the strategy. But the successes we've had to date in housing people with a disability have been phenomenal they're highlight on the allocation piece but the work that goes on behind the scenes isn't efficient from though slides so it is useful tonlet when we're looking at allocation, if we, when we receive a particular unit the first thing we think of is whether it is suitable for people with disability or elderly or people with medical need so we've had huge success in identifying people right-sizing with disabilities or elderly and actually a lot of our part 5 unit, we've had eight Bungalows as part of that estate and went to disability, in fact one unit was two houses put together to ensure a family was accommodated there.

So congregated settings we work closely with people in congregated settings to move them into alternative suitable accommodation, but it is difficult to access that accommodation, we work with people who are in hospital settings or nursing home settings will you because there isn't suitable accommodation for them. We built the seven accommodations for Arklow for people with disability and elderly and they've been successful and there has been one or two available again for reletting so again, we look for people with profound disability for those properties. DOB, I suppose, from our point of view, when e-mail comes in with a reference rather than going back and taking out the until file it is easier, and it will be dealt quicker and less delay if the date of birth and PPS number is on that e-mail. Cllr Gerry O'Neill was talking about affordable housing end of things and Cllr Anne Ferris thank you for your kind comments. That project was hugely rewarding because it showed the work when we all work together on T there was a lot of different agencies involved to get that project across the line, it had huge support from Bray MD, there was adversarial comments I suppose, or movement towards it,

but even the people who would have been afraid of going into their area are very happy to see how well it is managed and how well it is working to date. As I say the presenting population were already in the area, so it wasn't, we transported the people in the area so I'm glad it is doing well and certainly providing an essential service there at the minute, particularly with COVID-19.

The affordable, I'll hand over to Jo or Chief Executive.

FRANK: Just on the aid affordable purchase what the minister wants to introduce is local authorities back building affordable houses basically. So, where we're having estate you could have a mix of social and affordable. Legislation how long it will take I don't know butting it timely to build it in our designs and look to designs to the few a various stages, we raised the idea could it be flexible to turn to turnkeys and PHBs they weren't talking about one-off off houses in any point of the discussion but shared equity loan would be to shared houses to houses in a development but going back on a Cllr Sylvester Bourke on divorced individuals, I would have thought and that they would be assessed individually based on their circumstances but I'll have a look at a am could back to him thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Can I just thank Jackie and Helena, and Joe and all in the housing team for all the work going on, when you see a presentation like this today you realise the amount of work going on and I suppose, when you go through all of the questions, that has been offered here today, there was over 55 questions asked by the members today, I was taking a note here so that goes to show, we spent two hours on this item so I want to put that on the regard and thank everybody.

CLLR SNELL: Just before you go, very sorry for cutting across you there, I thought it would be unfair for me to come in today I wanted the members to express as many questions as they could of the housing section and I'm going to take your advice, I won't thank the housing section because they know how I feel about the amazing work that goes on. But if I could just say house something a huge part of a public representative's

workload.

And hopefully, touch wood when things get better I have suggested that I do feel we should have workshops in regards to, housing there's such a vast variety, diversity of issues in regards to housing and not issues but topics and you see it with the amount of questions, so, hopefully when we get back to some normality I would love to see we could roll out workshops, a couple of hours workshops so that members can get their heads around the various aspect of the housing, I think it would be helpful, I don't think anyone is trying to hide anything away. It is like any section, I'm probably not as familiar with some of the work that goes on in other SPCs, no more the members that are not on the housing SPC, but the staff are there at all times to, they will contact, they're available to take e-mails and phone calls when they can, but I would ask the Chief Executive to perhaps ask look at the role in regards to volume of work that goes on in the housing section. And perhaps look at in regards to the management of that section and by that, I mean the amount of staff that is available to a director and senior executive officer, it is a huge volume of work, it is a very stressful situation that they find themselves, at all times and I would encourage you to maybe have a look at that regards to numbers I won't be thanked by some of the other directors, but I do believe that you know, we are a little bit under resourced and I know it is extraordinary times, but I would ask you to look at that, for example talent liaison officer, in other authorities they have four or five, Wexford, south county Dublin, in Wicklow we have one for 4,500 tenants. We discussed it with you before, but I thought I'd say it here, so thank you Pat for chairing that meeting I found it fascinating thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr John Snell and for all the work you do as chair of the SPC and all members on SPC, and please pass on our gratitude to them for what they do. I'll move to item number four presentation on the east coast erosion study and Marc Devereux.

MARC: Trying to share this preparation.

We have had news on this project which is very good news for the county.

I've been working with this with Irish Rail for the last number of years, Irish Rail has been carrying out studies and doing works and rather than duplicate the work, they've been kind enough to let me sit in on meetings and discussions about this project to the point where it has come to a conclusion for the study phase and the Irish Rail is moving into a new phase now which is of very much use to Wicklow County Council. They commissioned to review the ICPSS Study done in 20208 by IPW and reviewed the information development information on the coastline from rings end to Wicklow, Wicklow Town. When I got involved, they kindly extended the study to Arklow because we pointed out that areas are concerned as well and them, as you see now have forwarded information and made it available to us as a result of the study. ARUP proposed solutions and estimated costs and did risk assessments as per OPW guidelines, they studied the following coastal zones, you will see a map here now with areas they're coastal zone areas 1-10, and then 11 was extra one they added in which was Brittas Bay, so, one is from meon gates to Dun Laoghaire and all the way down coastline. They went through a process, and I'll skip through these quickly because we get to the point. They surveyed the existing coastal protection structures and identified information gaps and reviewed the information they had. They did assessment of the existing coastal processes and coastline evolution and current and future scenario, coastal change maps based on that. And they did a risk assessment.

Having done the risk assessment they identified the solutions to the risks and issues and then preliminary environmental assessment and consultation with national and wildlife services to inform that process and came up with options and feasibility assessment.

So, resulting in a coastal erosion risk management plan document which covers the areas I showed you, and has come up with the following outputs.

Obviously there's outputs in relation to the area around Merrion Gates but of interest to us, is that the first point they got to that were interest to Wicklow County Council was the former landfill just outside our boundary in Dun Laoghaire, Rathdown jurisdiction, just not of Bray Harbour, the

solution that was suggested in their report was that a rock revetment structure extended the existing one that terminates at our jurisdiction boundary and to extend that to cover the former landfill north of Bray and to also carry out, this is done by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown with funding from environment climate action and communications, it is under the heading remediation of legacy landfill because it came under another funding stream so dealt with but Irish Rail have included it had in their study because the rail is quite low there and it is interest of them. The next cell is area from Bray Head down as far as almost as Greystones harbour. And the solution they came up with was to upgrade the existing structures along Bray Head, those who travel there's concrete and rock revetments below the railway line that Irish Rail have maintained over the years, they will upgrade them, they're also proposing that they would do beach nourishment and detached break water system which I will describe in more detail further down.

In the area, immediately south of Bray Head, the area where the railway line goes into a tunnel. This is a proposal that's going to form a big, larger project which I'll get to in a minute. Costs will be up to 10-20 million but benefit are significant because there's a high-volume railway track the DART which is at risk of erosion. Which when you measure up the cost of the loss of that or reduction in use of that because of coastal erosion, it would validate funding considerable amount of funding, so they've progressed that. The next cell they looked at was Greystones, actually it is two cells, but they carry them together, they call it 41 and 42, Greystones to Newcastle solutions that was discussed in this document, were detached break water system, I'll describe them in minute and beach nourishment, and/or management of the existing revetment where there is, north of Kilcoole. There's an existing revetment which they would maintain.

And they would carry out this beach nourishment and constrict detached break waters presuming this project get through to construction phase. The next cell, part of cell 6-2 is Newcastle to Wicklow harbour, again there's existing revetment around Newcastle station and north of Killoughter. There are detached break waters. To get an idea what they

might look like and hopefully we will see these off the coast of Wicklow, these are example of break waters constructed off Norfolk in north east England the idea is you construct artificial island some distance off the coastline and this is in effect of breaking the energy of the waves as they come in on a storm and the long-term effect is you get deposition or increase in beach in a shape, behind the island, between the islands and coastline and this is effect of naturally increasing the beach and dune structure and it is sustainable and does less invasive on the coastline itself, we're hoping this type of solution will be proposed and indeed developed off Wicklow.

For the section coastal areas 6, the coast here could be up to 125 million this, is a major project. But the benefit is significant as well as the existing railway track which incidentally is mentioned in the NTA strategy for the region to be upgraded so hopefully it is a benefit and importance nationally so it will attract funding.

And the benefit of the value of the existing railway track and Murrough and Broadlough and habitats that would be protected by the structures. And then the area of Wicklow harbour, they did study it and this particular project doesn't propose any additional works there, but as you know the OPW have done maintenance work of the north harbour so what we're hoping is OPW will assist us in maintaining that stretch of coastline.

Now, they also studied the Brittas Bay area and that is subject to erosion and the proposed solution there was dune protection, that is protecting the dunes from the effect of access and overuse and that hopefully by doing that, and planting vegetation we can protect the beach long-term. And then she this he reviewed the area immediately north of Arklow and immediately south of Arklow, the solutions they suggested in here would be additional detached break waters, immediately off the beach and the rock arm your, beach nourishment and thermal growing a structure along the top of the existing revetment to prevent loss of the coastline along here and dune regeneration to the area of the north.

But the area to the south of Arklow they are suggesting large scale beach nourishment and dune regeneration. That's there, CCA10.

For the sections we just mentioned, Brittas Bay and Arklow costs could be

in the order of magnitude costs for this, of up to 30 million when we look at the benefits, unfortunately we don't have a railway line immediately behind that, because if we did, we would look at positive benefits. But we were going to have to do work on this, and we're going to try and maximise the benefit, and Irish Water are proposing to carry out works on revetment immediately north of Arklow Harbour as part of their construction of the wastewater treatment works and we're hoping OPW will take an interest of remaining area of revetment and putting OPW a further project. The next steps for us now, is all of this activity, mapping of the affected climate of climate change and likely outcome is part of our climate action team will map all this and take on board all of the information but the Department of Transport has approved funding to Irish Rail to progress the project for CCA1 to CC A-6, as the work is going to be progress with CCA4, north of Bray they won't be carrying out works there but will be monitoring that section because it is interest of them, from Merrion Gates to Wicklow Town and Rosslare, they have a briefly coastal infrastructure protection programme, it is capital works project which is approved in principle by Department of Transport and Irish Rail will be taking it forward now, for the where it helps suss that awful the coast of County Wicklow which has a railway is part of the project and Irish Rail will now progress the project.

The next step is to carry out a cost review under the public spending code to assess the costs and prepare public spending code documents which allow the project to go to the Department of Transport and Deeper to have approval, as the costs look from the reports I read and benefits are stacking up the way the report is set out, hopefully Deeper will approve the project and it will get the project to go further, Irish Rail will be look working on the public spend code process and invite Wicklow County Council to join a project steering committee so that means they'll keep us informed and Chief Executive will be kept informed on progress of the project.

For Brittas Bay and Arklow, not included in the project for Irish Rail going forward so we'll bring the output from the study to OPW, and hopefully we will get the OPW to take an interest in that section of the coastal. There's

a national programme regional climate action office is addressing coastal erosion and we're hoping that having done this study and having got the study information from Irish Rail we will be able to bring this section of the coastline to that project and hopefully get some funding to continue to study and hopefully develop the project here. Thank you for that. I'll take questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Marc. Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And Marc, and this is indeed great news. I suppose I was excited when I read a funding has been approved but it says to progress the project. Now does that mean a funding has been approved to works or has funding been approved to do more studies, if it is to do with more studies, when are we actually likely to see works that will actually protect the railway and protect the coast because there is very little land left in sections of that, between particularly north of Wicklow Town, between the coast and railway line and I also want to know can we look at the Greystones to Wicklow East Coast Greenway as part of that or will that be considered by the working group?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yeah, thanks Cathaoirleach and thanks Marc, a good presentation. Irene has asked some extent what I had in my head. What's the timeline on this? I would be interested to see what the timeline is, and also, I would suggest that the cost will come in higher than what is currently projected. You mention 10 million what you talked about between Bray and Greystones. Based on the costs we've seen on things nowadays, I had he be surprised if that's going to happen. My real interest is what is the timeline on this? Will it ever really happen? That's really my question.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank Marc for the presentation. Just from Newcastle to Co Wicklow Town, the Murrough has been washed away and I see the projects figure is 125 million, now,

I'm nearly positive I got that right. Which is an awful lot of money and just wondering where that is going to come from that funding for that amount of money. I know you mentioned Deeper if this is, carrying on what Cllr Tom Fortune of saying, if this is not done quickly you can forget about it, because there will nobody Murrough left, it is getting nearer and nearer the train track there.

And we won't have any Murrough left there, so it is something that needs ...

To be done in Wicklow Town if the weather continues ...

If the weather continues at the scale the way, it has been we're in trouble here, so this really needs to be brought forward very quickly and the money needs to be provided or the coastline is in trouble.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Director Breege Kilkenny.

Breege: I wanted to come in there because members are concerned about the beach area of Brittas Bay so we will be hoping to tap into the climate action fund there to try and progress that piece for the protection of that, our very important Blue Flag Beach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Breege. Marc, I'll bring you back in.

MARC: I think I can answer all three questions from Cllr Irene Winters and Cllr Tom Fortune and

Cllr Dunne because they're essentially the same question, the concern what happens over the next couple of years, we press Irish Rail they won't be shy because they're very concerned themselves about the railway line particularly in Wicklow, as you know, three or four years ago we got together Irish Rail and ourselves got together to do emergency works at the Murrough and intention is we would do the same the team looking after this are aware that even Irish Rail are aware of the risks and they monitor that section of the railway line and Merrion a regular basis and we will hopefully not have to step in because, but we will be monitoring it. There are figure environmental concerns particularly around Murrough if major works will be carried out, we have to climb environmental legislation, which is why this is difficult enough to progress,

Irish Rail is committing amount of their own funds and looking for Deeper Funding and looking for transfer funding. They're progressing the whole project systematically, there will be a lot of investigations to be carried out next so I'm afraid I can't press them any harder than I have. We will be bringing our concerns to them and they're aware because they're maintaining the railway in that area and way which are the concerns, they don't want to rush the boulders out to protect the Irish Rail they want the permanent solution in place, so they are aware of the concerns. The next step is a step because of the size of the project it has to go through a process to get funding from Deeper but I'm reasonably confident we're looking at the figures, the funding will come from the Department of Transport because this is a rail infrastructure project, this is about protecting the rail infrastructure and indication from the Department of Transport are good I'm told for this project because, it is in strategy, as well as having a value to railway line at the moment, it is in various strategies, that section of railway is in various strategies NTA for improvement and increase in capacity and in number of trains and passengers so hopefully it will stay on the radar and funded by the national Department of Transport. In relation to the Greenway - the colleague who Irish Rail is working on this is well aware of the Greenway project and his own line manager has been sitting on the Greenway working group with Christine Flood and they'll, they'll keep both projects will keep the other and there's symbolism between the two if the coastal erosion project, as they progress forward there's more for the Greenway project and we'll discuss hopefully share information with both projects. As we do surveys environmental surveys that was in the Greenway project, we'll share them with coastal erosion project to cut down on duplication of effort which has been done up to now so two will run in parallel and any information comes out from one party it will be shared with the other, my experience with Irish Rail that's how they progress business, so hopefully that will continue.

Yeah thanks Cathaoirleach, sorry about that, my question was about the Greenway but to address it but in relation to the Greenway project and how this announcement which is very which will compliment that, the last

comment about the sharing of the projects because I know the last element or the application from the Greenway project for further environmental assessment studies was held up really on wait in production of this report now that we have had obviously this is good news but Marc's point about shared projects, so is he saying actually, if Irish Rail are conducting specific environmental assessment studies that will mean the Greenway group study will not have to be undertaken or are they separate, in other words, you know, will this vast track the Greenway process.

CLLR BOURKE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I really welcome the report into the coastal erosion, I will be worried we will be sold out in Arklow, it has been on our agenda for 20 years, we made reps and applications for beach nourishment and groins, if they're back on the agenda as problems in Arklow where I'm afraid the banishment will be, we will be sacrificed for the Murrough and Bray. Will the manager put Arklow with the equal footing with the same as the county?

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you I'd like to thank Marc for his presentation, just to bring you on slide 21, where you say the Department of Transport has approved funding for Irish Rail to progress projects for CCA1-6 except CCA4 - north beach can you clarify the situation there for me please?

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, I very much welcome this report, I mean it has been a long time coming and very necessary.

And the fact it is doing the whole coast is very useful. I just have the next stages are important. And I just I notice there's additional study or suggested for Greystones North Beach in particularly the cliffs there. And it mentions there that there's issue of water of coming off Bray Head, I have anticipated been on ten years I reckoned half the erosion in that area is doing with the water coming off the land rather than the sea. And I just want to know what the story about that particular part of the study is which needs to be done because you need to do this before you actually take some measures. So, but very much welcome the whole thing and hope we can get on with it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Marc, I have a couple of pieces of housekeeping I

need to sort out before we move on to your response because I only have eight minutes left, just to inform the members item five and six those presentations will take place in March.

I would like to take item seven now to note the local government statutory Audrey port of the elected members for year-end 31st of January 2019 and report was circulated, can I just, everybody in agreement with that, because it needs to be noted?

Yeah, thank you members for that. And in this correspondence, I think this is worth doing and getting out to see if there's any correspondence.

LORRAINE: One piece of correspondence really and again I mentioned it at the special meeting last week is the elected members declarations under the ethics legislation, the political donations, were to be submitted by the 31st of January, this are a number of a number of outstanding ones look you get a lot of paper could you look into that and get it back to us the ethics officer as required to do. And then, the annual ethics declarations again, they need to be in by the 24th of February, keep your eye on that members thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Lorraine for that. Marc I will ask you to deal with many of the four questions as you can, if you don't get to them all perhaps replay to e-mail to the members that asked them, Cllr Gerry Walsh, Cllr Sylvester Bourke, Cllr Anne Ferris and Cllr Derek Mitchell. But we do have enough time to answer them.

MARC: Cllr Gerry Walsh questions about the Greenway, my experience with Irish Rail as they carry out the background information, baseline information we need to collect to do the studies they've been sharing with us, so I'm hoping both studies we can share information with the other side, we do still both to do our due diligence so there's element of works and surveys carried out and are needed by the Greenway project. It is just we try and keep the overlap, where there's overlap keep the information flowing between the two teams so we don't carry double up on the surveys, there will be some cost savings by doing that. For both teams. But unfortunately, we both have to do you are separate surveys because both will be presenting planning process at some point so they

have to do the due diligence so it will be a case of co-operation I'm hoping which will help. To went necessarily to away with the need of both schemes to have planning process, Arklow I take the point Cllr Sylvester Bourke unfortunately, Arklow is no concern to Irish Rail so they haven't been able to push the right button for us, I will push the button for OPB I will take up Philip's correspondence and go back to OPW, but Arklow is on the radar OPW because the Arklow flood scheme and hope to have conversations with colleagues in the OPW about this. So, we will put it on their radar again. In relation to the area immediately north of Bray, Cllr Anne Ferris, the reason that Irish Rail won't be looking at areas CCA4 initially is that Department of Environment, action and communications, are already funding works with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown are carrying out that which may sort out the issue, it is just they don't Irish Rail don't need to do anything in the future because Dun Laoghaire Rathdown are doing it DDECC but Irish Rail will keep an eye and Dun Laoghaire when they finish it will be reassessed by Irish Rail point of view and checked that it is not any further risk from coastal erosion so the works are going ahead it is not a case Irish Rail abandoning it because they don't need to do it because of Dun Laoghaire and Rathdown. Cllr Derek Mitchell concerned about the North Beach; the whole project has to go through financial appraisal which is the next step for Irish Rail. And but the further studies we will have to study both the water coming off the land into that soft soils of the top of the cliffs, and that will all be done by Irish Rail again as part of the project and we'll feed that information into Irish Rail, the information that is already available from the other studies and report by Sean Mason gave the district that will be fed up to Irish Rail so they will be aware and combined effort on our part to look at that issue of coastal erosion immediately north of Greystones. We'll feed in information to them it is not having to redo work.

CLLR KAVANAGH: I have my hand up a while. I just want to say that I'm absolutely delighted with the news, and as one of the members of the save the Murrough group that met five years ago, we honestly thought this day would never come, it is fantastic, I just hope that nothing stalls it, and we can move on as quickly as possible. Is there a possible time

frame for completion of the CC1-CC6, and just want to say thank you very much to Marc and all the team and really looking forward to seeing that work being done?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well said. Marc is there a time frame.

MARC: Order of five years for the whole projects. The first for the rest of this year effort will be on costings and designs, we don't see much activity on the ground and then it will be submission to an Bord Pleanála for the overall project for planning early next year but it will take five years, two to three years on the ground anyway.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Marc and the presentation, great to see that money coming. Two minutes left,

Cllr Kavanagh, if you're happy I will take your notice of motion, yourself and Cllr Peir Leonard it was on the deferred from the special meeting on the 25th and on the agenda since November and by monthly payslips. Lorraine if you have a response to that.

LORRIANE: Certainly. Payroll is around centrally for the sector by my PayPal based in Laois, there's two options for payslips, traditional payslips, online access portal, the core portal is online single systems with the council use here, which gives access, staff access to their daily clock-ins, leave requests and pay details. So, payslips can be downloaded by staff only should they choose to do so staff only. The method of payslips is currently determined at a payroll group level so salaries for pay group pensioners pay group outdoor group councillors pay group not at individual level. And e-mail version option for payslips is not currently available to either staff pensioners or councillors on the system, we will investigate with my PayPal, mypay to see if it is possible to transfer the pay group for the councillors on to core portal which would allow elected member download a payslips it should be noted if this is not possible, if this is possible, then all councillors will be moved as a group, not individually as the method of receiving payslips can only be determined as a pay group level.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you

CLLR KAVANAGH: Do you want to respond to that.

CLLR KAVANAGH: I understand the reasoning behind that it would be hard to separate it into a different some do and some don't it is impossible, it is either all or none but I really do hope that if the e-mail versions are and core portal version is available that councillors will avail of it, because it is honest the days of your payslips coming in twice a month, only to end up in with an envelope dumped in the bin or recycled or whatever, those days are gone we have to look to the future think of the planet and extra costs involved and all those kinds of things and I know most people today who are working receive their payslips via e-mail so I don't see why we shouldn't.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks that concludes our meeting and thank you each and every one for their time patience and dedication for being here, thanks everybody and I can't say safe home because I hope you are all home.

LORRIANE: Can a member of the protocol committee stay online please and everyone else, thank you very much, and we'll see you soon again, stay safe, thank you.