

**ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM**

ON

12 APRIL 2021 AT 2:00PM

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**Alan Bell
Elaine McCarthy**

Wicklow County Council

Ordinary Meeting

12th April 2021

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon everybody. You are very welcome. I would like to welcome you all for our meeting here. Welcome to the management team and whoever else is joining us. Lorraine, I will go over to you perhaps for a roll call, please.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Yes, Cathaoirleach. There are another two or three members still to join us, so I will just start with the meeting etiquette first and then we can do the roll call.

Just to say that each elected member participating remotely has responsibility to ensure there are no persons present who are not entitled to be either hearing or seeing the business discussed. Mobile phones should be switched to silent. Please do not leave the online meeting without informing the Cathaoirleach to ensure that a quorum remains.

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Members of the public and the press, you are also very welcome. Thank you for joining us. Please keep your microphones on mute, your cameras off and observe any directions given by the Cathaoirleach.

Cathaoirleach, we will go ahead with the roll call. (The roll was called)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon everybody.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Okay, Cathaoirleach, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, if anybody has votes of sympathy?

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Cathaoirleach, for Patrick Kavanagh, husband of our colleague, Betty Kavanagh, and brother of John Kavanagh, a driver with Bray MD and brother-in-law of Tom Nolan in Environment. For Rose Murphy, mother of our friend and colleague, Mano Murphy. For Sheila Brady, retired official of Wicklow County Council, who many of us may remember well. For Ursula McCord, sister of our friend and colleague, Catherine McCord.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine. Members, do you have any votes of sympathy which you wish to express? No.

We will take a minute's silence and remember them.

CLLR CULLEN: Eternal rest grant unto them, oh Lord. May your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Rest in peace.

CLLR FORTUNE: Chair, sorry, could I just say something before you get to item 1?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune?

CLLR FORTUNE: We seem to have a massive, very busy looking agenda today. I'm just wondering should we allocate time for the notice of motions? There are some Notice of Motions I don't think we will get to today, so I wonder should we just create some time in the meeting to do them, or extend the meeting at the end?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Let's just go for the moment, Cllr Fortune, and see how we go.

CLLR FORTUNE: I just wanted to flag them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Fortune. Item number 1 is to confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 1ST March 2021. Can I have a proposer for those, please? Proposed by Cllr Snell and seconded by Cllr Cullen, I think.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Shay Cullen, thank you. Is that agreed? Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 2 is to confirm and sign the minutes of the special meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 22nd March 2021. Can I have a proposer for those? Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr Bourke.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 3 is to consider the disposal of the property comprised in Folio WW2791L, in the townland of Sheepphouse, Arklow, being the property known as 14 Father Redmond park, Arklow, Co. Wicklow to Ms. Denise Rowlands, C/O C.J. Louth and Son Solicitors, 5 & 6 Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow (as per notice previously circulated). Proposed by Cllr Fitzgerald. Seconded by Cllr Murphy.

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

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 4 is to consider the disposal of 0.0013 hectares or thereabouts of land comprised in Folio WW6103F Co. Wicklow in the townland of Dunlavin Upper Townland, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow, being to Mr. Dermot Kelly, 1a The Green, Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow (as per notice previously circulated).

Proposed by Cllr Patsy Glennon. Do I have a seconder?
Cllr Cronin.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you, members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 5 on the agenda is to receive a presentation on the Draft County Development Plan, 2021-2027. I think we go to Sorcha for this. Are you with us?

SORCHA WALSH: I am indeed. I am just trying to get a presentation up for you. The purpose of the presentation today is informative more than anything, to keep the members up to date with where we are at with the County Development Plan, what stage we

are at with the plan making process. We have spoken to most of you over the last few weeks about the plan, but I suppose it is important that we make sure everybody has the same information, so some of the information we will be providing today some of you may already have.

The plan process, as you probably are aware, we are at the stage where we have prepared a proposed draft County Development Plan and we have issued it to you, the members, on 16th March. As set out in the Act, the proposed draft plan shall be deemed the draft plan unless, within 8 weeks of the submission of the plan to the members, the members decide by resolution to amend that draft development plan. Of that 8 weeks, we are only about 4 weeks into that now so that will bring you up to the May council meeting. It is the meeting in May where the members will decide if they wish to make amendments to the proposed draft plan and thereafter it becomes the draft plan.

I'm just going to give a brief overview of what is in the proposed draft plan. I'll go very quickly through it. Volume 1 is the written statement of the plan. It is 20 chapters long. The overarching themes that go throughout all chapters of the plan are healthy place making, economic opportunity and climate change.

The first few chapters are introductory section and set out the overall strategy for the development of the county. Chapter number 1 is the introduction and strategic context, sets out the higher-level documents, government policy and so on that you have to have regard to in making the plan.

Chapter 2 is the overall strategy and that provides more information on those overarching themes and how they have been integrated into the development plan. You will know, those who were involved in the previous development plan, that topics such as climate change and economic opportunity will have been stand-alone chapters or appendices in the development plan. This time we turned it on its head and made them the key factors that are in the plan from the start of the process rather than at the end of the process.

Chapter 3 is the core strategy, which sets out the housing population targets for the county during the plan period and beyond.

Chapter 4 is the settlement strategy, so that sets out the tiers of the settlement strategy that the various towns have been placed into which influences the policies that will apply in them and the growth parameters.

Chapter 5 is a new chapter on town and village centres. The previous chapter in the current development plan that is called towns and villages is really more about retail. There wasn't enough in it about the actual strategy for the development and growth of towns, so we have separated those two topics into two separate chapters, with a focus now on place making and regeneration in our town and village centres.

Chapter 6 is on housing; chapter 7 on community development and chapter 8 on built heritage.

Chapter 9 is economic development. Chapter 10 then is retail, chapter 11 is tourism, and then chapters 12-16 are infrastructure

chapters, so transportation, water, flood management, waste and environmental resources, energy and information infrastructure.

Chapter 17 is natural heritage and biodiversity, and you may recall in the current plan, we have a chapter which is also built and natural heritage. It's a very long chapter, so we split that into two chapters, with natural heritage going more with biodiversity.

Chapter 18 is green infrastructure, which was an appendix to the last development plan, but it is becoming more important, so we have brought it in as a main chapter in the development plan.

Chapter 19 is marine spatial planning, coastal zone management, and chapter 20 is implementation and monitoring.

Volume 2 are town plans. All towns under 5,000 in population can be integrated the County Development Plan and don't require their own stand-alone local area plans. The level 4 plans that form part of the plan are for Baltinglass, Newtown and Rathdrum. Level 5 is Ashford, Aughrim, Carnew, Dunlavin, Tinahely. Level 6 Avoca, Dunard, Newcastle, Roundwood and Shillelagh. There is one plan for a level 7 settlement and that is the Laragh and Glendalough land use and tourism plan.

Finally, volume 3 are all the appendices, which are twice as long as the plan itself. Appendix 1 is the development and design standards; number 2 is single rural house design guide; number 3 is the housing strategy. In accordance with the NPF we are required to produce a document called a Housing Need Demand Assessment which is to replace the housing strategy and supposed to be more detailed

assessment of housing need. We haven't been provided any guidelines or any instructions on how to do that as yet so this could be viewed as an interim housing strategy until we are advised how the Department would like us to update this.

Appendix 4 is the record of protected structures. What we have issued to you is just the proposed additions, deletions and amendments to the record of checked structures. Appendix 5 is the wind energy strategy. Appendix 6 is the strategic environmental assessment which we are required to carry out by the Act and various EU regulations. Appendix 7 is the appropriate assessment; appendix 8 is the strategic flood risk assessment; appendix 9 is the infrastructure assessment. This is a new requirement under the NPF that there is a requirement to show with evidence that any land being proposed for development has the infrastructure necessary with regard to water, wastewater and roads to be developed; and appendix 10 is a requirement of the plan, a statement outlining compliance with Ministerial guidelines.

The council meeting will be coming up at the beginning of May and it is at that meeting that the members may propose amendments to the draft plan if they so wish. In order to ensure that any amendments that the members want to put forward we are able to circulate back to all the members so they can have them in front of them for the May meeting, we are requesting that any proposed amendments be submitted by Friday 30th April. We are able to help you with any text or maps that you may need for your amendments and we will

circulate them back to the members the week following that, so everyone has time to consider them before the May meeting.

Finally, that is just a summary of the key dates coming up. The current state we are on 30th April submissions by then, council meeting on 10th May. Assuming we can get any amendments that are proposed put together with the current proposed draft plan by the end of May, it will go on public display for 12 weeks and thereafter we will accept submissions and later in the year we will prepare a report on those submissions.

That's the extent of my presentation, Cathaoirleach. I'm happy to take any questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Sorcha. I know, Cllr Timmins, you want to come in.

CLLR TIMMINS: I won't go into detail, but I think the time limits were set out there, thanks. I wanted to know at what stage can members, when is the last stage when members can actually make submissions? I know we are invited to make submissions before the 10th May meeting but can new submissions be made after 10th May? Could you give me an indication on that?

Just generally from reading it, I am very concerned that the overarching thrust of this development plan is promoting large development in four big towns, at the expense of the rural villages, small villages, smaller towns. I think that is of deep concern. I understand that a lot of this has been dictated to us and again it's another, how to say, restriction we've been told we have, based on

the national planning guidelines, that give population guidelines on each county and that should be targeted towards the large towns. I would like to maybe work with the planners on getting more detail on how the final breakdown has come. Up at the top, Bray is 52%, that's what it says in the percentage on page 45, okay it's 9,500 from the metropolitan, I get that, but if you go down the percentages on page 45, it really is putting very little growth on the lower hierarchy settlement areas.

This is based very much on the regional planning guidelines that were adopted I think in February 2018, so they are over three years old. A lot has happened since then. I really question whether, you know, these guidelines are relevant in the current climate. I am also conscious that two weeks ago the Minister for Rural Affairs issued a document promoting rural Ireland. Okay, there's some specifics that we might try and incorporate into this development plan, but I think the mood has changed as regards the thrust of the original national planning guidelines, which are effectively being imposed on us and restricting our room for manoeuvre. I think we as councillors need to take a position on this. This is called our development plan, but let's make it our development plan, put in what we think is right, what's best for Wicklow, and not to feel our hands are tied at every proposal we have and every decision we have to make. I think we need to put our stamp on this.

I would urge every councillor, now councillors, I know what it was like for myself in 2004 with that development plan. There is no doubt that everyone should read the areas that affect them and put through

amendments and work with other councillors in supporting that and make sure that's happened. I am particularly concerned about a couple of things. Urban influence is one term that has been bandied about that's going to restrict rural planning further and in particular every townland in Wicklow is deemed to be under urban influence. I have a serious problem with it think we should push back on that. That is just my general thoughts on the development plan at this stage, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Just a couple of points, I am not going to get into specifics of the plan, but I suppose a lot of the issues that seem to be arising are around the possibility of these owning land and particularly the core strategy figures. I suppose there seems to be, Sorcha actually alluded to it earlier, a Housing Need Demand Assessment which I was reading in the National Planning Framework. Have we done a demand assessment? That tells us a lot about the amount of housing we need, I suppose, in terms of our plan.

My second point is there seeming to be a review of the national development plan underway or going to be underway fairly shortly. Does that impact on our County Development Plan?

My third point, chairman, I suppose my broader point, our meeting on 10th May, I would like to propose it is a physical meeting, if possible, because I think it is such an important topic for discussion on that particular date that I don't think it lends itself well to a Zoom meeting

so I am proposing we should have a physical meeting to discuss the amendments on 10th May.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you Cathaoirleach. That was on the same line as myself, Cllr Timmins. I was at an online meeting a few weeks ago and this is the problem all around each county, in putting a lot of time and effort into reading our county development plans, putting in submissions, putting in proposals. Then it's going up to the Government and it's being rejected. It is taking power away from us, the few powers that we have. I think it is going to be a major impact this time. I think people are really up to what the County Development Plan isn't. It's saying we have a choice but then when we have a choice, it's taken away from us. I think we need to be very, very conscious of that. I think some of it is unrealistic, especially for rural Ireland. No offence to climate change or whatever, I think that's going to change a lot of the rural settings and the planning laws. I think to say that we could progress into populating rural villages and towns is not reality. It is not reality and I think we need to be conscious of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Murphy. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: I just wanted to say that the figures in the plan, the population figures are based really on a census of a good few years ago, and the targets on the Eastern and Midland regional plan have really determined what's in here. I just have a concern that by the time this is published, this will be well out of date.

For instance, I think that the original document from the Chief Executive last June did show the figures for the housing which had been approved in each area, or started, under guidance, sorry, instruction of the Department this document has been amended to show I think only completed and occupied, certainly a much lower figure. I have asked that some means is put into the plan just to illustrate the scale of the growth that is happening. For instance, the figures I know in Greystones, the amount of planning permissions granted and those which are currently being discussed will exceed the 2031 population figures by 500 to 1,000. I think we need the infrastructure to cope with those people and if we just put something in the plan that it might expand a bit in the future, then I don't think we are going to get the infrastructure. So, the plan needs to specify what we know is happening at the moment in terms of planning permissions and outline planning permissions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I realise Sorcha and all her team have done amazing work. It is very difficult because they are so tied by the guidelines from the National Planning Framework. When I look at the numbers, I see 4,000 units in Bray, most of those are going to have to be built in Fassaroe, but Fassaroe is not going to happen until the M11 is finished and the M11 is in about year three or four of a 15-year project. So, for the lifetime of the new County Development Plan Bray will not deliver 4,000 houses not because it doesn't want to or they are not needed, but because physically it

won't happen. So, we have to look at those houses and see can they be redistributed because the people and the demand is there.

I am just wondering, is there something that we can put into the County Development Plan to say that if areas are not using their full capacity or allocation, can those units be absorbed into areas where facilities and infrastructure already exists, rather than capping Wicklow and Arklow. Well, Greystones is packed, but Wicklow and Arklow -- well, Arklow will have once their sewage comes online and Wicklow does have in terms of land and it will need more schools and things like that. So those are things we need to look at.

In relation to Cllr Cullen's point about having a physical meeting, maybe we could look at the new chamber with half the members there, maybe half the members being in the rooms or being able to, if they don't feel comfortable attending the meeting being able to come in on Zoom, but having the meeting up in Shoreline, where the sound quality is so bad that basically nobody is going to be able to hear what happens would be worse than having it on Zoom. So, if we could have it in the County Chambers and people who do or don't want to attend, I would be in favour of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Just to not to repeat what other hases said but the fact of where we are now, we have just come through the COVID pandemic, it changes it is context of owl our planning and development proposals. Working from home is a new reality that is not going to go away. We have changed a lot of the ways we have

developed our life and it has a huge potential for rural Ireland and rural Wicklow to reinvigorate itself but not if it's under the current restrictions of the National Framework, which is a set of instructions, designed to ensure that housing development goes towards urban based North Wicklow at the expense of East, South and West Wicklow. That's my read of it at the moment.

It is very important that in the context of the 10th May meeting we are given sufficient space, because it is a very complex issue and I accept the planners and thank them for all the advice they have given us new councillors on how this plan is put together, but it has at the moment extremely serious consequences for rural Wicklow. The 10th of May meeting should be giving serious consideration as to the venue to consider that we have the capacity to interrogate what is over 1,000 pages of the County Development Plan and make the appropriate changes. If it is to be our plan, there will be significant changes, and that's what I would like to echo today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh. You need to unmute.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I won't repeat some of the points already made. Just on the growth figures, the 31,000 unlikely to be achieved in this draft plan, we are looking at Bray, 9,500 units, not going to happen. More likely half of that. Arklow, the same with the wastewater treatment plan restriction at the moment. It is imperative and we made this point at our meeting in July in Greystones that there is an element of flexibility around this plan. I think the proposal that was adopted by the members, like Cllr John

Mullen on the day should be adopted in relation to land management use.

Really, the National Planning Framework the point was made is really out of date now. Post COVID things have changed, and people should be able to live anywhere and work remotely --

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have lost you, Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: I have internet problems. We need an element of flexibility around the methodology, I think, of using the figures here hasn't taken into account as already mentioned the planning permissions and units under construction as well, particularly in the Greystones area. Again, to deliver the proposed units in the areas proposed is unlikely.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anybody else want to come in that I am missing? Cllr fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is along the same lines as Cllr Walsh. The figure of 31,000, if you took the 9,500 for Bray and the 4,500 odd across the town centres, what happens to the number if Bray doesn't happen and if the town centres, which a lot of them wouldn't be really suitable for what's been envisaged? So, let's say there's a figure out of the 31,000 of 15,000, 16,000 whatever the figure is, that's not going to happen. What happens to that number then? Does that mean that that number will be spread around other areas? Or is the whole thing just prescriptive and we're going through the motions of all this and we're going to be told this is it and we can't argue.

It just seems a little bit unrealistic, having had a look at it again. I just can't see some of the realism in it. In theory it's great, but in practice I just see serious issues with it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Fortune. Sorcha, can I bring you back in? There are some questions in that, and there are more statements than questions.

CLLR DUNNE: Can I get in?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr Dunne, I hadn't seen you. I'll just bring Sorcha in, then you can come back in if you want.

SORCHA WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. As you said, a number of the issues raised, this is maybe just dissatisfaction with the Government policy and so on. I don't think there is any need for me to address that because you are all aware of what's this the National Planning Framework, the regional plan and all the other documents that go with them. It is not for me to comment whether they are right or wrong or should be changed or not.

We have to prepare a plan for you that is consistent with those documents and that is what we have endeavoured to do the best of our ability. We were very constrained and curtailed in the number of things we could do because of the higher order documents. What we tried to do was strike a balance to comply with those documents and develop a plan for you that meets as many of your needs as possible, but it is nigh impossible, given the instructions we have from above, but we are happy to talk to any of you individually about population targets for individual places or towns and so on.

Just one or two high level questions that came up, just to be absolutely clear. Cllr Cullen mentioned the Housing Need Demand Assessment. What that is really about is once the housing target as in the number of units is identified for the county, what type of houses are delivered, what size, what format, who needs housing and so on; but the number of housing units to be delivered or to be targeted in the county for the plan period has been set by the Minister. So, the HNDA wouldn't alter that. So just to be clear on that, it's how or what type of houses they are within that figure that the Minister has already set.

With regard to the process raised by Cllr Timmins and the ability to make amendments, after 8 weeks has elapsed, which brings us up to the May meeting, the proposal we have proposed to you becomes the draft plan unless you propose amendments to it at the May meeting.

So that is your first chance to make amendments and any amendments that are legally passed are then integrated into the plan and that is published as the draft plan. It thereafter goes on public display and we will prepare a report on any submissions that come in on it. The Chief Executive's report may recommend amendments on the foot of those submissions and they will be put to you, the members. You will then decide whether you agree or disagree with those recommendations. You can also, at that stage, propose your own amendments if you so wish. So, there is a second stage for you to propose amendments. So, May and then later on in the year. If

you propose amendments at the later stage, they will go back out on public display.

Then finally, just about the population and redistribution of population away from Bray. Unfortunately, we are curtailed in that regard because the population that has been allocated to Bray has been allocated to Bray only and can't be redistributed to other settlements. We were given the county population figure to distribute around the county, then we were given an extra to add to Bray. Out of the county pot, very little has been allocated to Bray but the majority of the growth for Bray is out of that separate Bray allocation. So, there would be very little to take off Bray to give to other towns because the majority of that is for Bray only. That is part of the regional planning framework and the metropolitan area strategic plan.

I think they are the main high-level issues I thought appropriate to answer at this stage, but we are happy to meet the members individually or in groups between now and the May meeting. No problem at all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Basically, the planning regulator has sent down these figures. She has to implement it, her and her staff have to implement it into the County Development Plan. I just think that is very difficult at the moment with the figures that we have.

I would like to second Cllr Cullen's proposal that we meet face-to-face. I think that is very important, but I also understand

there will be restrictions. That might be possible but if it is possible, I think that is vital that we do meet face-to-face.

I just wanted to thank Sorcha and her staff for all the hard work.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell, you wanted to come in.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I mentioned in morning at the Corporate Policy Group meeting in regard to the confusion around members being entitled to a hard copy or not, and the same from the e-mails that members weren't getting a hard copy. I explained, and I can only speak from my own perspective, that he this is the most important piece of work we will do in the lifetime of this term in office at a local level. I feel that our hands were tied, certainly mine anyway, not to have a hard copy. It's a huge document, very difficult to do it over the computer, going backwards and forwards, looking for various chapters and comparing notes and whatever.

I have requested a hard copy because I discovered this morning that some members have got a hard copy of this, so I just want to make the members aware that the senior management, said that if they want a section of the plan or they need the full plan itself. Now, I know the arguments against it in regards it's only going to be for a short period of time, and we know about climate change and the effects of getting this document printed, but I genuinely feel that my hands are tied if I don't have a hard copy to do my work in the town for this council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Now Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly, I kind of alluded it to myself but a couple of councillors raised it specifically. I'm just interested in Sorcha's view on it. The whole COVID effect because COVID means that people will be much more able to work from home and this thing of commuting under urban pressure may fall away to a certain extent.

Clearly, the guidelines we are getting are underway, and all bets are off. This is built under existing guidelines but surely if the ground rules change, you have to react. We can't just go ahead blindly on the basis that nothing in the world or in Co. Wicklow has changed. Things have changed fundamentally, so we have to recognise that and amend our plan accordingly. Albeit it may be in contradiction with national planning guidelines, but those national planning guidelines are now out of date. They need to be brought up to date for the new reality we are all living with.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Just briefly, Cathaoirleach, with regard to submissions by the end of April, do those have to be dressed up in planning language with planning reasons for our changes to the proposed draft plan?

Secondly, I was reflecting on Sorcha there when she was speaking. I remember at the last County Development Plan she cut 3,000 population growth from Arklow at the time and said she would give it back in the future because there had been no sewage treatment plant. It has actually been cut further this time as well, so we are in a

very bad position for growth when you look at the totality of what's happening. So maybe she could comment on that, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorcha, can I go back to you for a final comment?

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. With regard to the last point, I didn't cut anything, Cllr Bourke. I'm afraid the development plan was adopted by the members. We can only advise you with a plan that would comply with the higher order documents and you make the decision at the end of the day, not the planners. Sorry, I can't take personal responsibility for cutting development in Arklow.

With regard to Cllr Timmins about national guidelines being out of date, unfortunately what we are compelled to do is prepare a plan that plies with the Government guidelines. That is what we have endeavoured to do. It is up to you how you want to proceed.

With regard to the urban pressure, it is the sphere of influence in Wicklow, we've been given guidelines on how to do that by the Minister that is what we have done and presented to you.

Just finally, with regard to hard copies of documents, as we said at the outset on 16th March, anyone who requires hard copies of anything, just give us a shout and we will get it out to you. So, Cllr Snell, we will get it out to you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Sorcha. Can I bring Lorraine in for a second on this?

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Just to mention for the elected members that membership familiarises themselves before making decisions on the County Development Plan in relation to the ethical framework for local government, and particularly Part 15 of the Local Government Act. The responsibility is on the elected member for compliance. There is a procedure for making disclosures at council meetings, then there are procedures for making disclosures in advance of council meetings.

So, we will be writing to the elected members during the month just to remind them of the ethics legislation in that regard and obligations.

Just to say in relation to the physical meeting, Cathaoirleach, just to stress that it is very important for the elected members to continue with the engagement with planning staff up to 30th April and get all the submissions in. We were not sure, or we won't be sure what level of restrictions we will be in on 10th May. Shoreline won't be available to us. We will still be caught with the 1 hour and 55 minutes. I think, Cathaoirleach, we will discuss that internally with the Chief Executive and the planning team and members till then.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine and everybody. Cllr Winters, did you want to come back in there briefly?

CLLR WINTERS: Yes, sorry. Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just to say that maybe if you are discussing it and we are trying to meet in person, maybe it could be a separate meeting with just this one item on it to try and facilitate the time restriction. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Winters.

CLLR O'NEIL: Cathaoirleach? Gerry O'Neil.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR O'NEIL: I requested a hard copy of the proposed plan, but when I heard that it was very expensive, I withdrew that. Just to take up on what Cllr Snell pointed out there, I think it would be very unfair if some councillors did have a copy of the plan and others didn't. I think either we all get it or -- it would be totally unfair that some groups of councillors would have it. That's the facts.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to move on.

CLLR O'NEIL: Could I get clarification on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think it has been clarified, Cllr O'Neil if you want a hard copy, it will be got out to you. Do you want a hard copy, Cllr O'Neil?

CLLR O'NEIL: Once every councillor is aware of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 6 is to consider the Chief Executive's monthly management report.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I will just mention one or two items. One is the URDF. As you are aware, we were awarded funding of 7.14 million which will look at the potential for the harbour wall extension of dredging of the water body, et cetera, extend the amenity areas, improve street lighting, paving, parking; it will look at the promenade, boardwalk, linking the promenade with the harbour and relocation of the boat storage. There is a lot of work

already done on that by RPS and a lot of public consultation. That will continue and we have set up our team here.

We will be applying for Arklow and Wicklow again during the summer. We will get word on that in September.

We did get funding also, 500,000 for the Bright Lights Blueway project. That is a project that will create five Blueway nodes along the coast which will lead to participation and coastal outdoor recreation. Each node will have a defined access point to the sea. That will be Arklow, Wicklow, Curracloe, Greystones, Bray. It will be some infrastructure works, boardwalks, et cetera. There will also be a supporting trail head, signage, interpretation information and then capacity building will be provided for local water sports clubs and commercial outdoor recreation providers, promoting common activities and other events.

One last one, Cathaoirleach. We have an outdoor seating and accessories for tourism and hospitality business scheme. There are grants available for businesses for up to 4,000 for 75% of the ex-VAT cost of equipment such as outdoor tables and chairs, umbrellas, electric heaters, screens, wind breaks, wooden platforms, et cetera. That has gone up today. It is expenditure that must be incurred between 1st April and 20th September 2021. The procedure will be fairly straightforward. Just apply for the section 254 licence, very straightforward. We can turn that around very quickly. If you've got that licence you can apply for the grant.

There is also a weatherproofing and outdoor dining infrastructure scheme that is available. That's available to local authorities, up to 200,000 to identify suitable locations and propose capital projects that are flexible, innovative and facilitate year-round use for outdoor dining. We are going to look at various areas around the county now, various different towns, and see if we can make an application for that.

I will take the rest of this as read, Cathaoirleach, and take any questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Chief Executive. Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thanks to the Chief Executive for the report, as always full of a lot of very useful information.

I just have two quick questions. In terms of public lighting, it is my understanding that it was the system that we had that you could log lighting faults online. Each pole had a pole number and so if constituents came to us, we could say pole number 4 on the Vevay Road and we could just log it on the system. But it seems now that the newer lighting poles have a different tag on them that don't correspond to the system. So, you have to give a general location which seems less efficient than the older way. I was wondering if there were any plans to be addressing that.

The second question is can we get an update on both the internal report on the fire service that was being written and also the different

report that the members of Bray MD requested on a review of the need for a full-time fire service in Bray. I would appreciate that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr McManus. There is no one else shown, so I will come back to the Chief Executive. Sorry, Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Blake then. I will take Cllr Mitchell first.

CLLR MITCHELL: It's about the Delgany to Blacklion Road. We've been expecting the CPO to be published every month till July. I asked the Chief Executive at the January meeting and he said it had been published but it hadn't been published at that stage. I would just like to know has it been published and, if not, when will it be published, seeing as it has taken nine months so far?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks, chairman. First of all, thanks to the Chief Exec for the report and commend the staff for the number of houses we've been delivering in the country. There has been a strong rumour in the area about the future of Carnew Fire Service and I would like to ask the CEO if he could clear that issue up for us.

Secondly, in the report as well, I see an issue with regard to the CLAR programme and the possibility of funding for council transport. I haven't seen that one before, maybe it's new. I certainly haven't seen it anyway. Can I just ask, have we applied for funding in the past or in the future in terms of the CLAR programme and council support?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Blake. I will go back to the Chief Executive for those three first.

Chief EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. The Carnew Fire Service, there is no threat to that that I'm aware of and I don't think there will be into the future either. Colm Lavery is on leave. I might ask Helena to come in for a second on the public lighting and on the Bray fire service report, if that is okay, Cathaoirleach? And the Delgany to Blacklion Road if she has information on that.

HELENA DENNEHY: Hello members. Cllr Mitchell, the dedicated Blacklion Road improvement, the notices have been prepared but not yet published. They are under review with a view to lodge them as soon as completed. That is in train at the moment and won't be much longer, value has also to be procured by the CPO process. I will come back to you, Cllr Mitchell, direct with an actual time but it hasn't been published as of yet.

In relation to public lighting, Cllr McManus, again I'm not sure of the reason why there is a different tag on the different types of poles. If you can leave that me, I will come back with a response in relation to it. It may be that we have to update our dead sure system that it is reported in a different way. I will come back to you on that.

In relation to the internal report on the review of the full-time fire services, our Chief Fire Officer has prepared an internal report which has gone for independent review with the Department of National Emergency Planning. We have lodged a number of e-mails and calls to the Department for an update on the status on that report. Apologies, I just don't know what the status on that is, but I know we hadn't got a report back from them up to last Friday.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We got an update report on the Bray fire and I will send it out to members.

HELENA DENNEHY: Again, it is on the agenda for the SPC tomorrow, our Transportation, Water and Emergency Services SPC tomorrow, so if we do get an update, we will be going back to the SPC as a first course.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard, did you want to come in?

CLLR LEONARD: Just in relation to the Arklow Cloverleaf Scheme, could I just have an update on the recent meeting you had on the access to the river and also the visibility of the Nineteen Arches. Is it going to be an Bord Pleanála decision and, if so, can we look at maybe much more improved public engagement with signage on the river and signage in the town as well, because I think that the public engagement has been very poor on this project?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thank you to the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report.

We are over a year into this pandemic, and I am sure people are really starting to feel it, including the staff of Wicklow County Council and municipal offices as well. I want to thank them for their efforts, Cathaoirleach.

Just in terms of the arrears on council tenancies, it has gone from 1.5 million last year to 2.7 million this year. I am sure fatigue is setting in now and maybe low morale. I am just wondering what plans are in

place to guide the staff through this and recoup some of the monies and payment plans put in place.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a quick question. Every month we see the heading waste management and we see statistics about fines issued and this kind of thing. Since the last year and probably long before it, waste and the problems of litter have become probably the number one talking point in councils and certainly amongst residents of towns and villages. There's illegal dumping, there's all kinds of issues. There are rodents, there's burning of rubbish. I mean, it's just unmanageable. It has reached unmanageable proportions.

I am just wondering if it's time to start looking at this from a different point of view, from a different perspective. I think we need some kind of a task force in place, maybe with entities, people from different community-based entities contributing to it. Maybe Sponsor a Bin, or maybe some kind of initiative like that. We need something desperately because our towns and villages are becoming absolutely filthy and there's too much work for councils to keep cleaning up after people. The pandemic has brought everybody out on to the streets. There's more eating in public places than you ever saw before. Our own river walks every weekend is a disgrace and any visitors to the place would be shocked to see. I know that's replicated right throughout the county.

So, it's just, as I say, we have seen waste management as a heading there. I just think it's time that we started being a bit proactive and come up with a few creative ideas to try and deal with this dreadful, dreadful problem.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I am going to turn my video off. Thanks to the Chief Executive. I just wanted to come back to following on from what Cllr Kavanagh said there. I want to come back to the issue of dog fouling, which I raised I think in the March meeting. It is still a massive issue, and I am sure it is echoed in districts across the county.

First of all, how many litter fines have been issued for dog fouling? I wonder, could we have a breakdown of that in next month's Chief Executive's report.

Secondly, I know, Chief Executive, you had said that you would look into various suggestions I put forward to you to address this issue. I was just wondering if you could update on how that is progressing.

Thirdly, there is a working group in Dublin City Council working on the problem of dog fouling. I was just wondering if any other councils had input into this or could use the information that they will glean from it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to the Chief Executive now.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. In Arklow the environmental assessment report is pretty much complete and ready

to go. There will be a consultation process, but we will have our own public information sessions in any case, so I will revert directly Cllr Leonard in relation to that.

Cllr O'Brien, the arrears on housing. There is a difficulty with rent collectors going out during COVID. Hopefully, that will be resolved as to vaccinations et cetera. We are doing a lot of work with staff in terms of resilience and having safety procedures internally and so on. Also, we had the rent review last year and always the arrears go up. We are looking at payment plans, we are contacting people and it is a big priority for to us get those arrears back.

In terms of the waste management, we have a very strong waste management team. There's no question about that, in terms of the enforcement officers, the engineers that we have. We are really successful in terms of the cases we take to court. So, there is a really strong team, there is no doubt about that. It is still an issue, illegal dumping, and sometimes COVID hasn't helped the situation. It is something for the environment SPC, councillor. I will certainly take that on board and pass it on to the SPC to see what more we can do in terms of working groups et cetera.

With the dog fouling, I would say there's very few fines issued because it is so hard to detect the individual involved. That's the reason for that. It is all about education and enforcement and we've been providing essentials over the years in terms of pooper-scoopers, things like that.

Some of the issues Cllr Scott raised are national issues that would require national legislation. Again, it is something for the environment SPC. We have asked for it to be put on the agenda. If Breege is there, does she want to say anything more about that.

BREEGE KILKENNY: Yes, I do Chief Executive.

Cllr Scott, having received your mail before, we have actually started looking into the research of this with respect to your point in terms of DNA with regard to the dogs' excrement. Just to say we are looking into it but besides the substantial operational cost, there are some issues with regard to getting the type of tests for DNA and the voluntary nature of the proposal, because people who are willing to give their dog's DNA are responsible owners and not the type of own who would let their dog foul and would pick it up. Most of the dog dirt on a particular road is from the people using the road daily. We do recognise that it is a significant issue, and it will be brought forward again at our next SPC.

Just also to say that since your e-mail, Cllr Scott, we have progressed on a number of awareness issues. Under the anti-dumping initiative, Jim Carroll, under the anti-dumping initiative, has put in a number of these speakers that when people walk by, like when I was walking in Greystones myself at the weekend, they will recognise and say, "If you have your dog with you make sure you clean up after you." So, there is that.

We have also started producing a number of these -- I don't know if you can see this, in terms of the on the spot fine. We put these up

"Bin the poo, bin the poo bag and leave only your dog prints." On top of that, we have also asked for both the litter wardens and the dog wardens, when they are out, to do on the spot fines if they can. It is quite difficult to enforce but we have asked for it. Like the Chief Executive has said, for the next meeting we will look and see if we have actually secured any litter fines for dog fouling for next month.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Breege. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thank you to the Chief Executive for the report.

Just in relation to you were saying there about the grants the private sector can use towards outdoor dining, are we looking at the possible use of our public spaces in towns and villages with a view to accommodating the reopening of the hospitality sector with a view to allowing that to be used for outdoor dining? I know it presents a number of issues, but we should be proactive to make sure we are facilitating that. Our hospitality sector has been shut down for a year. We have public civic spaces in our towns and villages in Wicklow. I know there is insurance and a number of other factors to be taken into account, but I was just wondering could you give us any update on how we are proceeding on that, even if just to give advice.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We are all disappointed in Wicklow and Arklow that we didn't receive any money and I just want to congratulate Bray on the money they got. I am led to believe there is some feedback from the Department with regard to maybe

why we didn't receive any funding in Wicklow and Arklow and had we received that back from the Department. It would be interesting to see the weaknesses, there might have been many weaknesses, but were there weaknesses in our application? Going forward, especially in Wicklow, with the Codling Wind Bank, this is going to be crucial. The 10 million we would be hoping to secure the Codling Wind Bank with a thousand jobs and a hundred full-time jobs. I know there is up to EUR 4 million going to be applied for in July. It is crucial we get this funding.

The second thing, you don't have to answer this, but I had raised a while ago about the traffic lights in Rathnew and the public lighting there. Maybe Helena will come back to me at a later date, but as far as I know the search hadn't been uploaded to ESB and ESB can't go forward on this. It's troubling because this is a very dangerous area.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Just on the towns and villages, is there a limit on the money to be spent and also has there been any hinting of any more escalated measures coming in this year by the NTA?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy, you wanted to come in.

CLLR MURPHY: Just a few things there. Going back to Breege, I was actually interviewed by a student doing projects on environmental and waste and rubbish last week. Very interesting. He said to me at the end of it, "Really, we have to treat adults like children." I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "You have to have signs for them to understand it." You know he was right. When you

see these visual signs you say, "God that reminds me." I think in our amenities we don't have that signage and I think it's a visual thing we need to promote as well. I know that our districts are underfunding at the moment, but we have had one or two requirements for dog bins on the Dublin Road. The public are looking for the dog bins. There are areas in our towns that we are not providing what the public want.

Also, on the funding as well, the grant funding, I agree with Cllr Gail Dunne, when we fail on the funding all the time, I think we as councillors need to know why is that, where is the failure? It's not that we are not trusting the staff, because they have put in extreme hard work and time into it but is this something that is never going to be there to get the funding and not to be thinking we are going to get funding and in reality, it's never going to happen.

Also, one other thing. There is a lot of talk about -- I think Minister Casey was here for a while. I would like to see on the agenda in our municipal district about the ports being expanded in Arklow. That's news to us. These things are happening, and local councillors are not being informed about it. I that is not good enough. It should be coming from the ground up first.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before I bring the Chief Executive back in, I think Michael Nicholson wanted to come in.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. There was a question raised by Cllr Blake on the CLAR programme. There are two measures on the CLAR issue. Measure one is the usual measures, support for schools and community safety measures.

Measure two was outdoor community recreation. There was a new measure three, you are quite right. There are community gardens, allotments and there is a separate funding for mobility and council care transport. This is to recognise the huge role played by the community be in providing council care transport in particular. So, applications due by Friday 7th May. So yes, you are right, more money available for the CLAR, but unfortunately, they haven't increased the areas. We haven't advertised for the PPA and application forms are currently available. I hope that explains that for you, counsellor.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Director Nicholson. I'll go back to you, back to the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. In terms of the outdoor dining, we have done a lot over the last year in terms of fast tracking the grants, waiving the fee, et cetera. We have widened out footpaths in a lot of towns. There is a lot of work done on the ground. What we are saying is that there is a grant available for people to do it. Businesses that have put out seats already, it can be applied retrospectively. As I was saying earlier, we are looking at areas in the towns and villages, and there is funding available for this now, that we can provide outdoor seating, weatherproofed outdoor seating. If you have any ideas, please come back to us. That is ongoing at the present time.

In relation to Cllr Dunne, we will get the feedback in relation to that. If you remember from last time with the RDF, we got funding for the library in Wicklow Town and for Swindon Square. Earlier in Arklow,

through the enterprise hub at the courthouse, but we didn't get the one for Bray at the harbour, but we got the feedback and approved the application, et cetera.

That's the same sort of approach we are going to take this time.

In relation to town and village, it is usually a year but that can be extended. We will keep an eye on that one, Cllr O'Connor. We haven't heard any funding for this year but there may be.

Just in relation to the bins for dog fouling, we will have a look at that and put them in place. We will provide a report of the Arklow MD in relation to the Dublin Port. We can do that. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon. Are you there? I will move on. Are you there?

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, and thank you very much Chief Executive for your report.

Three quick questions. One is funding was allocated for improved road safety measures on the Wicklow Gap. We heard lots about it a few months back, nothing happening, i.e., marking down from the Wicklow Gap down to our side, on the western side, along with some road safety features.

The second thing was a bus stop at Hollywood Cross, which was again talked about, and I know it came up at the Wicklow tourism, where it was suggested by the Chief Executive himself that perhaps a park and ride there might be more appropriate than just a bus stop by itself.

Thirdly, and I mentioned it at the Corporate Policy Group, that there is very little in it for employment or employment creation incentives on a line drawn between Blessington and Arklow, and that excludes towns like Dunlavin, Baltinglass and Tinahely. There should be a town central, which would probably be Baltinglass, between Dunlavin and Tinahely, where it should be included now. The Chief Executive and Breege I have asked you to look at it in relation of the corporate policy. I would like some response on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to the outdoor dining grants, which I really welcome, I would just be concerned, manager, that when COVID has ended, you will start charging them excessively for the use of the outdoor dining areas. I would like you to give a commitment that any proposed future fees will be minimal so that it will encourage people to apply for the grant now. My fear is that they won't apply for it because they will see danger here, the council will nail them to the cross when COVID is ended, in a few months' time, and it won't be worth it. So please give us that assurance that people will be able to apply for the grant, but the council won't come after them for excessive charges.

I even know one person who has their own outdoor space, and they would probably be afraid to apply for the grant because they would have to go to you looking for a licence first, which is basically surrendering to you that, "Yes, you can charge me in the future for this, for something I have never had to pay for before." There are going to be cases like that, and I think it needs to be teased out a little

bit and some assurances given, so that there is a good uptake of the scheme. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just a really quick one. I wonder would the Chief or maybe someone from Environment could speak to the gorse fires that have been plaguing rural parts of the county so far this year. We are making huge strides with our climate and biodiversity actions. I wonder to what degree this sets us back in that regard, the devastation that is being caused by these. I am really wondering, do we ever get a sense of anyone being held to account for that stuff, because it really does have a huge impact.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ann Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I think as Cathaoirleach of the Bray Municipal District, it behoves me to say that the members in Bray are very pleased with the 7.4 million we received for the harbour. I can understand the upset that perhaps some councillors in Arklow and Wicklow feel, but the Chief Executive has already outlined while I was waiting to speak exactly what grants they had received when Bray had got none. So, I think this time around I just feel it was certainly our turn, but it didn't come overnight. There was a lot of work put into the application and I would like to thank all the people involved in that.

The Bray Harbour Joint Development Committee have been meeting for a number of years in relation to what needs to be done at the

harbour to make it more viable for the town and also the area around it to connect to the prom.

So, I think that it's going to be absolutely great for Bray and it's something that we are really pleased about. So, thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You are very welcome, thank you. Well said.

Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach. I won't take long. I just have two quick questions. Just to ask the Chief Executive if he has any update on the houses in Dunlavin. I know I have raised that numerous times. We had a meeting with Irish Water this morning. Irish Water have said they are still waiting for certain standards to be met in connection with the housing. I have contacted Circle. They have told me they are working with the contractors to try and get the houses ready, but I'm just wondering where does the Council come in on this, considering there are so many people on the Council housing list to move into these houses. They were given a date last year to move in and a year on we are still in the same position. We don't know when they are moving in.

Also, I just want to echo with my colleague Cllr Patsy Glennon on the need for a bus stop at Hollywood. It has been raised on numerous occasions and I'm just wondering is there any update on it? Thanks very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. In relation to the road safety measures at the Wicklow Gap, I would say it was delayed because of COVID. We will look into that. If there are safety measures on the infrastructure side, I think we can go ahead. I will have a look at that, but it is probably because of the construction not going ahead.

The bus stop at Hollywood, we are waiting for TI to come back to us on that. I might ask Helena to come in if they have come back on that, but we are still waiting. Certainly, the park and ride would be a good idea in my view because we still have access to the Glendalough National Park, et cetera, in addition to providing the bus stop.

Just on the Development Plan, the employment section is fairly general, to be honest. It does look at the smart specialisation and clustering and growth and all this type of stuff. It does take account of the action plan for rural development in particular and the objectives in relation to that and focuses in on film, food, economy, tourism and maritime. We will certainly have a look at specific items in relation to the West and Baltinglass and Blessington.

In relation to Cllr Bourke, the outdoor dining grants, I might come back to that because that is a national issue. The fees, I know we waived them, but the fees are set out at national level, so they have to change, really, at national level to provide that certainty into the future.

Cllr Dermot O'Brien, the grass fires. Again, I will ask Helena if there is any update, but everything that can be done is being done in terms of education, enforcement, working with the Gardai, working with the IFA, meeting people talking about controlled burning. Everything that can be done is being done but it's just so difficult to catch these people. We will keep working on that liaising with the Gardai, the IFA, et cetera.

Cllr Cronin, in relation to Dunlavin, my understanding is practical completion for those houses at the end of April and ready by the end of May, I might ask Joe Lane to come in if there are further delays. Is Joe there?

JOSEPH LANE: Yes, we understand that the issue referred to regarding Irish Water, CCTV is being completed today, which should give reassurance to Irish Water. We will forward it to Irish Water. We are still confident to be completed by Q2, 2021, by the issue particularly regarding Irish Water is being dealt with. We understand it is being completed today, with the reassurance that the results will be forwarded to Irish Water by tomorrow, even though we are outside the contract. We have been actively managing, that's correct, it's not our contract but we are actively engaging with both sides, involving ourselves. Let's put it like that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is Helena with us just in relation to the gorse fires; does she have an update for Cllr O'Brien?

HELENA DENNEHY: Can I just come back on a couple of points.

On the bus stop at Hollywood Cross. My understanding is that the District Engineer is in negotiations with a local landowner in relation to that. I will get an update report and issue it to the members in Baltinglass district.

Just in relation to gorse fires, again, we are working with all relevant parties, National Parks and Wildlife, the Gardai and our own fire services in relation to what some of these fires may be deemed as malicious. We are trying to do all that we can find out in relation to them. We are outside the burning season at the moment and unfortunately there are still people carrying out burning and others maliciously setting fires.

In relation to just the gorse fires generally, the Chief Fire Officer has indicated there were 18 callouts across February for various gorse fires and bush fires, but again it has come more to the media attention in the last two to three weeks that there have been two or three larger scale ones. We will keep it under review.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just one point I want to make to the Chief Executive. Over 350,000 was secured last year for the upgrade of the Garden Village sewage upgrade, basically. There was a temporary supply put in there about 30 years ago and there's a lot of work been done in the last few years to upgrade the actual facilities there. I would like a sort of a view on where we are at with this at the moment. It has gone on probably a year at this stage, and I know the residents are growing more impatient by the

week that nothing is happening. So, if the Chief Executive could give an update on that, please? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We will get you a written update, if that is okay, councillor, unless Helena has something there. But I will get you a report on it.

HELENA DENNEHY: Again, the DPI, the multi annual developer provided water service resolution programme. We identified two schemes, as you correctly say, last year, one being Garden Village and the second being Rath Luain in Dunlavin. Reports were submitted in relation to these upgrades and because they are currently deemed private supplies, they are not under the public supply of Irish Water. They are currently being managed by the Environment Section and as far as we know, in Q2 they will be progressed further in Q2 in relation to the already allocated funding from the Department.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Helena. I don't think there is anybody else looking to come in so I will move on to item number 7.

CLLR WALSH: Cathaoirleach, I was trying to come in there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Gerry, I didn't see you. Go ahead, Gerry.

CLLR WALSH: Just quickly, on the housing efficiency fabric upgrades, is there any update on that? There's a number of houses

there awaiting repointing and you were awaiting determination of the Department on that one.

Just in terms of the cliff walk being closed in Greystones, the importance obviously of that as we hopefully reopen in the coming weeks and months for our tourism sector. It has been widely used, in spite of the signs and there were two slippages in the last month there that were considered dangerous. Just if there is an update on the repair works or the plan to reopen the walk.

The other thing, on food and beverage strategy, there is funding being applied for a co-ordinator under that strategy under the food and beverage, which is an important one again.

They are just two quick points. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Walsh. Chief Executive?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Cathaoirleach, just on the fabric upgrade, we will over the next few years be bringing all our stock up to B2. We are going to start surveying very shortly. We can go back and survey now, actually, now that the housing construction is back, so we will be starting the process.

We have got our allocation for this year. Joe may correct me on this. It's something like 1.4 million, 22 houses. This is the start of it, we will be building up the entire stock over the next few years. When we are surveying them, we will be doing the full asset management, taking account everything that needs to be done in the house. So that work will start very shortly.

On the cliff walk, again, it is closed, as you know, because of safety concerns. It looks like from our own engineering assessment it will require a temporary diversion and we will be in discussions with the landowner in relation to that. The long-term solution will require drainage works from the adjoining land and again we will look at doing that.

We are also going to get a second opinion from a consulting engineer to see what other solutions might be out there. It is a big issue, as you say, from a tourism point of view but we are working on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't know if there is anybody else looking to come in? Okay, we will move on.

Item number 7 is to consider the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Service Delivery Plan 2021. I will go to Lorraine for this.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Members were circulated with the Annual Service Delivery Plan. It is a reserved function of the elected members under the Local Government Reform Act 2004 to adopt the plan. Each local authority is obliged to prepare one and adopt one. Its purpose is to set out the objectives and the performance standards for the council service delivery over 2021.

It's set against a backdrop of the high-level goals that are within the five-year corporate plan. It also gives an overview of the budget landscape for 2021 which was adopted by the Council back in 2020 and the activities in the service delivery plan take account of those priorities across the service delivery areas.

Appendix 1 details the annual performance indicator measurements and they are monitored by NOAC. Appendix 2 sets out the key baseline indicators by directorate, along with the baseline data and target outputs for 2021. It was considered by the CPG this morning. Following its consideration, we have recirculated Appendix 2 just for ease of viewing of the baseline data indicator, so they are uploaded on to your minute pad. Cathaoirleach, if the members are happy enough, we will adopt it. So, we need a proposer and a seconder.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins. Thanks Lorraine.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly on it you referred on page 14 to the NOAC indicators, but it doesn't say where Wicklow rank in the indicators. So, I'm wondering could we at some stage get a report on where Wicklow ranks? I accept you are going to be down low on some and up on others based on population and roads and different reasons, but it would just be to give us an idea where we stand, because we get the very beefy NOAC report every year and I would say there's a lot of reading in it. But if we just got the rankings well, it would be helpful to see where we are, see where our strong areas and see where our areas are we could be focus on getting more value for Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Just to get an idea on the goals that can be identified for the service delivery areas. If there isn't a goal there such as motion that was agreed by the council in terms such as the Bray Fire Service review, does it need to be that explicit or those type

of goals that emerged through council operations that will happen anyway. Just in terms of that detail. Because it is not in there and I'm just wondering should it be or could it be. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean. You are on mute, Mags.

CLLR CREAN: My computer again. My computer's sound is really bad. We would appreciate it, but I find the document very hard to navigate. Like that particular document I have to keep looking every second page. It makes the job ten times longer to prepare for the meeting. It looks like they are scanned PDFs. I haven't been able to cut and paste sections, search sections. If that could be done differently so we could get the document better just to make the whole process easier.

Just two points, similar to Cllr O'Brien's point. Say, for example, I've been pushing for stable procurement and there a piece of value in that procurement. It is over in the next year of the council's work.

Just under corporate, in terms of staff and remote working, that needs to be looked at. We have certainly saved on that with staff working remotely.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, so I'll go back to you, Lorraine.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Okay, Cathaoirleach. Just in terms of the NOAC performance indicators, the members were circulated last month with the indicators and where Wicklow County Council performed against other local authorities. We are currently preparing the 2020 indicators for submission to NOAC, so all that detail has to

be submitted to NOAC by 30th April this year. We are working a year behind but that's just the nature of the programme.

Just in relation to the plans, there are a hierarchy of plans. So, the main plan would be the five-year corporate plan and there are four strategic areas set out there. You would have the housing and building, environmental, economic development planning and infrastructure, housing community, environment, climate biodiversity, as well as then all the organisational functions.

Flowing from that is the capital programme, the annual budget, the schedule of annual municipal district works and then our people strategy. So there, Cllr Crean, the whole area of the people strategy is enshrined in that. The annual service delivery comes after and then flowing from that are our own departmental plans, which gets further down into the nitty-gritty of service delivery, and then our performance management system development with staff, et cetera.

So that is the hierarchy of plans and that's where you would see all of those areas you were talking about, Cllr O'Brien and Cllr Crean.

In relation to the navigation, that was raised at the CPG this morning and we have uploaded a scanned copy which was easier to negotiate. Apologies for that. It was something that passed us by when we uploaded it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine. There is nobody else looking to come in so if everybody is happy with that, could I have a proposer and a seconder? Proposed by Cllr Ferris. Could I have a seconder please. Thanks Cllr O'Connor.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Is that agreed members? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number 8 is to note the draft Wicklow County Council Annual Report 2020, and a copy was attached. So, I will go to you again, Lorraine, please.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Again, Cathaoirleach, it's a reserved function of the elected members to prepare or to adopt an annual report by 30th June each year. So, what you have been circulated with is a draft copy of the draft 2020 annual report. The annual financial statements are due to be listed on the agenda for consideration at the May meeting so they will be included then in the final annual report as well, as I mentioned, the performance indicators which are scheduled to go in to NOAC by 30th April. So Cathaoirleach, this is for the members' noting and the finalised annual report 2020 will be listed on the agenda on 14th June.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Lorraine. Is everybody happy with that? Okay, so we move on to item number 9. We are requested to note the Wicklow County Council LCDC annual report 2020. The copy was attached. I will go to Director Nicholson for this.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON: We are obliged to prepare an annual report every year that goes to the LCDC for noting, which it has done, and then it goes to the full Council. It sets out the report, all the activities under LECP, all the grant schemes, Age Friendly, Comhairle na nÓg, SICAP, Healthy Wicklow, et cetera. Under your chairmanship, Cathaoirleach, we generally meet once a month, and the meetings are very good, very productive. We have a 19-strong

board who generally get on very well. We rarely have issues of concern. We do our business very efficiently and it is a good committee. It is just for noting, Cathaoirleach. Any questions, I would be happy to answer them. Other than that, I would ask the members to note the annual report, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does anybody have any questions on the LCDC annual report? No, everybody is happy. Good. Thank you, Michael, for that.

Item 10 is to consider changing the Education Nominee of the Wicklow LCDC. This is yourself again, Michael.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON: I am sharing. Can you see that document?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

MICHAEL NICHOLSON: That is the current 19 members of the LCDC, Cathaoirleach. The very bottom member, Eileen Cullen, Eileen is a new member representing the Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board and she will be joining us for the next meeting.

That is just a complete update of all the 19 members and if the members could note that. The CPG noted it earlier. If members could note that. I am obliged to bring it to your attention. I would appreciate it, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do we need a proposer and seconder for that?

MICHAEL NICHOLSON: It might be no harm.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Michael, clear the screen please.

Item Number 11 is to note and receive a presentation on the Wicklow Migrant Integration Strategy and we have consultation.

MS GALLAGHER: We do indeed Cathaoirleach.

HANNAH: Thank you very much Cathaoirleach. I'm going to share my screen let me know when you can see that, and I'll put it in full screen then and just let me know if it is working OK.

Great, listen thanks a million for having me, my name is Hannah, some of you know me already, but I work as a freelance researcher and consultant and I am Ballinaclesh I was asked to help the Wicklow migrant integration strategy, we had a fabulous reaction to the survey last year and it was a word cloud of people saying the best of living in Wicklow, so people are at the centre of that. So just to talk a little bit about why we did a survey, why we put in place an integration strategy.

This follows on from the national migrant integration strategy and every local authority is tasked with doing one, I was also involved in the Kilkenny one.

And there's quite a large number of Wicklow residents, either identify as non-white Irish, and 15%, nearly 15% were born abroad, 9.2% are non-Irish national, and the difference between those two figures, we are seeing a population

which is maturing and settling in Ireland which makes it even more important that we have integration at the forefront of our mind.

So, and I just wanted to highlight as well, we're looking of ways which migrants might be disadvantaged in accessing services, but it is also important to remember what we're trying to capitalise on that diversity as well.

I'm not going to go through everything here because you have a very busy agenda today but just to say that I think you've all seen the draft strategy, and that the next step after this will be for Wicklow County Council to agree implementation of the actions which I've put out there which key agencies. What I've done in my draft is put in place, suggestions for lead agencies, and suggested time frames but obviously they would need to be agreed with the agencies involved.

And I've put in place also, suggestions for how the strategy might be implemented and overseen.

I just quickly wanted to talk about what we learned.

Obviously, it wasn't the ideal circumstances for engagement. But we did actually have a really, really good response and survey and debate online consultation as well. Our survey found that migrants are less likely to be involved in groups and activities outside work of non-migrants, there could be a number of reasons for that, but one would be just familiarity with the area and another which comes across in the survey as well is lack of access

to transport. Migrants are employed at similar rates to non-immigrants but slightly more likely to have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and that highlights a little bit the pre-clarity of work some migrants are in, my diversity training came up a lot, better public transport as I mentioned and issues around racist graffiti and hate speech as some of you will be aware, particularly in Bray.

So, I don't, think need to go over the outline of the integration strategy just to draw your attention there under section 4, actions are divided into the six categories there. So, what I'd like to do, I don't want to go through every action because there's quite a lot, but I just wanted to for each of those flag a couple of what I think are some key actions. So, here we have for asylum seekers and refugees, one of the things I wanted to flag there is that since I did the draft of the report the Government have published their white paper on direct provision, and they have made a commitment to ending direct provision for asylum seekers by 2024.

Which the system will then be that asylum seekers should be given their own accommodation if they're still in the system after four months so that will be a significant change and one, I imagine you will be discussing at local authority level but one that needs to be considered while implementing this strategy.

Under access to public services: Public sector duty to pick one there is key here, that's the public sector duty to

equality and non-discrimination in accessing public services and I know it is mentioned in your Corporate Plan, so, in making sure that non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and nationality is important from there.

Under combating racism, again, one to highlight there is that recently I was contacted by a couple of members of the public with regard to maybe adding an action on anti-rumour campaign. And I've spoken to Judge Whitfield and the council about that, if there's no objections, I might add that in, what this is about is combating hate speech online and it goes in tandem with the ensuring racist graffiti is removed to sincere tackling that form of discrimination.

In terms of education and young people increasing antiracism in schools, kind of goes together with that. In employment and language, one that came up here was introducing migrants to farming communities. I know that I had a lovely comment from a man from Zimbabwe who said he was from a farming background but didn't know where to get in touch with farmers here and I know myself I live on a farm and it can be hard to get help sometimes so maybe that's an avenue to explore.

And then under catch active community engagement one thing again that a lot of non-migrants would have said is they don't know where to go to, they'd be willing to befriend different groups of people but not sure where to go, so to make sure there's a place where people can find out about that. And just to be aware that at the moment, Respond

are looking for volunteer befrienders, and that was advertised through the Wicklow volunteer centre, so if any of you are aware of people that might be interested in that, that would be a really good starting point.

So, thanks very much for that. That was my whistle stop tour but I'm very happy to take any questions if anyone has anything they wish to.

To ask about.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Hannah. Yeah, you've loads of questions coming up. Hannah. I'll stop the sharing as

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle is our first member.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Thank you very much for your work on this, it is overdue and goes to show when we want and expect people to integrate really we can't decide for them we need to ask them, it sounds obvious but kind of need to be formalised and put into policy, and one quick remark I'd like to note the input of Ian McGannon, who inputted into this especially the anti-rumour strategy which is hugely important and I'm delighted it made the final cut, Hannah and Deirdre were so open to taking things on board. Thank you Chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Sorry I wanted to bring in the chair of CCSD. Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you for your presentation today. I CSD, we reviewed this presentation, and a lot of hard work

has gone into this, I think everybody agrees so I'd like to formally propose this strategy to the council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks to Hannah, I attended one of the online consultation evenings and it was really informative and really useful on a personal level as well as contributing to the excellent strategy. And I want to say what Cllr Erika Doyle said I support the anti-rumour campaign in the strategy and thank you for that. And I think there's excellent suggestions there, that not only adopt as members of the council but also maybe bring to communities and particularly I wanted to draw attention to the yellow flag programme initiative in schools which people don't know about, which is to encourage integration and information about people from other communities to be more inclusive of all cultures within our schools so the Green Flag programme is well adopted, perhaps the Yellow Flag programme might be similarly adopted in the future.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thanks Hannah, lovely to see you and it has been a pleasure to watch this work happen and I think it brings an extra richness to our community when we have a structure to which do this work and we all benefit from it. My question, I was wondering, and you references the white paper under

direct provision, but some centres in Wicklow are temporary and some are permanent and I have a real concern about when we all are trying to connect with the people in temporary centres and often at short notice they are moved to a more permanent centre somewhere else in the country, if that came up as an issue or if you have suggestions or maybe something we need to look at, because, I would be concerned. That would be harmful, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We're getting interference.
It's cleared up now. Sorry Cllr Grace McManus for that interruption. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you very much.
Happy to second Cllr Gail Dunne's proposal as well, for this to be taken on board. And just a couple of quick questions and I do a lot of work in this field broadly and just also give a shout out to our youth council last Friday began a no hate programme of learning and they're going to take a role how the migrant integration strategy comes to life in County Wicklow which is positive. Hannah, I would ask you to speak to the continuum of haven't are vulnerability in terms of migrant, we can say a strategy and we have a different picture of that that means, who is on the continuum on extreme vulnerability and the other end and maybe how important the scaffolding is for integration, a strategy has been prepared, and we all know, as councillors and the

veterans know strategies end up on shelves and are brought into action and they're transformative in that regard, those two things.

CAOTHAIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you and I won't repeat comments already made but I want to thank Hannah and Ian as well, I know that the work he has put into bringing in forward has been hugely intensive and personal to him and I think it is a credit to him that it is referenced in this document and involved with Cllr Erika Doyle, on the Bray for Love Committee and I want to commend the council the interaction they've had from people with the direct provision and those individuals who played a huge role in the Bray for Love campaign on trying to get the issues highlighted, I know Bray has got a bit of a name at the moment for having some issues and we certainly have some issues in the town. But I think it is important that we recognise the huge number of people as well in the community of all backgrounds who are actively out there, fighting against hate speech, also actively out there painting over racist graffiti in the community and really showing us all the way forward. So just to commend those individuals who are standing up. I know Cllr Erika Doyle has had to do that herself on a number of occasions and it is not easy so commend those who had the bravery to stand in front of this stuff and really welcome this strategy coming on board thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Hannah, there's three more I will take them in, because a lot of appreciation for the work carried out here so I'll take the other three in you don't mind.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yes, can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: We can indeed.

CLLR FERRIS: Cathaoirleach I just want to congratulate Hannah on all the work she's done on this strategy, I know Hannah is working with the female councillors on exercising up a women's caucus along with Deirdre Whitfield and, I just think it is a fantastic initiative. Going to mention I know Aoife mentioned the Bray for Love Campaign which was set up as a direct result of the racist graffiti and targeting done via to Cllr Erika Doyle, and to other members of our community. And I think it is a very, very good organisation and I would like to especially mention Ian who submitted the anti-rumour amendment to the document which I hope will be accepted. But also, from the point of view in Bray there are a number of groups in Bray residential groups that will actually take graffiti off themselves, if they are provided with the paint and I would like to get that message out, to the local graffiti, people should contact the Municipal District and ask can they help removing the very offensive graffiti, thanks Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you, I don't want to repeat what everybody said, but we do have to acknowledge the huge

work Hannah has put into this piece of work and Deirdre and the whole committee, particularly in a very difficult time, and I'd also like to acknowledge the work of Ian has put in and I would hugely support the adding in of the anti-rumour campaign strategy into this document. I look forward to working and helping adopt it in the community, and just well done to them all. There is huge support in the community, it is not all bad and I think this is what the message we've got to get out there. As councillors as well working with Deirdre and Hannah, implementing this strategy thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thank you chair, quickly, to kind of concur with what other people have said, thanks to Hannah, the research has been really eye-opening and very interesting, and it is the kind of thing there are some good that came out of it, some positives and negatives but it is really important because education is the key, especially in trying to defeat something like racism. Thanks to Ian for all his hard work, I know he has been in contact with us councillors and welcome the anti-rumour amendment as well and hopefully this kind of thing will be followed up on at intervals so we can see how it is progressing, but it is nice to see there was positives as well as negatives that came out of it. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that's everybody. Hannah, I will leave you with the last word.

CLLR MURPHY: Sorry Cathaoirleach I wanted to come in. Again, thanks to Hannah and her sensitivity around such subject, I think we're all probably a bit afraid of the unknown in strategy. I just was wondering Hannah, I have to say I haven't had to read it yet but, in the sense of obtaining services for the immigrants of maybe people with disabilities, people with mental health, children with maybe educational needs, is that all covered?

And how is that approached by the strategy? Is that included in it?

Because that's very much part of every-day life of everybody and it is harder when you're outside the box if I'm saying it right. And I think it is something that needs to be re-highlighted in the strategy thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I just wanted to congratulate Hannah and thank Ian for all the hard work he's done. I'm very conscious we're sitting here, and I've done work with some Somalian families here in Arklow and I would love to know this strategy is in place, how will it be communicated to those people and could we look at distributing it to the kids in school, because I know a lot of them are out of the loop. They've no real support services or Social Workers or anything like that at the moment until the strategy is in place, but I think they would really welcome this, and it would be great to bridge that gap of translation because some of the people I work with, their English wouldn't be

great, and it is something I'm very conscious of.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Anybody else? OK.

Hannah, just before I let you come back in, to finish off, can I say, I was finding it struggling to keep up there was so many hands that went up the one time such was the affection of the work you produced to us, very well done, over to you Hannah.

HANNAH: Thanks a million, and for all the appreciation, I think I've maybe three queries to respond to. So, just very quickly on the direct provision centres, Cllr Grace McManus yeah it is a real problem, and I suppose, it's a problem because it is very much determined at national level but also very much depends on the way a particular centre is run to put it that way. The kind of interaction that is there, and the kind of structures that can or cannot be built up. So, it has been I suppose, easier in some places in some centres than others to establish that kind of rapport and connection. But, yeah, it is a problem, I suppose nationwide, in terms of trying to and that is why I suppose and this speaks to Cllr Paul O'Brien as well, in the I framed the actions around the five pillars which related to the National Migrant Integration Strategy but also to Wicklow's earlier antiracism strategy but then I added an extra one specifically on asylum seekers and refugees because it is such a concern and I would say, so moving on to the continuum of vulnerable migrants, yeah, asylum seekers in particular and then refugees, so refugees

being distinct as with settled status in Ireland so there are the groups of Syrian refugees dispersed around the county and make sure they integrate in their permanent home is extremely important as well. I just a one thing on this, and that maybe speaks to what Cllr Miriam Murphy was saying in terms of other vulnerable migrants, there are others that come with their partner and partner might be out at work all day and they're at home with a small baby and sometimes those people are harder to get to, because they're very invisible within the community. And they do not, they don't have many outlets if you like for meeting people and getting out there. So that's one to watch and then finally I suppose, one of the things that the services would have said to me was that there are people who, they get on OK as long as everything's going well and then they might fall through the cracks if something goes wrong, there's a work accident or something like that. So, I think it is about picking up on those kind of vulnerabilities in terms of lack of access into the services.

I think that one point just to speak to Cllr Miriam Murphy, you're back, yeah, yes it is very important to consider the cross-cutting issues there about how to we consider migrants with disabilities, migrants who have or are young people and so on and some of that is addressed in the strategy but I think what we need do is to take the principles of the strategy and look at them across the board in the different sectors and then finally, I think this relates to

something Cllr Paul O'Brien said in terms of the scaffolding building up, you know following on this, is I have put in place suggestions for how this should be implemented and I would urge people who are interested in this to kind of follow that, follow up with that. And make sure that the strategy is being looked at and applied wherever it is relevant because, it would be really nice to see this implemented as widely as possible and the actions getting under way.

I think that's everything thank you very much for the attention councillors I appreciate it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Hannah and all the work you carried out on this and for an excellent report and presentation so thank you.

Item 12 on the agenda is to note the identification and development of decarbonisation zones in County Wicklow and I will go to Breege Kilkenny.

BREEGE: Thank you I will share my screen. Where did it go? OK. Can you all see that now.

OK. Good afternoon members. Today that we're bringing essentially from our SPC, the climate action and biodiversity SPC, made a presentation there last Thursday with regard to selecting Wicklow's first decarbonisation zone.

So, first and foremost, just to ask the question I'm sure, it is on your minds what a decarbonisation zone is and what we're coming up with the DZ, so first and foremost it is a

spatial area that we're looking although to address the low carbon energy, the greenhouse gas emissions and the climate needs of a local area.

And we do this by engaging with local action owners, and various stakeholders including the local authority and using a range of climate mitigation adaptation and biodiversity measures so basically what happened is we're making a local contribution to the national claim action targets. For those of you who are familiar with the concept of an SEC, sustainable energy community, a decarbonisation zone is a very large SEC but not just reliant on the voluntary sector but will require the active engagement of the business community thank the local authority, and with the local authority acting really as the lead driver and promoter of the initiatives within the area that will contribute in a significant way to decarbonise allocation.

So, in effect, we're given effect to the climate action targets that we signed up to at the end of 2019. That is to achieve an energy efficiency of 50% improvement against a 2009 baseline by 2030, and also a 30% reduction on carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

So, I'll refer to you to this graphic I used in the presentation, that I gave to you on our climate action ambition in early January. So, in essence, there are two elements as I pointed out then thank with respective climate action, you have mitigation piece over on the left, that is tackling the cause and reducing the emissions. And then on the

right-hand-side you have the adaptation and resilient and impact the impact and the middle both adaptation and mitigation, so basically, decarbonisation fits most strongly within the mitigation measures that are required. It is about particular taking carbon out of the atmosphere the measures required to move our county towards a net zero carbon emission by 2050.

Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions, is this is our really our big why as we started looking at in terms of decarbonisation, so Wicklow has never been found.

Wanting in responding to the challenges, it is a big ask.

But, you know, we are determined to meet all our objectives, arising out of our own declared climate emergency and make Wicklow a low carbon county.

So, the first step is to identify and develop a decarbonisation zone within the county with the ultimate goal that the county itself will move to become a decarbonisation zone, so Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage have asked us to identify one such location by the 30th of April so just within a couple of weeks. I would like to emphasise at this stage that in this recommendation for the first location, for the submission at this time it is just that - it is just the first location. And that you know we consider that really offers the best opportunity on a number of fronts for demonstration projects that can be replicated throughout the county at scale. So this first location, effectively will just provide an effective learning for a county of wide rollout so

the requirements been asked of us as I said there, it is for, we have to put forward our location by the 30th of April and with that, we have to outline a broad outline of the project we will be putting in place for the implementation within this decarbonisation zone so these project outcomes, we have to demonstrate that they are going to achieve this minimum of 51% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030, so, we're looking at a number of demonstration projects that can achieve this level of learning. So, to assist us the department had given guidelines that which should be looking at areas of the county where populations of not less than 5,000 persons, or rural areas that is not less than four square kilometres.

So, on that basis, is that bearing in mind of these guidelines, and also the at requirements of scaling up for other areas, the climate action team looked at the potential locations firstly looking at the main urban areas of the county. So, on the east coast, Bray, Greystones, Wicklow and Arklow and we looked at the west because I know there's a number of councillors who feel the west is always left behind so if the population didn't fit the merit, we looked at it from a rural point of view. And considered Blessington and also an area of Laragh and Glenmalure, which is ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have lost you Breege.

Hello. Sorry Breege I think we've lost you.

We've lost Breege I think, have we?

MS GALLAGHER: Yes, we seemed to have lost connectivity for a second.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are we getting, is she able to come back there or will we move on.

MS GALLAGHER: We might move on and come back then maybe.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If that's all right, we will go on to item 13 and come back to Breege to finish her presentation if we get it sorted out. To consider the Wicklow County Council Civic Memorial Policy. I'll go to Lorraine on this.

MS GALLAGHER: OK. Thank you. So, members have been circulated with a draft Wicklow County Council memorial policy document the purpose of the policy is to put in place procedure of the name of key infrastructure in the council across the districts. So, it is important to say that the council recognises that public commemoration and memorials are opportunities for the community to remember a person or a group or an event that has significant county importance. So, the purpose of the policy is to have clarity regarding the policy across the districts and for the availability of funding and geographical location, so, just so say, Cathaoirleach there are two parts to the policy. One being the naming of key infrastructure, which are bridges, round bees, plazas and policy proposes criteria for this. The other part of the policy is in relation to community

memorials so they're for example commemorative trees or benches et cetera which are the more common type of requests received across the districts. So, in relation to the community memorials the policy proposes that each Municipal District would continue to accept, consider and reside on the whys and there's a proposed application process in the districts which is included in the policy. So, in relation to the naming of key infrastructure, the policy proposes setting up a civic memorial committee and composition is set out on page 12, so comprises of the council, the chair of the CSCC Director of Services for CSCC and corporate services and also, staff with expertise in this area, for example the County Librarian Arts Officer, the Heritage Officer and the county architect with the relatives engineers the policy provides for a window of public consultation or public comment for example if there is a monument or key piece of infrastructure to be named locally. And this regards the policy provides the recommendations will be brought to the corporate policy group for consideration and that will determine whether the applications be brought to the full council or Municipal District so the policy was discussed at the CPG this morning, and there may be a concern that the policy document might seem that it is taking the Municipal Districts out of the picture in terms of the decision-making so, I'll go to page 9 of the policy document and paragraph 1 there, so Cathaoirleach, there is a role for the Municipal District so a

recommendation from a Municipal District can come in the civic memorial policy committee for the naming of key infrastructure in the MD area and that in turn will be their submitted CPG for determination or back to the full council or indeed back to the Municipal District for further consideration and discussion, so order to strengthen input from MD, it is proposed that the document be amended to include the Cathaoirleach of the relevant MD on the civic memorial technical committee. So, Cathaoirleach, if there's any questions, I'd be happy to take them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Lorraine for that, has anybody questions on that? Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, the policy is very important and important to develop policies that give us a streamlined process for this stuff. But I really felt that it should the journey of the policy today should have gone through the Municipal Districts, and I propose that it just loops back through the Municipal Districts so we can have a conversation in those areas about a role, it just feels, and I know the CPG and it was interesting tonlet that the CPG bring up the issue where councillors fit, and the role is. It is almost - we're not capable of doing this stuff and a committee needs to be set up to do this stuff, whereby somebody prior to the CPG's comments it could be a committee is decided what is named in Bray without anyone from Bray. So, I propose it looks back to the MDs before

ratification.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I would second Cllr Dermot O'Brien's policy, I would have other concerns to feed in before it is ratified, if there's common committee item will be removed it should be approved from MD members and best practice how the next of kin is notified and there's a lot of ideas, I had on reading it, I second the proposal. It comes back to MD to feed in before it is fully ratified and then we're satisfied with the policy.

Thanks very much. Cllr Anne Ferris.

Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I just want to say that I think a lot of work has gone into this policy document. It's very thorough and covers absolutely everything and the members in Bray will know that we've in the last six months or, so we've requests for benches, we have requests for plaques and trees we planted, we've requests for this that and the other, and that was part of the be reason why I proposed, at our meeting, I think it was in February, that the Bray Municipal District will set up Protocol Committee to examine these things and other issues we need to talk about. So, I you know, I think that it's very well covered there and what Lorraine has said, and I mean if we get requests now they will go straight to our Protocol Committee for discussion and then we can feed into the memorial policy

committee, you know the wider thing, but I honestly don't think there's any need because a lot of work has gone into this, I don't think there's need for it to come back to the Municipal District for us to have a chat about, or you know, add or whatever. I think that can be done by individual members to the committee themselves if they have anything to add or anything to amend. But, as I've said, anything that will come into us and including the one that is have already come in, will be discussed at our protocol meeting and then decisions will be made as to whether it is a worthy request, and further it along with the family and then put the request in to Wicklow County Council for it. So, you know, so, if we need to proposal for this document, I'm certainly proposing it.

Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Anne Ferris. Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: I agree, the timing given the year we're in and going forward with commemorations, I do have a concern about the main tenants' piece on page 6, I'm sure that was main tenants and upkeep you don't want that people can't afford to maintain it and the policy is the council won't do it in terms of long-term at work. And I do have a concern the decision, I see Cllr Anne Ferris's point and Cllr Grace McManus's point because although that is importance to have the ex-parties around the table, but the

local municipal knows their area best to find a way of linking the two processes would be good, but the document is good, and we need it thanks. Cllr Joe Behan

CLLR BEHAN: I want to support Counsellor O'Brien's proposal, I don't think there's a rush on this, it is a very good document there's not a lot I would disagree with it, but MDs offers an opportunity to put in a bit more detail and see how it applies in their own district and I would be concerned about issues that Cllr Mags Crean mentioned about ongoing main tenants and what Cllr Grace McManus said about possible removal of memorials in the future but I do think the principle of a distinction between major memorials and let's say more localised is a good principle to have. I think there's a lot of good in the document. I just don't think we're doing it enough service by having a quick discussion on it today when we could have a more thorough discussion on a MD, so I support Brian Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I'm not opposed to anything that's been suggested here, but I'd like to back up what Cllr Anne Ferris said a lot of work has gone into this, we have a packed agenda today with a number of motions we're probably not going to get to. So, me going around in circles doesn't do the job justice and I'd like to second the format here today so thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, anybody else I can't see.

CLLR BLAKE: Thanks, and I too, like the other members very much welcome this proposal. I think it is long overdue. But I would like the opportunity-to-of having a discussion as a district meeting as well on the issue. Maybe some kind of presentation on it. But I certainly do welcome it, it is overdue a lot of conversation over the years out there what we're putting up and where we're putting them up so I would welcome it but also agree with Cllr Joe Behan we do need to have a discussion about the topic as well at our district meetings thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Vincent Blake anybody else?

CLLR WALSH: Yes Cathaoirleach, just I think this morning our discussion, I mean CPG this is welcomed generally but we decided or suggested rather to include the current Municipal District Chair, in the committee for structure, infrastructure for their district, he or she would feed in the MD and into the committee, so, I think that ticks that box if the current Municipal District chair is part of the decision-making process and part of the committee which brings its own level of expertise to the process, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Yes, I just agree with Cllr Paul O'Brien

and other members, the local Municipal District is integral part of this and adds value, but the design standards be kept to a high design standard and consistent throughout the county as well because I think it leans towards small not necessarily well-designed signage around the town and the different municipals so, I think, having some sort of standards of design as well would be an important parliament of this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: Can I just seek clarity on something, did Lorraine say that there is a place for input from the Municipal Districts, I may have picked that up incorrectly? And just to add I think it is a really good policy to it gets tricky when there's a lot of these types of requests coming in and there's a lot of pressure on individual members maybe to prioritise one over the other or decide what is valuable and what's not, so it is great to have that the setup of the policy group while getting the local input as well. If I could get clarity on that point.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Anne Ferris you're looking to get back in.

CLLR FERRIS: Briefly, sorry Cathaoirleach I wanted to say that as I was saying before, we've set up a Protocol Committee but any requests like that, at any Municipal District would be certainly discussed at the Municipal District it is not as if somebody will go off and do something like this

on their own, so, the Municipal Districts will have input to it, and if it is say if the proposal is coming from Bray, well then the Cathaoirleach of Bray, current Cathaoirleach whoever at that time will be at the meeting of the policy committee when it is being decided. So, you know the views of the members will be taken into account. So, I really don't see why it should go back for discussion at this stage. I mean, we've had had long enough to be able to read it and if there was anything to raise it should be at this meeting. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will bring in Cllr Gerry O'Neill and then back to Lorraine.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks Cathaoirleach, and thanks Lorraine for - I think it is a very good idea and I like to support Councillor's O'Brien input and argument there, it should be discussed at Municipal District and I think it is a pity that Paul O'Brien and Cllr Anne Ferris dismiss this and want to move on as quickly as possible, it is very important that, I think it is very important that at local level this is discussed and by all members and even by the community because we have an example here in Blessington over the years of a monstrosity of a monument in the middle of the town dedicated to the land record of the times and no mention of the people who died in the famine.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Stick to the point we're dealing with.

>>: I am dealing with it, you know with all due respect

Cathaoirleach, will you allow me to say and not what you want me to say. I want to point out the more we discuss this at local level I think it is very important. I don't think that any area in the county, we would have any type of monument imposed of us, so I think it would be very important that time is granted at Municipal District level and I fully support what Dermot O'Brien said earlier.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Director Ms Lorraine Gallagher back in now.

MS GALLAGHER: Thanks Cathaoirleach and no I've listened carefully what the members have said, the policies in two parts, one is the naming of key infrastructure and we're talking about key infrastructure like roundabouts, plazas, bridges, et cetera to have consistency across the districts in how that is done and managed and the whole area of a memorial or statue which doesn't happen very often but from time to time when you're commemorating events and have consistency across the districts. The community memorials the benches the leaks and trees et cetera that flows through the Municipal Districts but certainly Cathaoirleach we will go back to MD that's no difficulty whatsoever. The policy is not to go into the nitty-gritty of, it is more of a higher-level policy not into the nitty-gritty about each individual MD, will term how you know, how it deals with certain issues. But, certainly Cathaoirleach if the elected members want further time to consider it as I say, there's no difficulty with that either.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That's great. Is that all right then we'll move on? Everybody happy with that? All right. Thanks Lorraine and thanks everybody for that. Do we have direct ...

CLLR FORTUNE: I'm confused, what are we moving on with?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Moving back to Municipal Districts to discuss, thank you. I want to go back, do we have yes?

MS GALLAGHER: Before we proceed with the presentation, we might propose a time extension before 4.30pm we have the National Broadband Ireland people with us as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

MS GALLAGHER: And Homeless Strategy as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That's right and Cllr Tom Fortune was proposing a time extension, and do we have a seconder for that? Who is that?

CLLR WINTERS: I'll second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR FORTUNE: That was my point, it was obvious, looking at the agenda that the, we weren't going to have time to really deal with everything on the agenda. That's why I raised the point. I still think we should be dealing with the notice of motion, that's very important.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is important too councillor, but I have to follow the agenda and the time extension.

CLLR FORTUNE: I know that, but I raised this Chair at the start of meeting and now we're brushing it under the table.

MS GALLAGHER: Standing orders say the council starts at 2 and rises at 5pm that's what the standing order say as going through the agenda as set out and proposal for the time extension has to have it at 4.30pm.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, going about to Breege to finish the

BREEGE: Take two, I hope the screen is shared now.

So, I was in full flight there, talking about Laragh and Glenmalure and how brilliantly they are in terms of community engagement and some of the reasons why we included them in terms of our assessment and then the final group we've called for Four Villages but more like the towns, Kilpedder, Kilcoole and Newcastle and this was a submission we received from a local group in this area and so we wanted to give it due consideration in our assessments.

So, in terms of the criteria for assessment and outlined here was we develop this along four main areas for consideration. So the first area is transport, and again, these areas, it is a multi-criteria assessment and we chose these particular areas because of their potential for improvements and providing projects as well, that will reach our ultimate gain of reducing greenhouse gas emissions so transport is there, and these would be a lot of the travel

measures to reduce the need for travel and modal shift, out of cars and either walking or cycling and the second one is potential for energy built environment to reduce the energy demand and energy efficiency, measures and particularly in trying retrofit and again as we said, the third significant contribution that we thought should be part of the assessment is citizen engagement piece where there's SCC already in place, active Tidy Towns and community groups. The next one was renewable generation, this is really important because if we're moving away from fossil fuels, we need to be looking at areas where we can get fuel from other forms that are renewable so for instance, potential for wind, solar geothermal. Incidentally, Wicklow is a good county for consideration of geothermal energy. Then also, buy doe diversity is important to us, the garden county green spaces and looking at nature-based adaptation works project we can use and bring about that carbon sequestration when I was speaking in January. The next one is the circular economy and food cycle, this is areas that have reuse activity, second-hand trade, waste to energy, community gardening, local food supply, all these fit very much into a low-carbon society. And then finally that last piece which is important gap to target contribution to the national and EU targets, scalability of projects and that we can actually achieve towards this initially this 7% per annum reduction.

So, this next diagram the reason why, I want to give

background because rising from SPC people wanted to know why we were looking at these areas in terms of criteria, so, in coming up with this, in an objective way, the number of areas within the county that we considered, let me give you the rational national behind the chosen set, I've taken the extract of SCSl latest report, this odd looking picture here, some of you may have seen before, it is not a hairy dog with many legs but energy balance flow diagram. So, on the left-hand-side you will see this is the sources of energy used within the country and this comes into the middle and from the middle to the right is sectors that use this, is the sector that use this energy so, size of the blocks feeding into this graphic, if you look over to the left you will see that the greatest block coming in there is oil at 7,000 kilotons of energy and the left the greatest consumer of the energy is transported almost at 42% of Ireland's energy demand so this then that is closely followed by the heat energy from existing built environments.

So, again, just to emphasise this is on the next chart again from the SEAI 2020 energy report, just another representation but, maybe appeal to other people, more people, it demonstrates the greatest source of energy use within the country is under oil and gas so those large coloured areas under the curve so you can see there oil is quite extensive and gas and then you see electricity coming in there, and rising and then hopefully it will be electricity from renewable source but you can see the little block there

in terms of renewables it is quite low. And then, when we look at them the final energy consumption by sector the biggest coloured area, in that graph is coming from transport and then followed on a close second by the residential built environment. So, that is why we waited our assessment criteria towards initiatives that can address greenhouse gases, being from the main areas, sectors of transport and the built environment.

So, these are, as I mentioned earlier, those are the seven main key elements.

So, on the basis of that, after we did this multi-assessment criteria analysis, this is what has come out from it, Arklow is ranked first, and then followed by that Four Village consortium and then in third place came Wicklow close to the Four Village Assessment so with a we're coming to today is this is a recommendation was brought to the SPC as I mentioned earlier, last Thursday, and with a fair amount of detail and I want to thank the chair and the members of the SPC in providing the endorsement with regard to this emarkation for your approval for today.

Just to add in here, is that appealing this award as the first identified decarbonisation zone within the county brings with it a certain amount of responsibility so, there's a whole body of work that will be required to be done now. The first is the initial desk study work for initial baseline analysis. Of energy and then this will be followed on by a detailed what is called to the spatial energy demand analysis, so this type

of analysis involves assessing the energy demand within the area and creating a visual, spatial visualisation of this information in terms of maps and this will be the preparation of the evidence-based energy map which will be used as a tool to identify the possible solutions but also, to influence further energy use within the area. So, the stakeholder mapping exercise allows for the identification of the different energy user sectors and again, assisting in the development of the optimum low energy, energy efficiency, low carbon solutions. I just want to emphasise again; this is just the first step. It is just the first area. Our objective with regard to our private action policy and our private action charter is we're moving towards a low carbon Wicklow. And this is just the first step. But, in choosing Arklow and how it has come out it offers the best opportunity because the number of projects we can use to show how we can achieve this long-term objective. But it is more like the learning coming from the demonstration projects will be used as exemplar to be rolled out for all the other areas within the county, I wanted to make that point when people say why not us, we've been left behind again, this is the one that offers the biggest opportunity in terms of roll out and then just to emphasise where we got tipped into the balance in terms of Arklow is because, the wind bank that's just off the Arklow coast, that's the one that is first going to be out of the traps, and also with the own base within Arklow is going to allow us to bring in that renewable piece in terms of the other

areas of decarbonisation. So, with that, I just want to say thank you very much.

Go raibh maith agat and, I would say I'd like to leave it open to the floor we can go ahead with this to present Arklow as our first decarbonisation zone in our submission to the department on 30th of April. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Breege and thank you for the presentation. I think Cllr Jodie Neary you are looking to come in.

CLLR NEARY: I will let chair of SPC come in first if that's OK.

CLLR O'CONNOR: I'm very proud of the SPC overall to have such hard-working individuals, councillors and officials alike. As you guys can see this is quite a lot of work overall the SPC we will be receiving from this and it is a big job and I have my fingers crossed the department will give us more funding for some more officials to help out and make sure it is structurally right and it happens, because it will be a huge thing for Arklow and Arklow can become the gold standard for all of Ireland to be honest and I'm looking forward to seeing this being applied to the rest of Wicklow as well, no-one will be left behind. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Thanks, I want to acknowledge the great work of Arklow to date is really showing us as a real

example of sustainable development and so much work is being carried out at the moment that hopefully will be a great example for the rest of Wicklow. But I do want to acknowledge as well while we're recommending Arklow, the other applicant which was the Newtown, Kilpedder, Newcastle and Kilcoole, they put in a great submission as well to be considered as decarbonisation zone and represent micro crops where you have hinterland agriculture land, and urban mix, the reason I mention this, is from a trust transition perspective we need to make sure when we are decarbonising during the process we're bringing on board everybody, all parts of Wicklow so I just with Arklow going ahead as our recommendation, it would be great we keep an eye on the challenges, that could be the experience, in rural areas in Wicklow and areas having a harder time decarbonising and burden will be bigger on them as they are transitioning but I want to congratulate Arklow as our recommendation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Yes I want to say I'm delighted to see it is terrible to see a negative become a positive but we're all in this, right across the county together and this is something we'll have to work with so I'll ensure everything we learn in Arklow here with this going forward is translated right across the county and maybe we can even look at setting up those championships, put football to the side and

all start to decarbonise and you know, it is the way to go forward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and apologies again for throwing my video off. No, like a big thank you to all the hard work from the officials, that brought this, they had a short turn yarned to depict the carbonised zone and commend them for doing a thorough analysis, I want to echo about the four villages input they did an excellent shot at putting themselves forward there, and as near microcosm of the county. Can you collar my what percentage per annum reduction we're looking from Z zone and what baseline figures is that based on 2018 baseline figure? And just, one other comment, you know, there's clearly a huge amount this, is just the first step and will be rolled out across the county. And we will be rolling out our county climate Action Plan as well and there's a huge amount of work involved as we can see. We discussed this at the SPC during the week, that being adequately resourced, particularly in terms of staff, to carry out this work is going to be absolutely critical as we go forward. And we know we're going to have to do it and now is the time to flag it. And just, final point is again, just noting that transport and home energy are the highest emissions, culprits if you like and just want to comment from rural background myself and I'm very aware that you know, transitioning to carbon-friendly

transport and energy in terms of heating houses et cetera, poses immense challenges for rural communities and I would like to see just the principles of transition laid down when we're talking about decarbonisation zones it is important that everybody is brought along with this journey with us, thank you Breege.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR DERMOT O'BRIEN: Thank you. Mostly what I want to say is said, but I want to give recognition to the climate action team and this, they didn't pick a name out of a hat in this process and expertise required to put together a process where, the right place is selected, again, that doesn't just emerge out of nowhere, so we're very, very lucky as a council to have the people behind the climate action team that we agree what Cllr Lourda Scott said.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you Cathaoirleach and Breege that was a wonderful presentation and well done to the whole committee. Just having worked with a local SEC and amount of work that went into it and we got great support from the council doing that, but it gives us great hope in smaller community to have a model like Arklow and congratulate Arklow on achieving this, but it will be great for the whole of County Wicklow and give smaller communities great hope what can be achieved and working together.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, thanks Breege for the presentation. Yeah, I think the rationale Breege has

put forward for the Arklow makes a lot of sense. Maybe I will just ask maybe the four villages, would be considered to be included in the situation as quickly as possible.

Because there's a big interest in those particular villages in making this happen as well. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah, just quick one to congratulate Arklow and just to throw a little point of information coming from a very rural area, probably the most rural area in the county in the south-west there was no south-west region at all, even shortlisted for this. And, as we are the only area where offshore wind farming it is odd, we're getting the damaging aspects and none of the benefits of this, so just a warning - do not ignore this area in the future, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll bring Breege back in now.

BREEGE: Thank you. If I just gather, I think the main queries thank you for everybody for their acknowledgement of all the work and can I just do the same while I'm here - because we have a really great climate action team. Of doing the work behind the scenes here.

Just in terms of Lourda's query, the targets that we're working to the department circular stated we're looking towards a 7% per annum, they haven't given us the baseline yet. So, we will just have to wait on that guidance but really they're working towards the climate Action Plan as announced by the Minister Ryan a couple of weeks ago, 7%

per annum towards a 51% by 2030 so it is a big ask, when you look at it in terms of retrofit within all the houses that's in the Arklow area, we're looking at 7% of those to reach a V2 or optimum in terms of retrofit alone and then we have to look at business stuff. So, as I said in my last slide this is not just an award, it is coming with a lot of responsibility, and deliverables and there will be a focus on us in terms of performance. And in terms of resources, we acknowledge that and feel that probably a project co-ordinator will need to be assigned to deal with just setting up the decarbonisation zones. I do know that through the CCMA and with requests through the department, for additional staff, to boost up private action teams and I think that's going through the stages at the moment. So, we would be very hopeful that we will get notification just like we did for the smart travel there would be additional resources provided to local authorities who, what the effort behind this big ambition.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Breege, and thank you for the presentation, there's certainly a lot of work going on there, and thanks to everybody involved in SPC, under Cllr Rory O'Connor there, does anybody want to ask Breege anything before we move on. Mary, I thought I saw your hand.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Quickly, if there is funding going to be sought is it possible, we could look to have a biodiversity officer appointed, I thought it was a good idea because it

seems to be there's huge expansion in that area and, there's a lot of pressure on staff there already so I just think it might be something worth considering if we're seeking funding thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Sylvester Bourke you wanted to come in.

CLLR BOURKE: After that perhaps you'd let me in.

CLLR GLENNON: Lucky to get in there but congratulate Arklow on their achievement and to congratulate Cllr Rory O'Connor chair of that committee of doing a good job. Glad to see Arklow getting it. It is the second most deprived Municipal District within the county after west Wicklow and I'd like to echo the point I made earlier and my colleague has somewhat covered it, if you draw a line from Blessington to Arklow, you exclude about 25% of the land mass of the county, and no place within that area I'm talking about, even gets a mention as one of the Four Villages, I think it is indicative of how we're treated.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Sylvester Bourke are you back? Into can you hear us. I can't hear Cllr Sylvester Bourke, there's something wrong with his connection. I may move on if I can't get Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Can you hear us?

MS GALLAGHER: He is not coming in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Breege do you want to come in for a second.

BREEGE: I just wanted to reassure Cllr Patsy Glennon that the west nor any other part of the county is neglected in terms of climate action. We are, this is a decarbonisation zones as I said with all the responsibilities that comes with it. But right throughout the copy we are advancing county wide basis in terms of the smart travel and terms of transport, in terms of the retrofit and in terms of the council's own retrofitting programme of social houses, most of it is over, in areas in west Wicklow. And, in terms of the citizen engagement, we are working very closely with the Tidy Towns and the Town Teams, in moving climate action issues forward as well. In terms of renewable generation, again within the county development plan we've looked at and promoting and facilitating as much as these working hubs, you know, and really promoting the west in relation to that, and then in terms of biodiversity and green spaces, we see that as the biggest aspect within the county, these green areas because we're the garden county and a huge amount is in the rural county is working through the carbon general election ration, that's the balance equation and very much covered in terms of the west and south. And also, in service of circular economy and food cycle other areas of the county promoting Wicklow, naturally, all of that, a lot is coming from the rural areas and agricultural piece. And

moving towards carbon contribution, so I just want to say is that Arklow basically has now got this accolade of being the first decarbonisation zone and really directed because they have accessible to this immediate area of renewables, but every other place within the county we will still be working with them outside of that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Breege, thank you for the presentation I'm going to move to item 14. To receive a presentation from the National Broadband Ireland and status and update with County Wicklow we have Peter Hendricks, CEO of broadband Ireland and Niall, TJ and Fergal Mulligan, and Peter, you are very welcome. Peter, are you taking us or going to lead or is it TJ.

PETER: Thanks to the council for let using to present on the National Broadband Plan. Let me throw up my screen here.

FERGAL: Can I say a few words before you kick off. Hi everyone and thanks for the invitation to myself from the department and National Broadband Ireland will do a presentation now in a moment I'm Fergal Mulligan and in front of the council five years ago on the journey to get to where we are today and Peter going to present in terms it is full blown plan in action and building with significant investment across all of Wicklow. listen the previous conversation on climate action, this broadband rollout is

absolutely looking at every part of rural Wicklow which I think Peter and TJ will show you on the maps shortly and you will see a significant investment going across every nook and cranny of the county, north south-east and west and particularly focused on the acute rural areas and that we'll talk you through the broadband connection points as well. On behalf of the department I want to thank Wicklow County Council as with all county councils and local authorities, and particularly Frank and Liam Fitzpatrick the broadband officer in Wicklow there's a huge amount of work behind the scenes to ensure this plan becomes a reality and it is shoal and surely is still not going fast enough but TJ and Peter will talk you through, why it does take so long and will take a few years to get there, but I'm glad to report there's a huge investment going on at the moment and it will happen over the next few years, I will be here at the end of this presentation, to take questions you might have from a Government-facing point of view because one thing I'd like to make clear is while Peter and TJ will do a presentation for national broadband Ireland it is covering a portion of Wicklow, there's huge investment going on in Bray and Arklow and around the county from Eir and other operators like Imagine and we have Wicklow broadband and regional broadband providing hugely valuable service while we're waiting for the fibre network to be rolled out. From that context a lot has been done and a lot to do and I'll hand you over to Peter who will give you the detail, we'll all take

whatever questions you have at the end. Thank you very much.

PETER: We all know the benefits of broadband, so we won't talk about the benefits of it but overall update on the programme specifically the build programme for Wicklow and then understanding our deployment strategy and operations how we're rolling out the network and what is the build process behind that. As Fergal said we'd like this to go faster but it is a significant amount of infrastructure we're deploying over 142 kilometres of fibre which is considerable to other network deployed environments, particularly fibre over the last couple of years. With progress, we've surveyed over 200,000 premises, overall intervention area is commercial operators, building, home networks, actual intervention area under the plan is 544 premises so to date we've surveyed 200,000 of those premises and that's surveying all infrastructure and TJ will talk about that as we go on all the poles and ducts and infrastructure we're going to use that is already in situ today and additional infrastructure that we need to deploy to connect those 544,000 premises we have to prepare to designs and we have designs for over 160,000 and we move on to building the network and making it available to connect homes so we started on this project in January of 2020 in terms of surveys, that activity of sending people on the streets, and surveying poles and cuts and connections and homes and

then construction in July last year, so although the numbers look small in terms of homes available to connection, pretty quickly those numbers will start growing between 7-10,000 homes per month so you will see more homes coming on to the network. In terms of the retail providers, NBI is wholesale provider so we don't sell directly to consumers. We sell to Wicklow broadband or Eir or Vodafone. We don't deal directly with the end users from a service perspective, we provide the connectivity and retail operator provides internet connections, we have 43 retailers to sign up to Cellnet work on NBIs, self-service which is incredible fete which means most of the operators - people would be used to dealing with today, they have the opportunity of choice and competition in terms of service and price being on the NBI network. In the first year we rolled out broadband community points and numbers we will talk about later on and schools, a with live and ready for public use and 36 schools live with extension of an acceleration programme over the next two years, in twelve months we've grown from a team of 30 people, up to over 1,000 people working on the project, in NBI we have 250 people will you we will add to this, we estimate it will be somewhere 1800 and 2,000 people working on this project by the end of this year in terms of building up the scale and getting the network built. We're surveying all 26 counties so serving on all of the roads across the country and we intend to actively be building network by, in every county at the end of

this year so that's a significant number of resources, in terms of length fibre replacing calls and ducts across the country. It is planned to be seven years programme, but we are working with the department, Fergal's team in be looking at the opportunities for accelerating the programme. I'm going to give high level update in terms of actual progress across the country. We've broken down the programme into surveys, design and then build under way. In terms of actively deployment areas we have 227 deployment areas across the country and the reason why we've broken out into 227 in each deployment areas there's so only many homes or distance we can connect to local ebbs changes so typically it raises to 2-5,000 premises, we're active in 65 deployment areas at the moment, build is under way so we'll replacing poles, repairing duct, putting fibre on poles oratory trimming we're active in 25 deployment areas which is approximately 92,000 premises and we have surveys coming through completion, 35 DAs and surveys under way so progress happening across the country with teams all over the country. I will hand over to TJ to go through the Wicklow build programme and as we finish, we can take questions at the end.

TJ: Thanks Peter to give overview of Wicklow itself, in the intervention area, is the orange part of the map that you see on the right-hand-side there on the presentation the blue area are areas currently or will be served by commercial

operators. It offers 15,350 plans across the county. Which fall in the area for national broadband to serve under the national plan of which is 23% of the total premises across the entire county of Wicklow. It represents just 60 million and we have ten broadband connection points and 20 primary schools which fall into scope and Peter will talk more in detail about what the broadband connection points are and the primary schools and how we're accelerating them. We decided we'd break this down to give different area, Peter talked about the deployment areas, we have 227 deployment areas, right across the entire country and although deployment area might be located in one county it doesn't mean it serves premises that county. In fact, they bleed into the surrounding counties if you're close to a border and once you could take a guide is deployment area will span roughly 20 kilometres in radius, give or take the area it is in. So, we broke down, there's eight I suppose deployment areas located directly in Wicklow county itself and then another two outside of Wicklow, that are serving some of the premises we talked about, some of the 15,000 premises as well. So first number there and Kilcoole and Blessington, both of them, a network build is under way and started, the work active area in both areas as well that equates to 676 buildings and if you add up buildings and premises, premises we talked about 15,000, in buildings, you've just over 12,000 and the reason behind that is, there maybe two different businesses carried out in one particular

premise so if you have a premise where you would have Eircodes the likes of maybe a Home Office or house with an office or might have a house with a hairdressers or local parishes have a number of different premises and activities going on in one building, so that's why you see a lower number of buildings than premises, so you have 1676 in Kilcoole, deployment area that fall noose Wicklow county and over 1200 buildings falling in Wicklow from the Blessington deployment area. And if you look at when they will be ready for connection, Kilcoole will be ready for connection, so people can sign up to, all be completed in the build and then they go to ready for connection where they sign up for services and between September 2021 and November this year as well. And then, again, Blessington, between October and December of this year. In addition to that, we have Red Cross where the surveys are complete, completed the survey on that, and I'll go through that in a minute and that goes through design, and once it completes design it goes to build and ready for connection in between November 22 and January 23, for Red Cross and Enniskerry follows on in January '23, to March 23, Curragh camp sits outside of the county which is in County Kildare and feeds into picking up of the premises in the Wicklow area as well. And you can see the other areas Glendalough, Aughrim and Hollyford making up the entire 15,500 premises and buildings. So, the Kilcoole deployment area and to give, I talked about the map on the

left-hand-side there, are the actual deployment areas where we need to cover. The red areas you see there are overhead cabling routes and blue areas are underground cabling routes. We use third party infrastructure where possible, in most cases we will use Eir's infrastructure out there, we will avail of their poles, and their underground ducting, in order to roll this out at a rapid pace and whereas the lack of poles or ducts out there, we will build our own there to compliment and supplement the lack of infrastructure there at the moment. You will see, to give an area of Kilcoole, townlands that fall into that, the town lands would be Kilmac, Greystones, Newcastle, Ashford, Roundwood East and Sally Gap fall in that area and jumping into Blessington you will have ...

What you would see there, again, you'll see underground than overhead in the Blessington, depending on the infrastructure that's already available. The already we're using infrastructure that's there are two reasons, why is to keep the cost down for the subsistence paid on it and it is vital for us to speed the roll out of the plan itself right across the county. Peter talked about while this is a seven year programme at the moment we are actively in conversation of examining every way we can to speed up the rollout and the plan and deliver it similar to that area, and I suppose the first two things that need to be done to speed anything up from acceleration point of view is one survey and two the design, once you have survey and design done you can

make it into Eir to start construction and build activities as well.

And we are ahead on those and preparing for an acceleration by getting the design and the surveying ahead of scheduling as it stands, in Blessington area, there's idea of span and area of under the Blessington deployment area it would cover the likes of Brittas, Sally Gap, Blessington Lakes, Hollywood and Dunlavin, they're the areas it would fall under the Blessington area. If you wanted to skip on for a second.

PETER: Just in terms of the broadband connection points, I suppose, maybe something to be aware of the locations here, places already connected the provision centre and Ballycanew community hall, number of places in progress, these can be found on our website and the schools acceleration programme, intention is we would connect all 20 schools during the course of this year and into 2022. Just to give a sense in terms of a roll out strategy before TJ talks more about the design and build and detail. The 227 deployment areas we talk about are effectively here shown on the map, we have the orange what we call local exchanges, and then, sorry regional exchanges and greens are the local. The orange dots are really places where we have existing infrastructure so we are trying to leverage where there's existing fibre national back haul to bring the traffic back to data centres in Dublin and typically all the

international, internet services come out of data centres in Dublin so we bring the traffic predominantly to the 43 retail operators in Dublin or retail operators can take the traffic on any of the orange dots in the network where we have a regional exchanges and then the green dots are local exchanges, whereas T J described we have 20 kilometre radius in terms of homes connected to the network all the infrastructure should be existing where possible so accelerates our builds programme and reduces cost of rolling out the network. So, we utilise the metropolitan networks in terms of existing duct and infrastructure they have and in terms of location facilities and power and in terms of the green dots it is either existing Eir infrastructure where they have exchange or if not, we engage with private owners or the county councils in terms of accessing infrastructure.

So just, that's just showing again 227 deployment areas. I will hand back to T J with operations and then we're good for taking some questions.

TJ: We put the slide in here to give overview of the sequence of events and how the network gets rolled out and gets built, we talked about 350,000 premises in the area we have to cover as Fergal touched on earlier nobody gets left behind. OK, it is often the question we're asked talking about this, what about this premise and this premise, if there's an area or house identifies that falls in the

intervention area it will get and be served no matter where that is we will bring network to it, the first part in doing any of this, is the physical survey of the ground and literally going out and walking every metre and kilometre of the road and if you think we're bringing cables over 60% of the land mass of the entire country which Peter talked about earlier on, 140,000 kilometres of fibre, and put that in perspective, it is almost four times circumnavigating the globe so it is a huge project. It is a massive task ahead of us over the next number of years, so we need to walk every piece of the ground, look and see and examine what is there and existing pole for infrastructure if it is fit for purpose if not, we have to mark it down and put it down for exchange and changing out. And identify where we need to bring ducting and identify what surveys and licenses we need to have for authorities and once we get that information and bring it back to the design and office and start on the design work. And that design then is broken down into the 227 different areas we talked about, and we build out a design that feeds and is fit for purpose and not only fit for purpose but rather is leading edge, we will start out at the gauge of 500 megabits of download you can order 10 gig straightaway but the network we're building has the capacity and ability of every customer of taking 10 gigabits and upgrades we can change that up to 25 gigabits and most commercial operators when we're building in this area, they can take a lower percentage on the population based often the upgrade and bring out 60

or 70%, on our case we're designing a network not alone to cover 100% but building it, so that we can take into account new premises that are built or fall in the area over the next number of areas so we're building and designing our network with capability in the past up to 120 customers 100% of the premises that falls in the area to bring that minimum speed we talked about. So, the designs are designed to do that. And then we'll come back to put in the build area, we are working across the board, we started out with one contractor and obviously with COVID right at the start of March just as we were ramping up activities, the start of last year so we quickly then brought on board two design houses and brought them up to speed and as we talked about earlier on we have over 200,000, 544,000 premises surveyed, 161,000 of one form of design back into this stage where we're checking and 90-odd houses under construction and will probably have in the region of 140,000 under construction by the end of the year. The build subcontractors we're using, again, we talked about earlier on, we got COVID which have come contractors lined up from the UK which were hit straightaway and couldn't travel so then he pivoted again and brought on board additional contractors on the build we have four on board, which is part of the biggest and strongest subcontractors in the country for this type of work. Once the built is complete we bring that back in, into our service providers that Peter talked about, and that's the likes of local operators like Eir and Sky

and Vodafone as some of the bigger retail providers and our systems are built and designed now to interface in this and they'll take orders directly of the end user customer and once their orders are taken it is presented back to us and we'll go ahead and do the installation on behalf of the service provider, one of the big things to call out here, you can obviously imagine the amount of area, the amount of houses and premises, the amount of infrastructure that we need to build, over the next number of years and if you put it in perspective of the task and scale ahead of us, operating the four or five years, operating 350,000 to 400,000 premises would have got that far and building between 6,500 kilometres of cable, we need today cover 140,000 kilometres of cable, the task is huge and the one thing we ask and will see coming over the time the activity that will come at local authority level and where we ramp this up and the amount of permits and licenses and engagement with local authorities will be huge and you know, I suppose, as councillors in Wicklow, you're served well with Frank Curran and Liam Fitzgerald, from their aspect Frank engaged with us and department and CCMA and facilitating any meetings and engagement, how we can get through and fast-track some of the areas that come through, so we've already instigated last nine and ten months the agency with the CCMA, road management office, we've spent the last nine to ten months putting in place a set of guidelines for the erection of new poles under section 254 across the entire

country, up to this point of time it was subjected to any local authority you went into, you could go in and they were different and the areas for reasons wouldn't let you put up poles so we spent a huge amount of time to get this right because once we start applying for the licenses that we have a standardised process we're going through. And it is critically important we get this right because this will have a major impact on the speed that we can bring broadband to your local residents in Wicklow and across the country. A few statistics, there to top to go back to two quick seconds. You'll see there, overhead poles we're using between 1.4 million poles where we pull out cable across the country, the vast majority were already in place, there's probably in the region of 150 to 200,000 poles to go up but 1.3 existing poles and the underground route is 15,000. The reason that you see the 89 and 15,000, they come short of 142,000, the 142,000 makes up the cabling we have to go to the premise, and we build a network and the connection to the premise as well. So just skip on a bit.

PETER: On of those poles the 150-200,000 new poles, a lot of them would be associated with connecting of homes, so it is bringing the network to where there is existing infrastructure. So, it is an addition as opposed to necessarily replacing. And equally of the infrastructure that we're using in terms of Eir's existing poles, they're replacing 1% on average of the poles that are in each of the

deployment areas as an average wed read say poles that are leaning poles and poles that are rotten or duct that's blocked, we need to bring our cables through it, that's the work going on.

TJ: I covered most of it and given an overview where we are. Suffice to say that as the elected members and representatives of the local authorities and the local area of Wicklow, you know, the support that we get over the next number of months coming ahead and the next number of years, we can't underestimate the effort and the requirement and support we need to roll this out as fast as we can, we have aggressive time frame of seven years and not alone of that, we are looking at every possibility how to reduce that time frame from seven to right back in as soon as we can to deliver the plan. So, that kind of ends where I am. I think Peter I don't know if you have one or two things. That's it. Other than just to say, that we have set up a specific e-mail address as above for any of the local elected councillors to contact us directly to avoid going through the main switchboard or the main line, you can send any e-mails to that and we'll answer them back as quickly as we can. Otherwise, we would encourage any representatives and locals within the area to sign up to NBI.ie - that's where we keep the website up-to-date and we're building the website out to take the pressure off any I suppose calls coming into your offices we will take them directly and the answers will

be on that too, and Dev dedicated e-mail address if you have questions and need answers for turned around quickly. So, we're open to take questions you'd like to pass through.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much for all those presentations it was very informative and as you imagine there's a lot of questions coming to you. First one is Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah. Thanks, Cathaoirleach and thanks to the presentation. I was wondering if you could e-mail that presentation to us all because there was very useful information, and we didn't get it on decision time. So, just in relation to your actual presentation and to the accuracy of the mapping - I'm from Tinahely and speaking to you from tin Healey it is a sizeable village and on your map it has one of the smallest data for broadband rollout which I feel is inaccurate pour trail so in the commercial district or industrial district of the town on the Aughrim side with two factories that employ 200 people the broadband is very deficient and where I am on the Shillelagh side, I'm at kitchen table which is council meeting, my wife is in other room but at the end of the day the south-west when it comes to broadband rollout I see there of the four of the five areas you don't have dates for deployment, Baltinglass, holily Ford, they're representing areas in the south-west, and I just, I don't see time lines there, and coming out of the COVID era, the importance of broadband has gone through

the roof if we're trying to encourage tourism, farmers and hospitality and people to work from home we will have to market the south-west as an attractive location for these activities. And in all the reports I'm reading in from the council, you know we have north/south divided and east/west, the south-west is on the wrong side and in broadband I would hope we can get it quicker, at least it has brought it up to speed and the fact you're ambitious to ramp it up but please keep us informed as to the timelines in those four areas if you could please thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, please don't mute me this time. I want to speak.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I didn't mute you the last time.

CLLR BOURKE: Just want to thank the members there for the presentation the contributors but I'm getting repeated representations from constituents who are unhappy and frustrated their broadband is further down the line for example, Aughrim, Temple Lusk near Aughrim had representation last week from resident there trying to work from home but getting intermittent broadband and now has to wait a couple of years, somebody from west Wicklow said that a farmer saying you're going past your gate but won't bring it to him because he's not covered by the national broadband plan, he is expecting to get the existing private suppliers, but that would invest bringing four poles across

two or three neighbouring farms to get to him which sounds crazy. So, is there any appeal mechanism for common sense to apply in cases like that?

I can give specifics of that address. I did make reps to one of our agents but got nowhere with it. But apart from that it is welcome and look forward to cooperating with this to ensure quick delivery of broadband to constituents in my area thank you.

TJ: To come back to you on the question there, I suppose, Aughrim obviously is in a deployment area and Tinahely falls in that area from previous Cllr John Mullen obviously a rollout we have to start somewhere and try to bring the whole country together at one point in time so what you will find is we will be dipping in and out of counties, we will do one deployment area and move on, do another one, as it happens Wicklow has two deployment areas on going which is unusual across the country at the moment but you'll have two areas between Blessington and Aughrim.

Unfortunately, we have to be seen to bring it uniformly across the 26 counties at the one time and as we said we will be building in those 26 counties by the end of this year. And we do feed out from if you remember the map that Peter put up there, the orange regional area in order to get there first and feed from that area out to local areas, and they're continuous, we have to go one after the other, otherwise if we build one deployment area which would look

great that is built and everywhere to do, we have nowhere to plug it in and feed it back to. I use the analogy that which might help that, it is like if you were putting the lights on the Christmas tree and the light on the top, but unless you have it wound to the bottom and plugged in the socket you can't light it up, and that's how we build a network, we build it out from the regional network or regional exchanges as Peter pointed out and in the local exchanges and continue on from this. So, we are publishing at the moment on the 24-month rough area of the different times of the deployment areas coming online, and we are as I talked about in my presentation, we're reluctant to go too far out because we're currently seeing how fast we can actually accelerate and bring this plan on board and if that is the case, then, we will at that particular point in time be able to publish details quick around that. In relation to the farm that you talked about, you know the list we have at the moment is the list we have been given from the department of 544,000 premises that fall into the intervention area, by all means we can have a look at what is the situation with that particular farm that you mentioned. But as it happens ...

FERGAL: Cllr Sylvester Bourke, that's a common issue I think across all counties and councillors are having those representations, where you might remember in 2017 the Government, we entered in a commitment agreement with Eir or Eircom as they were known to cover 300,000 homes

with fibre and they did actually pass 340,000 homes along the way, it is in and around every single village in the country. There's been issues in rollout they are passing with homes with fibre, and they were promised to connect all those homes and they're not, now that is a commercial decision sometimes where they say that farm for example is going to require four new poles, and they make a decision there and then not to connect them and that has happened across many parts of the country. Now, where that happens, those homes will be brought back into the national broadband Ireland footprint and will be built so we need to convert them, if you're familiar with the map and if you're not check it on that website, that's where you check all the air codes including that farm if they're not this so-called amber area, you can make representation NBI whether they're in the footprint of NBI, they'll confirm if they're not, if not the next stage for appeal process is to my department, contact my department and all the details a on the website I mentioned we have dedicated e-mail address as well where we look at the that air code go back to Eir and ask them are you going to connect that farm, if Eir say they won't, they will bring it back into the footprint of NBI, again the overall principle is no farm, business or home, will be left without a service so commercial operator let a person down or farm down or business down, the back stop is to come to the department, and we get them in the NBI deployment plan. But at the moment as TJ said the contract only includes

those ire codes within the amber area, if we need to get air code in the amber area we need to go through a process to do that and we need the home-owner business to do the investigation to us, we'll do that, and what Eircom may come out and say we will put in those four poles, we will we weren't aware there was a problem, and that happened the home-owner went to yourself first and didn't complain enough to Eircom and then when we get on to them they will connect to them so there's a bit of jiggery pokery going on there, so we need to investigate each case by case before we the default is to bring it back into the state subsidised scheme where we actually fund those four new poles that go to the farm. It is also, really important to note that, within the amber area, there's a 100 Euro connection charge only, that's the only charge to home or business and in most cases, it will be free from Sky or Virgin or Eir and the monthly charge is 40 a month. So, the charges are same or similar in some cases a little lower than what you get in Arklow, Greystones and get the same services, be it broadband, television, get them probably your mobile thrown in, and the land line, you can get a land line service for this fibre connection as well if people need that. So, it will change the whole landscape of digital and entertainment and all the facility in the home when you get the fibre connection. At the same or similar prices, you get in the towns and villages. So, that's just to note on that one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Fergal. Fergal and Niall and TJ and Peter could I ask you a huge favour if you don't mind, because there's huge interest in and a lot of people with hands up who want to ask you something and ask questions about it, because as we all know how important fibre broadband is but there's another item I need to take to put the two members to get a vote on and I'll come straight back to you, would you mind obliging me by doing that, I need to get something done on the homeless. Gentleman I really appreciate this, and I thank you for doing this for us and members for their Coombes as well. Item 15A is to consider and adopted the Mid-Eastern Region Homeless Action Plan, I do need to take a vote, so Jackie can you come in on 15A on that please.

JACKIE: Numbers were distributed with a copy of the Mid-East Region Action Plan, I intended to do a presentation but, in view of the tight timeline I will go over key outcomes we have achieved on view of the actual plan and where we're going to move forward as well. So, during the period of the current plan, we had several initiatives including the homeless happen place was ruled out, thousand homes mid-east region, commenced role out of housing first, acknowledge is heeded targets for 2021 and hope it to exceed them further, it is successful indeed this, is where we're targeting most vulnerable in our society. We had, noticed that prisoners presenting as homeless was noted as local authority as problematic, so we worked

devices a prisoner release programme and this is nearly completion now. It is, hugely relevant at the moment because during COVID-19 we saw a huge increase of individuals presenting either from prison release or hospital release with 18 individuals left in prison into homelessness in 2020.

And the national equality standards framework was commenced and that's where we're looking at accidents in quality provision of emergency accommodation for the client and ensure the providers are adhere to the national qualities' framework. We had, obviously had to have regard to COVID-19 so this plan was reviewed during COVID-19 and is still going to be a major factor going forward to 2021, in how we respond to addressing homelessness and particular homelessness that is being I suppose emphasised during COVID-19 in that people who are couch surfing or sharing with family cannot do that now and that's had a very serious impact on our figures. So, special emphasis placed on homeless travellers and Roma, and guidance was issued from the department around vulnerable people. So, we had to provide self-isolation units, no evictions so emptied apartment provisos protecting people in COVID-19 and these are in place and acting on them. So, for example, our family homeless hub which is nearing completion, just a few issues with the roof, we have devised SLA and implemented the soon the homeless facility in Bray which proved useful to protect the vulnerable

people during COVID-19 as well, we implemented sustainable office with Hail which we hope to work around that and increase the sustainment piece on this, we moved to West Wicklow CS07 and they have the creating foundations initiative we're working closely with the health service on that, support temporary accommodation is issued with emphasis on providing supports with the accommodation piece, it is not just simply providing accommodation, it is to target where the supports are needed and make sure they're put in place. So, overall, you seen the figures in the property to SPC at the end of March, and you see the significant progress has been made in those years and particularly in Wicklow. We hope to build on the project. You can see the tables in the end of the report where he with he put concept of added value and where we're going to work and increase on our success to date. While the initiatives have worked, we'll continue to increase for example tenancy sustainment, we'll look at providing more under mental health and in terms of case management in these areas so I would ask the members to adopt the plan, and we have a very robust plan going forward to 2023 and build on the success of the last plan. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Jackie.

I'd like to propose that Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen.

Cllr John Snell can I second that on behalf of SPC I want to

thank them for the work they've put in the membership of the SPC and on the basis of 9 members who received this, prior to this meeting I know you didn't get the full presentation but everyone would be issued with this so I would recommend that be adopted by the membership as I know you're under pressure for time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr John Snell is everybody in agreement with that? Thank you. I'll go back to sorry.

MS GALLAGHER: Before we move on, there's item number 16 I'm sure it's gone through the Wicklow Municipal District to Men's Shed to include a loading bay on Bridge Street, Wicklow Town, if you could propose that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by Cllr John Snell. Everyone in agreement, yes, thank you members for that and thank you for our understanding and Peter, TJ and Fergal and Niall, sorry for interrupting you because it is a huge important issue national broadband and it is something, I want to can you about, but look at I want to go back to Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Briefly, I know you're stuck for time, two points, firstly, is there any way you can set up a system that's someone puts in air code, and it gives them an indicative date when they get broadband I know you can't do it within a week or month accuracy, but even indicative, 2023-2024, if it is going to be three, four years out so people have some indication and you know you can tighten them as

we go et cetera closer to the deadline. The other thing and you alluded to it, there's people contact me in relation to Eir where there's an existing poles and there's boxes from the local broadband and already supplied by Eir is it worth it to do - they uncable a couple of metres from those final poles in the edge of villages or final boxes in the edge of villages and should people pursue to get that from Eir because I'm not getting straight answers from that. Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much. And thank you very much for the presentation, can I ask, first of all you may excuse my ignorance because I'm not an expert on broadband or connections or I wouldn't be very at this stage logically minded what's the difference between the connection points and deployment areas for getting broadband in areas for example, the Blessington is deployment area but then there's connection points in different areas within the Blessington district so I'm wondering what is the difference and also the Camp, that's down to serve 39 buildings between and the plan fade is 23, what part of West Wicklow does that go into?

And secondly, I'm inundated with broadband queries it is one after housing and planning, I think it is one of the biggest issues that I'm dealing with on a regular basis, especially in the rural areas in West Wicklow and Cllr Sylvester Bourke mentioned it there the fact that they have fibre on the road, but then, it doesn't go down the lanes.

Now I've contacted Eir on numerous occasions, but I don't

get response from them, I'm sure my colleagues are the same, but it is a huge area and I'm wondering will your plan cover those areas with fibre broadband?

Because it is a massive issue and especially at the moment with so many people working from home and college students studying at home, in rural areas that really is impossible and if you can push this as fast as we can, it would be really appreciated especially the way things are at the moment with working and studying from home. Thanks very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thanks for your presentation, just one question really, I notice that Enniskerry will be in 2023, for when we get good internet pretty much. But I was wondering if anything is taken into account like constructive technology, starling could be coming to Enniskerry in 2021 and they will be providing a minimum 100 megs and I'm wondering if that is kept into accounted, 2023 is too late for how close it is to Dublin for me. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks Cathaoirleach and thanks to TJ and Fergal for the presentation, the project has been ramped up and in the last twelve months in particular in

relation to I know it is rural-based and rural-focused shall we say, we spoke about this last year the urban areas in the old Eir intervention that was missed out and weren't provided for, I know you have planning and identified a lot of the areas and coming back in, which is welcome, you have been number one you've identified all those areas, and number two, I'm just one of those areas in the Greystones area I'm in myself, and I think we're, were we part of it, the areas identified in Greystones, are they part of the Kilcoole deployment area which I think is down for a later this year for connection, so just basically, yeah that's only point

CLLR CULLEN: We should welcome the huge investment in Wicklow, and I believe the lads are doing and I know it is a priority and doing a good job, Cllr Edward Timmins asked one of the questions in terms of your air code and getting a way of getting people to know where they are potentially on the list. And my second point is the Red Cross and Glendalough areas, is it possible TJ to expand on what rural areas are covered in terms of Red Cross and Glendalough. Well done and I think you're doing a great job on it.

TJ: Thanks very much. Peter covered the first one maybe there from Cllr Edward Timmins on and Cllr Shay Cullen there on the actual database if you want to cover that one Peter.

PETER: I will indeed. Yeah, so on our website if you were to go to www.NBM.ie today you can determine whether

you're in the area or not and what is presented is a map that shows the timeline, certainly in the next 24 months whether you're going to be connected or in a survey under way.

Typically we have survey underway, normally we have survey moves into design and then from design we move to build, and once we're out of design phase it could be twelve or 18 months before building the premise and then we release each of the deployment areas as we finish in the deployment area so you will be able to get some information in terms of the programme for the next 24 months, we are looking at acceleration and how we can bring premises that are years six and seven in the programme earlier so we will throughout the year share more information with twelve month rolling and bringing the rest of the deployment areas in the programme and bringing visibility but most importantly it is to determine are you one of the 544,000 premises or not, we don't determine in that review as to the speed that somebody has if they're not in the intervention area, the threshold that Fergal talked about earlier on is 30 megabits per second so commercial operator said you today are getting greater than 30 megabits area, if you can't get connection from commercial operator you can register on our website for update and there's a link from our website that will bring you the website to broad bad dot government which will help register with the department you're not getting the service that is needed and Fergal's team will review that with the commercial operator who said you will

get a service and then will decide whether it is going to be served or whether the premise needs to be in the intervention area or not.

But ultimately, our objective is to provide connectivity to all 544,000 and premise that is are being built or premises come back in as a result of the speeds. So, I think I've answered website and again, it is something to keep up-to-date if you register with NBI we provide updates in terms of the programme so even if your premise says survey planned but don't have a date for installation, because it is rolling 24 months - we will update then that it is in build, progress and start to inform people as to when the house will be available for connection and we hope to share more information on the over rollout plan. As I'm thinking some through the plans, disruptive technology I suppose Cllr Rory O'Connor, when we look at this, we've got to look 35 years ahead and what's the speed and commitment that are required under the national broadband plan to benchmark against urban areas and Eir and Vodafone are investing heavily in fibre to the home networks. So, the future is fibre we're launching with 500 megabytes per second and we believe homes will be benefiting from the service of 10 gigabits per second, the technology we're deploying today will support ten gigabits to the home and upgradeable to speeds beyond it, so while starling is a welcomed technology, and has its place as I see it today, in some areas and it will evolve supporting

autonomous vehicles or ubiquitous connectivity so 5G low orbited satellite and fibre, everything has their place. So, if you are thinking about fixed broadband, fibre is certainly the future. In terms of differences for Cllr Avril Cronin between the broadband community points and deployment a the dots you saw on the map, broadband community points are the priority locations, that each of the broadband officers and local authorities selected in the first 24 months, where the locations that this he felt would be used as community hubs, whether remote work or get access for high speed broadband inside or outside the premise, so there was 300 of the broadband community points, specific buildings will be GAA hall or community centre, the hauled are different it is the dots you see on the map is where the fibre starts and that's the point which we put all of our active equipment, so all fibre equipment and then from those locations we go out in what we call ribbons, like fingers coming out of a main hub, we go out in four or five different routes across the countryside and the typical radius of that is 20 kilometres so we're picking all the homes within 25 kilometre of those dots and selected locations where there is typically existing infrastructure whether cabin infrastructure with exchanges with power and some we have to put in new cabins, as we come out of the regional exchanges, orange dots, 33 of those, we're building the fibre to connected to the green dots so that's when TJ talks about the rollout plan, we have to start with the orange dots and

move out to connect the local exchanges. TJ do you want to take, maybe finish on the housing and planning piece with Cllr Avril Cronin. So, again, we're working off the half with 4,000 premises, any home down a lane or up a hill, we will connect, it is part of our programme we will be required to connect, and homes connected today are being connected within very reasonable timelines of within ten working days of placing an order and that's the remit which we're targeting. If a house is already said it will be serviced by a commercial operator, please direct them to our website and we'll help guide them through the process.

FERGAL: To come in on Jerry's point on Greystones, while this is very much a rural plan Jerry, Greystones is and Bray are anywhere else, that cannot get a service and there's plenty of those areas in the country, they could be amber, there's no discrimination between urban or rural and NBI will be asked to deliver a service there, so, the housing estate you mention in Greystones is part of the plan, and is part of the Kilcoole rollout it just happens the equipment that is serves the area in Greystones comes from Kilcoole that Peter mentioned and the Burnaby would be within the 20 kilometre radius of Kilcoole that's part of the rollout plan. Just back to Cllr Avril Cronin's points on the broadband community point, back to the Government's remote working strategy, those broadband community points for rural Ireland are critically important to the working remote strategy of building digital hubs across the country and Wicklow where

we not only through the fibre alone people to work from home but create the community centres where people have high speed broadband and town and village scheme people might be aware of is facility to allow county councils and local communities like the Brockagh Centre in Laragh, have applied for funding and they have funding to upgrade their facility to allow for office work and that's available for across the country to allow facility people see in Dunlavin or Tinahely where you see a good building you could upgrade for broadband connection or community point to allow digital working and people to work in that building as community, so I encourage local authorities to look at that again, talk to Liam who is broadband officer, if you see an opportunity there, and there is funding available from the other Department of Rural affairs under the town and village scheme to apply for funding and Wicklow applied for funding for a number of areas across the country, successfully, and I think the remote work strategy is supporting that initiative across the board.

TJ: To wrap up the last couple of points, it is important to note on the broadband community points as we grow out and pass them with fibre, we will connect the fibre into them as we pass them afterwards as well so decommission the microwave that has gone into them to get them up and running. But to come back to Cllr Avril Cronin on the camp area that you mentioned, I don't have the specific townland

area for 39 premises there at the moment, but, I would absolutely suspect they're ordering in the back of Kilcullen and Dunlavin and coming back from the camp, and it will spread out and closest point at that stage I would think and going on finally to address Cllr Shay Cullen's point Red Cross Glendalough area, areas I have to note that fall under the Red Cross area weeks Arklow would come under that, Rathdrum would come under, split between Red Cross and Glendalough so as those two different deployment areas would come together you will have some of the areas of Rathdrum and is served by Red Cross and some Glendalough, and then Rathnew would be under Red Cross, Wicklow Red Cross and Newtown come under split of Kilcoole at Red Cross, from where the two of them combine and join together as well.

So, I hope that answers your question.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much.

I don't think there's anybody else and thank you for your patience.

What I would like to say to you if you would leave an open invitation because I think we'd like to invite you back again, broadband and to the home is hugely important, somebody said earlier on, we have people working from home now and students studying and it is part of everyday life, we need it.

So, can I thank you for your time and thank you for the apologies for the interruption and thank you for your

>>: Not at all. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before we finish off, can I just say, Gillian Lang has been with us as councillors here in this department for over five years. She has been the main point of contact for many of us. And we have phoned her and, on many occasions, and times two and three things about the same topic. She's moving on to a different department can I wish her well on all of your behalf's and my own behalf, she's been a great employee, a great servant to all of us, and thank you her for everything she has done for us, as councillors, and she has always been available, I think she's always come back to us, and always been available to take calls, during the day, and right up to going home time. I want to wish her well and thank you for the service she gives to Wicklow County Council and service she's given us to us as councillors, she's moving to a new department, so I wish her well. Thank you, members.

Thank you.

MS GALLAGHER: No, just to remind elected members we have protocol now after this meeting, so protocol members please stay on the line.