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

ON

MONDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2022

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J Sinnamon

H Casali (writers)

**TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH
2022:**

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, Members.

Hope you are all well. Welcome to the February meeting. I will hand you over to Helen for meeting etiquette and roll call to start off.

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HEAD OF FINANCE: To remind members that mobile phones are switched to silent. Please don't leave the online meeting to confirm to Cathaoirleach. And raise a hand if you wish to [inaudible] motive. Speakers to keep cameras and microphones off when not speaking.

Now to go ahead with the roll call.

Register Roll Call

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members before we kick off for votes of sympathy, IT recommended that anyone remotely joining us, that you speak clearly into the microphone or certainly keep the laptop close to you.

Unfortunately sometimes it is very difficult to hear people who are remote, joining remotely. So please bear in mind to speak clearly and closely to your phone or laptop. Before I move on, to let you know that our Chief Executive, Brian Gleeson is joining remotely. He is remote today. But it certainly will not impact on his contribution to the meeting. So, to move on to votes of sympathy.

Cllr Pat Fitzgerald?

CLLR FITZGERALD: Cathaoirleach the members will have to speak into the mic or the members participating remotely will not hear them.

If I go further into mic, I will be in the laptop.

[inaudible]

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else, Cllr Peir Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: I want to give condolences to the family of Captain Mates [sic] from Arklow, involved in the community.

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CLLR BEHAN: To be associated with the Cllr Pat Fitzgerald proposals of votes of sympathy to the Cullen family and the death of Betty. She was a fantastic community person, as you know yourself, Cathaoirleach. Made a magnificent contribution to the entire community of the area and as well as in Dublin when living there too. Many people will feel her loss. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Anyone else? Before I hand you over, sorry, Cllr Gerry Walsh?

CLLR WALSH: Condolences to the family of Mr O'Sullivan in Greystones. His son, James was a town councillor, condolences to the family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to be associated with the reference to Betty Cullen and indeed her family. Betty was a fantastic lady.

It brings a smile to my face, I have to say when you know some of the things involved in and the fun, we had with her in conversation and in her company, as was said, she was a Trojan worker in the community and as are the complete family. She will be missed in the area. And to the Kelman family and condolences to Maura, son, Matthew, and extended family. May they rest in peace.

HEAD OF FINANCE: The death occurred of Florence Miler, mother of our colleague, Pauline Miler.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will pause for a moment's silence ...

>>: May eternal rest be granted oh, Lord. May their souls rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item one to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Wicklow County Council meeting held on the 10th of January, 2022.

Seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy.

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[inaudible]

CATHAOIRLEACH: I do apologise.

>>: I find it hard to hear anyone in the Chamber. The microphones in the chamber are low, seemingly. If I could, I would make a proposal for suspension to standing orders to discuss the recent announcement by our town team. At our town team meeting to propose the traffic lights on the 3 main bridges over the lake to facilitate the Greenway. I am looking for suspension of standing orders to discuss this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: [inaudible] (hand you over to Helen?)

HEAD OF FINANCE: The suspension of standing orders are to be submitted in advance of meeting in write, I have not received it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil I have spoken about the issue, there is a formal planning process that is taking place. The council lodged the planning application, and to that, end, we are really permitted not to be speaking on this particular issue. Any member or committee, they are entitled to put sub missioned to [inaudible] as I understand it but I don't think it is up for discussion, I will not allow suspension of standing orders on that basis.

>>: If you give me the opportunity. I talked about the suspension of standing orders, I proposed on this, maybe four years ago, it was seconded, and working towards the Greenway for the area but I cannot for the life of me understand how it was announced at a town team meeting, at the last town team meeting at in the town, there was no mention of this ...

INAUDIBLE

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Elected representatives, unknown to the [inaudible] officials of Wicklow County Council. It is unfair if we can't discuss this. Why weren't we given the opportunity to discuss it before? It is a serious issue where the centre of the bridge is divided by concrete. On one side of the 3 bridges there is pedestrian cycle access, on the other side it is a traffic system, and one particular bridge, with four roads going on to the bridge ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: I really don't want to discuss this. I will bring in Director Nicholson to give a view on this.

INAUDIBLE

>>: Can you hear me now? What Cllr Gerry O'Neil is referring to is for a different project. Overtaken by a process of an NIS to invoke [inaudible] submitted. Included are plans to deal with the bridges on the Greenway. Anyone with concerns, comments, can make them before the 3rd of March. Any comments made will be referred back to us for replies and inquiries, we will deal with that. The final design of the Greenway is still to be done. If we get through the [inaudible] process, we will sit with the contractors to do a detailed design, we have not done a detailed design. The bridges is a proposal by consultant, that is open to negotiation and discussion, to look at that but at the moment, that is submitted and comments can be made to them. This is a formal planning process, not application, so we should not discuss a formal planning process at an open meeting. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to move on. [inaudible] Cllr Joe Behan I don't want a long discussion, I have said my point.

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>>: If you listen, to what Cllr Gerry O'Neil said, he said he discovered this at a town team meeting and he a local councillor? That is how he found out about it. When we discuss strategic housing initiative development plans, we are entitled to discuss them at council meetings as we are supposed to input as public representatives, I can't understand how it is OK to discuss it at unelected town team meeting, I know your views, how is that they can discuss it and we the people who are elected cannot discuss it? I don't think it should be so. The entire Greenway project is listed every month in the report, which we are able to discuss in a few minutes, so, I ask that we get the opportunity together for further information on this, I didn't know about it until I spoke to Cllr Gerry O'Neil about it. So, I am sure other members may be interested, we will all have Greenways in the areas, while they can be good things, I don't want to be excluded from discussions about how they are planned and delivered and certainly to see a situation where a town team is getting information before elected councillor, it is not good enough, Cathaoirleach, and I don't think you would agree on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I access what you say on the town teams but we are getting into dodgy territory, discussing a planning application with the Bord at the moment. As I said, everybody is entitled to make submission, Director Nicholson outlined the 3rd of March, to have submitted to be then looked at and sent back for discussion. I am not deviating from this, I want to move on, I am not accepting the suspension of standing orders.

So, to item 2 to consider disposal of property number Folio No WW555L in the townland of Arklow, Wicklow County Council, 34 Knockenrahan, Arklow by the transfer order of Edward and Kay O'Connor. The person entitled to the freehold interest within the property as previously

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circulated a proposer and a seconder, please. Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy.

All agreed? Agreed.

Item 3. To consider the disposal of 0.0023HA or thereabouts of land comprised with Folio No WW40424F known as 36 Connolly Square situated within Bray Wicklow County Council by deed of transfer and rectification deed to Cllr Gerry O'Neil as previously sectioned. Proposed by Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, seconded by [inaudible] all agreed? Agreed.

Item 4. To consider proposal of 0.0030 hectares of land comprised of Folio No WW726F in the townland of Blessington Wicklow County Council, the property known as 37 Carrig Glen by transfer order to Ms Monica Slattery of 37 Carrig Glen Blessington Wicklow County Council as per noted, previously circulated. Proposer and seconder. Proposed by Cllr Edward Timmins. Seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neil.

All agreed?

Item 5. To consider disposal of 0.0071 hectares or thereabouts of land of Folio No WW19074F Wicklow County Council in the townland of Tick Knock Wicklow County Council a strip of land to the rear of 1 Murrel Drive, Inbhear Mor Park, to Mr Patrick and Ms Patricia Dunne, 1 Murrel Drive Inbhear Mor Park, Arklow, Wicklow County Council as per notice, previously circulated. Proposer, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald? Seconded by Miriam Murphy. All agreed? Agreed.

OK, item 6. To receive presentation, Wicklow County Council, audit committee, year-end report, 2021. As usual, we have a very reliable Tom Gregan joining, us, Tom. Please go ahead.

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TOM GREGAN: Thank you. I wish to thank you for the opportunity to address the council on the work of the Wicklow County Council audit committee for the 12-month period of the 31st of December, 2021.

The other committee is the [inaudible] committee established in accordance with section 59 of the local Government reform, 2014. The other committee has 5 members, who are as follows: Gregan, Noel Gallagher, Mary savage, Cllr Gerry Walsh, and Cllr Edward Timmins from June 2021. The role of the other committee is to support re-elected members by providing an independent assessment of the corporate governance environment.

Equality of the risk management, financial reporting, financial management and interim audit. The function of the audit committee are set out in local [inaudible] committee in regulations, 2014. Inter audit assignments from 2021. For 2019 the responsibility of the annual audit programme of implementer, assigned to intern other units of local authorities. Two programme implementers and engage, programmes within Wicklow County Council administer area, these are Bray area partnership and Wicklow County Council partnership. The following interim audit reports are reported on and to the other committee during the year. The [inaudible] review of companies, governance structures arrangements. Individual reports on the following companies were completed.

Mermaid Arts Centre.

Bray Swimming Pool and Leisure Centre. Wicklow Recreation Services. [inaudible] Bray area partnership and [inaudible] Culture partnership and cash handling controls. Wicklow County Council review of the ICT

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security, the objective of this in partner due to provide assurance that the ICT controls in place within Wicklow County Council, ICT infrastructure, and are operating efficiently, and effectively. Further, details are outlined in appendix 1 to this report.

Then we have report to the national oversight and audit committee, public spending code, quality assurance report.

The internal audit in collaboration with the procurement section, completing the annual quality assurance report as part of Wicklow County Council complying with the public spending. The public spending requires to have a number of projects selected for review in accordance with the spending core. The reports submitted included required in depth checks on the following areas.

Capital assess leasing facilities. Payment and availability agreement, revenue, expenditure incurred.

Blessington Greenway capital expenditure incurred. Part 5, [inaudible] Wicklow town, capital and expenditure incurred. Mary Naving [sic] [inaudible] capital expenditure incurred. Outlined in appendix 1 of this report. Then we have the annual audit plan. Setting out the proposed assignment for the coming year.

The plan is drafted following consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Services, the Director of Heads of the functions. Progress and others are reported to the council in due course.

Then we have a meeting with the local Government auditor, Mr McMann, who attended a meeting of the committee in December.

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The other committee was given a copy of the report 2020 in advance of the meeting. The local Government auditor outlined the main elements of the report to the committee and pleased to report to the members that the other report is unqualified. Furthermore, no audit adjustments arose as a result of the audit. The audit committee is pleased to know that the progress of the implementation of the up-to-date risk management strategy, and the organisation as this is an important area within the governance framework.

Programme, progress in relation to the accounting treatment of the development contribution is also noted.

As required, by section 121 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by section 60 of the Local Government Act, 2014, I attached a report to the council on the committees for consideration of the local Government audit report in appendix 2.

And another important heading is the procurement. The December meeting received a report on development of the procurement section, and we know it and welcome the ongoing process made by the council within the area. The committee receive the report on developments and the procurement section and we note and welcome the ongoing progress made by the council in the area. The comprehensive report covered the following main areas.

Policy, governance and compliance. Process, and systems, procurement, references, use of framework agreement, law-abiding purchase cars, objectives and plans for 2022. Ann item, the [inaudible] regulations 5 of the local Government regulations 2014, requires that the training needs of the audit committee are reviewed on an annual basis and reported to

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the local authority. I can advise the members that the training event will be held in collaboration with the public administration and the key teams that we address are: Responsibilities of the other committees, update and the development and the incorporate governance, audit committee evaluations and oversight roles.

The other committees affected within this, regulation 13 of the local Government, states that the audit committee undertakes yearly a review of its effectiveness and share the report to the local authority on its findings. The audit committee complied that the requirement, and it should use of the extensive evaluation questionnaire, I can confirm that the audit committee and conducting business in accordance with the local Government audit committee regulation, 2014.

Our annual work programme, the committee's annual work programme involves regular meetings throughout the year, the annual work programme may be summarised as followed: Periodical meetings as required by statutory regulation, [inaudible] and approval of the annual internal audit plan. Dedicated meetings with the members of the senior management team, meetings with the Chief Executive, annual training day. Review of the risk management schemes system, consideration of internal audit reports into the prepared together with the public spending code. Consideration of reports issued by the national oversight and other commissions. And consideration of any relevant department value for money reports. Review of the annual financial statement, meeting with local Government auditor and consideration of the annual statutory audit report.

The annual work programme, as outlined has been submitted by the local authority in accordance with the section 9 of the local Government

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committee, regulation, 2014. In conclusion, Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the audit committee, I would like to thank you and the members of the county council for the enduring support and assistance as we assure you of our ongoing commitment to the work of the committee. We acknowledge to continue the support and the encouragement of the outgoing Chief Executive, Frank Curran and we wish him continued success in his new appointment and to on behalf of the committee to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr Brian Gleeson to the Chief Executive. In his role as the Head of Finance, Brian is well-known and we know we can look forward to his continued support and co-operation. I also wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the management team who have given up their time in preparation for the committee and in addition to express appreciations to Derek McMann for his continued co-operation an input. Finally to take the opportunity on behalf of the other community to wish you and the members of the county council, every success in the year ahead.

Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To take the opportunity on behalf of myself and the members. Thank you for the ongoing work and indeed the entire committee.

You do a great job every year, we very much appreciate it. Thank you, again. If there are any members that want to come in? Anyone?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, well delivered. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing work and indeed your entire committee. You do a great job every year and we very much appreciate it and thanks again. I just want to see if any members want to come in? Okay, Tom, you are in the clear, thank you very much, again.

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TOM: Thank you Cathaoirleach, the best of luck, Brian.

>>: Can I just come in and say thank you to Tom and the member was the Audit Committee for the invaluable work they do on behalf of the Council each year. It's great to get a positive report and a review from the Audit Committee this year. Appreciate it. Thank you, Tom.

TOM: Thank you, Brian.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, moving on through item number 7, to consider the nomination of an elected member to County Wicklow Partnership arriving from the resignation of Cllr Paul O'Brien. Do we have any names? I am going to bring in Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Chair. I this was something that was filled at our AGM from the 15 members that are not part of the Fianna Fail or the Fine Gael groups. So we feel as a group that Paul is stepping down and we thank Paul for the work he has put in for the last two half years with the partnership. We feel that the replacement for Paul should come from this group. On that basis I am proposing Cllr Joe Behan to take over the position from Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Could we have a seconder for that? Cllr Paul O'Brien. Okay. Is there any other nominations? No. Okay. So in the absence of Cllr Behan, he has just stepped out of the chamber. In the absence, I think we better wait until he comes back. We will move on. He has agreed to it. Okay. So that is agreed. Before I move on I just want to thank Cllr Paul O'Brien on behalf of everyone for the work he has done in the County Wicklow Partnership. Paul is a very progressive councillor and does a lot of work not only in his district but across the county and thank you, Paul for your efforts on that. Moving on to item number 8 to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report for January 2022. Obviously a copy attached, I am sure you are aware of it.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just before we start I would like to tell you that three members have joined us since the start.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to come in briefly before I open it up?

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, this year we received over 17 million funding from NTA in January, just to note that this is a separate item on the agenda here today after the Chief Executive's report, so maybe the members could hold off from comments on the allocations for the N11 upgrade until the next item on the agenda. I also wish to highlight that before the meeting here today we had the official signing of contracts with de Blacam and Meagher Architects for the design of the new library in Aughrim and also in Ballywaltrim in Bray. That is great news and this will see the completion of our library capital programme. So that will be of great benefit to the local community in Aughrim and Bray going forward. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going open it up. Members, Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy, can you just press your... okay. Go ahead.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and thank you to Brian for the report. Just one comment and one question. Recently the housing SPC got the opportunity to visit the Family Hub in Wicklow and I want to compliment the housing society there, it's really impressive. Just looking for an update on the Bray Sustainable Transport Bridge a report was due before December 2nd and I wonder if you could discuss that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, in fact Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy mentioned it there, I was looking for an update on the EIO report from An Bord Pleanála. It was due in as Aoife said on the 4th of February. Just wondering if we have received it yet?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I was going to comment on the N11/M11 improvement scheme being paused but I will hold off, I heard Brian's comments there. Just moving on the outer recreational infrastructure scheme and the cliff walk protection scheme we have 220,000 allocated to that, I just wonder if you could have an update on that in relation to that rerouting and the negotiation with the landowners etc. I think it's important that that is back open as we approach the summer season. Just on the matter of the Town Teams and there was a review meeting to take place, just wondering if there is any timeframe.

The area around renewable energy and offshore wind in particular, the maritime area consent plan, to do with the maritime area planning act I see has been adopted and there is a maritime consent process for that with the minister having responsibility for granting MSPs for Phase 1 of the offshore project. I like more detail or explanation around that as to what that entails and what the process, as I say, entails and what the other matter on waste inspect and the figures around the warning letters and the litter fines issued, are they monthly figures or is it year-to-date figures and I want to acknowledge there is a significant increase in the number of court cases around waste management and with successful outcomes that is important that that process is continued and ramped up. The review of one of the things before the end of last year, the last Chief Executive gave an undertaking that there would be a review of outdoor staffing levels carried out. Just wondering if there is any update on that, is that being done or when can we expect to see that process complete? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you, I had brought up the report that we are waiting in Enniskerry for the lights to be connected. We have moved the bus stop in there and it's working well, but it's imperative it's done as

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soon as possible because it's really dark at the moment and not safe for people. I have emailed down and got no response, so can I ask that that be looked into as a matter of urgency, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, can I just take those, first of all, in terms of housing, Joe, are you with us?

JOE: Yeah... that was just, you did a great job from the council. It wasn't a question. Thank you... it wasn't a question.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Was there a question from Aoife. I might just bring in Michael in terms of the Cliff Walk and lights and so on, there.

MICHAEL: Thank you, just to say we are deals with the landowners involved. They are waiting an evaluations of the land. It's a slow enough process, as you know yourself these things take time. We will keep the pressure on, but things are moving nicely apart from that. So as soon as the landowners evaluation has been agreed, we should be able to progress on those. We hope that they are open by this summer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going bring in Lorraine in terms of the bridge.

LORRAINE: No, just the review of the Municipal District staff, just to say that review has commenced. It commenced and was looking at our workforce plan and now we are reaching out to the various Municipal District engineers so it has commenced. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Helena, do you want to say something about the roads and bridges? Are you happy to do that.

ADMINISTRATOR: In relation to the Bray sustainable Transport Bridge. The members are correct, we were expecting a reply by the 4th of February. Unfortunately nothing as of this morning. We are still waiting on that. There is one other that we are waiting for a response from An Bord Pleanála on the 10th of February in relation to Chapel Road. Just to notify members there is nothing received on that. Cllr Corrigan can you repeat where the public lighting is?

CLLR CORRIGAN: It's in the Bog Meadow Car Park in Enniskerry.

ADMINISTRATOR: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Brian, do you want to come?

BRIAN GLEESON: Lorraine mentioned it in relation to the review of the workforce. There is an audit taking place versus the workforce ban, but I would point out there has been two vacancies that have been filled in the Greystones area in January so, obviously that will help the situation down there, but we have commenced the actual review. That is obviously across all the Municipal Districts, not just Greystones.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Chair, can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

CLLR FORTUNE: Just a few things, Brian, thanks for the report and I hope you are soon better. Just on housing, there has obviously been a massive increase across the board in the cost of living that is obviously adding to

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pressures on families in a very dramatic way. The pressure points have always been there, but I think they are in a worse situation in the here and now, which would be the rents and the HAP payments and the relationship between all of that. Obviously there is more pressure on homelessness. I am getting certainly a lot more calls than I used to about people under pressure. So I know the housing section do a super job with resources that they get from the Government, but it does need to be looked at in the context of how we can react and I am just wondering from a planning perspective can there be some sort of dialogue between the various sections, planning and housing and some flexibility regarding people being able to build in their back garden. Some people would have room to build a home. I am just wondering should we proactively look at that and go at that? Obviously the Rental Assistance Scheme and the HAP scheme as I have referred to earlier, obviously need to be look add in the current environment and the approved housing bodies, I am curious to know what the overall strategy are and what our projections are in that area.

On the Part 5s, how many did we get in 2021 and how many are we forecasting for 2022? In that vein, I am wondering how many have we, housing have we got and are getting from Cairn and Glenbeigh, they are doing massive developments in our district. I am wondering what we are getting from that. Again I don't need a full answer on the last point on housing, an overview on addressing homelessness. I wouldn't mind getting some kind of an overall view of what, how we can make that better for everyone, because the pressure, I am telling you out there is massive. There is families having homes taken back from them because they are being sold or whatever. There are single parents, men and women who are living in one rooms and are looking to get a room in a house. I mean it is very serious.

So I would like to get a general discussion and chat going on that. The town and village revitalise scheme, maybe if I could get an overview, not necessarily at the meeting today, but maybe you could send me what is happening there and see what options are there under that particular scheme. The 350,000 that is referred to for the Greystones to Wicklow greenway, I am assuming that that is a feasibility study? So what is going to happen with that and then what is the next steps?

On tourism, I just want to ask generally, have we a strategic plan in place addressing the key priorities that are listed in Brian's report? Can I get a copy of that if that is possible. There is a reference in the report to three SHD developments. I am just curious to know what the position on them are, I thought the SHDs were basically parked from the end of January. I

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am curious to know what they are about and what is the progression on those. Question, planning question. I just have a couple of queries over the last four or five weeks. Do we physically check that planning conditions are met or do we just rely on someone sending in a note saying I have done them. Do we check, I have reason to believe that maybe we are not physically checking that plans are being met and maybe they are in some cases. On the derelict site section I note that there is no reference to the derelict site in Kilcoole and I wonder why that wouldn't be on the report because it's there for so long and urgently needs attention. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: [INAUDIBLE]...

>>: [INAUDIBLE]...

CLLR GLENNON: Can I take the opportunity to acknowledge the amount of work being done by the housing section for the last couple of years to the Baltinglass District in Baltinglass and Carnew and a certain number of houses in Tinahely as well. It's worth acknowledging the amount of work being done. We do a couple of projects in the pipeline as well which is very good. First of all, I get a lot of emails with regard to the 106 houses in Blessington. While I acknowledge the fact that there is a planning issue at the moment, but I think from our own point of view, I think making a request that we could get an up to date situation for the next Baltinglass district meeting.

Equally so I see the 20,000 in Shillelagh due to start shortly too. I think it would be important that we do get an up to date in terms of the contractor, what kind of work has been done there as well and equally so with regard to the housing of Tinahely down the line as well. Can I ask that if we can't get a detailed analysis of the position with regard to those particular locations that at least we have them on the agenda for the Baltinglass meeting and some member of staff from the housing section would be available to answer our queries on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Given all the problems and the health hazards associated with that, I just want to know will the Council consider a designated member of personnel for the Municipal District to try to deal with the problem of we will say using dog cleaning machines on a daily basis, weekly basis, whatever? It's very hit and miss at the moment. We all know that the litter problems are huge, but there is kind of a lot of education out there. So in time I imagine that the problem may reduce slightly because a lot of people are taking it on board, but the dog waste problem continues to grow and I think the days of just leaving it lying around are gone. I think we have to be very proactive and I would like to see an outdoor member of staff recruited for that.

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The other thing that I want to talk about is tourism and it seems that we have been talking about promoting tourism for a number of years now and that is great and wonderful and all the rest of it, but the bottom line is that not one hotel or even a small type of hotel has been built in any area over the last few years. I just want to know is the Council proactively seeking investors for sites, potential sites. There is one prime site which has just come on the market in Wicklow which a number of people mentioned would be a potential site for a conference-sized hotel which would be invaluable to the area. But I just want to know does the Council ever engage with developers or actively seek potential developers to utilise these things before they are gone? That is all I want to know.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Joe, I am going to bring you in first, quite a few questions on housing if you want to start off with Cllr Fortune.

JOE: There was praise this time and questions! Okay. The rents, look, the rental scheme is there, however there is a hardship clause and if people are in trouble they should contact us as early as possible. It's the same with homelessness, the earlier we know we have a number of ways to deal with it. Homeless HAP we have, as someone from Bray mentioned a while back. That is available, so there are solutions just for everyone, early discussion, we will see what we can do. We are aware of some challenges. [INAUDIBLE] for the approved housing body, there was a number of things we made in the December meeting, the Housing Delivery Plan for 2022 to 2026 has been prepared. Again it will be fluid enough.

We always will take opportunities or support housing bodies when they have options available to augment their own supply and, as a lot of members are aware, we have had significant delivery from that sector and very grateful, it does augment and provide solutions. The Housing Delivery Plan was based, if you are looking for a strategic, the funding was based on them roughly providing 40% of supply. That will be fluid over the period and we will be watching that.

Totally unrelated, the Part 5s. This year I don't know the exact number because it's fluid, but it was either 24 or 25 Part 5 I will clarify that when it's back to me. That is for 2021. In 2022 at the moment we have pencilled in 59, but that really outside the control of the local authority, it's working in partnership, but we are based on their schedule. Rule of thumb, all of the units in Greystones will be 10%. That is what required at the moment. None of them fall into the new category of 20% affordable and 10% social under the Act. It will take a while for them to fall into place. Just in general the HAP guidelines, it's a national scheme so some of the particulars there we don't have that much input into it, I think again regarding the hardship clause.

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Right, the homeless issue just in general there is a Homeless Action Plan. It was updated, it will be back on the SPC, watch that on a regular basis, it's just at the moment the SPC is trying to watch a lot of things on a regular basis, but it is something that is marked on a regular basis. But a lot of those issues they are more national than just for one local authority. That is that. The Baltinglass area and the tree issues. The 106, the plan that is under PPP. That is available for, we are currently going through all the submissions, we plan to have that at the March meeting. The Shillelagh tender is currently being assessed and we plan do Part 5 for Tinahely. We will have a report for the easiest way to bring that and we will have a report for the Baltinglass councillors next time out. I think that is all of me, 40% somewhere, I am not sure where that 40% is.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think there was one question on SHDs, Joe? Maybe I missed that?

JOE: Not the SHDs, that would be a planning issue rather than me, unless there is a specific question, housing question.

CLLR FORTUNE: Yeah, the SHD maybe is a planning question to be fair to you. The question I was asking was are we looking, are we going to look at the flexibility regarding, there may be opportunities there for families to build in family gardens...

JOE: Definitely, it's a planning question, Tom.

CLLR FORTUNE: No, no, my point, Joe, is that because of what we are challenged with at the moment in the environment people are having to live in, can we have a situation where housing and planning work together on this? It isn't just a planning issue, housing would have to have a serious input into it as well I would suggest.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I might bring in Breege on that. Are you there?

BREEGE: Yes, I am, I will address the number of planning queries that Cllr Tom Fortune had brought up. Firstly in terms of the SHDs, this was a process that was in place. With regard to that question there is a transition period, so there will still be some of the SHDs which need to be addressed within the time period, so there is a cross over period before the large scale residential development becomes the only process. So that is to answer that question and then just to say we already have an application under a large residential development in place at the moment.

So the ones that Cllr Fortune are referring to are ones that are already in place or got on application in before the deadline of the cut off. The second question in relation to vacant sites, the sites that Cllr Fortune are probably referring to are all within the Greystones Municipal District region. Under the Chief Executive's report there is five sites, they come under the Vacant Sites Register. You might be confusing that between derelict and Vacant Site Register.

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Just in terms of Cllr Fortune is probably referring to is back land development which would not be in accordance with our county development plan as it currently stands. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I make a point, Chair?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Briefly.

CLLR FORTUNE: I suppose my point there, Breege, is I understand what the theory is behind it all, but in the current climate circumstances I think demand that we have a, perhaps a different view of it. Maybe it has to go back to the Department I don't know. I think it's something that should be looked at and maybe Brian would consider that as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Just moving on to, I am going to bring in... I haven't got to yours yet, yours was litter waste management and tourism in terms of hotels, haven't come to that, yet. Going to bring in Michael. There was a question on the Wicklow to Greystones greenway and the 350,000.

MICHAEL: The 350,000 will be to develop this further and get the various reports and studies. From my experience there is a lot of reports that have to be done, ecological, archaeological and environmental. It's a detailed process. This will determine the feasibility of the route and whether it ends up being a greenway or something less than a greenway. This will determine the best way to move forward. It's great to get the money and it will go a long way to determine what should happen with that.

[CONNECTION DROPPED]

>>: I think, Cathaoirleach, that should be for me. The question just refresh the question again in terms of the waste management, is it, I know Cllr Walsh had asked a question with regard to the figures. They are monthly figures in terms of the stats and the fines. Is it in relation to the dog fouling?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh, ask your question again.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I want to know can the Council consider recruiting a dedicated litter/dog fouling person in these each district to deal with these problems which are growing in particular to dog fouling because there are so many dogs now. There isn't a foot path you can walk on that isn't covered in dog dirt, so we need to start being proactive on this.

>>: Just to respond to that, really in terms of the littering that would be a matter for the districts in terms of how they want to manage that within the staff that they currently have. As you know there are pressures on every single section and every single section are asking for additional staff. It would be a matter of priority.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Brian, I might bring you in there, if you want to finish up on those questions.

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BRIAN GLEESON: Just further from that point, I suppose there is no additional staff in this year's budget that would cater for new staff and as Breege had mentioned it would have to be catered from existing resources within the district, however we will bring it back to the district, we might raise it at the next district engineer's report and see if there is an issue across the districts and whether we can, I suppose push more resources, more regular resources maybe to cater for that particular aspect. Just in relation to a couple of questions on tourism, Cllr Fortune asked about whether there is a strategy document. There is one, the County Wicklow Tourism Marketing Strategy five-year plan 2018 to 2023. That is available on the website. I would outline all of our plans going forward. In relation to accommodation, obviously it is an issue that we do look at. We had the Glendalough Master Plan that is being approved at the moment and that would include accommodation across the county. We are conscious that that is one of the key elements required for county Wicklow, it's an area for improvement.

With Covid in the last couple of years you aren't going to get any investment really in hotels, whether in Wicklow or any county over the last number of years due to Covid. Hopefully with things starting to open up again it will create opportunities for the county and obviously we have regular meetings with tourism, or Failte Ireland and the IDA and obviously we will support any proposals in that regard. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you. I want to raise the issue of housing. There are some sad cases. I am dealing with a family that is going to be made homeless tomorrow. I have to praise the council staff at the moment in there. They are being overwhelmed Cathaoirleach and it's not good enough.

They are doing their best and we need more resources on housing.

I understand there is family houses coming on stream, I want to welcome the family hub, but we are not getting the houses out quick enough. It's no criticism of the staff at the moment, they are just being overwhelmed, so can we prioritise housing, I am the third councillor here to raise housing, I think we need to prioritise it for the next year until we get a grasp on it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott.

HEATHER 1500-1530

1500 HEATHER HERE.

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CLLR SCOTT: With regards the speed limit review, I wondered when we expect to see the first draft on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you speak a little louder?

CLLR SCOTT: Can you hear me? The speed limit review, I was wondering when we expect to see the first draft of that. The second is on dog fouling again, I wanted update on the educational videos that I know that the staff are involved with. They've been in production for the last few reports, I wonder when we expect to see those.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Sylvester Bourke?

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. First to welcome the announcement from the Chief Executive about the signing of the contract for the Aughrim Library, I would like detail as I was unaware we were on the cusp of signing the deal, is it a part 8 or a different mode of procurement and construction? Secondly, the replacement of the assistant engineer in the Arklow district. It is a very, very busy district with so much happening in Arklow. I urge the management to replace our recently promoted district assistant engineer, because we are only one engineer and there is a huge amount going on in Arklow, we need the extra expertise to navigate our way safely and carefully through everything that is going on. In the manager's report, this is a mention that the Bord hearing must take place in January, 22, that has come and gone but I don't recall an oral hearing? This is for the Arklow flood protection scheme and the issue of outdoor staff, will we be recruiting or taking on additional outdoor staff? I had a query from somebody interviewed last year who has not heard back, wondering if we are taking on staff. If that is clarified, I will be grateful.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Hell Enya, do you have an update on the speed limit review?

>>: Yes, stage 1 of the review is complete. The involves a formal consultation with the MDs technical and elected members. A review has taken, the estates are for a special speed limit order of 30 kilometre per hour if not covered by the 50-kilometre hour zones, a review of submissions drafted and while it is going on, end of stage 1, stage 2 is also going with formal notifications to be sent to the TII Gardai, to suggest their input into the review process and following their process, draft by laws are to be submitted for review. Stage 3 public consultation is expected at the end of quarter 2. Possibly the end of quarter 2.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Hell Enya, to bring in you on the questions on the Arklow flood protection and the engineer for the Arklow engineer? Updates on that?

>>: The engineer that we are looking at at the moment, we are well aware [sound drop] we are in the process. In relation to housing staff, we have sanction for a number of staff in housing.

A point should have been made, when I said that there is no additional money in the Budget for new staff, in particular housing staff that we were talking about has been funded so I suppose in relation to new staff at this stage it would be funded, which is the case with the housing, that is part of housing for all, we are expecting seven new staff to come into the section over the next while.

In relation to, I think the point made about the library, the fact of the matter is, this is only for architects so it has to be designed first. I would

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obviously go to part 8, then following that. So, this is for the initial design, the contracts signed here today.

OK?

CATHAOIRLEACH: [sound drop]

>>: Anything else?

>>: There is a vacancy for the Arklow engineer, that is in train, so on that, and in relation with additional staff, it is our policy to fill staff when vacancies arise indoor and outdoor and as the Chief Executive said, where there is a Budget for it.

That's it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Miriam Murphy?

CLLR MURPHY: Some of this has been covered but to highlight the issue as well. One of the main things is the, and Cllr Tom Fortune touched on it there, I would say that we all have the same issue, the increase in people coming to us who, are in really, really dire, dire need of housing, who have been living in really sad conditions. Some of these houses now are being sold. But my concern and, I'm sure I will speak for everybody but the [sound drop], who are in housing that, honestly, I would not let my dog live in them. These people, these families, they are sending us photographs of what they are living in and what they are paying and also, you know, balancing their Budgets, whatever. Like, we have only one inspector of the HAP, which could not cover anything of what the amount of people is from Wicklow County Council. When the officer does do an inspection of the house, the landlords are not even doing anything that is recommended. I mean, we ... it's just shocking, and it's very, very sad. I

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know this is a national thing but I mean, is there an answer to it? Can we let our people, who are applying for housing, on a list, who have been, I suppose, allowed on a HAP but who are still living in conditions that are dire and it is worse in the last 6 months? It is very sad. It is a serious situation. That is why our increase of housing need has got worse as well.

I also would like to echo what Cllr O'Brien said, I don't think that any decisions will be critical of the housing staff that we have presently but I think that the Department of Housing is under resourced and there is no way that the staff can keep to the standard of work that they are doing. They are just fantastic but I think there is a major problem there for the county. I'm sure it is every county as well.

Again, on the work, staff replacements, I think it is something that needs to be looked at. Our engineer left and we have no panel to fill his place. It could be 3-6 months before that is replaced. I know that it may have been updated today, we also have administrative task not filled for many months. I'm sure that each district is the same. But the staff that is presently there, cannot do the work of the people, that are being replaced. It is a serious issue that needs to be looked into. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus?

CLLR MCMANUS: Following on from what others said about housing, a larger proportion of the reps that I get are people who cannot secure a HAP property and are not on the list long enough to be eligible for council properties. I understand we are trying to do something about this in the long-term, and I take what the Chief Executive said about the Budgeting but the HAP, my respect to the HAP place finder who is trying to keep all people in mind and ensuring that all is in order to support them we talk of

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extra resources going anywhere, I think that any support we can give to the HAP place finder will have a positive impact. I know that NGOs would provide HAP drop centres, there was one in the Wicklow County Council community, I don't know if it is ongoing but if there is engagement with NGOs to replace HAP finders. And when somebody contacts our customer service hub, is there any or the of prioritisation system or escalation system for situations that may be an emergency? If someone emails or calls in, looking for emergency accommodation, is that, is there a way to push it up through the correspondence that comes into the council? I know that there are probably many, many contact from people, that some are in an emergency, time-sensitive situation, so your perspective on that. And a comment from the Chief Executive's report, the mention on the heating policy that we have been working on as SPC, I wanted to say thank you to the council officials and to those of the SPC for the work we have done on fuel poverty. We have been talking about the cost-of-living crisis and fuel poverty is an aspect. We decided that any policy offer letter that goes out with regards a change of heating will be with a document outlining it can be a protective fuel poverty factor and where to go if you are in need of support. I thank all the officials involved in that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Brien?

CLLR O'BRIEN: Two short ones. From page 11 in the Chief Executive's report. The Tenement Purchase Scheme? Is there a back story to the number of declines, 343 applications, 82 completed, 231 declined? Is there a general back story to the why of that? That it may inform our work in supporting those who come to us? And the second is, in relation to the accommodation, and the tourism piece, and the concern that is emerging around the Knockree Hostel in the Glen Valley and when we talk

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about how important accommodation is for tourism in County Wicklow and Knockree Hostel is the golden nugget within the valley and I hear concerns about if it will open. It is a specific hostel to serve young people, students go there, people doing environmental studies, walkers, it is part of the County Wicklow Way, so I wonder if the council, or maybe the Tourism Team, can contact us and to confirm? I would hate to see that, A, going to wreck and ruin or B, to be bought as a private venture and it lose the essence in terms of being accessible to a wider group of people. Just to flag that. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe, I will bring you back in, most of the questions related to housing.

JOE: When I start with housing I will not take away from people's individual emergency, if there is a homeless position, it is dealt with as an emergency. In general, housing has been a challenge for the last 5-6 years, we have done the best we can. It does go in cycles in times to a whole lot of issues, we have been able to deal with it in the best which we can. This is not new for the moment. It has been going on for a while. We have, as people know, we have a large supply going forward, we dealt with some of the localised issues, with a better supply for 2022, with 396 units becoming available, is our target, we will exceed that, it is bigger than anything we will achieve. I don't know what we were doing in the early noughties but it is well in excess of 2-p year supply, so that is the plan going forward and we have a deliverable plan for 2026. The inspectors know there is a process, we do inspect and take enforcement action so if there is a particular case mentioned we will look at it. There is a process between both sides. But we will, if it is bad in one or two case, we will be inspecting and taking action.

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I think that, the homeless ones ... going back to the earlier question, any issue or issue with regards homelessness, the person must engage with us early, there are ways around it or to extend or to know that as supply comes forward, this are HAPs coming out of this. So, people come out of a HAP and go into houses and we may have the HAPs available, so for the staff we must know early as possible. The worst-case scenario is somebody arriving late to the homes. That creates a problem. Where there is not a systematic issue with tenant purchase, one of the few things that comes up is the criteria, the eligibility, I hate that word, the criteria, the person being 100% dependent on social welfare type payment, that creates a problem. They are not eligible. And in the second case, people don't progress for their own reason, there is nothing stemmatic in that regard, that could be fixed. OK, I think that is it, Cathaoirleach. I think that I got the three issues.

>>: If I can come in to respond to Cllr Grace McManus' question in relation to customer care. Yes, it is very important, the customer care hub is answered by a highly trained team overseen by Gemma Whitty, emails are monitored daily and the calls that are coming in are answered as they come in. So, yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

So, one question there for Cllr O'Brien on the hostel.

CLLR GLEESON: I may come in on that. The hostel, it was raised that we had a County Wicklow tourism meeting and the issue was raised. It seems an issue not just there but across the board in relation to all hostels, so we have a contact to follow up on that and we will see what the story is, and let you know in due course.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard? Sorry, my mistake. One second.

>>: Thank you for the Chief Executive report. It was a couple of things missing, in relation to the RDF and Arklow and Wicklow harbour, I didn't know it on the Chief Executive report and wondered about the status of that. Also something that I thought was missing, the update under the Wicklow climate action, and calls for protection and the Irish Rail, LBW plan and plans for calls for protection for Arklow as it does not reach down as far. I did bring up before about a nature-based solution representative being on the Steering Committee, so maybe an update on where that is at.

Just two other things, a couple of months ago, I raised about the designated bathing areas that the cove in Arklow and the [sound drop] beach added to that, ahead of the summer season I may be ahead of myself but they are used by the young in Arklow, I think it is important to have a life guard on the beaches throughout the summer. Lastly, in relation to the EV chargers and the climate action [sound drop] as co-ordinating a strategy for the EV charges but to get a timeline on that. We are very short for a couple of couriers, transitioning to electric vehicles, and they are finding it really difficult in County Wicklow to get charging points for vehicles and it is affecting business, so maybe it can be, more resources can be added to that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry O'Neil?

CLLR O'NEIL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, Brian.

Again, it's the Greenway but I want to address my question and the concerns to the council officials as such. If I can say from the outset, this notion of people who question aspects of the Greenway, it is not

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acceptable, you know, that they are branded as anti-Greenway, to say from the outset, going back almost 20 years, whether the Chambers of Commerce in Blessington and the residents group I was the chairman of, when we formed a forum, one of the first issues on the gained was a Greenway, I remember working with father Tim Murphy and Michael Sergeant, and I just wanted to put it to bed once and for all, anyone questioning anything, it should not be branded as anti-Greenway, it is not the situation. I'm very, very pro-Greenway, there from the word go, I resent any innuendo or snide remarks that just because you question this, that you are anti-Greenway, again, I want to find out, I have asked the question before, on the issue which is the responsibility of every one of us 32 councillors, I have asked it before, brought it to the attention of the council before off the Greenway this is a County Council question, that this borough, which runs off the Greenway, over 3 kilometres, to the Forest Golf Resort, should be paid out of public money. As we as a council, if we sanction it, we are leaving ourselves wide open. I cannot support any private enterprise advantages where the public money, the people of Ireland are paying for. If the people want to be a part of this grown green or whatever, they should put their money in their own pocket, the [inaudible] group, one of the biggest with regards running hotels, they run this golf resort. I don't think it is right for us to ask the ordinary people to pay for that again, I would ask, which I have asked before, how much A were given the authority by Wicklow County Council, given the green light in October, 2019 to go ahead with consultancy report on the Greenway and asking again, how much did that report, that consultation cost? I want to make it very clear, how disappointed a person like me, that, who is pro-Greenway, absolutely, we want to get this thing moving, should be ignored and not alone as a councillor but

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other councillors have been ignored. It has never been brought before when asking a Municipal District, nor officials in the West Wicklow where the engineers or staff are not consulted whatsoever about this. I'm just amazed. It is crazy that I go along to attend a town team meeting and informed on that. That is absolutely wrong. So I am asking that, asking the question too, that the purchase of the All Health Centre in Blessington, I'm asking how much did that cost? It will be a help to us as such for the Greenway group, and I know it is going to be a great facility as such. But asking those questions. I'm an elected representative. I notice over the past while, that, you know, when I am asking these questions, that you are branded and put into a pigeon hole. But these are genuine questions I have to ask and the disruption, this is from the direction of the West Wicklow County couple, that put in the application, the bridges, I want to make it clear [inaudible] ... with the division of the bridge in the centre, where there is a concrete bowl put up the middle of the bridge ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: You have made your point. You have made your point! Cllr Pat Fitzgerald ...

CLLR O'NEIL: But ... I just want to get it across, that we have to work together on this. We should be working together on this ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil, this is totally disrespectful. Absolutely on this. I have given you a good airing, you have made your point.

CLLR O'NEIL: I am asking a direct question. I am not talking about the Bord ...

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CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't want to get into that. Cllr Gerry O'Neil, I have given you a good airing. Please!

CLLR O'NEIL: I'm trying to express the disruption it will cause. Can I finally say, Cathaoirleach, we have to work together on this? Issues like this coming up ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil, please! Please. I have given you a good airing, thank you. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald?

CLLR FITZGERALD: Can I go back to the housing as it has been mentioned about the difficulties with the housing. The facts from 2007 to 2016 only affordable housing was built. So 2016 to date and the next houses are not finished. We have 174 houses, to come in with the work that has been done over the last few years, we have had no storage treatment plan from 2007 to 2016 but thanks to the work of the housing section, and we now have 174 coming on stream. The problem with the issue is now is that with the HAP houses, the people are seeing the price of houses rocketing up, and they are given notices to the tenants, that is where it stands. So, effectively we will have problems in the Arklow area. But another issue, I was in the church yesterday morning in Arklow, when I was speak being that, there was a passionate speech by the parish priest about the works that were to start in Arklow this morning. I did explain to him, that we are short of a person, a very valuable person to be honest about it, the people that are there, the staff, doing great work, and Brian said that the situation is going to be sorted out quickly, it needs to be. I went down the street this morning, and I left early but it took me 15 minutes to go down the street. I don't think that is right. People are going up roads, down roads, they don't know where it is going. You should see what it is like, gentlemen. It will settle down but it has to

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settle down quickly. There are lots of people, shopkeepers, who are struggling to say, that they are going to this place or where ever else. I feel that there needs to be more consultation with the people affected by it. It must be done, and the Chief Executive said it in the meeting but we were told last week that there is no list ready for to appoint somebody, so, I am just disappointed. And I know, I am not saying anything about the present staff. They were out this morning, doing their best but I think we have slipped up here slightly.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I will bring in Breege firstly on the climate action questions, Breege you are there?

>>: Just reconnecting in the climate action and particularly to the EV charge points, as many of the councillors within the SPC will know, that the LGMA and the CCMA produced a document, local authority electrification of fleet and the guidance document for all local authorities. One of the recommendations within the document is for the preparation of an EV charge point strategy for each [sound drop] so with that, the climate action officer, I asked her to make contact with the district engineers, which she has done, they have been asked to look at this in terms of optimum location for the public EV charge points. The only thing I that I will say is that we are awaiting sort of a national guidance in terms of overall infrastructure coming from the Department of Transport.

We have been informed that document will be produced within Q1 of the year. And that it should tie in. But having said all of that, I would still ask for the district engineers to look at optimal locations with our public spaces for public EV charge points should a sufficient funding scheme be put forward by the Department of Transport. This is really, in particular to people who do not have off-street car parking.

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So, because most of the charging should occur at home but for people who don't have off-street parking, they are somewhat disenfranchised in so far as they can't do it outside of their door. So it is from that point of view, that this strategy is really important.

So, as I said, the district engineers are looking at optimum locations to cater for the cohort of the population who don't have access to driveways for charging.

On the other climate action issues, in relation to closer protection, these are questions from Cllr Peir Leonard.

And Arklow and Wicklow Harbour Funding, Marc Devereaux is to come on to deal with the questions and a previous query by Cllr Sylvester Bourke with regards to the Arklow flood release scheme, if that is OK, Cathaoirleach?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I will bring in Marc now.

MARC: Good afternoon, members, I will start with Arklow flood scheme.

>>: I will start with the Flood Scheme. I understand that Sylvester Bourke was asking a question. Last May we made an application for approval up the Section 226 of the Planning Act which is like an application, it was an application to the board for the scheme. The board have indicated they will make a decision on that matter. At the moment they are indicating the 18th of February, what that means is they are expecting to be able to make a decision by then. Now, they have in the past extended the date, so they may not make that decision that quickly.

In relation to the application for planning under Section 226, there were 22 submissions made to the board and Wicklow County Council as the applicant was invited to respond to the 2022 submissions one of which was 150 pages. We responded to those submissions, we were given a deadline which was in the middle of January, I think it was the 13th of January to respond. So we responded to those submissions directly to the

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board as they had requested. That is the sum total of the interaction we have had in relation to the planning application. There was no oral hearing into the planning application and the board can decide whether or not to convene an oral hearing into the planning application and at this point they haven't and we are assuming since they are indicating, a decision will be forthcoming in February, they are not going to an oral hearing to the planning application. At the same time as making the planning application we made an application for approval of a Compulsory Purchase Order for lands primarily around the marsh and the bridge and the quays in Arklow. The board received nine submissions in relation to the CPO, the Compulsory Purchase Order. Again they submitted copies of the submissions to us and asked for comment on them. Then they convened an oral hearing on the 20th of January of this year. The Board convened the hearing and invited all of the objectors to make their objections or submissions known to the board. Wicklow County Council were invited to that oral hearing to respond to each of the objections. An Bord Pleanála invited those people to present at the oral hearing. It wasn't a public oral hearing to the planning matter, it was only an oral hearing to the CPO matters and only those affected by the CPO were invited to attend the oral hearing. So it wasn't a public oral hearing in the sense it wasn't a meeting held in a public space where anyone could walk in off the street and make their submission, it was an oral hearing in relation to the compulsory order. That completed and we responded to all the objections to that oral hearing and the board have gone away with the objections and the responses and to consider those and they are indicating they will make a decision on that on 18th of February. There was and for instance there was an oral hearing into planning matter on the waste water treatment scheme which was an application by Irish water the previous year. So we are awaiting the decision of the Board. The public participation in the scheme, or in the applications to the scheme was by way of submission to the Board. So anyone who wanted to make a submission to the Board in, in the scheduled timescale, which was effectively in May, June, July of last year. So we are waiting a decision from the Board. That might be to request further information or it might be a decision to grant approval to Wicklow County Council with conditions. So that is the current status of Arklow Flood Scheme. It's all with the Board at the moment.

So on the question of coastal erosion, we have had contact all right with Irish Rail. They contacted us in January to say they are progressing the project. This area from county boundary to Wicklow Town has been progressed by Irish Rail. That leaves the area of the coastline at Arklow and Brittas Bay. We have had discussions with the councillors in Arklow and Cllr Leonard has made a submission in relation to nature-based

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solutions and all of that will be considered. We are looking to put a submission together for funding for works. At this stage it will be further studies into that.

On the question of the URDF funding we are awaiting a notification. I don't see my colleague, Christine on the meeting, generally it's Christine who has been looking after those applications, but myself and other colleagues are watching closely for this notification of a funding round or a call for further projects under the URDF. When that happens we will be making a further submission on Arklow and Wicklow harbours. On the question of the cove at Nun's Beach. We do testing for water quality of bathing water. I think we do some testing in the cove, but it's not a designated bay. We do a review every year, before we start employing the life guards and we will consider Cllr Leonard's request. My colleague in water safety will consider that and make sure we are sitting there again when they are starting up recruiting for and putting together infrastructure for the life guards over the coming year.

Just to say it's not a designated bathing water. It's not an area being monitored by the EPA. We will still carry out some testing over the summer. I think that is all of your questions answered.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for that, I am just going to bring in Michael to answer any questions on the greenway.

MICHAEL: Just a couple of comments. This is an exciting project and we have 15 million funding for it. It will be the first greenway in the country that goes around a lake and isn't a link into villages which is normally case for greenways. It's 42km long including linkages to the Avon. We have had a number of public meetings and it has the overwhelming support of the entire MD population. Rarely heard bad news about the greenway. All the members of the council and the Baltinglass assembly have been very supportive through every step of the way, including yourself, Cllr O'Neill. It has been 20 years since the first agreement came, it's ramped up in the last few years and we are finally at An Bord Pleanála stage. We have had public meetings and I have attended several of them and there have been several presentations. We couldn't have done more. We have an excellent consultancy on board, AECOM.

We are at the stage where hopefully we will get a positive decision from An Bord Pleanála, any concerns raised we will be asked to comment on them and deal with them. I want to confirm it's a fantastic project, very well-supported and onwards and upwards and hopefully we will get the consent from An Bord Pleanála and we can start working on that mid-summer and finish it in 18 months.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Timmins.

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CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly and thank you for the report, just two quick points, one there is no mention in the report about affordable housing. I wonder is there anything in the pipeline for projects in relation to affordable housing happening in Wicklow. There is a huge demand as everyone knows for affordable housing. Just seeing where we are going on that and what is going to happen this year.

Secondly the RDF funding for Baltinglass that was announced in 2013, still not touching the ground. I see Arup were appointed as going to tender, I am wondering when will we see activity?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I would like to thank the Chief Executive for the report and I am not sure whether this question should be posed for Joe or Breege, but it's a follow on from the response of Cllr Blake regarding the housing in Burgage. When that matter is brought to the members in Baltinglass it won't be a fait accompli, I take it we can still have an input? That is my question.

I would say we have, needless to say as local representatives we have considerable people coming on to us about different issues. I do know there is a planning process to be gone through and that process is ongoing and people have made submissions. I like to think that do it comes back to the Municipal District that we could have a meaningful input rather than it being a fait accompli rather than a done deal.

The second is with regards to the greenway, are I would agree with what Michael says that it's a great project overall and I am not dismissing anything that my good friend and colleague, Cllr O'Neill has said regarding the same and I was the first to express surprise at some of the content, including the issue about the bridges. I do accept, having looked at it more closely than the initial response, I do accept that it can be made work with the bridges. That is my own view, but I am not an engineer and I am glad to hear that tweaking can still be done when the matters comes back for planning or for final conclusion as was outlined by Michael. Out of respect for your earlier comments I am not going to say anything more about the greenway.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I want to bring in Joe there, just those few questions. Joe, I think we are done then.

JOE: Okay. I will hand it to Breege after me. The section, it's the March meeting, I should have clarified that, it's over 100 units, the Chief Executive and the Part 8 will be discussed at the council meeting, not the Blessington, the Baltinglass area office, it's an access of the delegated decision. That is for the full council as to whether you accept the Section 106. We will look at the aments and see what needs to be modified.

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However we will bring it up as an issue and we will talk to the administrator in that regard. The affordable issue, well, first of all, it was on the December meeting and at the December meeting we have said that in the short-term we would be dependent on the first home schemes. Wicklow County Council did, that is the shared equity scheme. Wicklow County Council did advertise recently for, I can't remember exactly, I think it's called affordable purchase, effectively turn keys where we asked developers to apply for, were they interested in building affordable forests in the immediate short-term. Lot lane will be the first that will become available there we think. We received two applications. Between them it would be in excess of 100 units. We have discussed it and we will continue to discuss with the SPC. We now apply for affordable housing from grants, so we will keep people informed as they progress through the system. That would allow early delivery along with some of the other national schemes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All right, Joe, thank you. Before we finish up on this, I just have one question for Mark, if you are still there. Can you give me an update on the sewage scheme for Garden Village. I know there was funding allocated for a design plan to solve that issue. Where are we at with that?

MARK: We have appointed consultants, we have a preliminary indication from the consultants as to where the solution might lie and we have to meet with the landowners next. I have been sitting in with him and guiding him so there will be a meeting with the landowners effected. One of the suggestions is to pump across land. So to pump across land to the Woodstock Road where there is a public sewer. So we are talking to the landowners next. It will be some time, but we are pushing forward by looking at solutions. When we have a solution in place we do have funding and assuming the funding will go, there may be a question about a Compulsory Purchase Order or acquire land. That is the next question, but we are working on it at the moment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for those questions. Cllr Walsh, briefly, because I want to move on.

CLLR WALSH: I raised earlier on the Chief Executive's report was in relation to the new Maritime Consent Process under the new Maritime Early Planning Act recently adopted and the role of the minister's responsibility for assessing MACs. I assume it's Maritime Area Consents to specify that. I make this point and I just raise it, I have been cognisant of the recent reports from SSC Renewables on national media outlining their frustration under the core process and the delays they are experiencing in the process and obviously the urgency under the Arklow Project. So with the urgency of renewables, I wonder if there is anyone in a position to

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comment on that. Christine would normally apply to queries such as this, but I realise it's relatively new, the Act has recently been adopted.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Anyone want to answer that?

>>: I can come in on a small piece of it....

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I ask you to speak up we can't hear you. Go ahead.

>>: Cllr Walsh is correct, the new Maritime Planning Area was enacted before Christmas time. The body we will be dealing with for a large part, they are going to set it up called the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority. With regard to the information that I have they haven't actually been established yet. Cllr Walsh is correct insofar as there has been a lot of frustration with regard to the issuing of foreshore licensing and this is where it's come into play. It's hoped this Maritime Area Regulatory Authority will be able to progress these faster.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, we will leave that. Just before we go on to item number 9, I want to go back to item number 7. Cllr Behan, you have been proposed for the position in county Wicklow partnership. Thank you. Item number 9, to receive NTA road allocations, 2022. Just before I bring in John Bowes and Conor Page, I want to get Helen to read a statement from the Baltinglass District.

ADMINISTRATOR: A special meeting was held on Friday 4th of February to discuss the recent allocation of active travel funding 2022 for Baltinglass Municipal District. The members would like the following statement noted at Monday's Full Council Meeting. 'At a special meeting of Baltinglass Municipal District held on the 4th of February 2022, the members unanimously expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of funding allocated to the Baltinglass Municipal District under the Active Travel Scheme. 2022 and in particular the lack of funding allocated to rural villages and towns within the District.' Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I am going to bring in, is it John or Conor that is doing the presentation? Deirdre will be kicking off with the presentation. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you there, Deirdre?

DEIRDRE: I am. Thank you. Good afternoon, everyone. I am going to present to you some, an overview...

>>: Your presentation came up, but it's dropped again.

DEIRDRE: Sorry, Helen. Is that it there now?

CATHAOIRLEACH: No, it's not in the chamber. Be.

DEIRDRE: Thank you, I am going to give an overview of both the schemes on the N11.

Can you see that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: We can, yes.

DEIRDRE: Thank you. Our consulting engineers were appointed in November 2018. On December 2021 we marked the completion of phase

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2 with the option selection report which was published. Phase 2 was due to commence in January 2022 and our funding was suspended in December 2021. As you can see phase 2 option selection report was published in December. The basis for the phase 2 preferred option assessment consists of two parts, corridor assessment and transport assessment. An amalgamation of these has led to the preferred option. The Phase 2 is fully online and it comprises of a blend of road-based and public transport components. The road-based measures seek to address the N11 capacity by removing local trips off the N11/M11 mainline particularly those emanating from Bray and Kilmacanogue. The public transport provisions identify a refined number of specific bus services targeting high volume provisions. It will be undertaken in Phase 3 to underline with the NTA strategy in locations identified at junction 6, 11 and 16. The modelling you illustrated the demand for enhanced bus services, increased by 4% from the corridor from Wicklow to Dublin. Phase 3 an environmental evaluation due to take place in 2022. The purpose of phase 3 is to develop the project design based on technical and environmental impacts to a stage where sufficient levels of detail exist to establish the requirements.

Also to identify and mitigate project impacts in order to address the statutory processes at Phase 4. During Phase 3 further impacts may be identified and the scheme design would continue to be refined to address these. The funding of the scheme to date, for phase 1 and 2, totalled just shy of three million and our funding sought for 2022 was just over 3.5 million for phase 3. This would have covered detailed design, environmental evaluation, site investigation, ground investigation and archaeology. The suspension of the project as of January 2022 is likely to have serious repercussions for the work completed to date. Some of this may become obsolete and may have to be revisited or reworked. The TII allocations for 2022. TII allocated 2.6 million to Wicklow for improvement works on national roads. This is a reduction of 6.85 million. Please note of the 2.66 million just over a million is specifically for improvement works on the N81 alone.

The TII response to our concerns, TII delivered on Government policies in relation to national roads are set out in the NDP, the national policy framework and the climate action plan. The Government have decided that funding for new roads for the first half of NDLP will be 1.1 billion for the years 2021 to 2025 and four billion for 26. This is not sufficient to progress all the schemes outlined in the NDP through planning and design in the 21-25 period and accordingly the progression of projects must be phased in line with the available funding. Given the funding constraints TII is unavailable to provide funding for the N11/M11 junction. TII

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supports the advancement of the scheme and once funding from the Government is available TII intends to recommence the planning and design of this scheme and other national road schemes in the State. The benefits of the scheme. The case for the main project advancing is supported by the following points:

It's not an enhancement solution. They seek to improve the operational efficiency of the N11/M11, maximising through put by providing a public transport alternative, improving facilities for existing journeys and tractors, rationalising the existing M11 for future developments which has left public transport unattractive and underutilised. As a result of the bus services proposed we are seeing a significant increase in personal trips along the route in the design year. Based on the analysis, the preferred option delivers a reduction in the total distance travelled in the 2042 design year. This is a key metric when assessing the carbon impact associated with the proposed intervention.

Preferred option results and an improvement in public transport mode share as a result of the bus services proposed. The bus priority entrance scheme was conceive as an interim scheme to provide bus facilities to be delivered as quickly as possible in advance of the main junction 4-14 scheme, the area being considered runs from Loughlinstown to Glenview. The scheme has been assessed in three sections. Subscheme A runs from the Loughlinstown roundabout to Fassaroe and then Fassaroe to Kilmacanogue. The preferred cross section consists of nearside bus lane. The Phase 2 option selection, the preferred option currently comprises of subscheme A, northbound and southbound...

CATHAOIRLEACH: One second.

DEIRDRE: Sorry?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Deirdre, can you speak a bit louder, we finding it harder to hear you when your head is turned from the screen.

DEIRDRE: Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is it possible to make your presentation in a full screen?

DEIRDRE: Is that any louder?

CATHAOIRLEACH: It's still the same, isn't it?

DEIRDRE: Still the same. Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Even if you can speak a little louder it might help us.

DEIRDRE: The preferred option comprises of subscheme A northbound and south bound and north bound only. There is limited benefit of the preferred option within county Wicklow at this moment.

The journey time savings. The journey time savings and bus patronage from buses resulting from the N11 bus priority scheme are broken down below. The cumulative preferred option is 1.4 minutes and the cumulative

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benefit in the southbound is 5.5 minutes. In January on foot of the allocations from transport infrastructure Ireland it was proposed by Wicklow County Council that all subschemes should be reconsidered again and 1.2 million funding allocated for the progress of the scheme through to phases 2 and 3. Thank you for your attention I like to pass you over to my colleague, Conor Page.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Deirdre.

CONOR: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Members, thank you for the opportunity.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Hello, Conor.

CONOR: Can you hear me? Hello?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Conor... no.

>>: We can hear you online.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Conor, can you speak up?

CONOR: Can you hear me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Try and we will see how we get on.

CONOR: I am just going to share my scheme now.

Can everyone see that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

CONOR: Okay. Thank you, Cathaoirleach and members. I am here just to make the presentation to you on the Active Travel Investment Grant. The allocations for 2022. So the aim of the Active Travel Investment Programme is to promote awareness and uptake of walking and cycling and to improve the transport options for those choosing alternatives to the private car. It aims to encourage a shift towards a more sustainable transport system which will help to reduce our negative effects on climate change.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Conor, your sides aren't moving, they are still on the first page.

CONOR: Has that moved to page 2 now. Hello?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

CONOR: Okay, I will leave it on the small screen. For some reason it doesn't seem to work when I put it on the full screen.

So Wicklow County Council is committed to working with the NTA on the implementation of the Active Travel Projects throughout the county. We welcome the significant amount of funding that has been allocated for 2022. The Active Travel Team is part of the transportation water and emergency services section of which Helena is the director. Michael Flynn the senior engineer and the team is split into two sections. The implementation team manages the project that are construction ready or require minor design work and the design team manages projects that will be brought through from concept stage through statutory process to construction.

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The majority of the positions in the team that were vacant at the beginning of 2021 have now been filled with only one remaining vacancy.

In 2021, we saw increased focus on the provision of active travel and sustainable projects, we undertook active travel projects throughout the county. Of the projects 21 were completed. the remaining ones are continuing. The total expenditure for 2021 was approximately 5.5 million. On the slide I included a few photographs of the schemes that we did complete last year. You will see the Rathnew to Ashford project, we provided 320 metres of new and improved footpaths on the Greystones Road, providing pedestrian cycle facilities with road realignment and new bus lay-byes.

Bray seafront plaza was a public realm improvement scheme, also provided shared pedestrian cycling facilities, aligned to existing cycling tracks on Strand Road to create a continuing route on the seafront. The Blessington improvement scheme involved the construction of 160 metres of footpath, linking Mill Town Gate on the footpaths with the N21 and works at Wrath Drum included 375 metres of footpath and a new pedestrian crossing. In order to prepare our 2022 funding application, we sent out requests to the Municipal District for proposals.

We compiled these with projects that were to be continued from 2021. In total, we have a list of 122 projects with an estimated cost of almost 20 million.

Once we received all of the proposals, the Active Travel Team managers sat down and reviewed the projects.

We consulted district engineers and the NTA before compiling a list of 79 projects submitted to the NTA. The general criteria on which we pulled

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together the list was firstly a continuation of projects that were ongoing in 2021, we looked at the suitability of each project for active travel funding, the Budgets for the proposed projects, how deliverable the projects were, were there legal issues or land ownership or construction difficulties, and we also looked at the resources that had available.

Overall, we submitted an ambitious programme to the NTA, which consisted of 79 projects throughout the county. The allocation requested amounted to just under 11.7 million. I included here on the slide, a breakdown of the number of projects and the requested allocation in each Municipal District. You can see here that there is a greater number of projects for the Bray Municipal District and this is mainly due to the number of outgoing projects that we had in the district. And also the, it being the largest urban centre in the county.

The project awarding process, the NTA allocated funding for 2022 based generally on the order of the prioritised list that was sent to them, however, it is clear from the projects that were approved that there was a focus on funding projects in urban areas rather than as many in rural locations. We did include a number of projects in rural areas, that were not allocated funding.

Successful projects were those with the biggest impact on local population in terms of increasing the active travel opportunities.

It is worth noting that the active travel programme is a rolling programme, there may be further opportunities to add projects that did not receive an allocation. Also projects not included in the 2022 allocation will remain on the list of proposed future projects and will be considered for future funding applications.

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You will have noted from the Grant Allocation List, to include the allocation of 1.6 million for projects it refers to as "rural and minor schemes" I should clarify the nature of this allocation, as it is possibly a little unclear. This funding was provided to enable the continuation of a number of projects funded in 2021 under the Active Travel Project Code. These projects were the people's park lighting in Bray, Kindlestown Road Cycle Scheme Greystones, Savile's Cross, Rathdrum, Arklow North Cycle and Pedestrian Improvement Scheme and Kindlebrook bridle pathway in Blessington (sic) following the review of the list of projects submitted by Wicklow County Council, the NTA granted an allocation just over 9 million for 63 projects.

I've provided a breakdown of the allocations given by Municipal District. It will appear there was a focus on provisional funds in urban areas, so less the projects that we proposed in rural locations were allocated funding. It is worth noting that the amount allocated does not necessarily reflect the value of the project. For example, allocations of 30,000 euro and 40,000 euro respectively were granted to two projects in Blessington. The Old Valleymore can be road and Blessington Deer Park and Blessington cycle improvement projects but these projects when designed are likely to cost several million euro.

In summary, the NTA have allocated just over 9 million for 63 active travel projects in Wicklow County Council. This consists of 44 existing Valley more 2021 projects and 19 new projects. 36 of the projects are design projects which will be developed from concept all the way through to construction subject to funding and they will be managed by our design team. 27 projects are construction-ready or require only minor design details and these will be managed by our implementation team. We are

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very pleased overall with the level of funding allocated by the NTA for Wicklow for 2022. It represents a 60% increase in the allocation spent in 2021 and provides us with important funding with which we can develop, pedestrian, cycle and public transporting facilities within county Wicklow and open to encourage travel and a shift to a more sustainable transportation system. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Conor. Before I gone on, to say to the members, that I am obviously concerned about the quality of the sound in terms of presentations, and I'll be asking the management that any more presentations will be give no-one the chamber. It is totally unfair there are such important presentations and no disrespect to the members of staff but too important not to be able to hear them. We are battling against this all the time but from here on in, I will ensure that the presentations are given in the chamber, if everyone is agreed with that. So, before I open up to the members, Brian, to bring you in first, Cllr Brian Gleeson.

CLLR GLEESON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, thank you to for the presentations. To say a couple of words in relation to the N11/M11 improvement scheme, while we are obviously very disappointed at the pausing of the scheme, to say to the members we will continue to have talks with the TII on the matter. Also writing directly to the PDs in the county on the matter looking for their support. We have Minister Harris down on Claremont on Friday, taking the opportunity to issue the situation in the area on the manner so going forward to keep it on the agenda and I ask all of the members here to use their political influence to do that, to keep it on the agenda, we will continue to work with the official routes with TII on the matter and to ask the members to support

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us going forward. In relation to the NTA allocations, I wanted to say, while it is a good-news story, we received 9 million. As Conor said, an increase of 60% on the previous allocation. It is acknowledged that the focus does appear to be more on the urban areas, to the detriment of the more rural areas within the county, I suppose to this end I propose to introduce a separate rural focused road scheme funded from our own development levies to address the short fall or the short comings in the particular scheme. And hopefully that will alleviate some of the issues because through no fault of their own there has been a number of good projects being put forward from the smaller rural areas, that through no fault of their own, due to the focus on the linking of urban areas, having been successful, so, I would also like to say in relation to funding the more rural schemes, to remind the members that the discretionary funding was reintroduced this year in the Budget, over 1 million euro, the opportunity is there for the members within the districts to fund some of the projects that were unsuccessful, on the NTA scheme, that they have an opportunity to fund them from within their discretionary funding so, that is a couple of operations that are available to the members and as pointed out by Conor, we will be obviously resubmitting projects to NTA during the year, it is a rolling scheme, as he pointed out. So, thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Derek Mitchell?

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I wanted to raise the issue, the cancellation of the N11/M11 upgrade. The letters from the TII justifying this, mention various things. But in fact, this scheme covers most of those things that they mention. It increases the public transport modal share by a significant amount. It increases jobs, it is a by-pass of

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Bray and it serves port access, if we want the goods to get to Rosslare with Brexit, so all of the reasons, which were given as reasons for the prioritisation of other schemes, apply to this. In fact, I doubt if many of them have as many priority issues as this. It is designed to increase public transport share by 4% over the whole route to Rosslare and locally, it is significant, Arklow, as was said, it is doubling to 19% public transport share.

Now, I am asked for the figures for Wicklow, for all of the Wicklow towns, east Wicklow towns and for the transport share and the modal increase on it. In my view, this is at least 50% of public transport scheme, and it is not being portrayed as that, maybe that is why it is getting cancelled. Unfortunately, I understand that the project has now been stopped and it is quite difficult to get ARUP to look at it, a very expensive and complex transport model is prepared for East Wicklow but nobody is able to look at it other than ARUP and they are not being paid, so I have asked for the figures, I hope that we can get this to justify this. In my view, the interim transport scheme to proceed, does almost nothing, it does not really reach county Wicklow, it is all in county Dublin, I think it is a joke and you will not get people on to the buses in a significant way, unless they can pass the cars around Bray. The Wicklow rail line has the worst service of any in in the greater Dublin area. I produced in plan in 2018 to improve it, part of it accepted as part of the Dart Plus Plan but the part to the south of Greystones was rejected to provide 3 eight carriage trains for rush hour, instead we hear loose talk of batteries and shuttle trains none of which seems in the form of a plan. There is a massive housing development, 2,000 to come in Bray, 4 or 5,000 between Greystones and Wicklow New continue and at one point all routes have been improved,

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the N1, 3, 4, N7 in the last ten years and this is the last one and the most central part is that this is by-passing Bray to sort out the junctions around Bray, designed 50 years ago and it needs doing. If we don't make the transports out of Greystones, which has always been poor, better, people will not Tuesday. It is also part of connectivity of the Rosslare Port and Euro 10 route, and a bit of land is frozen, including refusing residential and commercial development at junctions along the road. The studies are said to have cost 3 million but since 2018, with the current study starting in 2014, and there were other studies done in 2010, so the whole cost is about 5 million. If it stopped, lots will have to be redone as the figures will change. So, there is a strategic employment landing in Greystones and I'm sure in other places too, where, which need this developed and which has to be done and what we need is to keep phase 3, the design and the environmental evaluation going, that is 3.5 million, that needs to be done. If we don't do this, if it is not done, it is a very serious situation for Wicklow, having the worst rail line in the whole of the greater Dublin area, having the buses stuck in traffic so people will not use them and it was a good scheme this, the combination of buses and the by-pass improvement, it will have gotten a lot of people on to the buses, out of cars which is a valid objective. Thank you. I think we should ask to meet the Minister for Transport, who is responsible for this, and indicate our annoyance at this and the madness of this in effectively reducing the amount of public transport, that there is going to be. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Mullen. MULLEN: Thank you to the colleagues for having the emergency meeting when this quite shocking and unjustifiable allocation for rural areas was announced last week.

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9 million, 122 podges, 79 projects going ahead, 63 projects are funded, so at least we are getting some data. But we have six councils in our district. We represent well, 25,000 people according to the statistics on the website. And most of the districts here are six-seaters and we are all supposed to be equal when it comes to the populations that we represent. And half of my district, engineering-wise got an allocation of zero. Somebody needs to write to the NTA to remind them how much rural proofing they have done on the national allocation, because it is not just our district but other districts were also ignored and in other counties, that I can see of the national allocation. So, out of a 9 million allocation, if you are to take it that we all represent populations that do walk and cycle, we all have legs, e, our district should have gotten 1.68 million. We got 670,000. The breakdown of the projects here, you have to look up the addresses and one of the questions I would like to ask today, and I want answered today is the break down by the Municipal District. How much do Greystones and Bray get, compared to the other districts?

We are asked here by the management of this council every year to try to provide projects to match fund projects it is hard to talk to my constituents and match fund at zero allocations. So, I want to see a roadmap, Cathaoirleach, to come out of this meeting today.

With the Roads Department and the senior management of the County Council to ensure this never happens again.

The idea that, oh, it is unfortunate that the rural areas may have been left out this time, it is not unfortunate. I have consistently emailed the management of this council about trying to ensure a balanced investment portfolio for the county.

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And when the management of the council asks me to ensure the funding streams are there, we do our bit. Our engineers put forward 17 projects.

And there is no, as far as I can see, any planning or legal issue with any of them.

So, with the 17 projects that were sent in by the Baltinglass Municipal District, were they a part of the 79 projects sent in? Who decided that the projects would be dropped and on what basis? And on our side of the County Council I can or the NTA side, do they not have the basic, the basic fairness of rural proofing to ensure that there is adequate funding for some districts? I feel very strongly about this, chairman. I thank my colleagues in Baltinglass for acceding to the meeting that we had on Friday. This cannot continue. Rural Wicklow, is not being looked after, at all.

We provide 100% of our renewable energy in our County, 100% and my constituents get zero allocation of active travel measures. I have said enough. I would like to see the commendations on the 9 million of the area. What I can see that has changed in the last 2.5 years, is that 56 the TDs come from Greystones.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before going to Cllr Joe Behan, I will look for a Timex tension. So, lots of people want to speak on this. We look to Timex tension of 5.30pm. Proposed. And agreed. Cllr Joe Behan?

CLLR BEHAN: In response to councillor Mullen, a fat lot of good it has done having 5TDs. To pour 3 million Euros of public money down the drain. That is the minimum amount wasted. Cllr Derek Mitchell indicated it may be more. Wasted, planning development, that has been completely and utterly sabotaged by the Green Minister for Transport. This is no

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mistake, the Green Minister anti-road's policy in Wicklow. Before the last general election, I pointed out at one of our meetings that Eamon Ryan, not a minister at the time, he was the Green Party leader, who stood up to say: If he became the Minister for Transport if the Greens were in Government, he would put a halt to the road schemes, so you can't blame him for not keeping his promise, he has kept it. He has basically abandoned the thousands, the thousands of people and families, not only from Bray and Greystones but all down along the N11, suffering morning and evening with the traffic jams that they are stuck in trying to get to work in south Dublin and so on. Now, have I to also say, it is a complete waste of time talking to Minister Ryan. Minister Ryan has obviously made up his mind with regard to this, he will not just approve this funding. I have to ask the members of Fine Gael, to talk to their own ministers who were obviously completely and utterly fast asleep when a decision like this was made. Their constituents are going to suffer. The Green Party followers and members may not see anything wrong but I'm sure that many, many people, involved in the last elections and including the last two ministers will be utterly upset to accept that nothing is to happen to alleviate the misery of that is happening on the N11/M11 at the moment. That is my aspect. I pay tribute to you Cathaoirleach for assuring this is on the agenda and you are a Fin Gael member yourself and Cllr John Mullen, has no problem calling it as it is. It is what we need, a unit of purpose from the point of view of the Chamber and the national public representatives to lose their arrogance and lose their high-handedness and to look at the reality of what is facing people on a day-to-day basis in the county. Another aspect to address for a second. I mentioned it in Bray the other night and Bray members will agree with me on this, I am sure. The one job that is completed on the N11, is the parallel road.

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While it has been a success in terms of diverting traffic from let's say the N11 directly on to a slip road, on to Ramwood and so on, for the small number of householders, the residents living beside the slip road, life is now absolutely intolerable, as the noise that is emanating from the new slip road. It effectively is no longer a slip road, it is a new road, taking a huge amount of traffic to Ram Wood and some houses, in fact within metres of the new road. and Wicklow County Council engineers, have point-blank refused to entertain the requests that they have made, for noise mitigation measures as a result of the distress that they cause because of the new road. I was there myself last week and stood in the garden. Within two metres of that road. It is just incredible. The noise that the residents have to put up with. So, Mr Bowes is there, he knows about it, Deidre Ford knows about it, they all know, I want something done about it, as it is a new road, the people are allowed to have noise mitigations put in place. I would like a more positive response from the officials than those that the residents have gotten in the last year or so. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neil?

CLLR O'NEIL: Yes. Cathaoirleach, do you have me there, do you? Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, I share the sentiments of my colleagues in the Baltinglass Municipal District, I do know at this part where I am based in Blessington, we got some funding, 600-odd thousand, it is a great shame that the works done here, with that money, it is a pity that there was no more funding throughout the rest of the county, the west, for these projects.

I would welcome it but it is something that I look back on and I've been talking about this for a while, the amount of money that is spent on the

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consultation piece is massive. As opposed to the other day, 100,000 for the new town centre plan, for Blessington, which will go 100% to a consultancy company to tell us what we already know. We have 5 plans for Blessington, we know what we want. It is a waste to spend that money. 10,000 for a bus up at Hollywood, we have paid 10,000 for a bus-stop! It is a lot of silly money. But some of the money allocated, this is 40,000 allocated here for a consultancy report on a cycle track from Deer Park to Blessington ... now, unless that is going underground, I cannot figure out why or how we would have to spend 40,000 on a design. There is only one way from Deer Park to the town and only one way of building is, so I cannot understand how we spend 40,000 on the report, as such. But I do share the concerns, as I am finding out, pointing out to councils the other day, there are five of the six councils in west Wicklow, members of Government parties but I agree with Cllr Joe Behan, that this here, it is, the Green Party fingerprints are all over it. It is all, green, green, green. I welcome the money that we have here and delighted that we have in Blessington, that we got something but there is huge amounts of these projects that could be carried out in west Wicklow, so it is a great shame that the funding, the few pounds we got, 9 million, it is absolutely wrong to only get 600,000.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr. O'Connor.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thank you, Chair, I just want to mention two things. One is the NTA money received from Wicklow which I think is great. As members from Bray Municipal District know a few things are controversial and I want to put my point out there that, I want to make sure that the people of Bray are listened to when it comes to these schemes and developments. There is no point in us getting excited about the money when it's not wanted by the public. Number two I want to second what

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Cllr Behan said about the noise pollution around Kilmac. I talked to a family there and it's horrible what is happening there. I like to see an action plan to resolve that, because it's terrible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Before I go to the rest of the members I will bring in, who wants to take the questions? Is it Conor or John? There is a couple of questions on the parallel road and a few questions from Cllr Mullen as well.

JOHN: I can take the questions on the N11. We are aware of the issues with noise that have been raised by residents there. I have spoken with a number of them myself over the last weeks and months. In speaking with them we have undertaken to raise the issue with TII. We are reliant on them for funding. I know the residents do contact TII themselves which is, I certainly wouldn't discourage that. TII have a tendency to redirect all of those queries back to Wicklow County Council, but ultimately we can propose measures, but ultimately we are relying on TII to fund them. So I don't think it's the case that we have given them a flat no, I think we are trying to work with them to address those issues with TII.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Conor, do you want to take those questions now or wait until the end?

CONOR: I can take them now. Just in terms of...

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you speak up a little please.

CONOR: In terms of the breakdown between the projects, we, well I suppose initially in terms of the projects we submitted for the, that we sought allocations for, we submitted 79 projects. In terms of Baltinglass there was 12 projects on that list. Now, as we all know there was only allocations for six projects, so in the NTA's final figures, so like we applied for, in terms of the 12 projects, that amounted to 1.6, just under 1.65 million and the final allocation was 645,000, but, as I say, we did apply for 12 projects in the Baltinglass Municipal District area. I can circulate a breakdown of the figures, it was in the presentation but I glossed over it, so I can circulate that and that is no problem.

Just in terms of the Cllr O'Neill's query on the 42,000 for the design of the main street Deer Park scheme. While the beginning and end of the scheme, in terms of the, the road is there, but the job of the consultants would be to look at the options there in terms of what cycling facilities are suitable, what pedestrian facilities do we need. We also need to look at pedestrian crossings and the junctions. So there is a substantial amount of design work and, as I say, the 42,000 is just the initial allocation. We would hope to progress that project all the way to construction. Obviously there will be considerable costs in that and we will continue further funding applications with the NTA on that. In terms of Cllr O'Connor's queries on the projects in Bray. We will follow the general Part 8 process, so we will consult. We have already had meetings there recently about

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the Kilmacanogue to Southern Cross greenway and Swan River Greenway. We have made presentations there. So we will follow the statutory procedures on those, on other projects as well.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Sorry, thank you, Cathaoirleach. Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you very much. I just want to start off by saying very much welcome the NTA funds and thanks to the Council for consulting with the districts and putting forward our suggestions to the NTA and for actually getting such considerable funding. I just want to point out, like after years of complete underinvestment by successive Governments in pedestrian and cycling facilities we are finally getting somewhere on this. We really are playing catch up across the county. I am hearing my colleagues in west Wicklow and their comments and I do have sympathy with them. Even here in Greystones, where it may be perceived we have significant fund, I have constituents contacting me every single day requesting safer cycle facilities, better pedestrian crossings, particularly in relation to schools and as I say we are playing catch up. In some ways it's a drop in the ocean. So I am looking forward to hearing a bit of detail, Conor that I can get back to people asking me as to when the design piece will start, when will the consultants start being appointed and when movement will start moving on these projects. I just want to touch base on the comments on the N11. I agree with everyone who said we desperately need improved public transport south of Bray. Anyone who lives here knows that. Not just buses, we absolutely need improved buses and park and ride on the N11, but the trains as well. Not just on week days. Anyone who lives in Greystones and Kilcoole will know you have no choice to get into a car after Friday evening if you need to go anywhere over the weekend. So that is absolutely something that needs to be addressed, player with the growth in our district. Thank you, again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Cllr Mitchell and Cllr Behan have basically covered most of what I wanted to say so I am not going to repeat that. I think there is a massive issue here underneath this and that is the serious question of accountability. The sheer fact that 3-5 million that has been spent and possibly because of a delay where there is no indication of when that delay will cease or if it will cease, that is absolutely scandalous. It highlights to me the serious flaw in the way the system works and the way money is wasted. When you look at the conversation you have had in our meeting today in relation to housing and homelessness and everything else, just imagine if we have that five million what we can do with it, if there was a bit of thought, if there was constructive positive things to go about things. To pull a plug like this on

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the basis of wasting money is crazy. We hear various things, a lot of funding is coming in different directions. A lot of is for consultancy reports and feasibility studies. To me a lot of these are buying times and delaying things. We keep hearing about 2040, I am interested in what is happening to people here and now. I would make a suggestion that proposing to have a meeting with the minister will be an absolute waste of time.

I think what should happen is that the councillors on the Council from the Government parties should immediately talk and meet with their TDs and come back to the next Council meeting with an update to the total Council on what they are being told. All the questions that are being raised by the councillors should be circulated to us all. That meeting should happen and they should come back to the next meeting and say, "*We have spoken to minister X, Y, TD ABC and here is what they are telling us.*" Move it on from there. Trying to write up to the department and ask for the minister to talk I think is a waste of time. The bottom line here is this raises serious questions about accountability and waste of money. Money that could be spent much more positively. Imagine thinking it's okay to lose three to five million? I think that is a scandal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just a quick one. As I am listening to the comments and in particular Cllr Mullen at the beginning, my question was about what are we learning? What learning are we taking from the experience especially the Active Travel money coming in? It's of no consolation to colleagues in the west, but when we hear and we experience as councillors pushback from proposals where and again as Cllr Mullen queried, where the ideas come from? How was the prioritisation process implemented? Who was making the decisions? We see in the slides that district engineers met and had conversations. But I just see councillors missing in the picture and I wonder is there learning coming from that? Again we are the ones that will experience the pushback on the ground. If a huge amount of money is allocated to a project in Bray that we weren't part of the Genesis or the evolution of and then people are coming to us as elected members saying we don't want that. I am not saying Bray doesn't want money, but when I scan across the impact of this money and see the different percentages and I listen to Cllr Mullen I wonder are councillors missing, elected members missing from the conversation or do we need to have a better process? Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Whilst I would generally welcome the announcement of the nine million NTA funding and the 63 projects that is supporting.

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Like previous speakers I would like to express my disappointment that the N11 improvement scheme has been paused. Particularly when you look at three million being spent just to bring it to Phase 2 which is not even up to the design stage. We had over three years ago we had, this scheme was launched under much fanfare up in the Glenview Hotel. We had a suite of options put on the table which were in my view not realistic quite a lot of them and it caused much anxiety to residents in the general Glen of the Downs area when roads were being proposed go through their homes and lands, you had Delgany Golf Club and other areas. That caused a lot of anxiety. We had a lot of public meetings held and here we are three years later, another three-and-a-half million to bring it to design stage. I would suggest at that first meeting if some of us at that meeting said what was in our minds what would be the preferred option, such as to address the troublesome junctions north of the Glen of the Downs, that would have been a start, instead of going through this charade, we are where we are.

Listening to the TII report this morning, which includes N11 which is a prime artery from Belfast down to the Europort. The significance of that needs to be emphasised to the TI. But this survey report this morning indicated that the traffic on our roads are back to pre-pandemic levels. People are not getting back to public transport as they were before, but the traffic on our roads are back to pre-pandemic levels and we hear those reports on AA Roadwatch. This question isn't going to go away, so again I would suggest we would need to correspondence with TII again, reinforce the message that this three million cannot be allowed go down the drain. We are where we are and it needs to be progressed. Like Councillor Mitchell's point, I would like to mention the significance of the rail at Greystones. It's vital that is revisited.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Can I just, first of all, thank the staff for the presentation. To also acknowledge the fact that in terms of rural transport in Wicklow, particularly in south Wicklow where we initiate a lot of it, we do have a reasonable level of rural public transport. The bus service from Arklow, it's fair to acknowledge that. It's great that we have nearly 80% of the total allocation of nine million of the eleven we sought in regard to it. I certainly do welcome what Brian has talked about, that he will look at funding some of the projects that we sought in our particular area from their own resources.

I would also like to just support John's aspect and John has outlined it in great detail. We, like other members here and other councillors here attend regularly meetings at night time with different towns and villages

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and other organisation. We put forward a project that they feel very strongly about wanting done in their particular area. We come along and we promise that they will work on those particular, whether it's foot paths, ridges, roadways, we will work on those projects with you. We do have our engineers.

Equally so with the engineers, it's frustrating for them as well. When they put forward, the staff in the Tinahely office put forward their time into ensuring that whatever project we have brought forward to them. Equally so in terms of discretionary funding. Certainly we talked to engineers about the discretionary funding and time and time again he said, look, let's see, we have put a lot of effort into making a presentation, let's see what money we can get for the projects as well. So we will put the discretionary money towards good use as well. Equally so the fact that the time and effort that the community has put into it and we have got zero in terms of funding on this occasion. I have one serious question for Conor. Conor did state and I listened to what he said there, to put forward the 11 million projects, but he did prioritise them. That is the words he used. From my listening to him he said he prioritised the projects and it was on that priority basis that the vast majority of that money went out. We were short-changed in the Baltinglass district area in that regard. I would ask Conor would he confirm that, that the list that they gave in to the NTA, the priority list they gave was generally the list that came back to him as well? Thank you very much, chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Winters. Cllr winters:

Thank you very much, I do welcome there will be projects that will be progressed by the funding and it will benefit maybe visiting the county. All of that good news is eclipsed by the fact that the N11 has stopped. It is vital to all of the people who live and use that road on a daily basis for commuting, because there is no other option except to use that road. If you live south of Greystones there is one train track, there is no plans to increase those in any way. I like to assure Cllr Behan I have made my views and I know that my colleagues in the Fine Gael party have made our views not, not only to our own minister but to our junior minister and the minister in the Department of Transport. It's actually a disaster to have stopped the N11 Project. It will take so long to get a team together again when finally money is made available for it. Yes, it's great to have all of the other money and all of the other projects, but if we can't get in or out of the county on a main road, it's shocking.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I remember when we widened the road, I don't know how many years ago it was now up at Glen of the Downs. I remember how long it took. It seemed to take forever. It was a long drawn out

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process, people didn't want trees removed and it turned into legal arguments and it seemed that by the time it happened it was already inadequate, because so much time had elapsed. One of the things that strikes me about these consultation processes is the length of time it takes. A couple of years ago since I went to some presentation in Bray about the different phases and all the rest of it. Even at this stage we have hardly moved. What has happened is everything has been overtaken by events.

We now have a huge increase in housing, we have climate targets we are under pressure to meet. We are trying to educate people to travel wisely with the intention being to try to save this planet that we are on and, to be perfectly honest, we may have thrown three to five million at this already and now it's being stalled, but I wonder if this will ever even see completion in our lifetimes? Because what is glaringly obvious is that we need a different form of transport. What is going to happen if this goes ahead is that by widening the road all we will do is bring all those extra cars from all those extra houses on to the roads and we will already be behind where we are trying to get to. What we need is a first-class, a European standard railway network. It's not beyond the bounds of possibility, it's what we need. We need it to come down to Wicklow, we need it to go down to Arklow in time when their houses start coming on board and we need to stop fooling ourselves that we are going to have buses and park and rides and this, that and the other. We need a decent train facility, a modern facility. The other thing is I just want to say, it's very disappointing that even in the 21st century that west Wicklow did not get the funding they need to bring that N81 up to a modern European standard. It's coming on in leaps and bounds in every other way, except for the roads. That is a shame. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I am not going to repeat everything that Mary has said, she has hit the nail on the head. I wanted to thank the engineers in our Municipal District because they have worked with councillors on achieving the NTA funding. I am looking at the countrywide NTA funding for active travel and a lot of the counties only got three million, we have done substantially well. I would love all the money to come with Arklow but we have to look at our county as a whole. It's important to me, fairness and equality is very important to me. I would always look for that to be proportionately distributed throughout the county going forward and I would support John with that. We are all connected and it's important we all work together.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Can you hear me?

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, go ahead.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, I would like to echo support for the satisfaction expressed by my colleague, Cllr John Mullen. I think it's a disgrace what was given out to this part of the world. Again we are kind of used to it out here and it should be point out that there was nothing south of Blessington, it wasn't just south of Baltinglass. Nothing south of Blessington got any funds. That is a disgrace, there is a lot of very valid projects both cycling and pedestrian that could have been upgraded. If it was a selection process adhered to by the Council I think people should step up to the plate and take responsibility for it and to ensure it doesn't happen again.

I note the complete shock and dismay at my colleagues from east Wicklow about the N11 being postponed or set aside for the moment. I didn't notice any similar shock when the N81 was scrapped or stayed by the officials or my colleagues from east Wicklow. It went by, no one said boo about it. So I think it's call indicative of how we are treated on this side of the county and it's most unfair and needs to be looked at. So I support the sentiments of my colleagues from west Wicklow and south Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank God it's my turn! Just one or two things there. I am sitting here listening about the active travel and I suppose there is a huge divide between rural and urban and I think it sticks out so much when we are divided up with national grants. The bigger pot gets all, I suppose. My view is and I think Cllr Kavanagh highlighted a little bit of it here. We must be the laughing stock of Europeans coming into this country. We are trying to promote tourism in county Wicklow. Like we can't even travel into our own towns within our county. I mean Active Travel it's an impossibility. I am just going say for myself, I mean to get on a train to be accessible or a bus, it's a nightmare and I would echo any of our councillors to try it for a morning or an hour to see, we are losing out on a big pot of Europeans coming here. They won't come back because of the bad infrastructure we have on public transport. Even public transport within our county, that is why people are driving their cars every day to Dublin, to Bray, to factories in Bray or wherever else around. Because there is no public transport. It's dreadful and just coming back to one thing before I go, I agree with Cllr Dermot O'Brien. We, as councillors, are way down the pecking order in consultation. The system comes in, they go to the executive or they go to the engineers and the application has to be in at a short period of time. They put their heads together, then it's out to the public and we are the ones who have to answer to the public which we know nothing about. I think that is going to continue and it has got worse and I think it will even get worse in the future. Thank you.

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CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. I too want to echo my disappointment at the funding allocation and the imbalance of the allocation across county Wicklow. While none of us will disagree that Wicklow done very well, but unfortunately a huge amount of our rural areas again have been forgotten about. This funding seems to have been given to many of the urban areas, but even in my own district here, Blessington, it's the only town that has received this funding. We have many villages such as Dunlavin, Donard, Hollywood and Stratford which have been left out of this funding. We are sitting here and listening to colleagues and I understand the disappointment of the councillors from the east of the county with their shock and disappointment that the N11 has been shelved. We, as west Wicklow councillors unfortunately have had that disappointment for a number of years now.

When you think back to 2007 when the N81 was down for planned design route and public consultation. At 2022 it's been completely shelved and we have no idea of when it's going to be brought back up. Some councillors have noted today, I have noted that some councillors have said that we are party, our parties are in Government and what have we done? We don't just sit back here and listen and complain at every meeting. We actually do something when we have a problem. I spoke to our ministers last week about our allocation, we have also wrote to ministers about the N81. So I think it's fairly pathetic for councillors to sit here and say we do nothing and that we just sit here and we don't get on to our party colleagues. It is something that we do, we are not afraid to raise our concerns and we are certainly not afraid to fight for our areas, so thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Just before I bring Brian in and go back to Conor, I want to add my own little piece to this. I will be brief. I suppose in terms of a question, Conor, what, or who determines Active Travel funding? Like what is the difference in funding a village in south Wicklow, west Wicklow, east Wicklow, compared to a town in the county? I suppose that is a question I have, because obviously we are very conscious of a lot of funding went to the urban areas. And without going into specifics, vast parts of the Wicklow district got no funding and in my view there was a lot of very good projects put in. I know our engineer done an awful lot of work in preparation for the projects and you mentioned, Conor, that you consulted with the district engineers. You consulted with the district engineers at the beginning of the process and they obviously consulted with us as councillors. But, as far as I am aware, that is where it ended. I suppose my biggest annoyance in this is we, as public representatives should have been told of the list that was sent to the department for funding. At least we wouldn't have been disappointed

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waiting as long as we waited, thinking we had a chance of getting something out of this. In actual fact a lot of our projects and I know there was 12 of our projects in the east of the area. Good projects weren't put in, or weren't put into the department, but we weren't aware of that. So I suppose there is a part around this communication going forward and particularly next year of how the process works? At the moment the process is you put in the project to the district engineer, you automatically assume that it has gone to the final stages, but that is not the case. So that is the part I have a major problem with. So it's something I would like you to take into consideration. As I say, Wicklow District in my view, isn't much different to the west in terms of the funding allocation and the disappointment around the amount of projects that weren't even considered. So I want to bring Brian in.

So I want to bring Brian in for a final word and then back to you, Conor.

CLLR GLEESON: I fully accept that this is a rolling scheme. We will put in more applications but definitely the next time it happens we will communicate with the districts and the councils as to what is the final list going in, so that you will have the information, it will not be a hock to the system. But the active schemes it is a new scheme. It is the first time it was brought in, there was a mad rush to put forward schemes. The second stage we have had more consultation at district level, councillors speak in to the IDs to the district engineers, they themselves have prioritised projects within the districts that have been put forward to the NTA team so, it is a work in progress. We take on board the feedback from the members to try to improve things going forward. In relation to a few things. The N11, I welcome the support, the views from the members here today. It will be very disappointing, all right but as we said earlier, the scheme is paused, rather than cancelled. So I think that the plan is to make sure that the pause is as short as possible.

There is the fear, as pointed out, if it is for too long that the work that has been completed will be obsolete and will be reworked again, so it is

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important that we keep the item on the agenda as is pointed out by the members, to stay in contact with the deputies and the parties to push the matter going forward. I myself, we are looking to organise a meeting with the TII in relation to the matter. I will also take the opportunity, if I can get the meeting organised to raise the issue of the noise matter relation to the parallel road to see if we can get improvement on that. In relation to the NTA, and particular, I suppose, the points made by the Bord members, I totally understand the frustration, that is felt by the members, from that particular district. But I should point out that allocations for these types of schemes they do vary from year-to-year, while you might lose out one year, you win in another time for example like the TII allocation of 8.3 million. 6 million of that went to the Baltinglass district to cover works for the 81 and Greenway and when NTA similar schemes were brought in 2020, covering different active travel and mobility and private action adaptation scenes, the largest allocation at that time was for the Baltinglass district, unfortunately, this time it is the lowest. But I suppose it is not something that is being done within the council. On Conor's presentation he pointed out that a number of projects of the 79, 11 were inspected for Wicklow, 2 for Baltinglass, 14 for Greystones so, it is similar in fairness to the lads on the team. They have tried to spread it across the sticks in that regard. But notwithstanding that, I fully accept that the allocation for the district was disappointing. But, as I said, I am willing to introduce and the plan is to introduce a new funding scheme to target rural areas and I'm looking at committing possibly up to 1 million euro over the next two years to address the areas that through no fault of their own and I suppose to the criteria of the NTA to focus on urban areas than the rural. So hopefully that scheme will

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address concerns that the Baltinglass members have brought up. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, to confirm, I didn't catch the figure, was it 1 million or 10 million?

CLLR GLEESON: Up to 1 million! Cathaoirleach!

CATHAOIRLEACH:

(Laughter)

Thank you!

CLLR GLEESON: Between this year and next year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Brian. Conor, did you want to come in, there were a few questions if you can give a run down.

CONOR: In terms of a couple of questions, Brian answered most of them, I think. But in terms of Cllr Lourda Scott, queried in relation to the Greystones schemes, and where they are at and what the plan is. There is currently consultants have appointed to 6 or 7 schemes underway. Or, there are tender documents being prepared for a couple of those as well. There is also a number of the schemes for this year, will be implementation schemes, so they are schemes that are shovel-ready.

And there are about 5 or 6 of those. So, they will be, I think some of them, one or two have already started and they will go on a continuous basis, so we should be finished those before the end of the year. In terms of Cllr O'Brien on the learning processes, as I said, this year, we tried to learn a bit from last year but, I see we still have a bit to go in terms of the consultation approach. We did, as I said, go out to the districts to look

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for proposals and we did, you know, when we needed clarification, we went to the district engineers and there were discussions but it is something that we will review, I think. We need to look at that maybe going forward. As I said earlier, as well, it is a rolling programme. There may be other opportunities later in the year. We do have, I mean, this is this, a list of 122 projects it is still there. We do intend keeping that in mind. If there are further opportunities to get funding, that we will be taking projects off that list and trying to move them forward. I suppose, in terms of the number of schemes that are, that were allocated, maybe a small explanation might be for, I suppose, say there to be more schemes in Bray, would be that the historic, this is a number of historical schemes, like there was quite a number carried over in the Bray area as they had been started in previous years so we are trying to continue those as well. There was 44 projects that were continued on from 2021, only 19 new projects taken on this year.

I think that is everything, is it?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Conor. Thank you all. Go ahead ...

>>: Conor said during the presentation it was his list, a priority that the NTA took on board.

I think by his explanation there, he is saying that the vast majority in Bray that were ongoing, it is verification of that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you take that up, Conor? CONOR: Can I clarify, that, what I am saying of the 79 projects the ones that were prioritised at the top of the list were projects from 2021.

We did also, and they were spread throughout the districts. Then we did take on board the prioritised list from the districts to, you know to make

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up the 79, to continue the schemes or to add to the 44 current ongoing schemes.

That list was submitted to the NTA. The NTA then reviewed the projects listed. They didn't do it, they didn't allocate exactly as per our prioritisation. They went through that list as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Conor, can you clarify something for me if you don't mind, are why saying that the district engineers prioritised the jobs from the district and you went with the prioritised list? CONOR: The district engineer sent a prioritised list of projects. We combined that with projects that were already ongoing from 2021. As some of those were in the prioritised list and some weren't. Then we combined it on that basis. We also had a look at some of them. Some of them we didn't do exactly as per the prioritisation list on the basis of either the resources we had available or the type of scheme or whether there were land owner issues or various things like that, so it was not exactly as per the district prioritisation but that was part of our, how we prioritised the list.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Thank you, Conor.

And thank you to Deidre and to John as well for the input. Thank you, all.

OK, moving on. I'm just going to go on to item number 11, first of all, to set the date and the time for the council meeting consideration of the draft county development plan and the Chief Executive report by the elected members. I will go on to Helen first there. HELEN: The corporate policy group met on the 31st of January. A date of Monday the 28th of March commencing at 10am was suggested for the county development plan meeting running to conclusion or if business is not concluded on that

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day, recommencing on the 29th of March on the following day, the Tuesday.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

HEAD OF FINANCE: Anyone wish to propose a second?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that agreed? Proposed by Cllr Irene Winters, seconded by Flynn.

>>: If it goes into the 29th will the hybrid meeting be available, yes?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Go ahead.

>>: Cathaoirleach, we are following the sector's return to work procedure policy, which is a measured set of days in proposal to the staff to work days. So we have the technology to provide hybrid, which is a good thing, so that can be done. We would hope, depending on what position we are in, that with the return to work, that we may have more members in the chamber than you have here today. So, the answer is yes, the hybrid is available.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I would like to see the option where the choice is up to the elected member if they would be in the Chamber or remote.

Obviously with a presentation with the maps and the different parts that go with maps and zonings and so on, we would like as many people as possible within the chamber in my view but the option is there as hybrid.

>>: I agree, that the meetings are normal Monday. As I work on Tuesday, it is hard to get a replacement, it will make life easier to operate

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from home on the second day, if it runs into a second day. But I would be here for the first day.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: I don't think I can be here on the Monday. You are saying that is hybrid as well?

CATHAOIRLEACH: The option is there, yes.

OK. So ... just to clarify. We are obviously looking at a 10am start on the Monday morning. Are the members happy to go to a finish or adjourn at some stage and come back on the Tuesday if necessary? Those are the two options?

CLLR FORTUNE: Chair ... can I?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Can you clarify do we make submissions to propose changes to the manager's report a week in advance?

CATHAOIRLEACH: The end of February is for the submissions by the 28th of February. So it means ... a month, to have the opportunity for the planners to go through the submissions and to make the report for us to have it for the following month.

HEAD OF FINANCE: It is reasonable to expect that a meeting starts at 10am, to finish at 6pm. But not much longer. The process is to reserve the day on Tuesday. I don't think we have to agree the time. Metropolitan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed? Cllr Tom Fortune, go ahead.

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CLLR FORTUNE: Just a thought, because it, because of the type of meeting it is, how important it is, I think hybrid will be very difficult. I wonder, while the Chamber is used if there are any other offices off the customer care areas to be used so at least everybody is in the building. Not necessarily on top of one another. If there are issues that are coming up to be debated and arm-wrestled or whatever the case may be, I think that the hybrid may not work that well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good point, Cllr Tom Fortune. Yes, the members rooms are available. And ensuring that they are suitable for the hybrid, that is not an issue. A couple of members requested that they want to do these meetings hybrid in terms of being at home in their own surroundings, so I have to respect that as well.

CLLR FORTUNE: I respect that as well. But I think with the kind of meeting it is, rather than saying hybrid, 16 in the Chamber ... everyone else ... I think we should provide accommodation in county buildings to make sure anyone who wants to anybody the building is there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We are not saying it is limited to 16, our preference is that as many members who want to anybody the changer are facilitated. The reason we have 16 members in the room is that unfortunately we had COVID after last week's meeting so we are conscious of that.

Who is that?

CLLR MURPHY: It is Miriam. I am conscious of the time and we have another presentation. I am conscious of motions that need to be discussed today. So, either can we bring the motions forward or can we have another extension?

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CATHAOIRLEACH: We won't have another Timex tension today. We want to deal with item 10 now. Every month, I do my best to get through the agenda and the motions but unfortunately there were two big items in terms of the Chief Executive report and the presentation on the N11/M11 that took up most of the meeting. So I will move on. We agree that Monday the 28th at 10am for the development plan. Now to move on to item 10. I will bring in Michael first of all.

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and to say that the Planning and Development Act runs out at the end of the year to make a new one. I will let Deidre present as I know that we are up against the clock. Don't worry if we don't get the questions answered today. You can send them to me. We have two presentations and I thank Helen Howes from the PPN it so make a presentation immediately after.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Deidre, if you can hear us, we have about 15 minutes.

>>: Firstly, can you hear me all OK?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, we can.

>>: Lovely. I will go through as quickly as I can. It is an introduction into the local economic and the community plan and how we are to go about it. The guidelines were released there before Christmas. The current plan comes to an end in 2022. So, we have a year to put the new NPC together to make you aware of what is happening and how to get involved the plan is putting people first in local Government and in the local Government reform act and those who gave the local authorities the enhanced role in community and local development through the SDPs and through the local development committees, the plan has 3 functions, setting out for a 6 year period, the objectives and actions needed to

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promote and to support the economic development and the local and the community development of the relevant local authority area an enabling framework to support collaborative working to give a formal structure to enable agencies to work together more easily.

To collaborate on objectives more easily.

It also works as a framework at a local level for how national policy and funding schemes and programmes come through at county level. For instance the rural development policy which comes through the LDC and the LECP at a local level. That I will go through at the end of the presentation. Those are the 3 main financials. The economic developments set up by the SPC, chaired by Cllr Tom Fortune at the moment. And the community elements are overseen by the local community development committee chaired by Pat Kennedy. There was emphasis on the LCDC to recognise that integrated and local community are integrated actions to ensure there is integration and seamless movement through the economic and the community development. That is overseen by the LECP advisory group made up of representatives from the LCDC and the SPC. Now to the next one. Quickly, the context within which it takes place is Kevin Pieterse, all we learned from it, the changes made and the challenges we face in the future because of COVID. Climate change of course is a huge theme as well. The sustainable development goals are important to know, all objectives are related back to the sustainable development goals and also, we have consideration of the public sector equality and human rights duty under the acts so those are the frameworks in which it takes place.

One big change, one single document, this is now two documents, the plan itself, is the LECP framework. Which is high level with high level

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goals and objectives, because so we can adapt easily to things that happen on the ground such as the recession in 2009 or the COVID-19 pandemic recently and because of that, the second part of the process with the implementation plans done yearly to give us more flexibility to react to things.

As I said, the first part of the framework, contains the high-level goals for the economic and community elements and objectives and the implementation plan, will have actions to implement the goals specific time bound and measurable actions, so that is specific there. There are 6 key stages to the plan. To go through them. Skipping that slide to go through the stages quickly. The first is the preparation. You can see from the diagram, from the next slide, the preparation of the plan is triangular as a process. It depends on the data and statistics, consultation with estate agencies and the public and everybody between and national policies and strategies. So, if we take the 3 combined, we have a socio-economic statement. Next slide.

That explains it, the socio-economic statement gives a picture of where we are asked, what are the strengths, the opportunities and the gaps to be addressed and how from the document and the picture, where we can look ahead to how we can oversee development for the next 6 years.

Stage 2. The consultation. After we have the socio-economic statement, going out for consultation, we take on board the feedback coming back from it. To revise a statement then, to come up with the objectives based on what we are hearing, based on the data, based on the national policies and the consultation take place throughout the process of the plan and we will have a couple of elements and working closely with the PPN, to have a generous survey monkey going out, a public one on people's key

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priorities for the county. Also writing and meeting with the key agencies and finding out what their priorities are for 6 years and where they see the direction going in the next 6 years and after that, workshops in the Municipal District areas. Stage 3. The development objectives and outcomes, the part of the overall framework, that I went through before. That then has to go to the Municipal Districts and the regional assemblies, and moving on to the next phase, after the MDs and the Regional Assembly, they have to ensure it is consistent with the sitting county development plans and the RSES and when that is finalised the frame of the LECP goes to the local council for approval and then on to the Minister. That is the first part of the framework plan done.

The second part is the implementation plan. All the learning that we have got from the overall framework plan will be put into developing specific actions.

Actions to achieve the goals.

That will take part in the latter half of the year.

Moving on to the next one, I will quickly go through I suppose what kind of plans and what kind of areas we are covering. We have to look and to consider the pathways to work strategy, the national economic plan, the national recovery and resilience plan, the housing for all. Project Ireland, town centre first policy, the national broadband plan, putting people first, enterprise 2025, the report of the SME taskforce, the sustainable development goals, the implementation plan, the national further education and train strategy, building future skills, the waste action plan, the people place and policy and finally, the RSES and the transport infrastructure Ireland and the national social enterprise policy. The plan

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really does take in very wide and varied areas and a huge amount of elements that go towards the development of the county in the next 6 years, that is the whistle stop tour through it. I have a slide here asking for questions but I understand if you don't have time for those now. I will be back to you again any time. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, my mic was off. We have Helen now, have we?

HELEN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach and thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Please speak up louder, we cannot hear you. HELEN: I will try to speak louder and very fast and I hope you will be able to understand me! I know you all know a little about the PPN at this stage so I thought I would focus the presentation on how the PPN and the Wicklow County Council works together, as we are both embarking on work to feed into the consultations for the preparation and the development of the LECP. A brief history: Wicklow PPN was established in August 2014, 67 members groups, a voluntary secretary 10 members and a staff member and a CCSD on the road to help establish us. So, fast forward to 2022, we have 378 member groups, a voluntary secretary of 10, soon to be 12 members and two staff members. To work well, a PPN needs strong community input, dedicated leadership and respectful working relationships, with the local authority and other organisations we are really so very lucky to have the good working relationships. Other PPNs have not been so lucky and the community suffered as a result. Moving on to the next slide, what we are, what we do, PPNS are participation and representative structures set up to compliment traditional democracy, aiming to connect the local communities to the local Government by providing information about how it works, providing opportunities to meet

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and to develop better understandings of each other and to provide opportunities for groups to have a voice heard on policies and plans like the LECP and the strategies that affect them.

We are good at networking, our relationship with our members and other organisations helps us to network and to make beneficial connections for example last week we networked Wicklow retirement association with the Sports Partnership and the Wicklow County Council partnership with the [inaudible] and the H frame programme and their survey and connected them with the County Wicklow community services, also good as they were looking for Board Members and hopefully the two may work well together.

PPNs network regionally and nationally and with Government departments and national organisations from time to time to share experiences, highlight issues, develop best practice and run consultations, most recently working with the department of the environment, climate and communications to do their community conversations which fed into the climate action plan 2021.

We act as a channel for information between the national and the local government and local community groups and we channel that information through our newsletter which I hope that you read, as it is full of information that you may find useful. Our Facebook page and our representatives we support groups with various training sessions and which help with funding. Recently, you will know we have a funding hand book, we have recently put it on the website. It is quite interactive now. To the next slide, where we work together and where I hope that the PPN adds value to what the County Council does, a few examples, the big hello is a furnishing stream to run events and to bring people together

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and the communities and the PPN supported the team by devising and running the application process where 22 groups received between 250 and 800 Euros to fund activities.

Our disability and inclusion project, the PPN and the collaboration with [inaudible] disability federation of Ireland, Bray partnership, Wicklow County Council partnership and councillor Miriam there, to supporting groups with people for disabilities, to develop a comprehensive guide that will inform groups of current standards, including building and accessibility requirements, signposting them to training, funding and processes that will help them to be more inclusive, we realise that we had limited capacity to do this on our own but it has been brought into the Wicklow County Council Steering Committee and applied for the funding to do this piece of work and looking forward to do it together this year.

When the Covid-19 outbreak began, the PPN gathered community supports.

We also ran a survey with the volunteer centre to add to the information. We passed the information to Wicklow County Council IT section to enable them to map the support and that mapping system provided vital information for the council staff that manned the community call. We also ran super chargers which got turned into videos and we linked them to a national campaign with the CCST team. We also worked with them on the community response forum and various subgroups to identify the challenges groups and individuals were facing. The PPN worked with the Wicklow County Council environmental officer to develop a mapping tool for the Covid-19 response into a group that they could use to link to the sustainable development goals. This was launched through training that the PPN organised with development perspectives and then the PPN went on to develop an animation that highlighted how community groups are working towards the SDG targets and including them to use their mapping tool. If you haven't looked at the mapping tool I would encourage you to do that and encourage groups you work with to use it.

Then of course I had to mention meet the candidate and meet the elected reps. Thank you to you all for the willingness of the candidates and the

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elected reps we ran these informal meetings to connect you guys to the people from our member groups. Feedback has been so positive from both sides and 80% of people who did our annual survey last year asked us to keep providing opportunities for this to happen. So the next slide then, in response to feedback from PPNs and local authorities nationally, the department of rural community and social justice Ireland developed a PPN stakeholder training programme which Wicklow piloted. The training brought together staff, council staff, reps and elected members with the aim of developing a mutual understanding of each other's roles and facilitating better working relationships. Wicklow was well-represented in those trainings and from that training Wicklow PPN developed finding their way around local Government. These sessions community groups found out how local Government works and then what happens in the local practice, thanks to the council officials that provided the local information. There was great feedback from these sessions and we hope to extend them out this year so that communities can find out about all the diverse work that the local authority undertakes. Our PPN has run many consultations and used them to go into 40 submissions that are available on our website, including the first LCDC. The first was when 255 people responded to our survey. We also developed videos to support people to help use the county development plan portal to make submissions and these videos had over 100 views and feedback tells us they were really useful.

This year we have worked with Irish Rural Link, the Wicklow County Council Environment Office and SEAI, the sustainability energy community from Kildare and Wicklow. We have put in an application, we are seeking significant funding to support voluntary sustainable energy communities in Wicklow, Kildare and Meath to implement the energy master plans. The project which we called powering up sustainable energy communities will consult to identify the barriers to implementation of their ENP so far as well as any support they need. It will develop and provide training and education resources as well as supporting SSCs to do demonstration projects. The whole process will be documented with the aim of developing a tool kit that will guide and support NCCs across the country to implement the actions and their EMPs. That funding is with Pobal and we hope to hear of a decision in April, so fingers crossed on that with one.

The National PPN Conference. We have been trying to bring the National PPN Conference to Wicklow since late 2019. Originally it was planned to run in Arklow in October 2020, but it is looking like it will be 2023 at this stage. We are definitely still in the pot and I intend to bring to Wicklow before I retire. County Wicklow PPN was part of a community wellbeing

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pilot programme that was developed a process for all PPNs to do this piece of work. In 2018 we ran extensive consultation process that fed into the development of a mission for community wellbeing and five Municipal Districts in the community as a whole. We use these to guide the work we do, helping them with submissions etc. We plan to review the submissions in 2022 through online service meetings and workshops as there is a lot of similarity and synergy between our vision for community wellbeing and what is required for the development of the mission and high level goals of the local economic and community plan, we will be working closely with Wicklow County Council to do this as Deirdre said.

So that is me, last slide. Thank you so much for collaborating with us and working with us. As I say, I hope we did bring added value and my last slides says any questions but I bet you want to go home for your tea at this stage?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks a million, Helen, I appreciate that. That leaves me to thank Deirdre, who we know very well here, he had is part of the CCSD team and is doing Trojan work and Helen from the PPN again doing super work. So thank you to both. And indeed all of the staff in Michael Nicholson's department and CCSD who will be overseeing this plan, so the best of luck to all. Do any members want to come in? Because we are really out of time. Are you okay? All right. I am going to hand you over to Helen for correspondence and that is us done.

ADMINISTRATOR: I will try and fly through these now. The protocol and CPG, we have approved the attendance of the Cathaoirleach, Shay Cullen at the St Patrick's Parade in New York and of Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy at the St Patrick celebrations in Dublin California. I want to circulate the CPG minutes of the 25th and 9th of November and the protocol minutes of the meeting of the 6th of December.

A circular relating to the reporting of political donations. Donation statements were due back, they are now overdue, they were due on the 31st of January and some are outstanding. If they could be returned please. You are reminded that your annual declaration form are to be submitted on or before the 28th of February. So if you could get them in that would be much appreciated.

Finally, The Wicklow Women's Councillors' Caucus are organising walk, talk and support events to mark International Women's Day. Events will take place on Sunday 6th of March and further details will be publicised by the caucus members and on social media.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you all for your attendance. A long meeting today, but I think we got through quite a bit, so thank you all. Any members of protocol just stay on the line, please.



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