

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY

COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM

ON

MONDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2021 FROM 14:00-18:00

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J Sinnamon

E McCarthy

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 2021:

[THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED 2.55PM]

CATHAOIRLEACH: We are working on that. Okay, I am going to hand you over to Helen to do the roll call.

(Roll call was taken).

CLLR FORTUNE: Helen, we can't hear the members other than the chair speaking in the chamber.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: We are getting feedback from Cllr O'Neill's phone there.

(Roll call continues to be taken)

CLLR FORTUNE: Helen, sorry, I don't think we can hear the members other than the chair in the chamber.

CLLR FERRIS: Sounds like an alien coming to get us!

CLLR McMANUS: I think what Aoife said is correct if people mute.

CLLR MURPHY: It's still the same, Helen.

CLLR FORTUNE: Chair, can you hear me?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Cathaoirleach, you are on mute.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune, can you hear me now.

CLLR FORTUNE: I can hear you, but when the members were speaking in their chamber, giving their anseo, I couldn't hear any of them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, that is because the microphones weren't turned on in the chamber, it was just for the roll call.

CLLR FORTUNE: Fair enough.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Cronin, can you hear us now?

Right, if we go to meeting etiquette...

ADMINISTRATOR: I had finished the roll call.

Okay and then the etiquette. As you know this is our first hybrid meeting and our test meeting was a much more successful than the current meeting is going. But in relation to the Covid measures for those who are present in the chamber, everyone has been circulated with the standard operating guidance for attendance at council meetings. They have also been circulated with a Covid-19 induction and with the guidance for attendance at council meetings. Physical distancing guidelines are being implemented within the measure, as are measures in relation to hand hygiene, the room is ventilated and a one-way system is in place.

For those present, if you are feeling unwell or displaying symptoms self-isolate and make phone contact with your GP and myself immediately. An isolation room is available if required. Elected members are requested to wear a face covering in the council chamber. They can be removed while speaking if the elected members so wished. For those attending remotely thank you for your patience so far. Can you please raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak? Please keep your camera on throughout the meeting and when you are not speaking, please keep your microphone on mute. If you lose contact, if you could contact either myself or Teresa, we have an awful lot of IT with us and we will do our best to get you back online.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. Okay, I did want to welcome everyone to the chamber, but I think we have obviously hadn't had a great success so far, this this meeting, so I am going to wait and hopefully please God in the November meeting we will have everyone back in the chamber for a proper welcome. So, I am going to just move on to item, sorry I am going to go to first of all votes of sympathy. Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: The light is flashing. Just briefly I would like to propose a vote of sympathy to the family of Vincent Blake, a nephew of our colleague, Vincent Blake died there a week ago after a long illness aged 46. He was a native of Mullinacuff outside Shillelagh and represented his local football club and also his company sponsored football in Wicklow in his local club so I would like to propose a vote of sympathy for a very sad loss.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any other votes of sympathy? Cllr Glennon?

CLLR GLENNON: I would just like to go with Cllr Edward Timmins and convey my condolences to the family of the late Vincent Blake. He got a nice warm tribute in the papers over the weekend. A tragic loss to his family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just want to offer my condolences to the family of the Keoghs, Terese Keogh, sadly passed away.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Any remote votes of sympathy? Okay, we will just take a moment. Sorry, Helen.

ADMINISTRATOR: I like to add our colleague, Grainne Byrne and also mother of our colleague, Patrick Lancaster.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will take a moment's silence.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Eternal rest grant unto them, oh, Lord. May they rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I would like to propose a suspension of standing orders to discuss the threat to the role of councillors and joint policing committees given recent suggestions that the composition and governance of Joint Policing Committees is going to change and may be removed from councils in the near future. Also, the question of the chair of the new Joint Policing Committees, whether there is some threat to us as councillors deciding who that chair will be. So, I

just want to propose if we have a few minutes at the end of the meeting to discuss it for a few minutes, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I am happy to take.

CLLR FORTUNE: I second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune, thank you. I am happy to take that at 4.45 if everyone is agreed with that? Okay. Thank you. Moving on to item number one, to confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 6th of September 2021, copy attached. Can I have a proposer and seconder, please?

CLLR MURPHY: I propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by? Cllr Miriam Murphy. All agreed, no problem. Item number 2, To consider the disposal of property comprised of 0.0380 hectares (0.0939) or thereabouts in the townland of Glencap Commons North Td & Kilmacanogue South Td, Co Wicklow to Shane & Vanessa O'Loughlin. (As per notice previously circulated) can I have a proposer and seconder?

>>: I will propose.

>>: I will second that, Gerry. Cllr Corrigan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Corrigan, is it?

CLLR CORRIGAN: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed. Item number three, to consider the disposal of 285 sq.m or thereabouts in the townland of Lathaleer, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow known as The Enterprise Units at Lathaleer, Baltinglass, Co Wicklow, by way of three-year lease commencing 1st September 2021 to Mr Eric Woods, 12 Verschoyle Rise, Saggart Abbey, Citywest, Co Dublin.

(As per notice previously circulated) could I have a prose poser? Proposed by Cllr Timmins, seconded by Cllr Glennon. All agreed? Item number four, to consider the disposal of 0.43 acres or thereabouts of land situated in the

townland of Rathdrum, Co Wicklow, by way of an 18-month lease for the period 9th July 2021 to 8th January 2023 and the right to pass and repass thereto, to Mr Noel Jacob and Ms Helen Jacob, Jacob's Well, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow. I just want to bring Helen in before I look for a proposer and second on this.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just to say to members, under the statutory information at item number 4 there is a typo, it says 189 months that should be 18 months. The information is correct everywhere else and the statutory notice, particularly at item number 2, so if all are agreed we intend to proceed and ask for the vote in this disposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Fitzgerald. All agreed? Item number five, to consider the disposal of 112 square metres of land or thereabouts comprised within the folio WW635L situated in the townland of Beechwood Close, Boghall Road, Bray, County Wicklow A98W3P3 originally acquired from The Central Garage by tendering an agreement with ARK Housing Association by way of lease for a period of 24 months.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I like to discuss myself from this one if I could, I am involved with the charity, so I think I should step out of the meeting, is that okay?

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is fine. Thank you. Anyone else that has any conflict? Okay. So, we are looking for a proposer and seconder? Proposed by Cllr Winters seconded by Cllr Snell. All in agreement? Okay. If somebody to let Aoife know.

Okay, item number 6 to consider entering into a Section 85 agreement with Kildare County Council, this is for the completion of the Blessington Lakes e Greenway copy attached.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will come in there, this refers to a small section of the greenway, there is a foot path on the N81. For completeness and to keep on the right side of the law the application will need a Section 85 agreement to do that. Kildare County Council at their meeting last week agreed to the Section 85 agreement. So, look it just for completeness. Everything is done, there is a huge amount of work done by Margaret Hartnett and Declan O'Brien, it's a fantastic scheme, there is detailed design, a new route, the route is finally tied down, there is car parking and Tarmacadam surface, everything is done ready to go to An Bord Pleanála and ready to start construction as soon as it gets through the board process. It's a technicality really, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Cllr Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: I am proposing that motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Glennon. Cllr Timmins? Seconded.

CLLR TIMMINS: I would like to second the motion. It's just a formality to allow, to facilitate the process.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All in agreement? Yes. Agreed. Okay. Thank you. Item number 7 to consider the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report September 2021, copy attached.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will just mention one or two items. One is on the finance side, you may remember last year, because we lost money from goods and services due to parking and planning fees because of Covid we got a grant from central Government in respect of 2.8 million which prevented us having a deficit. When we estimated that earlier this year, again we are down parking fees, we are down planning fees now it's not as bad as last year and certainly we are starting to pick up at the moment, but we are still down. So, discussions between the CCMA, the County and City Management Association and the department, we have all estimated what we are down. The department are

telling us they are talking to them about this, but it seems to be unproductive. So that is an issue for us, if we don't get the funding, it has an impact on our budget and likely to run a deficit. So, I just want to flag it and if Brian wants to come in there as well, it's just an issue for us, we will work as much as we can with the department to try and get the same grant, we got last year. I would ask any of you in political parties or if you want to raise it with Oireachtas members we will see as well that it's important we get this fund, it's through no fault of our own, it's something that we got last year. So, we are going to keep pushing it. Now, there are things we can do between now and the end of the year in terms of loan repayments and putting stuff off. If we don't get it, we will have a deficit, we will do our best and keep on to the department to try and get it.

The second one I would mention, Cathaoirleach, is the contract for the LED lights was advertised for the southeast region. With a bit of luck that will start us next year. It's important because it saves us money in terms of running costs, there is less maintenance and less outages. So, it's good news that is starting.

The other one starting is the speed limit review. So, it's about a 24-week process, it will come up at the MD meetings in October, possibly November, so we would ask members to engage with that as much as possible. I think everything else is as read, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. First speaker is Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for the report, Chief Executive. I have a couple of issues firstly people who drive through Kilmacanogue will realise the parallel road is in use and one of the crucial

things is for people whose houses are on the route of the parallel road are suffering extreme distress from the noise of the traffic on the parallel road as well as the fact that the traffic on the main carriageway has increased substantially with the increase in the speed limit.

Now, TII have said in the past they will only consider funding for noise abatement measures in the context of new road construction, but in fact what the residents in this area would say is that it is a new road. Because of the introduction of the parallel road, there is a new speed limit, a faster speed limit and therefore more noise and more traffic and more traffic on the inner road as well. Now dealing with Wicklow County Council staff, they are more or less saying we can do nothing, TII are responsible for this. Could I ask the Chief Executive to comment on whether he would agree that we should actually try and ensure funding for noise abatement measures for people living in the vicinity of what I consider to be a new road?

Secondly with regard to that issue, has there been a safety audit done since the road was now opened to the public, because there is still quite a lot of speeding on that section and in fact a number of the new bollards were already locked down within a few hours.

Thirdly, there is an issue, and we will have to come back to it again. There is no foot path linking Kilmacanogue and Bray for students going to school and other people who want to move and go between the two places. Bray and Kilmacanogue are part of the one Municipal District and local residents feel strongly there should be a foot path connection. The second issue is Bray town centre, we are now heading into the fourth Christmas in Bray without the

public car park we used to have on the Florence Road. We got a report from the director for Bray last week which said the same thing she said a month ago verbally. There doesn't seem to have been any progress, apart from the removal of a crane. There are nice words about asking the developer to provide the, the car park is done and finished. I would like to see, and the traders would like to see that car park open in time for the Christmas season. Can the Chief Executive enlighten us if he has had any discussion with the developer or what the situation is there?

Can I ask the Chief Executive, I haven't seen any documentation and the fact there is a registration process for public rights of way going through the system at the moment, organised by the Property Registration Authority? Does that have any impact on public rights of way throughout the county that may or may not be protected if they are not registered, or what should happen with regard to that? There is one in particular on the Herbert Road which was subject to planning permission. I am just wondering can the Chief Executive indicate what that process, what impact that process has for us in the county in terms of public rights of way?

I am almost finished, Chair, I appreciate your indulgence, but these are issues which have come light. Does the count I have any duty with refuse collection. I understood we were like a regulator of the refuse collection companies since we abandoned our own refuse collection in 2000. But specifically, on how they charge customers, by weight or by volume and the supervision of the trucks driving through towns, very often leaving huge amounts of filthy material behind them as they turn corners. Some of the trucks are in appalling condition. Do we have a role in supervising them?

The final question, have Wicklow County Council staff been involved in any negotiations with Cairn Builders with regard to property being developed at the moment by Cairn at the back of Seabourne View apartments. There is a lot of concern from apartment owners that some deal has gone down between the Council and the developer with regard to open space or public open space between that development and the Greystones Golf Club. Is the Council involved in any discussions with the developer about that, or is the Council involved in any discussion with that developer about buying some of the properties that are being built at the moment?

What I am hearing both in Bray and in Greystones is that Wicklow County Council staff at a senior level, who may well be here today in this chamber, are conducting negotiations with developers to buy huge amounts of properties that are going to be rented to people on the housing list, but they are being taken away from being given the opportunity to house people who want to get on the property ladder. We have heard a lot in the media about tax reliefs being given to these pension funds for buying huge amounts of these units. Are Wicklow County Council at the same carry on at the moment in north Wicklow? If so, can we have an explanation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to take three members at a time. Cllr Edward Timmins is next.

CLLR TIMMINS: A couple of things. One to pick up on the opening information that the CEO gave us in relation to the possible deficit in the finances if this grant doesn't come through from central Government. Can I ask what level of money is involved here, the level of grant we are expecting or hoping to receive? Secondly if we don't receive it, what is the estimated deficit that will

result from failure to receive this in that unlikely event? Secondly, just two other things, the Hollywood bus stop, we just recently got a report commissioned that came up with a detailed proposals as to where the bus stop should be located on the N81 to allow the Bus Éireann stop at that location which is really important. So, I would like to ask that that matter be progressed now we have this consultant's report, given a proposed location. Lastly then is there any update on the footbridge in Baltinglass over the river Slaney, badly needed from a safety point of view. Really narrow bridge with trucks going over it and dangerous for pedestrians. I would like to know if there is any update. I know a consultant report was publish, we get lots of them, but I like to know if there is any funding secured to allow a footbridge over the Slaney?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Next up is Cllr Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, can you hear me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. If you could just speak up as much as possible, thanks.

CLLR MULLEN: Okay, just in relation to water infrastructure in Wicklow and in particular the 2.78 million that is supposed to be ring-fenced for rural and wastewater. A frustrating meeting was held this morning, an Irish Water clinic again where we are given more bad information in relation to the upgrade of Tinahely Wastewater Treatment Plant. For the last number of years, we have been told by Irish Water officials and officials in Wicklow County Council that Tinahely was at number one in need of a rural upgrade and Dunlavin was at number one in regard to a water connection. We were told this on two or three occasions at meetings that were arranged in both our district and at Irish Water clinics. There has not transpired. We have had other announcements made since then. We were told this morning that the 2.78 million couldn't be broken down as to how that was going to be spent. Again, that goes against what we have been told on several occasions, several occasions by Irish Water

officials. Just to explain we are the most rural district. This is rural district money that is ring-fenced for wastewater and water connections and to have none provided out of that fund at the moment would be an absolute disgrace and a failure of faith in our dealings with both Irish water and management on this issue. I think an urgent answer is required as to what has happened from being assured on three occasions that this would proceed and what has happened since.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go for one more speaker before I bring in the directors. Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you, chairman. Just I would like to follow up on what Cllr Mullen had to say there and thank you for the presentation as well, manager. Cllr Mullen has highlighted something that we didn't believe was actually happening out there. We were led to believe at all times and I am going back four years ago when I spoke to John Dempsey in Dundalk from Irish Water, I assured me there was funding going to be made available for small group water and sewage schemes throughout Ireland and that Wicklow County Council would get their fair share of allocation. Over those four years I have engaged with management to try and ensure that that money would be spent on the small towns and villages and bearing in mind that because of the fact of a deficiency in both, particularly in regard to the sewage facility in Tinahely and Shillelagh, that my understanding, there has been a reduction in the population of those two villages over the last few years. This is why we have been campaigning for four years to try and get an upgrade for the sewerage in Tinahely and Shillelagh. To no avail. I always believed with every meeting we had that they were prioritising those two places for an upgrade. Time and time again we asked who were making the list. Irish Water told us the Council were making the list, the Council were saying Irish Water. Time and time again, this

morning we asked them on three occasions who made out the list of priority for county Wicklow and Irish Water said Wicklow County Council made out that list. As Cllr John Mullen has said there on a few occasions as well that we understood that Tinahely was top of the list in terms of wastewater and Dunlavin for water. Apparently, we can see the money with 2.7 million with inflation in that regard, it's unlikely that there will be insufficient money there to carry out a number of other projects. We have seen last week, there is another 19 projects announced throughout the country last week, Wicklow didn't announce any of them. All we have announced so far is one project in Aughrim for the 2.8 million. Where Tinahely and Shillelagh is on waste water as well, we can go nowhere in terms of building or looking after our villages if we don't have waste water and water and certainly, what we heard this morning from Irish Water was very disappointing and I ask again and I repeat again that they said to us time and time again, it's up to the Council to prioritise the list, Wicklow County Council have told us no, Irish Water prioritise it. So, it's disheartening to hear those comments being made. I have spent four years in here as a councillor, fighting and arguing and with Irish Water as well for funding for those projects. To hear this morning, very disappointing and very disheartening as a councillor.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I bring in director Colm Lavery, maybe he would answer some of those questions from Cllr Behan and the Irish Water questions, about roads and water there. Can you hear us, Colm?

COLM: I can indeed. Just to deal with the parallel service road in Kilmacanogue first of all. I don't know, like the substantial completion has been signed off for the 24th of September in relation to the road. There should be no additional speeding on the road because the speed limits that were in place actually remain and there is a 60km speed limit on the main line through Kilmacanogue

and the parallel service road itself has a reduced speed limit of 50km an hour. They have not changed, and I travelled through this this morning myself and the signs remain in place for 60km on the main line and 50km on the parallel service road. So, there is no increase in speed limits on that road as yet.

Just to say that the road safety audit will be carried out this evening actually, so any issues that are picked up in that will go back to the contractor. There are obviously a few issues that will need to be dealt with as that goes, as that report is finalised. The issue of the foot path has been raised at a number of council meetings. This is an issue that we have raised on numerous occasions with TII. Obviously TII have come back and have not agreed to a foot path along that road, because, as you know, the foot path will be a button on a road with a 100km an hour speed limit as you come out from Bray out on to the dual carriageway and there is a safety issue as TII see it.

This came up again at our recent SPC meeting and it was undertaken by the councillors present to make contact with TII directly on this. As you know, we are providing for a greenway between Kilmacanogue and Bray. We have undertaken land surveys and are currently deciding on the preferred route option for that greenway, so that is the preferred option in terms of providing a link between Kilmacanogue and Bray for pedestrians and cyclists. If there are particular noise issues in relation to Kilmacanogue bring those to our attention and we will bring those concerns to TII, but a, as I say, there has been no increase in the speed limit and as the Chief Executive had mentioned in his opening statement, we are actually carrying out a speed limit review for the whole county. So, there will be no change in the speed limit on the mainline through Kilmacanogue until that process is completed.

The other issue that came up is in relation to Baltinglass and the feasibility study that we had carried out on the footbridge. That is complete and it's come back and indicated that it is feasible to provide a pedestrian bridge adjacent to the existing bridge. It may require an impact statement because it is obviously going over the river Slaney and a CPO would probably be required as well. The estimated cost of the bridge is about two million euro and we have made an application for a variation under the rural regeneration and development fund to that department. So, we will keep the Council updated as that application progresses.

Then finally to deal with the issue of Irish Water and the small towns and villages growth programme. Obviously Irish Water make the decisions on it, it is Irish Water that made the press release, so we have no say whatsoever in Wicklow County Council in relation to how that money, that 2.78 million we were allocated is spent. So, for Irish Water to say that we are prioritising that expenditure is blatantly untrue. Irish Water make the decisions and Irish Water announce the decisions and the announcement that was made last week was made by Irish Water. We were asked for our priorities by Irish Water, Tinahely, Dunlavin, Aughrim and Shillelagh were the four top four priorities we gave back to Irish Water. Irish Water have only announced one of those schemes so far, which is to be funded, which is Aughrim. We have no estimate for what the cost of that scheme is, but we would estimate it to be around a million euro to upgrade that scheme, which leaves 1.7 million out of the allocation we have to be expended by Irish Water.

Obviously, I was disappointed myself that Tinahely wasn't announced by Irish Water last week and I have made contact with the head of asset management in Irish Water who makes the decision on what is being allocated. He indicated to me that the small Town and Villages Growth Programme is a rolling programme. It's only the second tranche of projects which have been announced throughout the country, there will be further tranches announced in the future and Wicklow will get its full allocation under the programme for other locations is what the head of asset management has said to me in an email just last Friday night.

So, to say that Tinahely will not progress, I don't know how they can say that, because Irish Water have indicated to us that we will get our full allocation of 2.78 million in Wicklow County Council and that it will be used to support other projects other than the one we have got approval for already which is Aughrim. Aughrim, as I understand it, has just been handed over to asset delivery.

We have looked for an update in relation to progress on that from Irish Water and we are expecting to get something in the next two to six weeks is the reply we have get back from Irish Water. But, to say that Wicklow County Council are the ones that are deciding on which projects get allocated money under the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme is incorrect. It's Irish Water that make the decisions on these. We have expressed our disappointment already to Irish Water, we indicated to them that it would be an issue that would come up in our workshops this morning and I am disappointed to hear the replies you have got from Irish Water because it's been indicated to that other projects will be announced in due course for Wicklow under the Small Town and Growth Programme and that the full 2.78 million will be spent in

Wicklow. As I say, Aughrim will not use up that full amount of money so that is the commitment I have got from the head of asset management in Irish Water. I think that has dealt with all of the queries so far, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Moving on to Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you. Is my microphone on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Kilmac we dealt with, the property, I'll double check with them and come back with the impacts of that process. The collection permits are for the national collection office, we monitor the other issues so if there's any complaints pass them to the environment section, and we'll take those up. There is a role there.

Just in relation to the turnkey issue, turnkey developments, as you know we deal with everybody, all developers in relation so part five, but between ourselves, our approved housing bodies will form part of the housing delivery programme over the next couple of years, so I might ask Joe to comment on the issues on going at the moment, we have a number of proposals at early stage similarly with the housing bodies, have to work with ourselves the housing bodies and the department. But there are schemes we're negotiating on absolutely.

JOE: 1,220 units? We will achieve that. But that's through acquisitions, our ownable, and involved DPP this isn't a surprise to anyone, we have turnkey and leases all over the place and people

just looking across some of the areas, everyone benefited from this with 145, 147 Rathnew, 32, they were bought in, Tinahely, five, two in Ballinaclesh, and again, in the Dunlavin, Baltinglass why we had Dunlavin three in Bray leases of 70 coming in in Bray shortly and that's augmenting supply and Ashford and Rathnew, in many cases these were not available in individual sales, developers approached us or block buy or gone into other individual sales so in a lot of cases we were never competing with the private sector or, the one-off sales were never considered at the time. We will be back and will be back as the Chief Executive said in the very near future because people housing for all will be coming back, I will have to do a plan, for the next five years, we will be with the SPC in November, December, including affordable and social and targeted special delivery. The delivery of the supply, no surprise, will be own builds, turnkeys approving housing body building, housing body and PPP implied too, in this one also. Leasing and acquisitions will be pulled back significantly we believe in the plan. It should be noted also in a lot of cases the approval and through an ad we put in the paper the agencies have approached for development agreement where they can't get or by having agreement with the local authority, they seek funding.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There was two more questions, sorry Cllr Derek Mitchell before I bring you back, there was a question for Brian in the terms of the grants and finances, maybe you'd answer that one from Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Last year the Local Government sector received

(inaudible).

BRIAN: Context last year local authority 137 million for losses on goods and service income and additional COVID-19 expenditure, Wicklow County Council availed of 2.8 million in financial supports for that, I suppose the basis for that was 900 million for the Rents Waiver Scheme and last year there was spare capacity when the waivers from applied, and we had the goods and services and COVID-19 expenditure covered from that. There was 480 million allocated to the rates waiver scheme for 2021, based on the figures, on the waivers that are being applied for the first three quarters of the year, and figures coming in from the sector in relation to the goods and services, that 480 will not cover everything, so, there needs to be supplementary estimate applied to get the additional financing. Sector itself this year, 61 million, relates to the loss assignments good and services income and COVID-19 expenditure, and Wicklow County Council has reported up for the first six months, 11.2 million that's the loss we have, we based on the same losses as last year, budgeted for that be to covered if that is not forthcoming or only a fraction of it, obviously that will hit our budget, so, we would hope, that maybe we'll be able to identify some savings in payroll due to the slowdown in recruitment if not we'll have to stall capital transfers at the end of the year to eliminate or reduce any deficit that we'll have at the end of the year so I suppose, at the moment, we're 1.2 million short on income that we would have expected this year, so, that's what the current position is. We're obviously in discussions with the department, as a sector and

pushing it, they're pushing it with Depa, what we would is Chief Executive some political support to try and highlight that to your ministerial colleagues in government to try and highlight the impact that will have on local authority budgets. It is not just an issue for Wicklow County Council, obviously, every local authority is impacted by this. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, I might just bring in Lorraine there. If possible, to answer one or two other questions.

MS GALLAGHER: Thank you very much. Just to say that I did circulate a report to the Bray members, there 27th of September, in relation to update for the Florentine Centre and we'll give another update tomorrow evening, the report did get out the challenges were experienced as a result of the two challenges, COVID-19 challenge, which were labour shortages in the industry generally and lack of supply the material price and increases globally and material shortages. Myself, and the municipal administrator we met with the Chief Executive Officer of Oakmount and the site manager onsite, and it was clear that date of the 2nd September there's a substantial progress despite the challenges, the main contractor, Glenbrother indicated they have a programme in place to reach the practical completion date of the 31st of January, and there is discussions, in and they've said to us they will endeavour to have the car park open in December, because it is very important to the retail for the Christmas period. I did circulate a number of recent photographs which shows the progress made and we'll have a more comprehensive and additional report in circulation tomorrow evening, what is important about the large tower crane that's been

removed is that signals the marked end of large elements of the construction work and just in regard to the occupancy, legal are progressing with the steels and some new offers in relation to the retail units which is all very, very positive, thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Now finally, Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you. First of all, I support Cllr Joe Behan in the noise issue in Kilmac, my understanding of the road was it was designed the design of it is it should be more 100 kilometre an hour in the main line, and I saw somewhere in writing there was a proposal recently it was going to be moved to 100 kilometres an hour, I can't remember where I saw that. But the higher speed will have higher noise, and I think also with all the consultations going on about bigger schemes, around the whole area, I think it would be well worthwhile DII doing more about noise abatement, some of the houses are very close to that road and will be very affected by the noise, and it is effectively a new road I would agree with Cllr Joe Behan. On the other point which I want to make is that I just concerned again to see the capital funded project only 1% were in the Greystones Municipal District which has 18% of the population of the county and vast developments going on, for instance Cairn is developing a housing estate of over 3500 homes which is not connected by footpaths to the rest of the town. Now, there is no defined proposal about the proposal to change that, and that's a disgrace, if we allow the town to be expanded like that, and there's a lot of integration of the town needed and it is very disturbing to see only 1% of the capital funding is for the area. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just on page 35 of the Chief Executive report, it is in relation to the proposed new sustainable bridge in Bray. I just want to ask, and it is probably to Director Lavery if you received any decision from An Bord Pleanála into the need or into the following the number of submissions they have received calling for an environmental assessment to be carried out. Cathaoirleach, I won't repeat all the points I made at last month's meeting but its beggars' belief the experts in Wicklow County Council did not accept that EIA would be necessary and part of the process. I know the members, we are having a presentation from Director Lavery tomorrow evening, they hope the concerns communicated in over the 150 submissions sent into the council, in relation to the road network, traffic management swans et cetera, else will be dealt with. And secondly, I have another one here - I think it might be for Director Gleeson - yeah, in relation to the figures for parking fines, it is on page 63 - I'm just wondering is there, or is there any way we can have a breakdown as to where those parking fines originate in which Municipal District? So that's the question on that. And the last one is in relation to the LED lights rolled out around the county. Is there a difference between the LED lights on main throughfares, main roads as opposed to within housing estates? Like do you use a smaller wattage within housing estates rather than say main roads because, a number of people have raised this matter with me, who are living in housing estates around the county and

who say that they are very, very bright. I know I've raised this before, but I want to find out if there's a difference in the Watt at that stage thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thanks and Cathaoirleach the first thing I'd like to bring up more of a comment because it has been answered already, I was just in relation to the Irish Water that we did have this morning and I wanted to add my voice to the fact that as I did say to them this morning, we had four towns or villages put forward and when Irish Water announced the 21 additional water and Wastewater infrastructure programmes on the 30th of September, Wicklow got nothing. So and I did mention that with them this morning, they were giving us a breakdown on each and every one of them but that's something I would like to bring up and the other point is in relation to the fabric upgrade works to homes and we've had a fair discussion about this in our Municipal District meeting with the cost of heating homes for elderly people going up this year, I think the council needs to lead the way in putting some form of funding aside over and above our allocation. I asked in our Municipal District for the number of homes we have in Arklow, what's our annual, in the Arklow Municipal District, our annual rent and how much we are in arrears and that we could ring-fence probably some percentage of that in our areas. And maybe other areas would like to do the same, that's up to them. But I think we need to lead the way. We have older people in homes, who are on the pension who, have no way of earning extra income. And yet, we're not providing proper doors or windows for these people or insulation, and it needs to be done.

And we get presentation after presentation, year after year and it is more or less the same. I think, we need to stand up now and give up with a plan, to put some rental income back in homes for older people who need windows and doors and insulation.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Bring in the directors, Joe you might take the questions first of all on housing.

JOE: I think they were ring-fencing rent and last question, was it? Yes. Look, there is a programme at the moment, it is low, but it is in phase two, phase one of the fabric upgrade was done, that was a different, under a different heading and was quite specific, we started phase two, it will be a slow programme but will be done over a series of years. I'll have a presentation for the ESPC, on that, the specific window and door programmes - we haven't spent money, that wouldn't, the programme itself is more a long-term programme to improve all windows over a longer period, and there would be also a survey of the stock, there will be picked up on that, but specific programme we haven't included in the estimates. That might be it.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The Government committed to that to bring council houses up to B2 or cost optimal so it will be over a number of years, but they've committed that on housing for all, there's something around 80 house us tendered at the moment, another 50 tendered but that programme will continue over the next number of years, insulation, windows and doors and heat pumps where possible, that's a commitment from central Government.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You might come in on the parking fines, and LED lighting and so on for Bray, Colm.

COLM: Probably Brian will deal with the parking fines; it is not under my unit. But, on the Cllr Anne Ferris the sustainable transport bridge first of all, as you are aware this is the renewal of a Part 8 that already existed, for the provision of this bridge in Bray.

As you highlighted An Bord Pleanála have written to ourselves they will consider whether an environmental impact statement is actually required for this project. They've asked us to provide the information and our consultant's report which indicated which screened out the need for an EIS, so we're still awaiting that decision from An Bord Pleanála, when we get it, we will inform the council. If it is decided at EIS is required, then, that will probably supersede the Part 8 process and it will be a decision for An Bord Pleanála, whether to grant planning permission or not, but no decision or no determination, has been received from An Bord Pleanála as yet.

Just then in relation to the LED lights - obviously there is a standard for the replacing of LED lights and most people do think they're much brighter because they're comparing them to the old socs lamps in place, but obviously everything we do replaces now is LED.

There's a standard bulb, sometimes the light can be different depending on the space in between lampposts and the direction which the light is shining. If there are particular problems with LED lights in particular estates, you can e-mail us at our public lighting time PL at Wicklow County Council and we'll get the contractor to look at those. There have been issues before in housing estates, maybe with the direction of the head on the lamp it maybe shining

light into private property or whatever.

If there are particular issues like that, just bring them to our attention and we can get them checked out.

But, on a lot of occasions the LED light can actually be, actually appear brighter than the old socs lamp it has replaced and that's a lot of the issues brought to our attention are that.

Just the difference in the lights and strength of the light.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to take that question on the fines, parking fines?

BRIAN: On the parking fines, because the new contract we have for parking is centralised the costs on the in relation to the parking fines on the financial management system are also centralised it is one amount, but look, we'll inquiry with our service providers to see if they have a breakdown but we don't have on the financial management system it is just recorded under the one job code. But as I say I'll follow up and see if they provide additional information on that by district.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: In the maritime section of report could I have update on the RDF and presentation to the members, we still haven't received a presentation for us to input into, before that is resubmitted, that's very important. There's potential in Arklow Harbour to open up more water space and I've had numerous users over the last month contacting me, we're going to be facing a lot of water shortage in the harbour with different users coming in, and

this is something we're going to look at. And there's potential there to look at the pottery site down there, and actually turn that extended our own harbour without having to go for a foreshore licence, so it is important we get to input whatever plan is going in RDF going forward.

Homelessness, I'm wondering is Dublin our only option for young homeless women. I've had two over the last year-and-a-half, where the only option given to them, when they were out on the street sleeping on the concrete in a tent that Dublin emergency services are the only option for them. I thought we had emergency services in Wicklow, and I just want to, you know, if the service that we have, are they, what's the turnover on the emergency accommodation and how long people are staying in them?

And do we need to look for more resources, especially young women because women are exceptionally vulnerable when they're on the street. Just in relation to the street enhancement fund, I was wondering could Wicklow County Council maybe contact the department, there's a deadline of submissions only went in there last week and there's a deadline for the completion of works of the 22nd of October, there's no way, there's a lot of properties and a lot of the main street rate payers in Arklow put submissions in, that want to do up their shop front, willing to do the match funding and everything but to complete it by the 22nd of October is ridiculous, there's no way possible, and we're coming into the winter season regarding painting and external painting, we need to look for extension on this to give them half a chance for them to do the works. And in relation to the Arklow flood relief scheme and coastal

protection budgets - could I just get confirmation on the updated flood relief scheme budget for that. I thought it was 23 million but heard recently the Chief Executive say it was 80 million and I'd like confirmation and on the coastal protection, how much have we spent over the last year or two, or three years, in the coastal out of the coastal protection budget in our annual budget on works, thanks?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Tom Fortune

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, and thanks Chief Executive for your report. Just a few things, my understanding is maybe letters going out at the moment to people on the housing list and we have something like 4,500 people on the list, I would ask where we don't get responses rather than taking people off, if there can be a method of double checking or treble checking because it causes a lot of heartache when people suddenly realise, that maybe reasons beyond their control they're no longer on it.

Regarding the age-friendly housing proposed or was the old health centre in Kilcoole, there's residents living around that area that are a little bit taken back what is being proposed and they haven't been spoken with, and I had a look at one of the residents there, in the last few days and it is a very, very tight site. And I'm wondering, instead of four two beds the site to me looks more suitable for two, two beds and then maybe of a bungalow-type if we're putting age-friendly people into this, so I ask that would be considered and right beside that location, you have the credit Union Building and in front of that then you have people sometimes park cars but

residents getting blocked in, so there's the need for a yellow box so people can have, safe access to their homes. So that might be looked at in conjunction what is going on there.

And if I can just, while I'm on the subject to go back to something, Cllr Joe Behan brought up - the resident in Seabourne in Charlesland the stress on those residents is phenomenal because they weren't aware of what was going on, they weren't communicated with, and what has been enabled with the developments down there, is basically unfair, I met recently with a bunch of the residents, and I do think we need to, maybe it is too late now because it is ploughed ahead but the question that Cllr Joe Behan asked earlier that does need to be addressed for the residents. Because bear in mind that particular whole area, at one stage was going to be a commercial retail-type development with all kinds of added value in it, it is now basically a housing site which is happening quite a bit with other locations as well. So, I would ask that would be looked at. And on the homeless situation on page 13 of your report, there's a list of reasons of why people have found themselves in homelessness or consequences of the homelessness is recorded I'd like to get a feel for how we propose to deal with that? What's the plan that's in place for that?

And then, also, the County Development Plan - the members, we're queue to get that Chief Executive report on the end of November, towards the end of November, what is the situation in regard to the County Development Plan? Is it still going to be run and become before the members for final adoption on the in February of next year? Or has it been put back officially?

By the department or by whoever is responsible for it?

Lastly, chair, if I can the Chief Executive, the M11/N11 project that's going to basically impact exits 10, 11, 12, along that motorway, there's a lot of concern from residents about what is going on. And, while there was a public consultation process that took place in 2018/2019 at that stage all people saw were various drawings and plans with roads going everywhere, and it was, while it was good at the time it was much too early for people to understand what was happening. What is happening right now is people are suddenly realising the actual impact of what is happening, and the proposals or plans have changed in some areas as well. So, I'm asking the Chief Executive would he maybe consult with ARUB and have another public display, consultation session, perhaps again at the Glenview where people could be informed and could now look at what the very latest design is, because there has been some tweaks and I was at a meeting on Saturday morning with a bunch of residents and I walked an area with them and what's being proposed, I don't think makes sense. I think it looks like someone looked at an area on a map and said OK we'll bring the road out this way, but it has massive, massive implications for residents and farmland, and I think it seriously needs to be looked at. In as I said in the early comment, exit 10 is the same and exit 12, hopefully exit 12 was sorted, there was an issue houses were in danger of losing their gardens or homes, I think that's resolved, but if there was a proper, public meeting or public display where people could go, and get the very latest update so everybody is on the same page, because at the moment there's confusion and a lot of frustration and a lot of concern.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you chair. Just one or two things from the Chief Executive's report is, on one is my issue is on housing, and first I'd like to say that it's no offence to the staff in housing, but I have very real concern about the lack of reporting back to councillors. I contacted four other Cathaoirleachs to see if we could plan a meeting and I know I spoke to you Chair about it, we haven't got to do it yet with the housing officer, in these times we're not travelling to Wicklow. And I think, we've got a lot of serious cases we're representing, and the delay in trying to get reports back on it is just crazy. It is just crazy. I know we all feel the same. And I think, we have to speak up on this. My question is what is resources being put into each, in the housing department?

There's an eight month delay in grants. That's not good enough. That is just not good enough for people. They are applying for grants because they need it. And like, for eight months for a file to sit on a table, I'm sorry, that's not good enough. Even in allocations, people are ringing us, where are we on the list, why are we getting no response. We are the people who are meeting these people out on the street. Every day and it's got to a stage now, I have to avoid people and I don't think that's our job. I don't think that's our job to avoid people. I mean, I would like to know now that staff are back in at their desk what is the ratio in the departments in each section, is there staff, understaffed in one area, overstaffed in another?

And I think we have to review this at a very serious matter. Because I as a councillor cannot continue dealing with houses if we don't, or

either that we're just piggy in the middle and that's just how I feel about T we're piggy in the middle and stopping. But people on street is able to tell me oh I know such a such a one got a house; we're not even get tag information. We're not receiving that information so I can't understand how that is told out to the public and we're not receiving that officially.

I'm really, really annoyed. Really annoyed. And I really would like to have a serious review on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. OK, I'm going to bring in first of all I'm going to bring in Mark Devereux to bring in the talk about the flood relief and coastal protection, are you on the call Mark?

MARK: Yes, I can.

CATHAOIRLEACH: If you could speak louder as possible.

MARK: I'll get closer to the device, the construction estimate for Arklow Flood Scheme was 23 million in 2018, 2019, a scheme was being developed. We would revisit that estimate when An Bord Pleanála gives us their approval.

So, it is likely to be considerably more than that when you consider other factors such as design costs, the construction monitoring et cetera. So, the 23 million mentioned by Cllr Leonard was just the construction cost, it will be significantly more, but we'll revisit that when the Bord has given us approval because there could be conditions, we're not aware of now. So, it will be mornings and the other thing we can't, influence at this point in time is construction inflation which is considerable at the moment. So, that's the best information I have at the moment, and I'd rather not mislead you. Coastal erosion scheme the Irish Rail scheme is running at order of

200 million euros and we haven't, even discussed at this stage the costs to Wicklow County Council or two of works that might be done along our coastline. So, there's no estimate for the works for instance in Arklow at this point in time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK thank you Mark. One question there, I might give it to you Chief Executive on the County Development Plan and the rest are for Joe on housing.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: OK, thanks. Because you know we have submissions now and we're going through them so the plan is to get back to members in November, if there's no material changes after that, the plan could be adopted early next year but inevitably there will be material changes, our best guess its July of next year. Is when we'll have a plan but there could be delays on that. But we have the window, we have extra year of time extension.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe, I might bring you in there's a few housing questions there.

JOE ...

CLLR FORTUNE: I asked about the question of the M11 and N11.

CATHAOIRLEACH: After the housing.

JOE: Cllr Miriam Murphy I only got half of it, I will answer my best, but I'll ring you tomorrow and deal with the issues because I didn't get all of it, the GPGs I wasn't aware of specific delays, we have delays because of what this year was and there was a load of issues, there and difficulties along the supply and inspections. I thought our own programme was running relatively OK but I'll talk to you tomorrow and tease out of those, and second was information if I

picked it up it is on the allocations the allocations information unless there's particular representations and file, and approvals, we don't issue general allocations, we do try to keep the information of when houses are allocated, but again, I think, that's the gist of it, but I'll ring you tomorrow because there was a few other issues and it would be easier to ring you in the afternoon if that's OK with you.

The page, sorry, page 13, of the homelessness, that plan deals with a lot of the issues there, they were doing some of the problems and two counsellors brought up those issues. There are challenging cases in some of those and in a lot of cases it is supply, like I detailed last, in earlier question, our supplies augmented by private sector supply, so we have, always have put our ads housing agencies put out ads seeking capacity or options from the private sector. And that will be part of our plan going forward. It is part of the supply, including the affordable housing supply going forward suggest to the approval of course, between 22 and 25, we're not going to do this on our own and we do need help and capacity is there from the private sector and I'm not going listed what I listed a while back but all elected members are happy with those units provided when we needed them at the time and delighted they were provided.

Supply, Kilcoole older person one, that's, I'll relook at those two issues. I'll talk to the local engineer and relook at those and come back to you. OK, I think unless I'm missing something, that's it I think that's the one, like Cllr Miriam Murphy I will talk to you because I missed a little bit of it, and I think that was a third point you were trying to make.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, Colm would you mind coming in on the N11 project.

COLM: Yes, Cllr Tom Fortune we're the stage two in the process at the moment which is identifying the preferred route option. This identifies a corridor, it doesn't identify the detail design and the actual areas where, where the road will actually go, or if there is to be extensions to the road where it would actually go.

As you say, we did hold a consultation at stage one in the Glenview Hotel, that was a one-day consultation and to give you an idea about over 300 people actually attended that consultation.

At this stage, we've held online consultation obviously because of COVID, we couldn't hold one in person, and just to give you some idea in terms of the difference, in the end I would say that this has been a much more fruitful process, holding it online, because, the website itself from the 30th of August when the consultation started up until the 30th of September, we have had over 21,500 visits to the website, 6,677 of those have been unique visits so that's you know, one person or one organisation who has viewed the website so that's close to 6,700 compared to the 300 we had in the Glenview for the first consultation. And then, in terms of the public display itself, we've had 6,788 persons who have viewed that public consultation. We also have a number of meetings with the project team and with our members here in the Wicklow County Council so if a member of public requires further information arising out of the public consultation and viewing the website, they can arrange for a one-to-one online meeting, to date we've held 79 of those meetings, up to last Friday, and we've another five arranged for today. We also

had an online meeting with the project team and Wicklow County Council, for a unique meeting for the members of Greystones Municipal District to deal with the issues in Greystones's area and issues from the proposed closure of junctions, currently out on the N11 and M11 that was in the last week. Just in relation to the issue that you raised and the meeting you attended on Saturday I suppose I've seen that, the coverage of that particular issue in the Irish Times there on Friday night or Saturday. And, as I say, the route preferred route option at the moment only identifies a particular corridor, the next stage will identify the detail design so I see comments from householders saying, that the road is going to go past their living room window - I don't know how they know that, because, I don't even though that or no member of the project team knows that, because we haven't got into the detail design yet so there's a bit of hysteria created by a corridor being identified and not the actual detail design of the project. And indeed, I believe that family, that were referenced in the Irish time article are meeting with our project team today. As this meeting goes on, I think, so, I would hope that they have further information and that their concerns will have been addressed, by the time they've spoken with our project team this evening so euro that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Colm, members, you still have seven people coming to in, can you be brief because we're running out of time, and we have a presentation to get through as well. So, and a question from Cllr Joe Behan before we finish, so, if we could bring in Cllr Gerry Walsh next.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you Cathaoirleach and the prospective report to

follow on from point I raised at last month's meeting in relation to the arrears in social housing rents - I was that was to be addressed we were told there was a plan in place to address that but figures increased from last month which is pointing, I was going to ask a question about the mobility aids grants and housing adaptation grants but it has been addressed by Joe following Cllr Miriam Murphy's question, and just on the vacant sites register with 23, and, just wondering, in relation to the housing for all plan and its implications for our approach for vacant sites register, so if you can comment on that.

Just on the just want to litter and waste management enforcement section, I want to acknowledge the great work done in that area and court cases there was 22 cases dealt with and a number of other 60 in the pipeline. The results of the 22 and their impact on the income for the council, just wondering how if you could comment on how they went. The electric vehicle charging points for Shoreline, wondering if there's any timeline there, on those, any update on the timeline. I know there was a delay there as a result of the vaccination programme, but I think we should be moving towards delivery there. And just the public lighting and outstanding faults, 235 is the number at present, and coming into the dark evenings again and what is the plan to address those issues. And on the N/M11 improvement scheme and references to the intern bulletin update on the bus priority project intern scheme run separately by Wicklow County Council, just wondering again is that a time frame on that again, as compared to the overall plan for the road, obviously there's a plan to have that delivered at an earlier stage, so

just wondering if the Chief Executive or Colm could comment on that project thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I want to thank the Chief Executive and council for opening the car parks for Brittas Bay for free last year and no doubt there's a success this year the fact is though the residents of Brittas Bay have to endure a third summer and I know the council invested a lot even yourself Cathaoirleach were heavily invested in opening a separate car park, speaking to Cllr Pat Kennedy as well who is in agreement that something needs to be done. I'm certainly not blaming the council. I think they've done Trojan work with the summer and the Gardai, but something needs to be done and we don't need to wait until the last minute to do so. So, I'm asking the Chief Executive to set up a working group separate from the ESPC to involve councillors and other stakeholders because we have to start acting now and not wait the last minute the residents deserve better. Connectivity the children of the area can't even walk to the school out there, they can't get connecting flag because there's no footpaths and it is too dangerous, I brought it up at municipal level, but I will bring it up today, but I ask Chief Executive to set up working group for the counsellor to look at the issues in other areas as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'll be quick. Just comment on the housing main tenants heading upgrade programme, there was over 100 DSA boilers replaced over 2020 and 2021, I was wondering how many of these were in housing stock in Greystones MD and if we could maybe have a municipal breakdown on this information

going forward. And just on fabric upgrades - there's 88 houses in Bray and Greystones awaiting determination from the department regarding pointing, I was just wondering is there any idea when this will be addressed, I believe we've been waiting on this for quite some time and when we expect an answer to go forward with this, and then, just as regards EV charges the same question as Cllr Gerry Walsh regarding Shoreline it is debating a solar car port in question today outside and I was wondering if we could have detail regarding the provision of ED chargers in the new solar car port when it is finished, and I was wondering will each port be wired for future EV chargers and the possibility for public to pay to charge their cars I was thinking when it is exporting the energy on The Grid it will be beneficial for generate income as well as use the energy from the public. And then just finally on the LED lights programme could I get confirmation that the these are the warmer LEDs that have been agreed under the tender, which I believe are more environmentally friendly towards our wildlife thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you I might bring in the Chief Executive first on the point of car parks and future planning. chief thanks

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Car parks on Brittas Bay, we are working on that park and Ride, but we refer to the transportation SPC and look if there's a subgroup from there, so be it, but it is something we're working on and will come through the SPC. One or two other issues - the vacant site register, that is going to be replaced now for housing for all for vacant site tax so they're working often it at the moment, there will be an announcement in budget, run it through revenue and ourselves but we will report back on that next month,

Shoreline EV charging points are starting tomorrow if not today, so they will be done quickly, it was held up because of the COVID-19. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Joe, in terms of rent arrears and grants and so on, maintenance.

JOE: Vacant homes there will be the vacant homes element which is what is done the ten CPOs, buying in, they will be included in building the housing delivery plan which we will prepare over the next two or three months. It won't be a massive level, but people see they're beginning to get back in, and gave identify a Fuentes and elected members are God on that one. We can issue the central heading report no problem from municipal, that was age prioritised rather than area prioritised. They were the ones ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, Cllr Gerry O'Neill

CLLR O'NEILL: Sorry

CLLR SCOTT: I had the questions on solar car ports and 88 houses awaiting.

JOE: That's a national issue, we've been at that for a while, I can't give you a straight answer, it is a particular area because of where we are on the map and fixed because there's particular pointing on the red brick, it is insulation, a technical solution we still don't have it, we keep bringing that one up. The solar car park, we'll look at that, there was a small issue with that one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Breege in on that one.

BREEGE: Yeah, just talking with the team who have been involved with solar car parking the intention is to put in additional charge points, both to encourage staff and also members of the public.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who did I call, Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, can you hear me there. OK thanks Cathaoirleach. I'll be as brief as I can. But it is just on the manager inner related road in Blessington, I'd asked that and even at this stage we should look again at this project the inner relief road really is part of the town. And there's huge concern here in Blessington as regards whether it is going to work or not going to work, at the moment on the southern end of Blessington, there are a lot of inner relief road would go to six estates, housing estates, and over the last year, 18 months, there has been provision granted for housing estates on the eastern side of the town, and on the northern side.

So, it would mean really the inner relief road, will be housing estates from the start to the end of that, I would ask maybe, that the manager might have a look again, and with local councillors here to have a look again and maybe the bypass, the bypass is it is frozen land by our friends in the TII and it would absolutely, take the traffic from north of the town to south of the town, in a safe manner. At the moment, the relief road, and I've said this a long time ago, it is actually going through, going through built up areas, and I think it should be looked at again. And could I also make a plea there, I know the councillors in this area, would agree with me, that, we should be consulted, and I mean, I put my name forward at election

time with my views at the time and took a vote and I think my view should be taken on board and I'd like to see maybe a consultation process with elected representatives of the area. Blessington is a growing area. As I say, there's 200,000 houses that have permission on this relief and another 300 is the pipeline, our view should be listened to and give the same time as lobbying groups, there's a lot of lobbying groups and they have projects here costing a lot of money. I might add. They're in CEO's reported where he mentions the rededication of the square, and in the town, in preparation for the huge amount of people who will be coming in for the Greenway. This is all part of it. But, if we look at a square in Blessington and money that's spent there even, it is great to get it tidied up, but I would be totally against spending 100,000 of our money on rededication or the floodlighting of a Monday European parliament there, to a landlord who caused nothing but hardship from the time he put his foot in the area.

Rather than 17,000 acres and running the poor people sometimes out of it. I think our money should be wisely spent and I'd make a plea that the CEO and maybe planners from Wicklow will come out here and have a look at what I'm talking about.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Gerry, thank you we got the point. Cllr Pat Fitzgerald

CLLR FITZGERALD: Just in the Chief Executive's Report I see a couple of things on the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway, can we have something more comprehensive on that, because there's a huge interest in it. And a lot of people are asking questions. I can't give them the answers and I don't think other councillors could either. So,

something more comprehensive something. I'll leave it at that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Last three, Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: ...

CLLR O'NEILL: Cathaoirleach, you cut me off.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We're stuck for time.

CLLR O'NEILL: I want to register my appeal this there would be consideration given maybe a meeting here with elected reps and have a look at the inner relief road versus the bypass, we got little time, from councillors here in west Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll ask Colm to give us a briefing on that. Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Yeah, my question, is in relation to three questions I've been asked recently, or the same question by three different people and I'm relating it to page 49 here.

It says review of all the recycling centres in line with the national review document is under way to assess how the civic amenity are operating with respect to both the service provided and VFM which is value for money.

Yeah, I've been approached three times in the last couple of weeks, about the possibility of charges being introduced although all the recycling centres in the county. Sap I have to say it is very disappointing. In view of the fact that we've been trying for the last ten years to get people in the mindset of requeue, reuse, recycle. I can see this going only one way which is that people will no longer bother. They'll start to, we'll see more illegal dumping, we'll see more revenues going in the black bin, going straight to landfill, it's a very short-term measure. But there's other elements of it as well

that are really important and that's that, within the recycling centre, here in Wicklow and I'm sure the other ones as well, there are other facilities which are free, such as bottle banks, clothing banks and electrical goods which we pay the WEE charge which means they are all free, and if people still want to access these services, how is that going to happen? Is this already a done deal?

And is this just, for cosmetic reasons, just saying it is under way because it appears that people are very much under the impression that it is going to happen, so, I just think that, I would hate to see the public becoming the sacrificial lambs in short payments of planning fees and parking charges, I think that it is going to be the thin end of the wedge, it will be a small fee today, it will grow and grow and might even see eventually the whole service being privatised so I want to know what the Chief Executive wants to say about that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you Cathaoirleach, I'd like to thank the Chief Executive for his report, and I'll be brief because I know the meeting is running on. First, I'd just like to acknowledge the commitment of our district manager Breege and Pat Byrne for moving the relief road in Blessington along. I of course would love like Cllr Gerry O'Neill love the new N181 alleviate a lot of problems in Blessington and look forward to that happening sooner rather than later, but I have no doubt that our district manager along with Pat Byrne will address the safety concerns in the developing of N81, I would like to see a new N81 and that wouldn't be as big an issue. I will move on from that, it is two years ago since we have a lady from TFI speaking about the bus stop at Hollywood and failing to stop. Now Cllr Edward Timmins

asked a question about it, and it wasn't addressed by the Chief Executive I take it that was omission rather than deliberate by any means. First of all, the report we've got now, and it is cost 10,000 to get it produced, we'd like to see it moving on, and I spoke to Colm last week on it, and the Chief Executive this morning on it, and we would really like to see that moving on, it's a full support of the Municipal District, to get behind that, you all heard you're in the chamber, where buses do not stop depending on the mood of the driver because it is not an official stop they say, so we want to move that on. Second item is brief answer to a question - is there, a request for additional funding for the bridge in Baltinglass, that has been lodged with the department as of yet?

Just, yes, or no to that please. And the third, item I just want to a keeping it brief, at our Municipal District that came up last week and caused a bit of consternation in so far as of the 13th of December, there's no bank in Blessington to cash a cheque or to have make a lodgement to a bank, Ulster Bank are threatening to pull out of Ireland all together and AIB are closing all cash services in Blessington, it is item of great concern to the people, as Municipal District we're writing to the bank to defer their decision on closing the cash service in the bank the AIB bank in Blessington, pepping further news on Ulster Bank I hope the full council would support that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Mags Crean followed by Cllr John Snell, and I'd please ask you both to be brief.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is an observation I want to make first and foremost Cathaoirleach. For the Chief Executive and

head of finance, and Wicklow County Council, to please take on board in regard to the report that we have is excellent, and there's lots of projects there going forward particularly in regard to roads, new roads, and road networks, but we must be mindful we have existing roads. We have roads which in my opinion unfortunately are unsafe. County Wicklow sports and recreation partnership last month held a biweekly meeting where they're encouraging people to learn to cycle, get us to use the cycling lane in their own area and unfortunately most of these, probably 98% of you will be going through Rathnew village, you will see the cycle lanes in the areas, the marks are virtually gone off the road, I'm asking the Chief Executive to contact all Municipal Districts to ensure the road markings are adequate, as we enter into the unfortunately into the dark evenings.

And the winter months. And it is just a point I wanted to make to the Chief Executive. Secondly, the Irish council for social housing, there was good news - and I'm always amazed in regard to the Chief Executive's Report, and I understand perfectly because I'm a public representative like the rest of you, that we have to pick up and argue the points that is not being championed here. But there was good news, and I would like the Chief Executive if he could outline the project in Carrig Eden and success at national level, that was a project in collaboration between Wicklow County Council, and Tiglin and if he had a few minutes to say about the success of the project. And I want to pass on condolences to Grainne Byrne's family and who was a member of staff and most men who are here a while would see Grainne, her work started when everyone else's finished,

she maintained the chambers for many years, and I want to pass on my condolences.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. OK, well quickly get responses to those questions first of all. Chief Executive might get you to address the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway and recycling centres.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Document's been finalised in relation to CPOs in relation to the detailed design et cetera to go through the board. Now, it is very much advanced, and Cllr Pat Fitzgerald requested a report for next month we can do that, the intention is that lodged by the end of the year to An Bord Pleanála, but we'll give update or presentation on that next month. Yeah?

Relation to Tiglin, there's credit due to the housing section, and figure Dublin in relation to that facility in Carrig Eden, even to acquire the building, I know there's a lot of work to do and link up, because the benefit is that it is for people who are coming out of addiction facilities, if they go to the facility the chances of relapsing is 21% if they're going back to communities the difference is 75%. They stay there for a year and that makes a huge impact. There's 35 people there, there's a turnover there, you heard what the President said when he came down, he praises, and said there should be one in every local authority. There was a phrase, people's whose lives was disrupted by addiction, it is a good story and I think it is right, we got the national award from the until award for housing association, and well done to get that credit. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to recycling centres.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Full review, they all need significant investment, so we'll, there's no decisions made one way or another, complete

the review and come back to the members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Finally, Colm, the Blessington Relief Road and Hollywood situation with the bus stop.

COLM: Yeah, just on the Hollywood, the reason that we asked for the report to be commissioned is we can make the case to TII to make a permanent puts stop, we have the report now and women be working with TII to progress that, obviously there may be a need for land to be taken, because it is obviously a safety issue that TII had with it, so, now that we have the report, we will be progressing that with TII and speaking with the relevant landowners once we get approval to go ahead with that. Blessington relief road we have consultants working on the design, there are a number of housing development on the route and that's the reason that this is the opportune time to bring that forward, the inner relief road is needed whether a bypass is to be provided or not. We have Kildare County council on board, we produced, we have a section 85 agreement which the council signed off on between the two local authorities, and the commitment from Kildare to jointly fund the project along with us, so, at this stage, the inner relief road is progressing. And my team here, in particular Margaret Hartnett has done a huge amount of work on it, so to revisit at this stage would set us back but there's nothing in the future to preclude us to look at the full bypass of Blessington as well.

The other issue, I think, raised was the in Baltinglass bridge, we made application to the department for revision to the RRDF allocation for Baltinglass to include the bridge so thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Colm, just before, if any member feels they need any further response to their questions, obviously e-mail or talk to the directors of whatever section, because I know it is difficult maybe to get the full complete answer here, in a short period of time.

CLLR WALSH: I didn't get an answer from the bus inquiry scheme, in relation to overall times and time frame and public lights as well as we enter in the dark evenings, thank you.

COLM: I might take those as well, on the public lighting first of all we're at 2% of lights currently out, the national average is 3% so we're below that, but, you know, obviously as the evenings get darker, it becomes more apparent those lights that are out, so we see increase in this time of the year. We had it down very low by 1.5% of the total lights in the county were out and that increase today 2% but we're working with Airtricity that ensure lights are fixed as quickly as possible. Unfortunately as the issue that we had is still there, in that the old socs bulbs aren't available, when they go out we have to replace it with LED head which takes longer to replace, as I stated earlier if there are particular lights in your area, please notify us, and the e-mail address is PL, P for Paul, L for Larry, at Wicklow County Council dot IE and we'll notify Airtricity and you can sue the online system as well when you have the number of the particular lamp to get it fixed.

In relation to then the bus priority entrants scheme it is as the title suggests, it is priority, and it is an interim scheme to come ahead of the main N11 scheme, we're at stage two now, currently on that, where the consultants are looking at the options selection for the

actual route. We carried out a feasibility study at stage one which says it is feasibility to provide bus priority, and we're concentrating on the northern section of the route between Kilmac and the Loughlinstown roundabout, so we're going into stage two and three with consultants where we're looking at Preferred Option and carrying out the various environmental assessments. We're working to a programme where we would hope that we're going for a planning, whether that's Part 8 or something or something more detailed with the board. We're hoping to be in a position within the next 18 months to have gone to planning with that scheme so that it comes ahead of the main scheme which, which we're hoping that maybe included in the National Development Plan which is to be announced today. It indicated that it would be a decision for the development plan, which is to come after this one. So, yeah. The priority scheme is to happen in advance of that, and hopefully we will be at a stage by the end of next year, early in the following year, to have gone to planning on that Cllr Gerry Walsh thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Colm. Colm, there's a question about road markings in all Municipal Districts. I don't know whether that has come up with you before.

COLM: No, it hasn't but it is something that we'll bring up with the Municipal District engineers, if there are areas particularly bad if you bring it to the attention of your district engineer and we can discuss it at our regular municipal engineer district meetings and we have to do a central procurement or whatever to do, markings we can look

into doing that. But, as a first instance bring it to the attention to Municipal District engineer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I'm going to move on to I testimony eight, presentation by the Department of Environment climate and communications on a draft policy statement on mineral exploration and mining. We have Eoin Keegan on the line, can you

EON: I'm Eoin Keegan and head up the Geoscience Division, our division is responsible for the legislation and policy, governing a number of areas including minerals. As you may be aware the department published a draft policy statement on mineral exploration and mining in July last week and the deadline is Friday of next week. So, I'm going to take a few minutes of our time and we've overrun so I might go through it briefly but look at the four main sections of the draft policy statement a copy which is available on government dot IE so next slide please.

Thank you. So, the first section of the policy statement looks at minerals and asks a few questions, what are they, they're substance such as zinc and we just made clear that mining does not include the acquiring of stone, sand gravel or clay. Why do we need them? For everyday life, we use, minerals at absolutely everything we do, from agriculture to construction, transport, pharma, and going to become more important as we seek to transition to decarbonise energy and transport systems through solar and wind power as well as storing energy in the form of batteries? And although we absolutely need to design our products better so they use less material, last longer or more easily repair, reuse and recycled the Ireland and EU will still need minerals to meet net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and we

play a part in that. Where do we get them?

We're reliant as in Ireland and the EU on importing the majority of our minerals. And that's something I will touch on later. And the document also notes that, minerals are geo-fixed it is not possible to cherry pick or alternative site to develop them. So, the sect chapter of the document, really seeks to set out how the policy will dovetail with number other EU and national policies and programmes, maybe it is none straightening the how the mineral exploration can play its part in progressing key initiatives including decarbonising in transport sectors and providing the opportunity for sustainability development in rural areas. So, the third section of the policy statement, concerns the regulatory framework that applies to mineral exploration and mining and deliberately made the distinction between exploration which is a low impact activity, generally unobtrusive and mining and it is different in terms of activity and impact. So, in doing so requires planning permission, integrated pollution control and license from EPA and lease for the minister of climate and through the geoscience office which is a sister office of ours. So, this chapter sets out draft ...

Basically, given scientific knowledge that we have at the moment, proposed exploration and mining does not take place offshore or seabed until we have adequate information to measure the impact of that activity.

Thank you. So now in section four or chapter four into the policy itself and this section also minerals are and continue to be essential element to daily lives, a settle continues to need minerals it is critical they're extract in socially and environmentally responsible manner

enforced with strong legislation, on this slide we have two central planks of policy statement to assure robust regulatory framework that supports environmentally sustainable exploration and ...

So, going to go to the next slide please? So, the policies are underpinned by five key principles, robust regulation, that speaks for itself, we have a robust regulatory system already applying to the sector the policy seeks to maintain this and where it can improve it, increasing awareness and participation, is importance of minerals understanding how it is developed and getting more developed in the decision processes, three sustainable developments, improving current practice to increase sustainability. Building capacity and access to knowledge is about making sure we have the personnel, skills, education, knowledge, and data to realise a potential. And international co-operation is about promoting expertise and sustainability mining practices abroad and ensure that minerals, sourced for use in Ireland are sourced responsibly and confirm conflict-free areas. So now we're looking at five key priorities in the policy statement, building public understanding and trust, we have measures around increasing transparency and making information available online, enhancing the regular industry framework, we've begun the process of creating a clear separation between the policy making and regulatory functions in relation to minerals with the establishment geoscience policy division and geoscience regulatory office. Three research in the role of minerals in transition to net zero, better data enhancing policy and decision-making, really looking ways to further support computation and accessibility of mineral data a five, monitoring, sea reporting, report on the

implementation of the policy, at least every two years, and review of the policy statement should occur at least every three years.

So just before I finish, I'm hoping that people will take away key messages here one is that minerals matter, they're key how to live now and will be key how we transition to net zero as we develop more wind, sea, and battery energy, we need to continue circular economy to secure more minerals and lessen impact on environment. However, we will need to continue development minerals in order to meet demand and make the transition to meet carbon neutral by 2050, if we do not play a role in providing the minerals required and simply rely on imports we're increasing risk to securing the supply of minerals needed, that approach minerals being shipped from far away parts of the globe, is that sustainable and that approach says we may be prepared to accept minerals are lower environmental and human rights apply. We do not take that approach, but advocates minerals should be developed here in responsible manner under robust regulatory framework so message four is that sustainable mineral exploration and mining carried under robust framework can and does bring benefits, particularly in terms of the developing rural areas as is the case for example with the mine which is now a national bioeconomy campus and generate renewable energy, so benefits can continue long after the mine is closed. And five, we are asking people to make a submission, I suppose in terms of get ago copy of the draft policy, and how to make a submission I isn't details on to Teresa and Helen in Wicklow County Council and those details will be circulated.

So, I'd like to thank you for your attention and hand back to the

Cathaoirleach, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Eoin thank you for that, and Helen might share your presentation, and we'll maybe talk to you at a later stage, when it is more at an advanced time. But once again, thank you very much for your time and we really appreciate your presentation.

EWIN: Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We've seven minutes left I want to go to Cllr Joe Behan, in terms of his suspension of standing orders. Cllr Joe Behan when you're ready.

CLLR BEHAN: Yeah, I will be brief, maybe have the Chief Executive to clear up the confusion, is he aware there are plans to change the structure of the joint policing committees, how will it impact our role?

I'm obviously concerned if our role will be colluding and I'm sure Cllr Tom Fortune would agree.

CLLR FORTUNE: Quickly, I would concur with that, we need to get really definitive clarity on this, and not let it drag on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There's new guidelines and setting out the role of the policing committees and councillors are certainly very much part of it, they've given indicative compositions, and it's 45% councillors is

what they say is one of the appendixes, this is draft, 45 would be 14 councillors, we have fifteen on it at the moment. There's flexibility as well if we want that, so broadly the same number of councillors, the chair I think the recommendation is that the chair is a councillor. But it is all about, working with the police and the Garda in terms of policy and highlighting what the trends are in the county at a particular time and coming up with actions to have the trends and holding the Gardai to account and the council and whoever makes commitments. So that's it, I think if we circulate the guidelines, might be the best, Cathaoirleach but the representation of councillors remains broadly the same I can confirm that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thanks for the clarification it would have been nice if we would have been told about that. Maybe we were and I missed it. I don't know if there's a consultation process or not. But, you know, like when this thing started originally came the councils were the driving force in this. Am I right in thinking that, we're not going to be the driving force any more it will be the Policing Authority? Rather than ourselves, that's I suppose is one of the points I want to ask.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh did you want to come in there.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks Cathaoirleach, just on that, we had a presentation for the Policing Authority only on Thursday last and we were circulated with a copy of the draft guidelines as described there, later that day I had a staring committee meeting with the new Chief Superintendent and I suggested at that meeting these draft guidelines be circulated of the current membership of the joint

policing committee, so really the guidelines, there, and in relation to their relevance to the JPCs, and I mean, provide clarity, I think the guidelines, are an effort to provide clarity of the JPC, in conjunction to the communities acquired. So, look as I say, those guidelines will be circulated to the member-of the JPC and can I get an opportunity to discuss t

CATHAOIRLEACH: You're chair of the JPC, are you aware of any submission timeline in terms of the guidelines that are being sent out to us? Do we have, opportunities to put in submissions.

>>: Not at that, there's no time frame attached to it at the moment, but as I said we'll look for further clarification, once we circulate the guidelines and discuss it although our next JPC meeting which is first Monday in December. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

OK. Members ... Correspondence, Helen?

HELEN: No.

CATHAOIRLEACH: No. OK. It's gone too late for notice of motion, so thank you, I know we had a rocky start. But it went reasonably well, and I suppose, I'll take this opportunity it is my intention, to have people back to the chamber full membership back to the chamber as soon as possible, I think you see yourselves, how wonderful it is for everybody or certainly people here today to be back in person. And I think, it can only be enhanced by everybody being back in person, so I certainly would be very keen on hopefully in the November, meeting with the guidelines on the 22nd of October, to be concluded, I would very much hope the November meeting would be in person, and we'll see how it goes. But thank you everyone for

your attention anyway. Thank you.

The reason that didn't happen today was unfortunately Gemma was out sick, so we will certainly have that for the November meeting.

Finally, protocol directly after this meeting so anyone on protocol just remain, please. And remotely obviously as well. Thank you.