

ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM

ON

MONDAY 14TH JUNE 2021 FROM 14:00-18:00

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

Jen Sinnamon

Elaine McCarthy

TRANSCRIPT OF MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON MONDAY, JUNE
14TH 2021:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon, members, can you hear me?
Good afternoon, you are all very welcome, everyone that has joined the meeting, members of the press and public, management and before I go over to Helena for the etiquette of the meeting can I just first of all welcome Helen Purcell our new meetings administrator and congratulate her on her promotion. Over many years you would have remembered the late Gay Byrne saying, "Roll it there, Collette", but from now on I will be saying over to you. "Over to you, Helen."

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go through some of the issues on the etiquette. I would like all councillors and member of the public and media to have their mobile phones switched off. Please do not leave the online meeting without informing the Cathaoirleach to ensure a quorum remains. You may send a chat message to indicate that you wish to speak or raise your hand. Speakers should keep their camera and microphone on while speaking and members should inform myself or a designated staff member by telephone if you lose connection and in accordance with the provisions on connectivity with the standing orders regulating remote meetings. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Helen. So, Helen, maybe I would ask you to do a roll call.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Sylvester Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Shay Cullen.

CLLR CULLEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR P FITZGERALD: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Anseo.

ADMINISTRATOR: Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Miriam Murphy Cllr Murphy advised she would be 15 minutes late. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr R O'Connor.

CLLR R O'CONNOR: Anseo.

ADMINISTRATOR: Gerry O'Neill. You were there.

CLLR O'NEILL: I am.

ADMINISTRATOR: Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Here.

ADMINISTRATOR: Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Present.

ADMINISTRATOR: And Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Present.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We will go for votes of sympathy and before I do that, I can extend condolences to Gerry Walsh on the death of your sister. We want to extend the deepest sympathies to you and your family on the death of your sister:

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Pat appreciates that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Helen back to you.

ADMINISTRATOR: Quite a number of votes of sympathy today. First is to the passing of our former colleague Gay downs. Then Patrick Kavanagh's brother of our colleague John Kavanagh. Mary Doyle, sister of PJ Byrne. Willie Fox's father of our colleague John Fox. Michael O'Hanlon father of our colleague, Ruairi O' Hanlon. Peter Healy's father of our colleague Una Healy and Peter Keogh, brother of our colleague.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune, you have your hand up. Members, any other votes of sympathy you want to add to that list? Can I add one to that, Helena, my neighbour. I want to extend sympathies to his two sons, Seany, Matte and his daughter Marie. We will take a moment and remember them all.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: May eternal rest be granted on to them. May their souls rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number one on the agenda has been withdrawn, so I will go to number two. To consider the disposal of 0.0171 acres or thereabouts comprised in folio WW1686F in the townland of Bollarney North, Wicklow Town, Co Wicklow by way of deed of rectification to Lidl Ireland GMBH, as per notice previously circulated. Can I have a proposer and seconder for that, please?

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I will propose that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Paul O'Brien and seconded by John Snell. Agreed members? No dissent? Okay, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number three on the agenda is to consider the proposal of 0.0038 hectares in the townland of Ballinalea, County Wicklow, comprised of the lands acquired from Maurice & Ruth Motor Factors as part of the compulsory purchase order (Newtownmountkennedy/Ballynabrney Road Improvement Scheme) number 2, to the current landowner Andrew Lundberg. Can I have a proposer and seconder for that? Proposed by Shay Cullen and can I

have a seconded? Seconded by Cllr Irene Winters. Is that agreed? No dissent? No, okay.

Item number 4 is to consider the disposal of 0.0082 hectares in the townland of Barronstown Upper, Grangecon, comprised in folio WW4484 to Ms Anne Byrne, Barronstown, Co Wicklow, as previously circulated and proposed by Cllr Timmins and seconded by Avril Cronin. Is that agreed? Agreed, okay. Thank you. Item number 5. That has been withdrawn.

I will go to item number 6 which is to consider the property disposed in the folio. To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio No. WW2871L of Sheephouse, Arklow, Co Wicklow, being the property known as 79 St Peter's Road, Arklow, County Wicklow by transfer order to Mr Patrick Long, 79 St Peter's Place, Arklow, County Wicklow.

As per notice previously circulated, proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR BOURKE: I second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Bourke. Is that agreed members?

No dissent there, we are in agreement? Thank you. Number 7 is to consider the disposal of 0.017 acres, 0.0069 hectares in the town of Arklow, County Wicklow comprised in folio number 153F part of deed of rectification to Mr. John Murphy and Steven Fitzgerald as per notice previously circulated. I want to put on the record that Pat Fitzgerald has left the meeting for this part of the meeting for this disposal. So, Cllr Fitzgerald is gone. Do I have a proposal?

CLLR BOURKE: I would like to propose that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do I have a seconder.

CLLR ANNESLEY: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Cllr Annesley. Is that agreed, members? No dissent there, thank you. Maybe we could get Cllr Fitzgerald back before we move on to the next one?

ADMINISTRATOR: While we are doing that can I just clarify in relation to disposal number one, it's withdrawn as there is an error in in relation to the address and it will be put back on the agenda for the July meeting. In relation to disposal agenda item number five, we have been requested to withdraw this currently and it could be altered and put back on the agenda. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Helen. Cllr Fitzgerald you are back. Item number 8 on the agenda is to consider the disposal of 0.068 hectares in the townland of Bollarney North by way of a lease for 25 years with the option to extend the term of the lease for a further ten years to the National Broadband Ireland 3009 lake drive Dublin 24, as per notice previously circulated. Can I have a proposer for that? Cllr Dunne, your hand is up, are you proposing this? You are on mute.

CLLR DUNNE: Proposed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Dunne.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I will second that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Seconded by Paul O'Brien. Is that agreed? No dissent. Item number 9 is to consider the planning development act 2000 as amended in the landfill facility to back fill the existing quarry and demolition in Ballinclare. Frank, do you want to come in on this or will I go to.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will ask Edel to give the report.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will ask Edel to come in.

EDEL: If you don't mind, I am going to share your screen and hopefully bear with me for two seconds while I just share the right one, I hope. Can you see that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: No, it's not there yet. Just bear with me two seconds and I shall... has that worked? It's coming up. Yeah, that is it.

EDEL: Thank you very much, I just wanted to show you just a few of the drawings. You are aware the Chief Executive's report which issued to you with the agenda. This is a strategic infrastructure application which will be decided by An Bord Pleanála and went directly to the board. The application was made on the 20th of April, and it has, there is a seven-week period to make any submissions to the board and the last date for making submissions is on the 15th of June, which is tomorrow, now this application, as you can see, the location details relates to an existing quarry or a quarry which was operating probably up to around 2014 in Ballinclare, it has a pre-63, it's been operating since before 63. It has a number of permissions on it.

Most recently in 2014 it was granted permission for a further 25 years of quarrying operations. Due to the discovery of some natural occurring asbestos the quarrying operations had stopped, and the owners are now coming in for an inert landfill operation on the site. As for the Chief Executive report that issued, the inert landfill consists of filling in a void in the quarry, the void in the quarry is the existing void in the quarry exists, I will just show you to the northern, if you see the light blue outline, you can see that is the area in which they are going to infill with inert material, soil and stone. That will be an overall infilling operation of six million tonnes of material. They are also going to operate within a new structure, so a small amount of C and D waste recovery and they will do some crushing of that there which will then be either sold off or will be, go to appropriate facilities.

So, this is, the area that is going to be infilled of the quarrying is with inert material, soil and stone and that is proposed to rehabilitate the quarry back to grassland and they are going to keep some wetland as well in in the long-term. So, the operations are going to operate at about, they plan to bring in about 800,000 tonnes of materials a year and I will just share another... the actual materials, the actual operations, the movement of haulage trucks will be down the LL57, and it will connect to the regional road and then it will go up to the Coyne's Cross, sorry, the Beehive Interchange where it will go on to the M11. It will go the same route down and then on the regional route down to the Brittas Bay interchange where it will go south for materials. That will be the route for all haulage for the actual development.

Currently some water has filled into the quarry void, it's quite a deep void. That will have to be dewatered prior to the commencement of the works on site. The dewatering will be done through, there will be a treatment plant. It will first go into the treatment plant, then it will go into lagoons before discharges into the Ballinclare Stream and the Potters River. There will be ongoing discharges throughout the operations. The quarry has applied for a 20-year permission for the facility, but they are estimating, based on, if they achieve the 800,000 tonnes a year then it would be, it would all be filled in in about eight to nine years, but they are estimating there could be slower period as well as quicker periods, so that is why they are looking for the 20-year time period.

So, the Chief Executive's report has gone through the various elements and given the current regional waste plans and given our own county development plan and given the existing history of the site and previous quarrying operations, it was considered that it would be appropriate and

would meet these higher level plans and there is a number of stated conditions which we have set out for the board to consider in relation to any, if they consider they want to grant it. You should note that the application will be subject of an EPA waste licence, so they will have to go to the EPA directly as well in relation to the operations. So that is an outline of the application. Now this, the Chief Executive's report has been brought to you because the provisions in the Act require us to present the Chief Executive's report and if there are any resolutions passed by the councillors, such resolutions will go with this Chief Executive Report to An Bord Pleanála. Also, the minutes of this element of the meeting will also go with the report to the board. So that is the application and the details, and I will leave it open now for any further comments.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thanks, Edel. Members, I know some of you have spoken to me over the weekend. I have lost... are we back?

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: I can hear you, Pat.

CLLR WINTERS: Edel has to stop sharing her screen.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sylvester Bourke are you looking to come in there?

CLLR BOURKE: Thank you, yes. Cathaoirleach, I really believe we have a problem here. I just want to fill you in on land use in in the area. About 25 years ago we had the proposal for Ballinagrath, which became a very emotive subject, and which turned out to be a well-run landfill, but sadly a shameful use of land in my opinion and in many people's opinion. It did provide a small bit of employment and a local community fund which has benefitted some local groups in in the area. So, with that in mind, I just feel that this proposal here is a massive over intensification of use for this area. There is a lot of positives in this area at the moment which will be destroyed I think if this goes ahead in its current shape. Some of the proposals that Edel has outlined there really

are scary because she is talking about the traffic movement coming into this, in by The Tap there, the L157 in and out and the amount of truck movements she is talking about letting in there, they work out at a truck every two minutes coming and going, which is unbelievable intensification of a road that isn't really fit for purpose. The road proposed in the manager's report would have to be widened there in many places and passing base put in on about 25% of the route. It's just a non-runner. None of the landowners here have been consulted about this proposed land take, which I would question is this a legal report that the manager has put together. Not one of them have had any consultation or negotiation with the proposer of this.

This is also a very well-used route by pedestrians especially since COVID and it's a beautiful tree-lined avenue up to it, which will mean that with trucks coming at such frequency they will end up pushing people off the road and it will become a no-go area for pedestrians and it's close to Kilmacurragh, the beautiful arboretum, it will seriously, detract from the enjoyment of this area for pedestrians and for motorists. I believe with the intensity of trucks coming and going it will be a no-go area.

Cathaoirleach, I would like to make, after you have done the rounds of asking people for their opinions, I have a couple of proposals to make which I feel should be taken on board by the manager and the members. I believe that the tonnage should be halved here from 800,000 tonnes back to 400,000 tonnes and the truck movements reduced in accordance with that. Also halved on a Saturday. I notice that the manager is happy enough for ten Saturdays, I am proposing that the truck numbers be halved as well and half the number of Saturdays. I will

also propose that only access and egress is by the traditional route. The traditional route was for the quarry when it was in operation as the L113 in by the Beehive and out by the L157 which is The Tap. That should be a stipulation. I contrast the treatment this company is getting with smaller local operators in the area. One I have been taking consultations who can't even get a planning permit [INAUDIBLE DUE TO TALKING OVER] which was granted planning for two years ago. So, I don't know why we are bending over backwards to facilitate corporate when we are making it very difficult for smaller operators to continue in business. So, Cathaoirleach, I am sure there is plenty more contributors waiting to get in but that is my feeling and that will be my proposal at the end of this meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will come back to you. Pat Fitzgerald, are you looking to come in?

CLLR FITZGERALD: Yes. Cllr Bourke has probably mentioned most of what I was going to say. I notice the comment by the An Bord Pleanála inspector, that it would be one of the largest restoration sites to be developed for this purpose in the region and the State. I feel this is an imposition on the people of the area to be quite honest about it. 300, is it 150 trucks multiplied by two lanes. It will be very hard to control firstly, but I sincerely agree with Cllr Bourke, if it is agreed the figures should be reduced substantially because it is, the area is not, I mean the area is not suitable for it either.

The other matter, I would have thought this went in on April 21st to the board, or whatever, I would have thought that the Municipal District councillors would have got some notice of what was happening here. I am talking about the Arklow Municipal District and other Municipal Districts. We knew nothing about this until earlier in the week. Now

maybe some councillors did, I personally didn't, and I have asked the other councillors in in the Arklow Municipal District, so we knew nothing until we got emails, phone calls and whatever. I think that is bad practice, we should have been privy to some of it, of what was going on there. It is, I would just, I am just astounded by the fact that we were told by people in the area that we knew about it. I agree with what Cllr Bourke has stated there and I think there will have to be changes to this. It is a huge issue. The roads, whatever else, the amount of trucks. I was in the haulage business, not as a haulier, but IFI. I know the haulage business quite well. 300 vehicles is a vehicle every two minutes. You are talking on Saturdays here there will be someone at the gate counting. I have often seen people at the gate counting but they have difficulties counting to be honest about it. I think it has to be, there has to be some changes to what is proposed here.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Look it, unfortunately what is out there is a huge, it's an eyesore on the landscape and the reality is that this proposal obviously An Bord Pleanála will have the final say, but, you know, I feel that Cllr Bourke has mentioned that the road network to this site, he would be supporting that would be the L113 and I certainly couldn't agree with that, because I think the 1157, which is the old route which is a less used route now by The Tap and the R712 is a quieter route now. In reality it's a quieter. No matter route you are going to get opposition. But I wouldn't be supporting the use of the L1113 because that is the main route to Kilmacurragh. That was never the route that the old quarry used to use anyway. He is correct in what he says with regard to the road network along the preferred route, that Edel mentioned, because I do believe that the road will have to have significant upgrade works. It is going to be a burden on residential properties, irrespective of

what route was taken, but we all have to be mindful that we won't be the final arbitrators on this, An Bord Pleanála will. I do share concerns that we were only made aware of this very late the day. I don't think that is acceptable. Obviously, the Chief Executive will put in his report what is mentioned here today. Something, the environmental impact obviously will be of huge concern, not just to the elected members and the officials of Wicklow County Council, but an awful lot of people in in the country, this is a huge proposal. I think it would be welcome if you could bring back the land into some use, because currently land sitting there that is exposed, that has been found to have asbestos in it, isn't ideal in our community at all. So, I do think that all the members should have their say, but I do think that we are ill-informed at this stage and certainly there will be difference of opinion in regards to the route and that is why, already we only have had three or four speakers and my opinion on the route to this quarry is different to previous speakers. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Snell. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and just briefly because I want to build on what has been said by the previous three speakers. First and foremost, as Cllr Fitzgerald said, I as a councillor at the other end of the county would expect that the relevant MD would have the real conversations about this because it's relevant to them. I am really struck by the fact that, as Cllr Bourke said, local stakeholder haven't been involved in a conversation. It stands out to me when people have to put a huge amount of time and resources together to trying to articulate their view to us as councillors in lieu of today's meeting. That is just not a process we can stand over as a local authority. So, I really don't have a comfort zone for pushing this through today, I just feel that there is, when we talk about the routes and the bays, and I can just picture these

trucks ticking over waiting to get into the site and the carbon footprint. There is just too many variables in there that aren't resolved for me, Cathaoirleach. I wouldn't be able to support this today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien. Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: Yeah, I just want to concur with most of what Cllr Bourke has already spoken about. To my mind the biggest issue here is the road network with the amount of truck movements. We are talking about a truck every two minutes on the L1157. The proposal talks about, having a six-metre road, six-metre wide road suitable for the lorries. That is not achievable for most of the L1157. There is a vast amount of mature trees and hedgerow that would have to be taken out, down close to The Tap pub, I don't think it's even possible to achieve six metres. So, what the landowner is proposing, or the developer is proposing is to put in eleven pull-in bays, which would basically incorporate the amount of movements on that particular road for the lorries. Now I don't think that is acceptable, putting 11 pull-in bays outside people's houses and outside farmer's land, gates into fields. I mean it's just; I am not sure the whole thing has been thought through. I personally think the only way out of this is that we have a one-way system, similar to what was done in previous years with the quarry owners that basically owned the quarry. I am not sure it was a condition of planning permission, but I do know that the managers of the quarry at that particular time had maybe an unwritten rule that it was a one-way system, to minimise the impact on residents on all roads in and around the quarry. So, I think it's something we are going to have to seriously look at. I think there is far too much impact on one small stretch of road, and I think that is, that has to be dealt with. In terms of the water and I know Edel mentioned it briefly, but I am concerned with the amount of water that is currently in in the quarry and the disposal, we will call it, of that particular water, considering that

there is volumes of asbestos in the rock. What is the impact on the environment in the area and Potters River then on to Brittas Bay.

I am not sure that has been dealt with adequately and that certainly needs to be raised again. My final point, chair, is that I think we should insist on a community scheme for the area. We are talking about over six million tonnes of product. I think X amount of euro per tonne should be set aside for a community scheme for the general area, because I think we don't realise the impact that this is going to have on the whole area and this straddles two Municipal Districts, the Wicklow Municipal District and the Arklow Municipal District, it's right on the verge of both. I do believe, probably similar to Ballinagragh, some community scheme should be put into place to make sure that the community are taken into consideration on this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I just wanted to concur with what is being said there, especially some parts of Cllr Bourke's statement. I have been dealing and my fellow Arklow Municipal District councillors have been dealing with the less rents and trying to help them on the L113 road who have really negatively been impacted by the existing quarries that are there. These are small country roads with communities surrounding them. People who are living, trying to live their lives with their families and friends, these are real people. To bring a project of this scale and with a 20-year period to have this amount of quarry trucks, two a minute, like that is just what they are saying. There will be lots more trucks, not just the trucks stated in the report, because there is also going to be trucks coming and going from private individuals collecting landfill and like the other quarries that are there already. I think this has been rail-roaded way too fast. There has been no public engagement with the

communities that are there. No engagement with the councillors from the Municipal. I have over 100 emails from the few residents on the L113 road. They are impacted by the traffic; the road verges have been completely wiped out. That was one of my directions into the development plan was because of these residents out there. The infrastructure is just not there to take a project of this size. I think it's been condensed into a smaller amount of time for profit for the developer and I think we need to look at, I have no problem with doing things, sustainably and landfilling in a way that is sustainable and over a longer period of time, that is not going to impact these people on a day-to-day basis. These people won't even be able to sell their houses to escape the area when this happens and if it's functional. I just, I wouldn't be in favour of it, and I couldn't support this today at all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I just want to say that I agree with nearly everything that has been said so far in relation to the traffic and all the rest of it. Just on the environmental side, when you read through the proposal, they are talking about having one site manager and three staff members. It will not be possible, given annual leave and time off and all the rest of it for the trucks that are actually going into the facility to actually be supervised in any sort of meaningful way and a truck every four minutes they will literally be lifting the tarpaulin off and directing them where to dump. There is only a one metre permeable clay lining to be put down and the same to cap it at the end. I think the potential for hazardous waste to enter the dump and to pollute the Potters River right down to Brittas Bay is huge. I think that the model, the business model they put forward is unsustainable to actually provide any sort of realistic supervision of the potential for waste and everything. I agree with everything else which has been said about the

traffic. To take up 450 metres, 11 bays of 45 metres each out of one side of the road so that trucks can basically play almost like leapfrog to try and get past one another to get into the facility is absolutely crazy. I don't think it should be going ahead. Maybe in a small sustainable way, but not in what is proposed, and I would urge that our submission to An Bord Pleanála, that the councillors should be making a submission asking for this to be sent back and looked at again. It's not right for the area and it's not right from the climate point of view either. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Most of what has been said is, the reason I am making the comment is I have a two-page correspondence here plus I have others, but this one in particular highlights everything that Cllr Bourke and the other councillors have said. They have all the concerns, so I am not going to repeat all of that. So, what is in this email I got has been raised by the other councillors. A couple of comments I would make is, I am just curious why this is before us today, on the basis that it would appear it hasn't been fully put to the district councillors and there are two districts involved, as some of the contributors have said. I think that is a serious question, why is that the case? Is it my information is, from people who have contacted me, is that people who live there and landowners up there, are really up in arms because they haven't been spoken to, they haven't been contacted or consulted with at all. I mean, come on, what the hell are we at? Why do we think it's okay to do something like this and not engage with people on the ground? Destroy people's environment, destroy potentially, people's homes or places where they have lived for decades. I mean this really and truly, folks and I am talking to the councillors on this, this is a wake-call for this. You have not been consulted on this and I think that is a fundamental problem and needs to be explained by and it

needs to be challenged. We, as a group of councillors, we need so say that this is not acceptable. But, from the conversations I have had with the residents and the other councillors have articulated it very well, that is what the resident on the ground are saying, exactly what the members have said to date. I think this is a disgrace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr fortune. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I concur with everything which has been said. I totally reject this proposal. As the councillor that lives closest to this proposal and passes the junction every day, it's not safe and it's not taking into consideration the people from Gleanealy who have to traffic down there and into Arklow. It's not taking into consideration a local school which is less than ten minutes away and who are encouraging their pupils to walk to school. Take it from someone who knows, this is not in wide circulation which, as Cllr Fortune said is disgraceful. The first I heard of was when I got the Chief Executive's report. This is a community out here who haven't had any running water since February and now we are going to force this on them. So, I think Cllr Fortune is 100% right, we have to stand up for the people who put us here and I would be totally opposed to this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

>>: I don't have my hand raised.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry. Derek Mitchell.

>>:

CLLR MITCHELL: I agree that that is a staggering amount of trucks on a small country road, I think it should be halved at least. Also, the idea of all of these passing bays, as Cllr Winters describe it, leap-frog. It couldn't be practical. I don't know if people live along there. I don't know that particular road from the. Beehive, but it sounds awful and there should be a community benefit scheme. I don't understand how it should be

brought to the Municipal District before it was lodged in April. Something should have been done about what was happening. Only one day is not enough.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, chair. The timing of this is appalling. I mean the appeal to An Bord Pleanála is tomorrow. That is really hard to fathom. I know the meeting just happens to be today, but the appeal with one date for people to appeal this, it's just appalling. Like everyone else I agree with everything else that has been said. It's too noisy and dirty, it's going to go on for far too long. The road is destroyed, I know it's being done up, but it has been destroyed by the large quarry trucks. It's probably the worst road in the country. People's houses are going to be devalued. How could you even live there in peace with the noise that is going to be going by? People won't be able to sit in their gardens. I think it's appalling. I think it should be somewhere else, somewhere remote, not near anywhere and houses. I know the people who are complaining about the L113, I happen to work with someone who lives out there. She says it's a nightmare and I think this has to be really looked at again. It has to be withdrawn and looked at again and there has to be consultation with the people who live in the area.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Kavanagh. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I notice that Cllr Miriam Murphy had indicated in the chat she wanted to speak. If she is the local councillor, I don't mind waiting for her.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I hadn't seen her hand up, I will come back to her.

CLLR BEHAN: We have already heard what local councillors have said about this, I would fully agree with them. I went down there yesterday to have a look myself and to meet some of the local people. To say that I

am shocked and horrified would be an understatement. But I want to rewind a couple of steps here if you don't mind.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Take your time.

CLLR BEHAN: First of all, the Chief Executive must have known about this application for some time. Reports have been prepared by members of Wicklow County Council staff; I would say going back over the last couple of months. We sat through a development plan process a month ago where we talked about strategic objectives in our county and one of the biggest, most major developments was on his desk and he never thought it appropriate to give us a signal that this was coming down the tracks and this is something we should be aware of, and we should be able to have some notice of so we could consider it.

If I was a member of a Municipal District where this is based, I would be really angry about the way that your local councillors in that area have been treated by this Chief Executive and his staff. Because we are given 24 hours to make our views known on this development. From the point of view of the people we represent and the local people who live throughout this county, when they go looking for planning permission for a house for their son or their daughter, in my experience, nine times out of ten when a refusal is made, it's because the roads infrastructure was inadequate, that it couldn't be done, and yet, what this Council Executive is now proposing is 300HGV truck movements per day, five-and-a-half days per week for up to 18 years if not longer.

And what the Council have done basically is they have indicated that if you are a big business and you roll in here from some other county, think will backflip and facilitate to summer salt you. But if you are a local person who wants to build a house, they will put you through the ringers.

On a point of principle, we, as councillors have to stand up to this treatment of the people we represent. Now, when it comes to this particular issue that we have and we only have now 24 hours to deal with it, courtesy of the lack of consideration by the Chief Executive of our rights and our position. There are two distinct aspects to this process. The Chief Executive is going to send in a report to the officials in An Bord Pleanála and what he is going to say is basically we are okay with this. We will throw in a few conditions, but basically, we, as officials of the council are happy with this. I would suspect that there has already been tic-tacking between An Bord Pleanála and Wicklow County Council and the proposer of this development well ahead of this meeting. So, I would guess there is already some level of understanding between the staff in the An Bord Pleanála and the developer and the council about what is being proposed here and a tick tacking of what would run and what wouldn't run. So that is the official.

Then, we as councillors are given the privilege in inverted commas to say what we think. How many of us believe that An Bord Pleanála are going to take us seriously? We certainly should be doing it and we have a responsibility to deal with the issues that have been raised. Before we do that, local people who have done a lot of work on this because they are badly affected by it have indicated that even in the Chief Executive's report, there are omissions and inconsistencies. I want to challenge the Chief Executive now to answer a few points on this and to deal with a few points they have raised with us and with me. For example, Chief Executive, are you cherry-picking the County Development Plan, when you mention in your report on page 12 that basically objectives of the Council, such as WE3 to facilitate the development of existing a new waste recovery facilities, that is a positive thing, therefore that is reason

for granting it and to facilitate services of the regional waste management plan. You are quoting this in your report as saying these are reasons for giving it, but in fact, why did you not mention in our development plan, objective W17 in the case of brown water in in all cases, the protection of ground and surface water quality shall remain the overriding priority and proposals must definitively demonstrate that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on water quality standards?

This is even better, and anyone who supports local people looking for planning will certainly know this one. Rural local roads shall be protected from inappropriate development and road capacity shall be reserved for necessary rural development. So, Chief Executive, how come those particular aspects of the development plan were not quoted in your report? How come they weren't dealt with. Because what we have here is the council turning themselves on side out looking to construct 12 lay byes on a small local road to consider this development.

Now, there are other aspects, Chairman, I could go on all day, there are aspects about how the noise is going to be monitoring and measures. There is certainly a feeling in local people that the noise monitoring and what figures were given for noise are not actually fully accurate. That is something I am sure An Bord Pleanála will have to deal with. The last point I would make, Cathaoirleach and I will finish on this, because this is an emotive area for most in this area. What this proposal is doing is sending a huge number of HGV trucks back on to the bends, the road that we campaigned for over 20 years to have bypassed with a safe road. What is always, what was always our view and in the view of the council an unsafe road, we are sending a huge number of HGVs back

alongside the road this time. Leaving aside the dangers we are going on to a national road that we said was inadequate and unfit for purpose.

How could any Chief Executive of a local authority stand over a report like this and hand it to us and say, this what we are requesting to sign, you can say what you like, but I have made my mind up. It's not acceptable, chairman, and I think we should be seeking apart from putting in our own report, we should be asking the Chief Executive to change his report here and now today to ensure that An Bord Pleanála get the full information, not partial information with what we have been presented with today.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Behan. I have three more speakers looking to come in and then I will bring in the Chief Executive. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you, Chair. Sorry I was late earlier. Everything that has been said has been said already and the one thing that I think we all are in agreement is that both of the districts which are concerned in in regard to this, wasn't told. It was the best-kept secret I have seen in in Council for a long time, until the emails started coming during the week and phone calls and they think that there is so much money going into climate change over the next few years, there was a pilot project there for decarbonisation and we want to put 100 and something lorries on a rural road. The thing I am hurt as it has shown us as one of the other previous councillors said, what the County Council thinks of 32 councillors sitting here. We are all very capable people; we are all elected by the public and management obviously doesn't see that we can even have a comment in such a big regard to this. That is the upsetting part, thank you.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just to I say I concur with the other speakers. The timing is totally unacceptable. When you look at the tonnage and the material per annum and the number of road trips per day, 300 round trips and the road network involved, totally inadequate along with the idea for the 11 pull-in bays along a small route like that that is being proposed is ludicrous. The impact on local residents and environmental impacts, schools, everything else, it's all been pointed out so really, we should be sending a strong message to An Bord Pleanála that we are not in favour of this. There is a 20-year period sought, so we have time, we can go back to the drawing board and come up with a more suitable proposal. This in its present form is not suitable. We have to take that, as well as the tourism, close proximity to Brittas Bay, so I agree with what was said by previous speakers. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I just raised my hand and took it back down, because the points were made. I mean they are two simple points. One is we are getting this on the last day, could we not have gotten it sooner? The second point is we had discussions here three or four years ago about maximising, derogating the maximum amount of items through the Municipal District, could this not have been done through the Municipal District initially and if it couldn't under current standing orders could we amend the standing orders to allow future events where items like this that go to the Municipal District before it comes to the main councillor.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: I have to say I was very surprised last Wednesday and Thursday when we got the agenda and the Chief Executive's report was in it. I knew nothing about it, coming from a district that borders on to the quarry, I found it very surprising, never mind the Arklow councillors not knowing about it, the Wicklow councillors knew nothing about it. When

planning permissions go to An Bord Pleanála and they are big planning permissions, normally the planning section come in and give us a report on it. They let us know about what is going on and that never happened. To find basically tomorrow is the last day for submissions, like, to only be discussing this now is terrible, I think. We weren't given the time that we needed. I have a question as well for the Chief Executive. I know Cllr Behan asked a lot of questions, but I have one question. If this is granted and the amount of tonnage that goes in into the quarry, what gain, financial gain is there to Wicklow County Council? So, will the Council be paid any money at all per tonnage to go in? I know that in other areas they can be, so I just want to know is there any financial gain to the Council if this is granted? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Dunne. Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Thank you, a lot of what I wanted to say has been said and I wanted to wait until the end. I have a very sour taste in my mouth, Cathaoirleach and I think everyone has explained why. I can't even get a meeting for a small developer, pre-planning 60,000 tonnes and yet the senior management is jumping through hoops here now to push this development through. I am sure the management have their own reasons for this, and I would like to hear their explanations, but I have used the back roads quite a lot recently because I have two kids learning to drive and it's the ideal road to put L drivers on. Now, if you meet a tractor on that road to the quarry, you are in trouble, never mind meeting 300 lorries every day. Now I know I am blowing that out of proportion, it's one lorry every four or five minutes, still in all if you meet them coming hard and believe me these lads driving the lorries are under pressure, they are being paid by the tonnes. So, they will be pushing to get the stuff tipped and get back on site for another load. I

would agree with everything which has been said today. So, thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you. Again, I wouldn't be mad familiar with the area there. Just saw and I am not against landfill as such and there can be good reasons to landfill and whatever. One thing that sticks out here at me and that being the role of An Taisce in this. This is an application by Kilsaran to backfill this site. Despite seemingly last October and November we had half a dozen calls from the pre-planning consultation to An Taisce as well as emails, no response.

Now, again I have been highly critical of An Taisce and their set up over the years, but it amazes me that a huge operation like this can be ignored by An Taisce, and they are in here like a bullet to object in the county. So, there is big role being played by An Taisce in this role.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is there anyone else missing that wants to come in? Everyone had their say. Before I bring in the Chief Executive, I would like to say something myself as a councillor from that area. Firstly, I am disappointed, as Cathaoirleach of the Wicklow County Council and member of the Arklow Municipal District, that I knew nothing about this. Neither did any of my fellow members in Arklow know anything about this. This is the largest landfill in the Republic of Ireland, to the best of my knowledge. This is 1,680 lorries a week. Both loaded and unloaded going up and down, if you count the ten Saturdays that is involved, which equates to one lorry every 1.8 minutes. That is what that works out at. This also means that we are potentially privatising a two kilometre road for lorry use. We are basically saying to local people you can no longer walk that road because it's not safe. That is what we are saying. Many of the points that is already being raised which agree with. 11

parking bays at 45 metres per parking bay is 495 metres which is half a kilometre. It's 25% of the route. The route from The Tap up to the site is five kilometres that is 25%. We are trying to attract businesses to the area, we now have a business coming, but we are saying you are welcome but there is going to be 1600 lorries passing up and down past your door. It's not fair on local people who live there, who want to try and raise their families there. I know a number of people on that road, I travel that road regularly. I know a number of people who have families there, who will be looking to try and develop a home. There is a difference between developing a home and building a house. They might be two sides of the same coin, but a home is a home. They won't get planning permission with that volume of traffic on the road. It just won't happen. I really think it needs to be looked at. I am disappointed on behalf of my own fellow councillors in the Arklow Municipal District that we knew absolutely nothing about this, and it was potentially our own engineer who was dealing with it. The Cathaoirleach of the Arklow Municipal District, Cllr Bourke didn't even know about this, so I am disappointed, and I am disappointed for all of you, the members as well, all 31 of you that you didn't know about it. The large landfill in the country. Someone said a minute ago, will we be getting any money out of this? I think it's about 16 cent a tonne. I am going to hand over to the Chief Executive and ask him to come in.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Okay, thank you, Cathaoirleach. The first thing I would say is this operated a quarry since the 1960s, it stopped trading because of the asbestos issue. That limit of 150 lorries a day was already there. They would have consulted road as a pre-planning issue and this result of the L113 already has traffic, so the approach that was taken in relation to traffic was to use the L1157, come down through the regional road and upgrade the L117 so you are not impacting on the

remainder of the local road network. That was the reason for that, that was upgraded, and the regional road has since been resurfaced as well. There is a full environmental impact assessment submitted with the plan, which has been reviewed by our planners and I might ask Edel to come in on that.

There is a full appropriate assessment. There will be a full EPA waste licence that will have to be granted before anything happens on site. It does have the advantage, also, of filling in a hollow in the landscape and clearing that over time. There is also the issue of the construction industry, the construction industry needs infrastructure, it needs infrastructure to dispose of waste. If we are talking about building houses and roads, etc, there is going to be construction and demolition waste. This is a facility, rather than having facilities around the county in small areas that it's in one large area and there is a benefit to that. There was public engagement in the sense there was COVID, there was no public meetings, but there was leaflet drops and things. The procedure is that it comes directly to the full council and the planners, we couldn't do it last month because the planners needed time to do the reports, etc. So, what can happen now is the Chief Executive's report is there, that follows on, needless to say from reports from right around the organisation from waste management who are very much in favour of it, from roads who have done the liaison and the planning etc. The procedure now is, look, that goes to the board, the minute of this meeting goes to the board, so if members by resolution want to propose an alternative or an amendment or a condition, now is the time to do that. So, I might just ask Edel to come in there, in case I missed anything.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Edel are you with us.

EDEL: I am indeed. Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

EDEL: Just quickly to say there is a difference between this and the strategic infrastructure housing application. I think that is what Cllr Dunne was talking about. It's a slightly different process and it's a legal requirement under Section 37 of the Act in relation to presenting the full council with the Chief Executive's report. Then is the provision of the Act and that is what we were following. Obviously as the Chief Executive said there would have been site notices and public notices. The issue, the consultation, as was said, was carried out and they have indicated that they carried out consultation in October of 2020 and did a trap, a leaflet drop and also have gone through the general comments in their documents in relation to the issues that were raised, which will be in front of the board when they actually go to make a decision on it. This is, unlike the housing application, there isn't actually a preplanning with the board and the council on this application. The review of the roads was carried out in consultation with the MD engineers just to see the most appropriate route. Obviously, we, in 2014, the planning authority permitted the quarry operations to continue for another 25 years, which obviously would be a little bit of a similar timescale as this current application is. There would obviously have been restoration provided for under that in relation to the quarry operations. They have reviewed the issue of the discharges to the Potter's River at actual discharges were already subject to a discharge license which the, our environment section had actually approved in 2019 and that was for the dewatering of the quarry itself. So, they had approved that. Now, you should be aware that the actual, this application will have to go to the EPA, and they will be reviewing, and they will be dealing with the waste license. So, they

will issue all, they will look at all of the environmental concerns and in relation to the monitoring and in relation to noise, etc. So, they will review that again. So that will be prior to their process and the, obviously the traffic movements were considered. This was the appropriate, as the Chief Executive said, that this, given that there were already existing movements that this was an appropriate approach. It's a similar level to the number of quarry movements already permitted.

In relation to some of the smaller, there is an issue in granting smaller infill sites for waste, for soil disposal and stone because they themselves are generating lots of traffic movements and lots of impact on biodiversity and on streams. This has obviously been subject to a very in-depth assessment, which a lot of the smaller ones don't achieve. This is, they have reviewed and obviously at the end of the day it's up to An Bord Pleanála to make the final decision on it. In error I may have said it wrongly. Tomorrow the 15th is the date for third parties to make their final submission. So that is where that date is.

So, in actual fact our Chief Executive Report has to be to the board by the 28 of the June. The reason it came to this meeting was, obviously it's very difficult for us to get into appropriate meetings and this was the worst one we could get to present the Chief Executive report in a timely fashion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Edel. Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you, chairman. Could the Chief Executive address the questions I asked him? Specifically, about the selective quotations of different objectives in the development plan to suit his argument and secondly the use of the -- bins when they were considered substandard for use in the past. Can I also point out that local people have said when

it comes to noise assessment, the noise assessment map submitted in the application indicated that the call route shows the L1157, so this road we are talking about going directly on to the M11. In fact, it doesn't. So, there is actually an inaccuracy if that is the case. If local residents are correct and I stand to be corrected now by Edel if that is not the case. The noise assessment maybe has not been sufficiently measured and how it will affect local people.

Secondly, with regard to the water run-off and the fact of the emptying of this lake, like what we are talking about here is a huge lake of possibly contaminated water and a certain amount of which is likely to contaminate on to Brittas Bay. I haven't heard Edel address this point. The last point and this are for the Chief Executive. We have an issue in the west of the county with Whitestown whether it's going to be a major decamping of an illegal waste site over there, somewhere and Wicklow County Council have been given the responsibility for dealing with this. This is going to cost many, many, millions, I am sure, of euros. Is it planned for any of the Whitestown waste to be removed from Whitestown to this particular location? I think it would be very helpful if we got a straight yes or no to that question as well, Cathaoirleach, as well as the other questions I posed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who was that Cllr Gail Dunne?

CLLR DUNNE: The Chief Executive never answered my question about would the council gain by the dumping and by how much. I think he said it was six million tonnes going into it unless I heard. I would like to know, on that how much will the Council gain?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Chief Executive, can I bring you in back?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, the development levy is there 367,000, so that is the amount of money we get from the

development. Just in relation to the Whitestown there is no decisions whatsoever made in relation to Whitestown. That is still going through the process as set out in in the court order in terms of draft remediation plans and being removed by different statutory bodies. So, there is no decision made in relation to that....

CLLR BEHAN: Can you...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Sorry now.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr Behan.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I am not ruling anything out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we all stop for a minute.

CLLR BEHAN: Rule it out, Chief Executive.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we all stop. We want to get the answers to this.

I know there is people logged on and want to hear what is being said and I want to hear what is being said. Cllr Behan, we will get your questions answers, but Chief Executive, can you continue.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There is no decision made in relation to Whitestown. The ultimate decision will be made by court order. I have nothing else to say on that. In relation to conditions quoted, the conditions related to waste management are extremely relevant, you can't quote everything in the policy plan. The mitigation measure, construction environmental management plan and they are all recommended would be conditions that An Bord Pleanála will would put in. It also goes to the EPA. They will do a thorough assessment of the environmental conditions. All of that was dealt with also as Cathaoirleach. I think that is it. Unless there is anything else?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to go back to Cllr Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: It's very interesting that the Chief Executive could rule out here today that Whitestown refuse is not going to be dumped in this particular hole. So, he hasn't taken that opportunity and we have to read

into it that it's quite possible that that is what is going to happen, and he won't admit it. I would certainly hope that he doesn't have some idea that this might happen, and he won't be straight up with us today. So again, I give him the opportunity to rule it out as a possibility and we will...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No, I think they are completely...

CLLR BEHAN: Sorry, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: He.

CLLR BEHAN: He hasn't addressed the question about the noise and the measurement of the noise and the fact that in the report that came in from the developer, that the local road is going to go straight on to the M11. That is not the case. So can he comment on the fact that the noise measurement may not be correct, and he is submitting that accepting that measurement to An Bord Pleanála. As also that there won't be a problem with the water. How does he know that when local people have direct contrary evidence that that is not the case? So, can with we get some answers on those questions, Cathaoirleach?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Edel, I think there was a question there for you as well. Then I will come back to the Chief Executive and go back to Cllr Bourke.

EDEL: Just in relation to the noise measurement they have done a predicted HGV sound levels. Now, what it shows it is, it shows along the old orthophotos. It's not shown the roads itself. But it's showing the line that I would take to be the regional road line. This is a matter obviously that will be further examined by the EPA in their document to ensure that the noise levels are in line with appropriate standards that they have themselves in relation to road noise.

Just to say in relation to the actual materials that are coming into it, the materials are soil and stone. They are inert materials, they will be to

keep a register of all the materials coming in, where they are coming from. As with all of these facilities, time has moved on in relation to what is coming into them. Given all the issues that there were previous years ago and they will have to keep a register and the register will have to be available as will, the EPA will want a register kept. So, in relation to materials which have, I think you are trying to say which have some sort of waste involved, which is more Municipal waste involved as opposed to inert soil and stone. That is not the proposal here, that is clear from the document submitted, that is not the proposal coming into it. There is some construction and demolition waste, but any of that waste will obviously be put into the covered in shed and if there is anything in that, a smaller amount of materials that is not appropriate to go in, that will be sent to the appropriate facility.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan, does that answer your question?

CLLR BEHAN: No, chairman, but we are not going to drag out the meeting. I have made my points, everyone can assess whether the answers are adequate enough, I don't think they are, but that is my opinion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to go back to Cllr Bourke. You wanted to make a proposal at the end of the discussion.

CLLR BOURKE: My preference was if this was withdrawn completely, but I don't believe this is going to happen. I believe we are at a decision-making point at the moment with regard to An Bord Pleanála and if they are going to make a decision, I want to propose the following: I have sent it in by text to the administrator if she wants to read it out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, I will go over to Helen. Sorry, Helen, we can't hear you.

ADMINISTRATOR: Sorry, I am a novice at this, I was on mute! That access is in in by the L114 and out by the L1157. That annual tonnage

be halved to 50% of 800,000. Truck movements be halved to 75 per day, Monday to Friday and 45 per day on only five Saturdays per annum. That is proposed by Cllr Bourke, and I don't have a seconder to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh has her hand up.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I know we could reduce the quantities and the volumes, but it's not necessarily going to really solve anything. I think what we need to do is we actually need to relook at this whole thing. Really, regardless of how much time has been spent on this to date, none of us were aware of this up to a couple of days ago. So, anything which has happened in the past. I would like to see this, and I would like to propose that we as a council submit to An Bord Pleanála our objections as it currently stands. I think we need do a lot more work on it. We definitely need to have that lake drained, otherwise it could be potentially dangerous for the environment and for kids swimming. We hear of drownings in quarry lakes and things like that. We also need to make sure that the asbestos, anything that is exposed asbestos be filled in. So, I think that some kind of land infill has to happen on the site to make it safe, but as regards the volume of trucks and HGVs and the effect that that would have on people's lives and on their mental health as well, I don't think we can proceed with this, even at half the volumes that have been proposed. So, I would like to actually propose that we don't allow this plan to continue as it currently stands.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Kavanagh. I think you can make that proposal, but we don't make that decision, but you can make that proposal and it can go on. Cllr Shay Cullen.

CLLR S CULLEN: I just wanted to first of all second the proposal from Sylvester Bourke, but just that point that Cllr Kavanagh has made. We can't stop this process; the developer has already put their planning

permission into An Bord Pleanála. We are given our views on it, as far as I am aware. So, look, as it stands, I would like to second Cllr Bourke's proposal, but his permission I like to add in that a community scheme be included into that proposal for the duration of the permission, whether that be 20 years or whatever it is that a community scheme be included in the proposal and X amount of euro per ton be set aside for the community. I am not going to put a figure on that, but I think it should be included.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just given the rushed nature of all of this, I would ask the members in the Municipal Districts affected to consider the option of a special meeting given that we have two weeks remaining before we make our submission. The other thing and Cllr Cullen touched on it, in a landfill outside Baltinglass, there was a facility with 350,000 tonnes went into, it was £3 per ton, just given this does go ahead to put that proviso in, but I would ask the local councillors in in the area to consider the option of a special meeting. We have two weeks at this stage, is my understanding from what has been said.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. So just before. I will come to you, Cllr O'Neill. Go ahead.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Again, as I mentioned earlier on, I think we should write to An Taisce and ask them, these are the environmental watchdog, how come they have no submissions whatsoever? I think the sooner the better we all wake up. Every councillor in the county wake-up. An Taisce and An Bord Pleanála are all in the one bed. The sooner we wake up to that. How in the name, they are saying it's the biggest landfill undertaking in the country and An Taisce had no, they have no problem whatsoever on behalf of the residents and the filling and on behalf of the roads. They are breaking

our backs of planners in the county day in day out. With objections to one off houses for families in our county where we are being denied one-off housing and An Taisce have played a huge role in that over the last 25 years and they have nothing whatsoever to say about this, despite being telephoned, email, whatever. The sooner the better I think we all wake up to what is going on here, the better.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you.

CLLR O'NEILL: I would urge that we do write to An Taisce and ask them have they nothing whatsoever to say about this, good, bad, or indifferent?

CATHAOIRLEACH: That a proposal.

CLLR O'NEILL: Yes, I am proposing we write to An Taisce. I think it's absolutely unfair. Every councillor here on this Zoom call knows what I am saying. They break our heart in day in, day out, An Taisce over many years, yet on something like this they are nowhere to be seen, they won't even answer a phone call.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just so I know where I am going here. I have a proposal from Cllr Bourke seconded by Cllr Cullen. I have a proposal from Cllr M Kavanagh, but there is no seconder for that one yet.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I will withdraw mine, given the fact that we probably, it would only be an advisory thing. It wouldn't actually be something that would carry any weight. It would be only a recommendation from here, but I do feel that the whole thing needs to be relooked at, I don't think halving the problem is going to solve it at all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: And I have a proposal that there is a special meeting because we have two weeks left. Can I clarify.

CLLR TIMMINS: I didn't propose that, I just asked that the local councillors consider it, I don't think it's my place to make that proposal.

CLLR LEONARD: I would like to propose that, Pat, I think it's a very good idea.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I bring in Helen to see where we go on this.

ADMINISTRATOR: The legislation under Section 37E says:

'The members of the planning authority may by resolution decide to attach recommendations specified in the resolution to the report of the authority. Where the members so decide those recommendations together with the meeting administrators record shall be submitted to the board under subsection 4. '

So, at the moment I have four proposals for resolution, these that were submitted by Cllr Bourke and Cllr Cullen and a fourth submitted by Cllr Cullen if you are in agreement with Cllr Bourke that the community scheme be included in the proposal for the duration of the commission. Then, there is a further proposal that we write to An Taisce and ask them why they have not sent a submission in on this application. That was proposed by Cllr O'Neill. No seconder to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, Cllr John Snell is looking to come in.

CLLR SNELL: I would like to second Cllr O'Neill's proposal. I think it's very valid. I would also like to second Cllr Peir Leonard's suggestion in regard to a special meeting. I know Edward mentioned it there, but I think next week, after the AGM would be ideal, because the AGM should only take a half an hour. So, if I could suggest that this be a one-item agenda after the AGM that members, I know it's not giving us a whole lot of time, but at least we have a week to try and get some of the information together. We have all been inundated from residents of the area and people who have done an awful lot of work on this. I think if we could have that special meeting next week, Cathaoirleach, purely just to

deal with this and particularly for all councillors, but councillors from east Wicklow and south Wicklow, I think we have been really put out on a limb here on getting all of this information so late in the day. So, I think, having that special meeting next week would accommodate that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I know there is other councillors looking to come in and I see the hands up, but if you just bear with me. Edel, if I can bring you in for a second, first. Are you there?

EDEL: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Has there been anything from An Taisce, we have a proposal to write to them to find out why they have been so quiet. Do you know if there has been any consultation or engagement with An Taisce on this?

EDEL: Well, the board would directly sent out notices required under legislation, so we wouldn't be aware of whether it went, usually they, I am, I will have a quick check on the application details.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will come back to you.

EDEL: If you give me a minute to check that for you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Edel. I will, sorry, lads there is three hands up, I don't know which order they will come in on. I will bring in in Cllr Behan first.

CLLR BEHAN: Sorry, chairman, I think it's a very intelligent suggestion to condition this discussion next week. My difficulty with Cllr Bourke's proposal is we are effectively accepting it's going to go ahead and just trying to mitigate the worst effect of it. Maybe that is what local councillors feel is the best approach to take. I would be guided by what the local councillors feel on this. I think there are so many problems with this, if we were to indicate that it's generally okay if you reduce the number of movements, it's giving a signal that we are more or less agreeing to it. Maybe that is what the local councillors might want to do.

Perhaps in advance of the meeting, perhaps the councillors from the south area and the east area might have a chance to discuss between themselves what approach and I would row in with whatever their approach is then after that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thanks. Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Just picking up on Cllr Leonard's proposal following Cllr Timmins's input on the special meeting. I think so we don't waste time if we have such a meeting next week that we should proactively dedicate half an hour or 40 minutes of it to drafting up our submission that would be supported by hopefully all of the councillors, or certainly the councillors that have spoken today. I think that would be a constructive way to go about it, so we end up with a finished product at the end of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I have to agree with Cllr Behan. He spoke very well in the sense that we are kind of caught in a bind here. If we are against in, but we still vote in favour of Cllr Behan's proposal, we are giving our tacit approval to this and that is not the message I want to send out here today. I am totally opposed to this. I don't want to vote on a proposal that gives my tacit approval. Yet if I don't vote and it goes through it's the same thing. I would agree with John Snell on placing this on the agenda for next week.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: You are on mute, Gail.

CLLR DUNNE: Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes.

CLLR DUNNE: Sorry, I have to agree, I think, we should have a special meeting next week to discuss this. Because the timeframe leading into this, just didn't give councillors enough time to sit down and look at this

logically. We never had an opportunity, I would ask Cllr Bourke and Cllr Cullen to withdraw their motion, because I feel they could do it next week anyway and it would give us an opportunity to discuss it, because I can't support our motion, because I think we are giving, we are saying okay we are going to go ahead with this not on the scale that is proposed but on a different scale, which I am not happy with until I have more discussion about it. Thank you. Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke.

CLLR BOURKE: And come up and agree a prepared commission in advance of the meeting on Monday, that could be presented to the rest of the members, thanks it will give people of that greater area to reflect what has been discussed here today, because not everybody in that area is aware of it, especially residents perhaps on the L113 road where I'm proposing that acknowledge questions comes on that road so I imagine it will create further conversation in the meantime But I'm happy enough to do that.

>>: The actual applicants issued the copy of the notification to the An Taisce, so if they made submission, it will be directly to An Bord Pleanála, so I wouldn't know if they...

CLLR BOURKE: I hit the wrong digit on the phone when I was texting the road to Helen there, it is L113 was the access road I was proposing not the L114. So, please just change the record to reflect a more accurately the number of the road.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, now, so at the moment, Cllr Bourke, you have withdrawn your proposal if we're having a special meeting next week on the proposal So just in advance of next Monday and we'll talk about it at protocol how we'll deal with it,

but if there resolutions to be passed could the admin have them in advance, good example of Cllr Bourke texting it in, he texted in the wrong road, so could you send news your e-mail resolution in advance of the meeting.

Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item Number Ten is into a section 835 agreement with Kildare County council on the completion of the Blessington inner relief road and I'm going to ask Margaret Hartnett with us. Are you with us? There you are you're on mute Margaret.

MARGARET: Thanks a lot. Yeah, just going to give a quick under the section 835, so, I don't know if you can I sent in a presentation, but I can just run through it.

So basically, it is the completion of the Blessington and Relief Road, Section 835 Agreement with Kildare County council. So basically, completion of the southern section. Is that shared?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Great.

MARGARET: Completion of the inner relief road so there's an objective to complete this in an inner relief road, part of the scheme lies in functional area of Wicklow County Council and part lies within the function of Kildare CC. This is just a map showing the corner section so most of this is in the Kildare local authority.

The southern section is you probably know it, it is really the stretch from the R410 race road and roundabout, and Kilmalum Road.

It should be noted that this portion of the land is now in the ownership of Wicklow County Council. The majority of the

section lies within the functional area of Kildare County council. So that's the southern section and then you have the northern section which is this section up here in the red dash line. And that's proposed route of the section heads north wards from the existing roundabout on the Blessington inner relief road just to the west of the wood lay estate and traverses to the quarry of the entrance. What we're trying to do, Wicklow County Council and Kildare agreed it would be convenient to enter into agreement push sound to section 85 of the Local Government Act of the execution of such works. In agreement, Wicklow County Council and KCC would be agreeing that Wicklow County Council can act as lead agency to complete the project.

This is particularly relevant for the southern section as I just outlined.

So, Kildare and Wicklow staff we've agreed on the content of the agreement, and I hope you've all seen the copy of the agreement as it has been agreed. And basically, what I want is trying do now is to bring this to the Wicklow County Council to approve the entry into the agreement. By resolution if we can, if it is approved, I can then bring it to Kildare County council for the same resolution by them.

If anybody's any questions on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

I just, I'll have to get you to stop sharing the screen because I can't they anybody.

>>: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, I've Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah, I very much like to welcome this section 835 agreement with Kildare. As a local council member if you've like to propose it, I'd like to support it. Briefly, this is very well be, it has been in the pine line and discussed for many years, we had a massive appointment of the new N81 being Sheffield there two years ago, also removed from the Emra document, and let's agree this quickly and move on and make it happen, it is a small piece of infrastructure, it looks like 2350 metres to link up a ring road but not forgetting and Margaret showed us the other side the north end of the town is equally a bottle neck just beside Woodleigh estate so we'd like to make moves on moving the ring road as well on the north side of Blessington, thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: It is great to see the inner relief road on the agenda today we've been looking for it a number of years, the people of west Wicklow suffered great disappointment of the shelving of the N81, and I would urge Wicklow County Council to make this inner relief road a priority. Blessington is a rapidly developing town, but we do need infrastructure such as this, and I know it is a priority agreement, priority project for members of the Blessington down team and Blessington forum and it would be huge relief for the town if they could get the project up and running. I understand that it is a very complex project because, there is an agreement needed with Kildare County council so I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Wicklow County Council in their efficiencies in discussions with Kildare and both TII on this project, so I look forward to work

commencing, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

I'll come to you in a minute.

CLLR WALSH: I didn't look to come in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Yeah. I would like to thank Margaret for all the work they put into it over the last year or so, I'm delighted to propose this section 85 to go ahead. I know in the heel of the hunt you know, our, bypass will be really what we're looking for in the long run down the road as the lad would say, but in regard to the pressure off the town the sooner the better, so I'm delighted to propose this today.

Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you as chair of the transport committee I just welcome this progress forward, this sort of project looks, is needed to cope with the urbanisation and the growth and get the traffic out of the centre of Blessington, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is proposed by Cllr Gerry O'Neill do I have a seconder?

OK, ...

Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Briefly as well and thanks to Margaret for the presentation. A quick couple of points on it. Do we have actually at this stage ...

After Anne overall cost of the project and secondly do we

have a time frame for it?

And thirdly I also see a possibility of maybe 100,000 one way or the other on an overrun, I'm conscious of the fact that overruns are part and parcel of roads, but we should be trying to endeavour try down a definite price on the project so those three times, time frame, overall cost and try and tie down the actual cost of it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, so Margaret can I go back to you.

Margaret: We don't have an overall cost yet, we just started surveys and that on the scheme at the moment so we will let you know as long as we, once we get more detail and design done, we will have an updated construction, land cost as well so in terms of time frame we're hoping to lodge the planning documents in August/September for the scheme. It depends whether it is a part - it is not quite; we're doing environmental assessment and it is not 100% whether it is NAS or Part 8 at those time frames are slightly different. So, I suppose for the best will the world if it goes to NIS, you know it cock six months within NIS trying to get planning, so it is probably unlikely construction will start, I'd say it is more like '23.

That you would be in construction side of things.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Does that answer your questions Cllr Vincent Blake?

CLLR BLAKE: 100,000 Euro of the cost of the overrun on it, that's factored in as well.

I'm conscious of the fact we're continuously not tying down

actual cost of these projects. Thanks.

Margaret: I think with that, are you referring to that clause in the agreement about 100,000?

That's if there are variations of up to that amount, we have to reach agreement with Kildare County council, that's not necessarily saying there is overruns, but saying if there's variations needed, you know over and above that amount we have to agree with them the Kildare County council, maybe that just wasn't clear.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Patsy Glennon wants to come in there. approximate Did you want to come? OK, so we have a proposer and seconder, is everybody in agreement?

Yeah. There's no dissent there at

CLLR GLENNON: It is going and coming a little bit. Can you hear me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: You've lost connection. We can hear you.

CLLR GLENNON: Sorry my internet is up and down, just, I wouldn't like the occasion to pass without - can you hear me.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes, we can.

>>: I wouldn't like the occasion to pass without acknowledging the hard work of Breege Kilkenny and bringing this project to where it's at and Margaret, I'd like to join all my colleagues to welcome it, but I would like to emphasise this isn't the solution of the problems of infrastructure in west Wicklow. And the N81, has to be a priority for the county, this is simply a stop-gap measure, that will just, alleviate the problems in the very short-term. We certainly, need the new road, and I would hope all the councillors, including Cllr Derek Mitchell there who

spoke so eloquently on this, for N81 to be upgraded.

CATHAOIRLEACH: You're gone you are you're coming and going.

Coming and going, we can't hear you. Everybody's in agreement the proposer and seconder and no dissent so we take that as being carried.

Item Number 11 is to adopt the Wicklow County Council's Annual Report 20, section 221 of the Local Government Act 2021, the copy was attached so Helen you are coming in here.

HELEN: The Local Government Act under section 2 a 21, means no later in June each year each council should prepare and adopt a report known as Annual Report, the draft was circulated to the members earlier this year and I'm looking for the final plan report which was circulated to you to be adopted if I could have a proposer and seconder. Please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

Seconded by - sorry I can't hear, seconded by who?

Cllr Vincent Blake.

Helen. We all agreed.

Yeah, thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item number twelve.

CLLR BEHAN: Before we leave that item, can I comment.

We're past Annual Report for 2020. Which was negatively an operation of the council and us as councillors during COVID-19 restrictions, Cllr Patsy Glennon was having severe difficulty

making the point he wanted to make because of his broadband connection. We've had another difficulty; other members have had the same problem. I really, honestly think we need urgent decision on getting back to full, personal, physical face-to-face meetings, as soon as possible because it is not really effective to continue in this particular mode. Councillors are losing out because they can't have the opportunity to contribute freely and fully. And I know, I think it is it is on the agenda, maybe it was some agenda I saw today, it doesn't seem to be on our agenda, but I really ask you Cathaoirleach and whoever is taking over from you, to address this as a matter of urgency, this is not sustainable. In terms of local democracy and participation, and the members of the public. Thanks, I just wanted to say that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is something we're all conscious of, we want to get back into a physical space as soon as we're allowed, I have spoken to the last Cathaoirleach about it and amendment, as soon as we can, we will. Can I move on to item number twelve? To consider and adopt Wicklow County Council's library development plan, 2021-20235, copy attached and deferred from the meeting of 17th of May, and we have I think, director Michael Nicholson with us and Brendan Martin. Brendan you're going to come in now.

BRENDAN: Can you hear me OK, yeah. I'm going to share a screen which goes through a summary of the document, OK the main issues and sort of a potted history of the last few years. Where we are now, a bit like someone said earlier this, is new to me. One second, I think I'll get it here now. Have it here now. Can you see that. I'm not a technology

person, just hold on a second.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There you go now.

BRENDAN: Thank you for saving me.

I reiterate what Cllr Joe Behan says, please get back to live as soon as we can, quickly bring you through where what is the main things in the report here. Where we're coming from, I suppose, step back a little bit from the whole thing. This process of development plans for the libraries, our first one was in 1997, which I have to say was before my time here but nonetheless some of the things that happened in that plan have positive things today. Some councillors present today would have been around in that era and thank you for your help. Because in 1999, Wicklow County Council had a foresight to the first county in Ireland, outside Dublin to abolish registration fees and this straightaway had an effect, it brought up membership and we've increased in a huge degree, which is in a minute, I'll tell new a minute, each libraries, 11 of 13 like police county has built to now, relocated or significant refurbishments, since 2000, and 2021, we had our first mobile library in 2004 and new vehicle in 2019.

New library HQ, Blessington, Greystones, Arklow and Wicklow had departmental assistance, 50% across them all, some had 75% or less, but average 50%, and the remainder, and as I say thank you very much, it was funded by Wicklow County Council. Each investment has seen usage that increased significantly, this I think, is amazing figure, I only discovered when I was doing research on this. total memberships statistics for 2019 compared to 1997, the reason for that is that was the last year before when there were fees, show only 7% increase

nationally, but Wicklow has 10% increase, we went from 16,000 to 33,000 membership over that period, as opposed from 825, to 826 nationally. Borrowings when the from 27% versus 25% nationally. So, huge increases because of the new buildings and so on. So, what's behind the statistics?

Because we all know figures can tell us, if I don't know statistics for 1999-2000 increase wouldn't be as much pause the increase would, and benefits would have occurred so I'm showing the bleakest time to now. Buildings we can be proud of in a number, most of our villages and towns, and increased staffing level workforce plan is filled and thank you very much to everyone there, corporate and everyone helping with that. And opening hours to the public have more than doubled over the time, we're 400 plus county wide, including 50 per week, it is actually 49 per week in full time libraries, 10 to 5 in the week and 8-2.30 weekends. Outreach project in each library and last year, particularly, virtual but we were doing some, increased last year. Specific project including working with the LLGBTI agency, and online aids, and programmes we had levels and touch type read spell was spread out to every school we did monthly visit to nursing home, my open library was introduced in Arklow, one of fifteen nationally and this service allows the public to come in outside of library opening hours, so Arklow, preCOVID-19 was open 98 hours a week, from 8am to 10pm seven days a week, 14 hours a day, including Christmas Day and this is the case in the new Wicklow library as well and other major developments.

And these are the current statistics, just going to focus on one or two here, the bottom line down there, literally of expenditure,

where we have the national figure per head, averages 3557 the Wicklow County Council cost 27.48 per head. We're the second highest nationally for the best figures, the least cost per head for as accrued measure but still it is indicator for the number of items borrowed per head of population, when it is divided by the cost, we come out second best, Kerry was the first, and we had a number of top five in 2019 and highest downloaded books in 2020, and this is, part of the promotion we do online and social media, promoting services, and second highest nationally on active borrowers, for 2019, the 2019 statistics are more relevant than the 20, ones so the figures are there if you want to come back with anything, I won't delay.

Wicklow library and county archives is due to open 30th of August, we got confirmation from the Department of Housing and Local Government, that minister O'Brien will be available to open the library for us on Monday, 30th of August so a date for your diary and also opening, Rathdrum will be the probably the same day, certainly the same week, so that's a picture of the shelving in Wicklow library being put in there. It is over six floors, and we'll have local studies on the bottom floor for the county, archives, there will still be local studies in all the branches as well. County archive is moving down there, and then three floors of books for borrowing, and street level there will be the children's library, first floor level adult library for borrowing, and the next floor up will be teenagers and study and it will be a community room. As well, on the top floor it is art gallery and exhibition space.

Rathdrum library is also, and this one here, if you see where I'm hovering there, that building there, on the left-hand-side on

the block, it is about 180 square metres in size, 160 square metres in size, still able to manage with one staff I'm fairly sure, if not it is because it will be too busy, increased opening to twelve per week to certainly, 20-plus, could be up to 28 actually, but 21, anyway, and we might negotiate another day, we will see on that.

So, we'll have, four to five days per week open there. And it will be all the next picture gives us an idea of the layout. So, this is sort of an idea what Rathdrum library will look like, there's books along the wall here, this northwest Wall so to speak looking at the drawing is glass so a lovely bright building, children's library here on the top left. Reception desk over here on the bottom left and then there will be twelve study spaces for the public, and easy area for magazines and newspapers, and four public access PCs and staff facilities down here as well and toilets. So, that will be, we will be opening that the same week so great addition to Rathdrum. In the new market square development there. So, where do we hope to go with the new plan, that's morals where we've been. The new plan where you got sent the target, the remaining targets, two of them there, which are in Aughrim, something similar to Rathdrum, 180-200 square metres on the current site.

Realistic cost of 1.2 million including construction, shelving, IT furniture and stock, and Ballywaltrim, previous plan was a new library in Bray and at the time we would be knowing the end of the plan, around 2020, we didn't get around to it as such but during that time, various I suppose Vernon Sankey we did et cetera, we became aware it would be difficult. It would pose difficulties with regard to the street height, and we'd be limited

to the amount of space we could provide and also have meant closing off the nice garden area which is part of the original library. So, we'd be reluctant to-to-down that route if we had to. So, we looked at the current Bali wall trim site, which is the main area for the development of population, and three supermarkets going to be open there by the end of this year, Supervalu opened, and we have Ali and Lidl is directly from it and the population base is as the Bray urban plan shows is all towards south-west of the town because of various, I suppose barriers, or necessities. So Ballywaltrim on the current site, we have a lot hasn't been developed, the idea is the public library, is 150 square metres so we put another 150 square meets on top of that building and then building another 250 square metres double heat so a footprint of 400 square meets by two, giving a building of 800 square metres so it would become the main library, certainly with regards to study and working from home, the Bray road would still be very busy but as maximum space of 20 people to space we would fit 50 and a third my open library as well where the public would have access seven days a week. Realistic, cost of 3.3 million including grant aid of 1.5 million. And there's one caveat with these two project, Aughtim, in order to get grant aid it has to be 450 square metre in size, if you were to go and say, right, we're going to get a new library for Aughtim that staffing it means more costs in building and staffing so the council would end up spending more than the 1.2 million for what is probably not needed I'm confident the new library in Rathdrum would be adequate for years to come for the people of Rathdrum and I would say the same for Aughtim, we don't need huge libraries, it is one of the

weakness, I pointed out in the nationally the standards are too high because they give grants when they're a large library, but I don't want to be on the soapbox in Hyde Park Corner and that. So, we looked for this, and this would be a My Open Library and we have all the facilities we need this that.

The smaller project, contingent and funding is Baltinglass courthouse, we have 600 approved for repair and main tenants works to ensure the building doesn't have any dampness and that et cetera in this, so we have that approved, it is one of three projects approved for Baltinglass, the DRCD asked us to reapply, the end of June and July when we're putting in the application, if we get funding for that, we would the idea would be that the library would move in the courtroom there, and there's drawings gone up as part of the project for the development of the heritage centre, and coworking et cetera, very ambitious project but it is depending on getting more funding for it. So, it is not a library project, the library is part of the overall project so I would, suppose stress the difference. Positive feedback from DRCD, aware. The drawings and worth summiting so I think we're just there now.

So other key points from the plan: Commitment to foster self-directed learning, promote each library as cultural space, and as the community space, develop our services in line with technological development, deliver co-ordinated services based and corporation partnership and ensure our libraries play a key role in sustainability but in buildings and providers of information to the public.

OK, so, I'll in case I might - IT skills go again, my technology, I won't share any more with you I'll go back to the Cathaoirleach

if there's comments on questions.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Brendan, I'll wait for you to take down the screen there.

>>: Stop sharing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Now you're back, Brendan thank you for the presentation, very informative, as you know I'm huge supporter of the library service and of the last number of years I have been working closely with you and the director Nicholson in my own area of the Rathdrum library and Aughrim and I very much welcome them. But libraries all over the county, the amount of work you're doing is unbelievable. I've always said the gift of a book whether a child or adult or anybody is a gift of knowledge and I know how passionate you are, and the screen is absolutely lit up with people wanting to come in. But Cllr Anne Ferris is first.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Cathaoirleach, I would like to formally propose the adoption of the Wicklow County Library, Wicklow County Council library development plan for the next five years. And in doing so I want to congratulate Brendan Martin and all the librarians and staff dealing in this section around our county. I particularly want to welcome the proposal to make the Ballywaltrim bigger and better for the facilities there and delighted you have applied for the funding to do so. This would make a huge difference to people, particularly when we get the MOL, my open library status to be opened seven days a week, I think it is invaluable resource for students, and indeed I use it myself, in a research capacity when I was studying and hoped to do so again. So, I

have great, I'm a member of the CCSD as well and I've great, over the moon about this, the whole report and to show how we are national leaders in some of the areas is a great credit to Wicklow County Council, and particularly to Brendan Martin and his team. So, I've great pleasure in proposing the adoption of this, thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well said. Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Yeah briefly. Two things, just on the RRDF funding for Baltinglass, we have approval for 600K, and you know hopefully we will get further funding but I'd like to say on that, generally with the RRDF funding it is important we see work on the ground and results on the ground as a result of that considerable funding on the RRDF, I don't want us to end up paying large sums of money to consultant and not to actually see results on the ground. That's what the people, the public would like to see, so we have to be careful and from a value for money point of view in relation to that large amount of money from RRDF, and secondly, compliment the library the amount of facilities available in library, it is not just about books, we can learn a language through your computer through the library services, there's facilities in there, I looked at myself and do company searches to find out about if you want to do a search in the company. You can develop download books from borrow box app on your phone and borrow on your phone so there's a huge amount. And we probably need to publicise it more the wonderful service that it offers. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Thank you Cathaoirleach. As chair of the CCSD and I want to compliment all the hard work Michael and Brendan has put in over a long period of years, you can see how up we are, we've one of the best library services in the country and they have to be complimented, it is something as chair we've been working really hard on. You may indulge me for a moment, because I'd like to talk about the library in Wicklow Town opened on the 30th of August, a lot of hard work has gone in, five floors, genealogy, children's library, adult library, there's so much there, there's a buzz around Wicklow waiting for this to open. And I have to give the director service, Michael, a great credit because he had a vision to put a library in there, he saw the building, saw it was for sale, got the funding to buy the building and then funding to build the way it is. So great credit has to go for to Michael on his hard work and 30th of August will be a proud day for him and all the members of the council. So, I want to compliment all the hard work, Brendan and Michael and all the staff at CCSD have done in these projects. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Well, Cathaoirleach, just as other members have said, I want to compliment Brendan and all of the staff members throughout all of the libraries in the county. And Michael Nicholson and his team and directorate. What an example of a shining success that I think everybody can take pride in because of the fact that libraries, not only provide an educational input but they provide a huge social input for many communities and I can say the Ballywaltrim library as home

area has been a magnificent success, as Brendan has said, it has huge membership and readership and I think local people will be very, very happy to see that this facility will be increased in the future. You know, I don't think we can underestimate the role that Brendan Martin himself has played in this whole process. He took over from previous county librarian Jerry Marr who was someone who set the foundations and before that, Joe Hayes and Eileen Murray in Bray were two long standing librarians in Bray and between them they set standard for the library service and Brendan took the baton and ran with it successful and to the extent you see almost the entire development plan and capital programme has almost been completed. I think that's a magnificent tribute to, and I'd like to thank you to the dedication you have shown to your job, it is not a 9-5 job it is something you passionately believe in, and you've shown great initiative in coming up with ideas to ensure the community is involved and all the different aspect you mentioned yourself today. I want to enter two notes if I could, before. One is that we did have before the whole SPC operations began, there was a very, very good system of library advisory committees in every county in the country and they were made up of councillors from all of the parts of the county and also, maybe local reader, and representative from a couple of the local libraries, it was only advisory, it can't have any power, but it was often, able to produce ideas that actually fed into library developments into the future. I did mention it, at AGMs in the past, it didn't really fly but I want to ask that and to be considered again. It wouldn't interfere with the SPCs it would be just to discuss how we can make even more

improvements in the library service in the future. Second point I'd make, and without wanting to be controversial I have to say it the strength of our library service is in the people who provide the service. So, the branch librarians, library assistants and led by the county librarian. The difficulty I have with My Open Library concept is I fear and I hope I'm wrong but fear it is the beginning by the Department of Whoever is responsible for library service now, in reducing the input of local staff members into the library service that eventually it will be like the supermarkets, where you do it all yourself and there's a skeleton staff on duty, I hope we'll never go that day. Because the strength of the service is the people who provide it and well done to everyone for what you have done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

BRYONY: I won't repeat everything that's said, two things that stood out for me, when you choose the timeline 1998 to now, imagine you asked somebody in 1998 what, is a library?

And what is a librarian?

And what we see today in 2021, is probably something that nobody could have imagined in terms of the innovation, dynamism and commitment of how our library services operate and I think it is mind-blowing. When we see organisations, around the country struggling to embrace change, the transformation, while maintaining this core principle of books and reading the transformation of our libraries is astounding and second thing I'd like to point out, and follow up what Cllr Joe Behan has said, the response from the library teams during COVID-19 as well has been absolutely unbelievable. Putting themselves out there. It is putting themselves on video,

doing audio, reaching out to councillors, promoting reading, and then finally to put their Hands Up when it comes to opening vaccination centre and saying we'll make ourselves available to support and volunteer there, if required, says everything about those who are at the forefront of carrying our service. So, huge, huge credit. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well, done, Cllr Mags Crean.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Can you hear me.

Two points, one I completely endorse this plan, library services in Wicklow are one of our hidden gems, they're excellent, every piece of development they've done of late like social inclusion and so on, it is testament to council, and to the councillors and public reps over the years they have maintained investment because if you look across the seas, all the budget cuts and council is felt by the public libraries, so libraries close everywhere, whereas we have the opposite happening here which is really positive and that's a credit to the council staff, library staff and the public reps, I think going forward, that we maintain that investment as we face in hard budgets, and I definitely think, I was thinking there of another point in relation to investment, if there is scope at looking at life at outdoor reading garden, I welcome the 50 plus places for students, library is fundamental for young people, who don't have space at home but idea of outdoor gardens is popular now and in light of COVID, something that could be looked at. But certainly, I think our library service is unsung hero in the county.

Excellent.

Cllr Melanie Corrigan I just want to compliment Brendan and staff on all the work they've done in a great library development

plan. I just want to congratulate on all the work they've done during COVID, keeping the county connected, I know the mobile library has been going out to areas where libraries have been closed and reach out to people who are vulnerable and couldn't always access books so congratulations on a thank you for the support you've given everyone. I welcome the extension to the Ballywaltrim area, there's lots of schools in that area and it is great to see they have the support there, 50 desks, toes important for young people and children to foster a love of learning and reading and the day is gone with the library somewhere, you go in and afraid to even speak or anything. I think that you've managed to create a space, airy, bright space in all our libraries in the county, where children are be with, and encouraged to go and it is just so important for learning, and for their literacy, as adults, it is fostered when they're young, well done on all that, and thank you Brendan.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: I can't help but smile because when you talk about the first plan in the 90s, it brought me back when I was a child and we'd go to the other Bray library every week and I was allow today take five books rather than three, because I was under the age to have them. Cllr Joe Behan agreeing it wasn't the read, it was the librarians that would tell me about the book I might be interested in, and what Cllr Paul O'Brien said about during COVID times the Ireland reads campaign, was championed by our staff, and for me, personally, being involved in that, it meant so much to me so I can only imagine how much it meant to our constituents so just my heart felt congratulations to the staff, and please pass on

my thanks and gratitude. Cllr Erika Doyle they democrat size reading and books and access, and that's what is massively important about them and I was really pleased to see Outreach mentioned in the plan and I know that is an important part of the library service and I would really encourage as much Outreach as possible, particularly targeted Outreach because sometimes the people, particularly the children who would find most value in a library are perhaps the ones that wouldn't ordinarily have access or feel they had access, to them. But I think we're the envy of so many other counties with our libraries, delighted as well to see the Pride flags at inclusive nature. They're just, they're a happy place for so many of us. And our children. And well done to everybody involved. Fantastic work to be done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thanks chair, I want to make a quick point of personal experience in libraries, thanks Brendan for the presentation and I see the libraries a pillar for the community as everyone has said and I love to see it strengthened. One found I a problem is it relates to what you're saying, about not everyone being as good with technology and et cetera, That I tried to put down a drawings for a development which was happening in the local area where the library was, and it was rejected because it was considered a political, and the reason I was putting it there was some people aren't as good going on websites and acknowledge he is something the documents to see the drawings of developments so I would like to see something included within the development about being able to

put drawings for people to walk in and view, I think it would really add to the library and even more functions in a sense. While obviously keeping the apolitical nature, it is good for everybody to access those kinds of things. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Rory. Michael, I think, I'd like to bring you in, would you like to say something Michael because your part of this whole process in bringing books and libraries to the four corners of the county.

We can't hear you, Michael.

MICHAEL: Sorry.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can you hear us, Michael?

MICHAEL: Can you hear me now, I had to put my earphones on, a couple of points I'd like to make, agree with all the members' comments about the library service and staff they're fantastic, I think the work they do phenomenal and greatly appreciated by all the public, the fact we've almost completed all capital project is testament to everybody. I'd like to say none of this would be possible without support of the members every year at the budget it would be very easy to cut library services, especially when we're competing against essential services and in fairness to members they never did, they kept the library budget and thank you for that, we done this because you supported it and we really appreciate it. Cllr Paul O'Brien made a point about the community call and the vaccination centre, 18 library staff volunteering in the vaccination centre, Greystones. They're there every day, there's at least two per day and they do it with a willing heart, it's a fantastic service and team we're doing. And the library staff were the first to put

up for the community call and manned that for the first six months of the pandemic as well so fair play to them. In relation to My Open Library, it would be unconscionable, that we would have a library service with no staff, it is the staff that make the service, not the books, without the staff this would be no service, so we would never see a situation where we would have automated service and no staff. The staff are the library service. And unless Brendan wants to say something else, Cathaoirleach.

Brendan: I suppose, brief thank you for all the kind words and I take them on board, don't worry I won't be getting a swelled head or anything like that, we're well paid for it, but I'll pass on the kind words, someone else there toed to thank is Joe Lane. Director for many the long year there, Joe is shy in coming forward so to mention Joe as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: I'd like to say what everyone else said but I want to echo the inclusion, I hope Brendan and Michael have acknowledged disabilities and all types of different disabilities, and for the active retirement, and I don't like saying older people, active older people, but it is fantastic, and to see the level of accessibility now, in all of modern-day libraries is just fantastic. My image of years ago, wanting to go to the library wasn't accessible. And now, every library that is being built, has full accessibility and it just opens the door on so many levels to so many people in our community. It is one thing I'd like to acknowledge is again, Michael, is Michael has achieved

in putting in changing places facility in Wicklow County Council. Or in Wicklow library. And I think it is another example of what Wicklow County Council is doing to have full inclusion and to have in a library in Wicklow we're showing other counties the way as well. And I sincerely really, Michael and Brendan for that, thank you, and I certainly will keep sweet telling them for all the rest of my time. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just, to come back there, in the adoption of the library development plan. It was proposed by Cllr Anne Ferris, and it wasn't actually seconded by anybody.

CLLR CREAN: I'm happy to second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Very good. So adopted and seconded by Cllr Mags Crean, is that agreed by everybody, it is from all the comments. OK. Thank you. Just members before I go on to item 13, and the last protocol meeting I did ask for members if I could extend the meeting until 4pm to get through as much as I can, and hopefully reach some of the notice of motion, which maybe we can get to some of them with your permission is that agreed? Great thank you.

Item 13, to consider Wicklow sports and recreation partnership strategic plan, copy attached, and we have Aisling are you with us.

AISLING: I'll go straightaway. So, it is the sports and recreation partnership so strategic plan to 2023, I know the full plan and detail was forwarded to all members, so I won't go through the entire thing but overview of how we consulted on the process. There was a series of public individual and meetings, there was a resident participant survey and club surveys added to that. The overview and overarching

elements what we heard, physical activity and sports, accessibility, must be affordable to people and relatively close to where they live. More sports for minority sports within the county. There was a large willingness to embrace a large multiuse facility in strategic locations. Small community base sports hubs have needed. Enhanced use of the outdoors, and accessing, access to existing facilities such as school grounds and after hours. So, network to share facilities and increase awareness so that links back to minority sports as well.

Volunteer supports around training and education, where important to the public. Diverse opportunities, diverse people live in Wicklow, therefore there needs to be diverse opportunities available. So, the types of sports recreational facility we have and opportunities we make available to people. More support people required for disability, and older people and using sport as a conduit to achieve that. There are perceptions of imbalance wean east and west Wicklow he and north and south regards facilities, sports and physical activity, opportunities for people. So, the overall view of the strategy was just, the vision more people enjoying taking part and three missions underneath that, encouraging fun sports and physical activity, inspiring participation between people and providing providers of sports and physical activities, the main goal over that, was more quality sports and physical activities, opportunity so to get more people taking part, we need more quality and diverse participation opportunities nearby to where they are.

So, the overarching operating principles to deliver on the strategy: So, collaboration between both clubs, community

groups, schools, and wider public, coordination, so the partnership will directly provide some activities, would increasingly move to supporting others to develop, promote and raise appropriate programmes. So having a very much community-led. Creativity and innovation, while we support existing structures, we're trying to get into more imaginative and innovative spaces and in and around that, COVID has come up around the library's element, so, around that the innovation, that we've had to do with the staff over the last year-and-a-half, we moved from quickly from being face-to-face, meeting them in large pods and large scale running of events, down to two kilometre distance. So, we had to be very innovative and creative how you supported the community to maintain this physical activity and highlighted the importance of it. And the link there with the community, so we'll keep going in on that. And around the innovation part, we've been one of five sports partnerships that got funding through sport Ireland and the European funding, for our innovation project, which is innovative, it is interactive family walking app which will be launching in the Spring, so we're developing it at the moment and the idea of that is that it will then develop to be a countryside thing that other counties will take it on. As I said, we're moving less delivery and more leveraging supporting clubs, more community, schools but also sorting private providers and COVID, private providers had been shut down. Our opportunity is we have the contacts to the less active in the community, and we have the opportunity to support those people to be getting into the private providers so bridging that gap between people. So, when we stand away it is more

sustainable activity that they're involved in, and that leads on to long-term, and self-sustaining initiatives, while it can take longer to select and refine long-term initiatives the impact is substantial and can be life changing for people. It is important that we don't go out quickly and deliver loads of things, we need to be strategic with what we're doing and present on the agenda, so, that will be backed up by the national sports plan, we do our own research on every programme we do, to support Ireland for national programmes and reports.

The infrastructure, so, engaging with Municipal Districts, regarding local sports and physical activities, facilities, and I know, through CCSD, commission is starting to commission an audit on community facilities and sports will be included within that. So that will be done on Municipal District basis so started with one of them already, so that will end all Municipal Districts so. Once we have embedded in that is the future planning what is required, so we can be strategic where we put the facilities, with a we know and what we need, and what is missing and what potential there is more shared multiuse and sport facilities, it came up in the public, that's what they want and that nationally has been proven what is supported, especially by the LLSIF and sports capital and infrastructure fund, that's what they want at Government level and makes most sense for communities to build. Researching model of fundamentals, sports and physical activity, facilities, for small communities, so it is important we don't just focus on large skills, but small community based what can we have and use as a model. Outdoors, that links back to outdoor recreation plan passed by the council, at the last meeting or the meeting

before. Sport partnerships are involved in the delivery elements, and it is part of our strategy so that's the multiagency overlap. Increased collaboration and access to existing sports facility, sports and neighbour and county facilities. To on that we started conducting audit for schools' sports facilities to see the accessibility and what schools are allowing groups in their schools to use the facilities they have, and we'll be able to compile that and report on it.

So, this is the overview of the action areas. So diverse opportunities, research communications, standards and resources. So, the diverse opportunities are our community events, our more inclusion, so, inclusion that people with disabilities, and inclusion of minority groups and diverse populations that are coming into the county. And then, positive culture and awareness on the programmes we deliver on.

Underneath the good place ass great people. Facility planning and collaboration, again, around our large scale funding applications we put in and our sports capital grants applications and how we can help clubs to link with each other and sports capital grants and things like that, realises and revitalising facilities, around that, we got, plans started late 2020, so around that, we've got funding already for the Arklow sports hub, so the idea is that there's almost 170,000 allocated to Arklow for sports hub and I'll show you a 30 second video just about it. So, that's in or around, a small amount of equipment grants and things and then there's training and education for the Arklow area and there's also schools training courses to link them back to the community and to the clubs. So, it is a really good project, and because we have funding for that,

we're applying different areas to roll out the same. And also, on that, the outdoor recreation and volunteer training education. Research and communications, so commune communications our awareness and we've got sanction, we've got funding from support Ireland as promotions officer who will help with that and help clubs how they promote themselves and openness and things like that. So, standards and resources that's our general governance and procedures and how we help clubs maintain good governance within all the sports bodies and partnerships required to adopt the code by the end of the year so we're on the road to that. The other slides are specific area, so everyone has those to look at, I won't go through them. I'm briefly going to show you this or I'll show you a committee and then show you the video and then that's it. Our sports and recreation partnership committee, that guides, strategy what we do, and has put a huge amount of work into this, over the last, it changed a lot over the last couple of years and strong good committee. So, service providers, so that is Eamonn Whelan chairperson of the partnership, from Shoreline Greystones, we have public partnership, Wicklow County Council, Wicklow uplands council, children and young people services committee, two elected representatives, Wicklow older pensions council, public participation network, national governing body representative and Garda representative as well. So, I'll quickly show you this video and then we'll be done.

Video: OK, so Cathaoirleach, that's it.

Lorraine Gallagher the Cathaoirleach has technical difficulties.
Just give us one second there.

Michael. I'm going to follow up on Aishling's presentation, as Aisling said it doesn't work in isolation, there was great linkage to the committee and outdoors banding and directions on the scheme so it is all link today CCSD and tribute to all the staff of the sports partnership who worked during the COVID emergencies, look online and it was like nothing happened, they ran all the programmes online, and kept everyone active and moving and played a great part in people's mental health. To pay all the staff, they played a blinder during COVID in particular and formally recommend the adoption of the strategy, Cathaoirleach's back, is he?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yeah.

Can you hear me there now?

I think Cllr Gail Dunne was first there.

CLLR DUNNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, as I want to thank Aisling with her presentation, the body of work that is carried out throughout the county is unbelievable. Somebody comes back, comes from a sporting background I know the importance of being involved in sport in everyday life, the number of clubs to reach towns and villages in the county the amount of clubs around is unbelievable. The amount of work that's been done, for kids especially I think getting them involved in sport and going forward then, for education, mental health and their own fit considering, and wellbeing is so important. I suppose, if I had one problem with, is, going to be

facilities, in my area alone in Wicklow Town, and the area itself, that we seem to have built a lot of houses but very few pitches and things like that, and some of that going forward I think we need to look at planning level because we can't keep building house and not have any recreation and that's important going forward because we need the space for these clubs to grow into to develop and evolve and how important that really is. It is really so important so against, I want to thank Aisling for the presentation and Michael and all the hard work as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you, if it hasn't been doing well, I formally propose we adopt this plan. Just as well, I wanted to compliment Aisling and the team of inclusivity of the plan and the fact you're looking at a different number of different groups and as well the use of shared spaces it is a particular issue with Bray Municipal District, where lots of clubs are struggling to find spaces to use and are willing to share facilities so I really welcome that. I also welcome minority sports was picked up in the consultation because I think for those groups it is a real difficulty when you're not a huge organisation, but you're really needing the community support to get your initiative up and running and I know we have an issue here locally in Wicklow with the Rathdrum off road motor cross group, again another small group but a group doing amazing activities keeping people engaged and I'd love us to do more work to support the small ermine majority groups. Just to commend on Aisling and everyone involved, an excellent piece of work, thank you. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Thank you Cathaoirleach and Aisling for the

presentation and great work so far with everything. Just in terms, I know there's agency overlap, you mentioned the maritime areas and use of our coastal areas as to promote physical activity and I do want to highlight, we have avenue all seen it since COVID the huge numbers in people taking up sea swimming because firstly because of the mental and until and social benefits of sea swimming brings for people and during COVID it was a safer social alternative as well. But also, that it is also been it is free and it's easily accessible but not to everybody so, there is a question of the need for facilities along the coast, and even other bodies of water across the county to help people of all my billets, access swimming areas in a safe way we promote safe, training as well, training for safe swimming, and I think it would be great to see bigger focus on that, to harness the benefits that sea swimming bring. I want to say and repeat briefly what Cllr Gail Dunne and Cllr Pat Kennedy, just about the need for more facilities, training pitches, Greystones is crying out for more but there's also an issue of the main tenants of facilities as well. There's not enough funding there. Especially when it is taking into community control. There are huge issues about ongoing main tenants, especially if there's antisocial behaviour hot spots as well.

So, it would be great to focus on that, but I do appreciate the work that's been on going. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Sorry I took my hand down.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and as member of the partnership board I'm well aware and familiar with the whole range of programmes and activities that are all run by Aisling and her team. I just wanted to acknowledge that. And under the directorship of Michael Nicholson and particularly the social inclusive nature of the courses that have been wrong, you have women and older adult, national bike week, supports and programmes, and leadership, I could go on and on, but the way the prudent use of funding streams to provide this for much needed programmes across the community groups. Well done Aisling and I think the seconder there.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I do yeah.

Seconded by Cllr Gerry Walsh. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: I decided a huge congratulations to Aisling and her team and the committee there as well but also to see Arklow there on the video, it would warm your heart. We've fantastic area down there the Sea View Avenue and skateboard that is actively been used and now to see the sport hub there as well, which everybody was wondering where it was and there was funny suggestions but now I think they know what it is, and see the activity and young and older being there every day and especially as other councillors said because of COVID and we've a beautiful walk as well, we are very proud to have that amenity and you know it is great to see some more development in it. So well done to all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, a quick question and well done, but I won't labour that but agree what everyone said in the next couple of months because the weather is nice we will have sports classes that would normally be indoors trying to find a place to do a temporary outdoors so that something we can do, was there anything in the short-term to support your perspective on that, just until people can get indoors doing sports again. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Erika Doyle.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: I'm not sure why you keep seeing my hand up, but it is not up.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, I don't know why that happened, everybody's very supportive of - I don't know who is trying to come in. I don't see any name. Aisling, everyone is supportive what you're doing there, so I'll give you the last few words.

CLLR KAVANAGH: I don't know what way, what other way to do it. I just, yeah, we talked about facilities like pitches and things like that. I know there's great work being done, but we have a town here in Wicklow with a huge population which is expanding and now expanding out as far as Rathnew so they're becoming one. With a we need is a proper sports community hall which would accommodate minor sports, not talking about the big rugbies and GAAs and soccer, I'm talk about the smaller sports that people play, the badmintons and indoor balls and all those kinds of things that would accommodate everybody and also provide, bridge clubs and things like that. It is a very poor showing that in a town the size

of Wicklow we don't have a proper community or sports centre so something they may flag for down the line would be brilliant.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Mary Kavanagh. Aisling, can I bring you back in?

AISLING: That's great thanks to everybody, and on what was said by on Cllr Jodie Neary on sea swimming, we ran courses over the last couple of weeks on sea swimming, harbour swimming and sea swimming and they were sold out and booked up, there was only a couple of places left and some were teenagers, some women, specific groups so it is definitely something we will run in harbours we didn't get tout. Outdoor facility, there's an opportunity to I suppose, even places like Arklow sports hub, that through Coral leisure, there is abundance of outdoor space, that something could be booked through that, I will look at it, that we'll have a look and see if we talk to our database of clubs, we have indoor clubs specifically and would do work with those, the badminton clubs and Aum of that sort of stuff so I will contact them and see what your views are on what their plans are. But thank you. Everybody and the last thing on facilities is open free audit of facilities carried out by CCSD will bring up one of the elements and future planning for it we'll apply for going forward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry.

I actually missed Cllr Peir Leonard there. Did you want to add the last word?

CLLR LEONARD: I wanted to emphasise the potential of our spaces, and this is something I've been going on for the last few years with the wind farms coming in. Starting sports on water is the first stage of educating yourself and some potential

careers in that area. We in Arklow would have, the Avoca river has become more polluted over the years with expansion of the town, but as kids in the town, every one of us were on a boat that we were making, involved in rogue boats with the flood relief scheme, severing that connection on the south side of the river, it is in An Bord Pleanála now, and I'm disappointed that potential wasn't realised that we could, talk about facilities, and leaving a window open for all of this area that it wasn't realised and unfortunately now we have to go the hard route and fight for that which we will. But, just in relation to the hair bourse and facilities, we desperately need in Wicklow and Arklow bathroom facilities in both ports. Greystones has facilities being put in on there, but future is vast, if we get kids using waterways and everybody all ages, some of the members over in Arklow sailing club are in their 90s, manage a boat with wet sailing, about marine space there's a lot of potential, even areas diminish with the coastal erosion, there's facilities to put pontoons in and create those areas with deep water, so thank you the whole team interest there for all the work they've done but lots of scope for more, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Peir Leonard and Michael for all the work you're doing there.

Item 14, if that's all right, which the Chief Executive's Monthly Management Report May 2021, there's a copy attached and to note the Chief Executive for April 21, so the Chief Executive here.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Look, I'll take the report as read and take any questions, if that's OK?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I should be back on my own one now, can you hear me?

So, I'm going to take, Chief Executive's going to take questions, can I take the first question from Cllr Erika Doyle please.

CLLR ERIKA DOYLE: I don't have my hand up. Are you trying to make a show of me?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't think I can hear you. Can you hear me, Cllr Grace McManus?

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks.

Cathaoirleach, thanks Chief Executive for the report, a question on just before COVID ...

CATHAOIRLEACH: To ask the Chief Executive he is aware of issues of lands for sale as Meaghermore. If there is maintain more and action toss on required to preserve the sensitive coastal location, Chief Executive can you answer that question.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There's a few issues raised there, once is sensitive nature in the relation to the land near the coastline, there's a temporary car park in place, which we've agreed as COVID measures agreed with the Gardai and Coastguard operating so location around that point, back from the beach towards the road would be suitable for car parking in the certain, something we'll look at. In relation to the land for sale,

we're taking advice in terms of the valuation of that land and taking advice in terms of legal advice in terms of public rights-of-way because as you know, there's people have been walking on that since the regional road was built and convent road led down to, I wouldn't say more on that at the moment.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

Cllr Rory O'Connor Mull5 I did lose connection for a moment. If you don't mind and I'll chair it Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah, sure.

Look, on Chief Executive report as tracks and trails I want to thank everybody in the economic and tourism section for with a was eventually broadcast, it is hard to imagine it was two years ago, that was filmed the tracks and trail programme that did Bray Head and Tinahely, and worked with the production team, they were fantastic to deal with but wouldn't be possible without the county council was funding, the response was immediate, it was Jammers with Walkers and continued with the fine weather, it shows the value of showing our wonderful walking trails that have been in fairness to the tin Healey ones which has been designed built and negotiated and maintained by the local community for over 14 years and proud to work with them on it. But it reveals we do have a lot of work to do in relation to my question, is on the Chief Executive on the progress being made in relation to the Arklow Shillelagh Greenway is a game-changer for south-west region which is the disadvantaged region in investment by the council or state in Wicklow. So, I just hope that we can, accelerate that and

continue the growth of tourism to all regions of the county thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I hope I'm not taking anyone's place here but want to thank the Chief Executive for his report. It's been a while now since we're able to ask him some questions and I note back in April there was is the million available for funding for and it has been discussed for swimming facilities, so someone as represents Wicklow Town and the largest swimming club on the east coast it is disappointing that Wicklow received none of this funding, can I just, we can reassurances from the Chief Executive, that any more funding becomes available they would apply for it as it is much needed along the east coast and west.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan and then back to the Chief Executive.

CLLR BEHAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, just a couple, but they are important questions for people really. The council isn't letting to 42 families. Before Christmas, allocating them aunt in Kilbride Close. Six months later they still haven't moved in, it is Unconscionable the delay in this development, it is now going on for more than three years, we have a housing crisis, we have a housing emergency, there is little if no information coming from Wicklow County Council about what is going on there. And why is there such a delay. So could I ask the Chief Executive to clear it up here and now what, is the problem and when will people be able to move into those houses. That's number one, number two, I'm hearing from various people there's a delay in the council dealing with commencement

notices, which are being sent to Wicklow County Council and are needed before developments can start. Again, you know, we've had such a delay in building to me it is unbelievable Wicklow County Council are holding this process up, by delaying responses to commencement notices, can I ask the chief executive with a factually is the problem here, why is there such a long delay on dealing with commencements notices.

Number three, in Dublin City and county there's publicity in the last number of weeks extra public toilets located in areas where there's a high population. And I congratulate the people in Greystones Municipal District I saw a message from Lorraine a new additional temporary toilet facility has been provided for people in Greystones. Bray is jam-packed with visitors, seven days a week morning until night, there's not enough public toilets available in normal times never mind in these times of extremely good weather. Can I ask the Chief Executive why he hasn't applied for funding for more toilet facilities in the Bray area? On the area can I ask what is happening with the cliff walk, it is close you had now for two months, we're getting the same reply in the Chief Executive's board, thank you very much for putting up the delay we're doing our best but no indication when the problem is going to be resolved and it was a huge visitor attraction and huge facility so Chief Executive what is happening with the cliff walk?

Number five and one more to go after this. The Columbarium Wall is built which is a wall to receive ashes in Springfield burial ground, first one in the county, it is built, sitting there, people waiting to use it but no access to it, no indication from Wicklow County Council when is this burial wall put into use, can you tell

us when is that burial wall to begin to be available to the people in north Wicklow area. And finally, there's publicity about Bray Town Centre and a possible tenant which I won't name but it is in the public media. I just wanted to know, there's no activity on that site at the moment is there a problem there?

Is there a difficulty with the completion of that development?

Is there a difficulty that we cannot have hard and fast information about who the tenants are going to be in that particular location, and can you indicate here and now today, when that facility is actually going to be open for use by the public?

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Chief Executive back to you and then the next three.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just in relation to Arklow Shillelagh, there's a lot of work done in terms of detail design and impact, assessment and CPO documents, very close to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála, a lot of work but it is finalising looking at the notice et cetera, so a lot of work done on that. Swimming facilities, take that on board, anything that comes up on available grants we'll come back on that. And the Kilbride Lane, my understanding and I'll ask Joe to come in, it is close to be finished as the end of the month, there's issues between the assigned certificate fire and builder they're solved and delay and commencement notices, I'll check that out and come back to you, I didn't realise there was a delay, above and beyond in the case of Wicklow County Council, sometimes

there's delays in what numbers from assigned certainly fires and this stuff but I'll get to the bottom of that, public toilet in Bray, again, look it is a matter of Bray MD, they have been looking at queuing and looking at facilitating, and maximising the use of the existing toilet, I will talk to them, there is funding available, we can apply at any stage, porta loos come with their own issues now as you know, so I'll liaise with MD and people on the ground and look to see if we can, we need extra toilets and what's the best option. And in relation to cliff walk as you know there was a landslide which made it extremely dangerous for the public so that's why it was closed, it had to be closed and agreement ourselves, coast guard and Gardai so there's a lot of work in liaising landowners to build a new pathway inside the, where the danger is, so that's where it is at, final stages of negotiating with landowners, as soon as we're ready to go in we will start construction but it is a safety issue and we have to get agreement on landowners before we build on their land. I'll come back on the burial wall, I thought it was ready, I'll come back with exact date, but I will come back to you on that. And Bray town centre, I'm not aware of any issues holding it up. There will be a report for the Bray MD tomorrow night the exact date for practical completion I don't have yet. I'll endeavour to get that and come back to you. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, appreciate that. Chief Executive, thank you for your report. This is always one of the most important parts of the meeting from my perspective. Just a number of questions and I will go through them as quickly as I can. Basically, at the previous two meetings I have asked could you get, and I am sure the members would be interested, a one or two-pager listing the funding streams available to us. I like to get that. This is my third time requesting it. I note in your report that there is a 204,000 funding for Fishery Harbour and that kind of category. So, I am just wondering what is the possibility to help sort out the problem of the fishermen in Greystones?

On housing I have a number of questions, but I will keep them to a minimum. I will come back to some of them later with you. The first is on housing people with disability. How many people do we have waiting in this category? And the Government recently, as I understand it, approved funding and capacity for dealing with this. I would just like to know what the plans are and what we are doing immediately on that. I am aware of a number of people in conversation with the local authority and I would like to know whether that is progressing. On the homelessness side of it, do we have capacity in our system to react in a quick manner to a homeless situation, because I have had one or two cases over the last two months, and I just felt maybe perhaps didn't have the capacity in some way. On the HAP end of it, what is the story there? Are we matching the market or how is that working? And on the solar panels, how are we deciding the programme? How are we deciding what properties are going to get solar panels? How are we picking the areas or are we spreading out all the areas? On the vaccination roll out

that is going very well now and it's fantastic. I would like to thank the Wicklow County Council for all their efforts during COVID, I think they have been excellent. I presume there is co-operation going on between the local authority and getting the centres organised, but that is a very important area, so well done in all of that. Also, just I like to congratulate Cllr Dermot O'Brien and the great work he does with Comhairle Na Nog. The amount of work that Dermot puts into Comhairle Na Nog is phenomenal and he is to be congratulated for the effort he puts into it. On tourism what milestones are in place to measure the progress on the tourism strategy? In other words, is the strategy funded properly? I know from personal experience that funding has always been the Achilles heel for Wicklow tourism. I am wondering has that changed and how are we dealing with that? On the Bray Harbour regeneration, I presume we will be getting a presentation on that shortly? The reason I mention that is a number of people have been on to me asking questions about it. I would be hoping, for the sake of the people in Bray, that there are lessons learnt from what went on in Greystones. On the Enterprise Office. How many new start-ups have we had in the last 12 months or what is the whole projection for the whole year 20/21 from a start-up perspective. On the County Development Plan and that whole process, is there a likelihood that the CBD process will be stopped and put forward until 2022. I have had heard some whispers on that and it would make a lot of sense in light of what is going on with the environment and with planning and with the mess that is being made of future housing developments in Wicklow, there has to be a rethinking on that, I would think. And, derelict sites, there is a derelict site for a number of years at the junction of the sea road in Kilcoole, at the end of the village. I have made numerous requests to have that dealt with, or have action take on it. I think it's got to the stage

where it's just ridiculous. I would ask that someone follow it up seriously and let me know what is going on.

On the climate action, I must say, the climate action team I find very helpful, they are doing a great job. The question I would have is what is the ED charger rollout for the year. How many do we envisage having during the course of this full year? On the remediation of Whitestown, could I get the timeline, the cost and who pays for that? On the Greystones Transport Study, when is it expected to be available to us to review? And the last one, Chair, you will be glad to hear, on the water quality, I am just basically asking there, is all the water around the county at a proper quality? In other words, we say in the report under KPI12A that it's up at 100%, does that mean that the water is absolutely perfect and there are no problems anywhere with it? I think that is a very important area and I think we should make sure that that is highlighted at every meeting in your report. They are my questions, chairman, and I would like to again compliment the CEO on his report. It's always very detailed and very informative.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Fortune. Grace McManus.

CLLR McMANUS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I just want to ask the Chief Executive, would it be possible to get a breakdown of which MD people are presenting as homeless from. You provide a lot of that in the report, and it's really appreciated but I think that would be helpful and it leads on to my question which is we passed a motion before COVID that we would have a homeless outreach service in Bray, so that people wouldn't have to travel to Wicklow to present as homeless if they needed to. I know everything has been by phone and by appointment, but now we are coming out of the restrictions I am wondering if we could get an update on that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I didn't think you would get to me. Just, look it, I know everyone is sick of me going on about Arklow Flood Relief Scheme, but it's gone in for planning to An Bord Pleanála at the moment and I want to ask the Chief Executive, I know the OPW were involved, but I know there was a Steering Committee in Wicklow County Council and I like to ask why the public weren't listened to? Why we are not getting glass on the south quay and why are only green spaces on the lower part of the town and fishery areas are being removed as compound on south beach and the only small green space we have within about four or five different estates for kids to play on is being removed as part of it as well. Then, also if it's a cost issue, why is so much of the town being CPO'd as part of this scheme and who is paying for it and how much is that going to be as part of the overall cost of the scheme? It seems like an overkill of CPOs and the legal costs, who is going to pay the legal costs for the public and the constituents who are being CPO'd, are they going to be included in the cost of it?

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

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just, Cllr Fortune on the funding streams certainly Brian Gleeson would have issued that last year, we will get that out again, no problem. The fisheries funding is Wicklow and Arklow. That funding has been identified for various different schemes in both harbours. There is ongoing dialogue, as you know, between them and the fisheries in Greystones, hopefully we will get a resolution to that. The homeless and in the Wicklow turnover, I think we have a quick turnover. A lot of work on homeless is an avoidance and by talking to people and ensure they don't come into the homeless trap. So, there is always ongoing engagement with that. If

someone comes into the trap there is B&Bs and then we work on longer term accommodation.

In relation to solar panels, we are looking at energy retrofitting and achieving, we are looking at achieving Ber 2, so we generally do that by external insulation, internal insulation and that is the kind of priority we have. A problem is always going to get to Ber 2. We have 1.4 million earmarked this year. That is a further 50 that will get up to that standard around the county. In terms of the tourism strategy, it's been very helpful in applying for grants, particularly the likes of Avondale which is going to be the largest grant that Fáilte Ireland have ever given out. We look at the Blessington Greenway, very significant funding. I no he with have to finish the planning process, but huge funding there. Tracks and trails, funding in the town centres when we apply for them, it's all set out in the tourism strategy. Of course, Glendalough, 500,000 for the consultancy, but the advantage of that is that the consultancy will follow on with further grants in relation to access to the national park, etc.

So, the strategy is used as a, in our application for all of these funding streams that come out. We found it very beneficial. Bray Harbour again there is consultants employed with that. The work in the harbour is complete. There will be a master plan for the remainder of the area, so certainly there will be presentation and full public consultation in relation to that. The County Development Plan, the thing about the County Development Plan and COVID is that there were delays in a lot of local authorities because of COVID, because of staff being out, etc. The plans have also become a lot more complicated in that even when we were doing our predraft submissions, the amount of submissions it took the team a lot of time and effort to come into that. Drawing up that we have

to take the core strategy in place now. You are bringing in what would have previously had a local area plan. We lost time, now we are not too bad because it's on display now, when the submission has come back, it will come back to members and if there are no material amendments, they will have to go out on public display within the timeframe. But a lot of the local authorities are not in that position, and they are certainly 100% going to go overboard, so there is legislation coming that will allow plans to be extended up to a year, from what I understand.

Now, if we have to go back on public display with amendments, we will be looking for that ourselves. The site of Sea Road we will look at in terms of the derelict register. In relation to Whitestown, fund has always been through the department, and we are certainly confident they will fund it. The draft remediation plan was sent to the various different consultees, it went back to the judge, national parks and wildlife are looking for inappropriate assessment and the judge wants to restart that process. So that is where it is at the moment. In relation to water quality, it's something that you are right, we should highlight, it's really top of the table, all the time, in terms of our KPIs, so it's something we need to keep on top of and make sure we are there and put the work into it. The water services team do put a lot of work into it. Cllr McManus...

CLLR FORTUNE: Sorry, CEO, just the Greystones Transport Study where are we with that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I will ask Colm to come in there. It has been approved for funding, we are getting a consultant, the consultant is appointed at this stage. I will ask Colm to come in in a second if that is okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: MD for the, in in relation to the homeless outreach service, again as you know, the COVID has affected that. We certainly hope to be back up and running in September or there or thereabouts. I might ask Joe to comment on that if he wishes. In relation to the OPW, look all comments and points were taken on board at this stage. There is going to be glass panelling on the south quays. Not everywhere, as you know, but this is only a proposal at this stage. It starts a whole new consultation process, it will probably be a public hearing, so there are loads of opportunities to feed into it at this stage. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is Colm there with us?

COLM: Just in relation to the Greystones Transport Study we have an allocation of £150,000 from the NTA to undertake the study.

Advertisements were out for the study. Those tendered are in and we are carrying out the tender assessment at this stage. So, in terms of when they will engage with councillors, that will be something we will agree with the successful tenderer when they are appointed. We will have a timeframe for the completion of the study, and I will bring that back to the members and highlight when consultation will take place with the consultants and the members of Greystones MD. Just to say we have a transport study ongoing as well for the Arklow area and consultants have been appointed to carry out that study.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Colm. Sorry, is Joe with us. Was there a question for Joe?

JOE: It was a specific question I was answering.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The question on homeless outreach services in Bray.

JOE: Oh, yeah, sorry. We will probably have a report for you tomorrow night. It's just a matter of configuring the counter, I believe, so we might leave that until tomorrow night.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you.

CLLR BEHAN: [INAUDIBLE]...

JOE: I can give more information. First of all, that has been a particular awkward build. There has been two, there has been two site closures because of COVID and there has been examinership, so it has been an awkward one. At the moment most of the development is complete, some of the houses are complete, but there is since 2014 there is the building regulations and there is a certification process. It singles point of contact for co-ordination and design and there are little bits of work between the science completing the project and the architect and the builder. So, at the moment there will be another meeting on the 18th but at the moment we are confident that will be finished at the end of the June, it will be quarter two, like it always was, finish. Probably we will have more information here next meeting, no... if that was the case, depending on Friday's meeting we will be engaging with tenants next week. Assuming, on the 18th that everything is fine.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. Cllr Gerry O'Neill. Is Gerry with us?

CLLR O'NEILL: Sorry, thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just briefly to the CEO again, thank you for your presentation and your report. Just on the Burbage Moor one there. There is a 32 acre site and there is a PPN, social housing site for there. If you have an update for that, or if you don't maybe for the next meeting. Those 32 acres, he would be anxious that the community would have an input into the master plan for that 32 acre site. It's ideal for leisure, at the moment part of it is proposed for

light engineering. The community really believe here it's a total leisure area town around Avonrea. It's an ideal location for maybe a hotel and a leisure complex and also a swimming pool included in it that. So, while there is plenty of room there for housing, maybe if you gave an update, if not today some other time when the PPP would be started there. That is one there. Number two I wanted to ask you about, the minister's announcement here on the shelving of the planning, or development plan and maybe on planning permissions, which have been granted over the last period and that there would be a time extension on them. What I notice here, what I am trying to say here is on one-off housing, there is a huge amount of people I have been talking to here over the materials for one-off housing and the shortage of material, whether it be timber or insulation or whatever, there is ferocious shortages of stuff coming in because of the COVID.

Now, I am not quite clear on it now, whether the minister insinuated that we would have another year or two added to planning one-off housing. I think that would be very important. There are people now in the process of building, but they are held up because of materials. It's a really serious issue. Another issue there, number three of four, is just Cllr Behan raise it earlier about public toilets. Is there any plan here for west Wicklow on public toilets? You can travel 72 kilometre Municipal District and there is only one toilet, it's the £42,000 a year more or less Portaloo. It's important the amount of people we are getting around here and there is no toilets for people. I think it's very important that there should be some consideration put in fairly rapidly that we would provide the public with toilets.

Just the last one there, it's on the removal of our national flag from Municipal buildings. In Blessington here there is the, the national flag is gone. There is a gay pride flag up, which I have no problem whatsoever with any flag, but obviously I am led to believe it's the Russian flag alongside it, I think it's a shame that we remove our national flag from many of our buildings in the county and replace them with any flag. I have no problem with any flags, but I do have a huge problem with the removal of our national flag from our buildings. If you could check that out and come back to me on that one?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Okay, thank you, Cathaoirleach. Burbage Moor, there will be a pre Part 8 presentation in your July meeting. There is a lot of work there and you will see what that is at that Part 8 meeting. On, on the 32 acres. I think the closing date was Friday, so we will be appointing a consultant on Friday to do all the areas you mentioned, including the swimming pool. What happens in the active open space area and what happens down towards the lake so, so that process will start quickly. In relation to the development plan, there is an extension of up to a year because of various delays that may happen due to COVID. We may or may not need to get that. The minister at the same amount announced an extension for planning permission, particularly ones that you notice units were on site and needed an extension to complete by December 2022 was the date that was mentioned. That does make sense in our view. We haven't seen anything on it yet, circulars or draft legislation, but that was the intention of it and would be very welcome. I agree with you, from talking to various builder, very hard to get labour and materials in material, insulation and bricks are difficult. It's a combination of Brexit and COVID, it's very difficult on the industry as you mentioned it. The date for the national flag I will come back to you. The

public toilets, there is grants available so we will look at that with the Baltinglass MD in relation to Blessington in particular.

LORRAINE: Just while we are waiting for the Cathaoirleach to come back, in relation to the flag, Cllr O'Neill, it's probably that there is only one flag post there. They took the decision to fly the pride flag during month of June. So, one flag would have to come down to let another up. I would say that is it, but we will check it out and come back to you.

CLLR O'NEILL: There are two flagpoles, and the national flag is removed, it's gone and there is, Young it's the flag of Russia that is alongside the gay flag at the moment. So, there are two flagpoles, and the national flag is gone. It's been said to me by a few people in the town, "None of us have any problems with flags whatsoever, but the national flag should not be removed." There are definitely two flagpoles and for the love and honour and I don't know what the Russian flag is doing alongside the other flag. I haven't a clue, I would like to ask for the, I think the people would like to see our national flag flying again.

LORRAINE: Maybe the answer to that is an actual flag policy. Maybe it's something we look into across the district to everyone is clear what flags fly when and where.

ADMINISTRATOR: Just so say the Cathaoirleach is having some internet issues and he has asked me to say that Cllr Mitchell is next.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you very much. Just I would like to ask a question about the Delgany to Black Lion Cycleway and road. We have had about six different things about the Compulsory Purchase Order for this. The last one was early May of 2021. As far as I am aware it's not published and I would really like to see it listed in the Chief Executive's report, because it, we don't seem to be able to make progress on this legal issue in a year of missed deadlines. So, that would be my question. The second point I would like to make is as regards the plan and

delaying the County Development Plan, I wouldn't like to see the County Development Plan delayed, at least the Greystones and Kilcoole plan which come after the development plan and take a further two years to prepare. They expired in 2019, so it will be four years out of date without a delay. So, I wouldn't want to see a delay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I think when you are presented with such a comprehensive report by the Chief Executive, it's great for public representatives to get an opportunity to pose their questions and observations, but I think in the midst of all of that, good news can be lost at times. So, I just want to thank the Chief Executive for, since his first day coming into county Wicklow, his support for the housing section in particular. He has been unquestionable in regard to the support that he has given to the director of services and indeed if I could take this opportunity to thank Jackie Carroll our senior executive officer who has just moved positions. The reason I bring this up is that last weekend 46 units were allocated to people off social housing waiting lists. Again, this is not mentioned here today, so far. I think it's very important that we acknowledge the work that goes on behind the scenes from our Chief Executive, from our director of services down to our senior executive officers and the staff themselves. That is another 46 units that is allocated in east Wicklow. That is on the back of what has happened in Baltinglass and Carnew and Arklow and Greystones. All of this in the time of a pandemic, a global pandemic and I know a lot of local authorities completely closed down and we obeyed all the COVID restrictions, and we still delivered on our promises to our constituents and to people on the waiting, social waiting list. I want to commend the Chief Executive for that, and I just want to say that there are 46 families with a roof over their head now going into the future. Long may it

continue, so it's not all doom and gloom and I appreciate there is questions to be asked and definitely I am not in any way taking from that, but I do think on an occasion like this it's important to highlight the successes of Wicklow County Council as well. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well-said. Cllr Gail Dunne.

CLLR DUNNE: Cathaoirleach, just to follow on from Cllr Snell, he is dead right. The amount of good work carried out, especially in our county has to be commended. I know we ask some difficult questions but the Chief Executive, directors of staff have to be commended on, especially the amount of funding that has come in if and the amount of work that has been done. Following on from that, I suppose I have a couple of questions to ask the Chief Executive. One is with the NTA funding that has come in and we have had a lot of NTA funding recently, I am just concerned that the money has to be spent fairly quickly as you know. We were promised some extra staff and I don't know where that is at at the moment. I would like to ask the Chief Executive to let us know, has anyone been taken on in that period. We do still have discretionary money to be spent in the districts and lads are getting pulled around all over the place, where a bit of extra staff would help all of that. My next question is on URDF funding, and I am just wondering where we are at on, there is a new call as we know coming in September. I know Wicklow and Arklow are going to be in the pot looking for money. I am just wondering is there much work being done on the applications? I know the department engaged with the Council and I just want an update on that. Also, maybe the Chief Executive could include Wicklow in the toilets. Wicklow Town has been hammered over the last few weeks with visitors to the town and the new Fitzwilliam Square

everything is great, but the Murrough and the Black Castle area definitely need toilets.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to the Chief Executive with those questions.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to the Delgany Black Lion Road. I will ask Colm to come in there. It's very close now. Colm might give us a date if you can.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you with us, Colm.?

COLM: We were just finalising the document. It's almost imminent at this stage, I will check where we are at, but we are just finalising at checking the documentation before we publish the CPO, but it's imminent at this stage.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you for that. In relation to the NTA funding, yeah, we are taking on six executive engineers and there are some internal acting appointments. That process has started, similarly there is outgoing recruitment to start, as soon as that starts, we will be working on those and we will have them built up for next year as well, there is a significant number of staff between the NR crew, the area crew and also we have three senior executive engineers and a number of technicians working on those schemes. It is significant funding and it's going to be here for the next number of years. It's important we have those teams built up. The RDF funding, we are working on it internally. I know that the consultants who were appointed for Bray Harbour have come on board to give it that extra bit of technical support. So, we will be working for that and ready for September. I take on board what you are saying about the toilets in Wicklow. I know some of the, there is some facilities available as it is, but we will look at those areas you mentioned. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Bourke, are you there?

CLLR BOURKE: Sorry, my battery is nearly gone, I will soon have to leave you. I am really glad the Cathaoirleach mentioning that you can't proceed at all unless he gets agreement with landowners for the greenways, the Arklow to the Shillelagh one. It's great to hear that, because it does contrast the earlier stand on the road at the back of The Tap just for noting. I want to ask, will we be able to continue on with the review of Local Area Plans even if the County Development Plan is stalled for a year, if we take that option, does that mean that the Arklow, Wicklow, Rathnew and Greystones proceed, or will they be delayed as well?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: Just a real specific one from page 49 of the Chief Executive's report about bathing water monitoring. I see in there, there is identified and non-identified areas of swimming. And a call out for those who are non-identified areas to try and get them to be identified and there is a deadline. I am just wondering what the process of that is and who should make contact with the council? Is that something that the MD should discuss? I presume there are benefits from moving a site to non-identified to identified and is that a smooth process? If that is too complex for the chief, I am happy to follow up?

CATHAOIRLEACH: I have Cllr M Kavanagh's name, I couldn't see you there, Cllr Kavanagh. You are on next.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Thank you, mine was, first of all, I just want to say thanks to the all the staff for how they have been handling the problem areas, such as litter and the provision of bins and stuff like that over the last couple of months. It's been an absolute nightmare, as we all know, cleaning up areas as well that have been left in a terrible state. It's an appalling blight on our landscape and I don't know, it's just dreadful what our own people are doing in our own country. The other issue was,

the other big problem area as has already been mentioned by a couple of councillors is the provision of public toilets and I know it's been said before, but it's one of the most basic requirements in any, especially in any large town that attracts a lot of visitors. We have a harbour, we have fishermen, we have swimmers, we have boaters and rowers, we have a children's playground, all kinds of, walkers and all kinds of activity and there isn't a toilet along that coastline from the Black Castle as far as the Murrough. It doesn't have to be a self-cleaning thing that costs a fortune to run. If you go down to Kilmore Quay there is a simple structure there, two or three buildings, a cement concrete building, aluminium sinks, they turn themselves after a couple of minutes. Anything at all, I was over at Black Lion, there was a father trying to find somewhere to bring his child to the toilet. It's not acceptable in a tourism destination. I think it should be treated as a priority.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly, is there any plans to include Russborough House in the application deadline. Russborough is a unique and treasures house with a lot of history. It also has world-class collections which it can't display for various reasons because of the lack of facilities there. These are held in storage in the National Gallery. The development people there have great ideas about expanding and the changing the house and expanding it and developing it as a tourist resource. So, I wonder if there is anything in the pipeline there for the coming RDF application?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you Cathaoirleach and thank you for the comprehensive report. On the housing the rent arrears I see it's significantly high. I notice it's the first time in the year there is a slight decrease from last month. I wonder if there is any strategy for plan to

address that figure. On the Rebuilding Ireland on the tenant purchase steam applications, the numbers marked as declined in comparison to the numbers received seem disproportionately high. If you can throw any light on that? In relation to the proposed offshore wind project, I see, the councillor engaging with Enterprise Ireland in relation to possible educational bodies but developing business clusters and skills and training requirements. Would the Chief Executive elaborate any further on that in relation to what is planned there or envisaged there and what locations might be at the centre of that? I know there is outdoor staffing issues and the six executive engineers for the NTA funded scenes. In general, I know for Greystones Municipal District the staffing levels are still low and we are hoping to get at least two more, so I wonder if there is any update on that. On the final point I want to acknowledge the success of the council there on the recent court applications, cases rather in tackling the illegal dumping across the county. I think there were 80 cases over a two-year period and significant fines imposed. That is a clear message that you are sending out on that illegal activity and well done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just, Cllr Sylvester Bourke, the County Development Plan is the overarching plan that sets out the core strategy. So that really has to be done before we embark on the Local Area Plans. In identifying suitable areas for swimming, I would say to bring it up with the MD in the first instance and then bring it in here. Maybe we should be doing it with every MD and having a co-ordinated approach on it. I take what Cllr M Kavanagh is saying on the public toilets and I will ask the Municipal District to identify suitable areas for those types of toilets and apply for that funding. Rust brow house I would be interested in meeting them and seeing what ways we

can help them in terms of funding. It's a great addition to the county so I might come back to him on that. Cllr Walsh in relation to the rent arrears, it was COVID related, the rent collectors are back in action. The impact of the represent review is starting to decrease and those arrears are coming down, so it's a process that I think you will see continuing to decrease as COVID lifts. In relation to the educational bodies, again it's going to be big business, the offshore wind when it happens. You will have SSE and coddling, if these projects go ahead you are talking about two billion each. So, they are going to need a whole skillset in terms of trades and in particular and maintenance and operation and even in the construction side. So that is something we have been talking to Solas about. There are people who have trained from other areas, so they are available to take up the jobs when they come. In relation to the operatives, we will, needless to say fill any vacancies that arise around the county. Then we will have the extra crews to work on the foot paths that we have funding from the NTA. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I don't think anyone else is showing. So, can I have a proposer and seconder for the Chief Executive's report?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: You don't need one. It's just a note.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Don't need one. We will move on. Item number 15 is to ratify the setting up of a women's caucus. The report was attached. Lourda Scott, you have done a lot of work on this if you wanted to come in.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I know we are tight on time, but at the same time I am going to speak for a minute or two on this, because this is quite a significant moment for Wicklow County Council. It's a group that I hope will be here for quite a long time, particularly close to the elections. Just personally speaking a big motivation for me running for council was the lack of representation of women at local

government. Nationally there is only 21% of women councillors in 2014 local elections. That is despite the fact that we see women every day I feel as the driving force in the communities both through volunteer work and through activism. This has to change. We all know that more diversity leads to better decision-making and we know that the lack of female representation in decision-making leads us to poorer outcomes for women's interest in policy-making. We see this very recently, at the moment in fact as we have the country opening back up for business because of COVID, but at the same time we still have women in maternity hospitals without their partners being allowed. So, I think we are doing okay at the moment, there is a fair amount of women councillors present, but at the same time there is a lot of room for improvement. It's worth noting we are not at gender parity. We have only had three females Cathaoirleach in the history of the council and currently we have no SPC chairs, so no female elected at the SPC level. This shouldn't be acceptable to any of us. If we are to reflect our communities, we need to reflect the communities we serve.

There are many hurdles to overcome these barriers and to change the way representation is at local Government, but it is shown that forming women's caucuses is one of the ways to help. I assisted in getting the ALG off the ground and I am delighted that Wicklow's Caucus is formed, and I am happy to be chair. This is a place where people hold equal weight and I look forward to collaborating with my fellow female councillors on areas of common interest and particularly in promoting women's equality in Wicklow.

It's often said, "if you can't see it, you can't be it", so I hope being more visible as women councillors we will encourage more women councillors

to run in the future and also to encourage those lucky enough to be elected to stay on for future terms. I want to acknowledge the work of Cllr Ferris in particular in getting this going to Hannah Green and all the executive staff who have been so generous with their time and help. As I said, I am delighted that this Caucus has come to the wider council for ratification and thank you, Chair.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I won't be long. I just agree with everyone that Lourda said there. I am delighted this caucus has been set up. I think Deirdre Whitfield and Fiona Flynn are a great help to the committee. I am delighted that the caucus has been welcomed broadly by the female councillors and it's great to see the large number of female councillors elected in 2019. As one of those of Wicklow County Council, it was a special honour for me to have been elected, Cathaoirleach to Wicklow County Council, but there certainly are too few. I remember at one stage being on a council where there was only myself and one other female member of the Council. So that is really not good enough. I think our role, apart from improving conditions for ourselves, I think it is to show the way forward for new members both from our diverse community to be able to contest elections successfully and I am really looking forward to it. I know it's important for us as women's councillors to hope that we will be around after the next election, one will be wanted to lay the ground open for other women to win seats on the council. I think that will make it a much healthier council and I look forward to the next three years on the women's caucus. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Ferris. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR P O'BRIEN: I want to welcome this as a male councillor. I believe in diversity, and I believe that equality is the bedrock of all councils. I just

want to pledge my support to them, commend them. I know that councils are often seen as an old boy's network, and I am glad to see someone trying to smash that glass ceiling once and for all and I wish them the best of luck.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I have a proposer and a seconder for this?

CLLR SCOTT: I propose.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lourda Scott has proposed. A seconder.

CLLR FERRIS: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Everyone in agreement. No dissent. I will move on to number 16 to ratify nominee to the Wicklow County Council's Audit Committee for a period of June 20 to June 2024. I am going to come to Cllr Edward Timmins here. I think you have been involved in this. Cllr Timmins? I don't think he is with us.

CLLR BLAKE: Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: In the absence of Edward, I think there is a timeframe laid out for a change of personnel on it. I think that Edward was waiting for a proposer, so I propose Edward's name to go forward there as a replacement for the next two years.

LORRAINE: This came up at the annual meeting by way of background. There are two places on the Audit Committee for elected members. Currently Cllr M Kavanagh and Cllr Gerry Walsh. It was agreed at the meeting that after a period of 18 months there would be a change. I see Cllr Timmins back in.

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, Lorraine.

LORRAINE: Can you just propose the names of what you are proposing from the period June to June 24?

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I explain the background. I missed the connection. Did Cllr Blake make a proposal?

CLLR BLAKE: I propose Cllr Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just to explain the background. At our meeting two years ago at the AGM there was three nominations for the Audit Committee, and we were told we could only facilitate two. So, it was agreed then we would rotate so I agreed to step down for the first two years of the five years. So technically we, if you divide ten years by three, it's three or four months each, but that is not rounded down for two years, so I guess three years and the other councillors would get three-and-a-half years. That is the way we work and that is what was agreed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That is proposed by Cllr Blake, do we have a seconder for that.

CLLR M KAVANAGH: I will second it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr M Kavanagh.

ADMINISTRATOR: Can I check, am I correct that Cllr Kavanagh is stepping back now?

CLLR M KAVANAGH: No, Cllr Walsh.

ADMINISTRATOR: Cllr Walsh is stepping back and then Cllr Walsh is stepping back in approximate for the last 18 months and Cllr Kavanagh steps down??

CLLR M KAVANAGH: Yes. Are you in agreement with that, Gerry?

CLLR WALSH: Absolutely. That is what was agreed as far as I am concerned, thank you.

ADMINISTRATOR: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is everyone in in agreement with that speech? Everyone is happy, okay. Done. Item number 17 is to receive an update on the local property tax. We have director Brian Gleeson with us. Are you there?

BRIAN GLEESON: Just to give everyone a brief overview of the changes to LPT based on the information we have to date. It's kind of a work in progress and we are getting information on an ongoing basis. Basically, the new legislation being brought in provides for the revaluation of properties from the 1st of November 2021. However, the LPT base rate which is eight at 0.18 will be reduced and bands will be widened for calculating LPT liabilities to ensure that the majority of households will face no increase when their properties are revalued this coming November.

Current estimates, on a global scale not specific to Wicklow but 64% of households would not receive an increase following the revaluations in November. It would also be implemented that the revaluations will take place every four years, so the new valuations will consider a period of 2022 to 2025. The new legislation would also provide for new properties, firstly the ones that have been built since 2013, that we are all aware of, having been paying LPT. They will be brought into the system in November and then the legislation has been amended to allow for new properties subsequent to that to be brought in on an annual basis. They will be retrospectively valued as if they had existed on the valuation date of November 2021. So that is all positive news. I suppose how it impacts on us is to allow for these changes to be made for 2022 and allow revenue to apply the changes to their systems the variation rate decision, I, whether we want to increase it or decrease it up to 15%, that needs to be made before the end of August, heretofore it has been at the end of September. So that is a change in our system. So, look, we are due, there is a circular due from the department this week, we will examine that, and we will be proposing this local property meeting to take place, probably the end of July or early August in order to comply

with that requirement. The local property tax regulations have been amended to reduce the public consultation period from a minimum of 30 days to 14 days, so that we can bring forward these changes. So, I suppose one thing to note is that for budgetary purposes for 2022, the variation and the decision you will be making on the variation will be based on the existing 2021LPT figures. It's an as you were situation. So, any increase, decrease will be based on our current gross income yield of 17.3 million rather than any new additional income yield. That has to be decided on how that will be applied. We won't have the figures from revenue as regards the impact, the new valuation will apply to new households until 2022. I suppose just so that people are aware, there won't be a huge windfall in 2022. Equalisation won't be brought in, or the elimination of the equalisation won't be brought in until 2023. I suppose the biggest issue for us is the baseline. Regardless of how much additional income is brought in in, we need to have the baseline changed, otherwise our, I suppose net income that we begin and apply to the revenue budget will only be 20%. So that is another matter, but I suppose this is the first step for all of those other changes could be made. This is the first step in order to get the legislation changed and all the new valuations done and more importantly the 2013 onward properties brought into the tax net. So that is just a basic overview.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Brian. I know I have five speakers and I haven't many minutes. Paul O'Brien, are you first? No, Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Just briefly, the Government stated that the 20% that Wicklow gives, four fifths of that would be retained, I would be very anxious to make sure that that practicality happens and that if the baseline needs adjustment let that be a way of doing it. In any case the formula is flawed. On the new properties mean that we could only keep

to 20% of the funds raised, so I assume that will be amended so Wicklow will get a double gain. They did say that the balance of 100 million was given to the other counties around the country, that that shortfall would be funded from Exchequer funding and the counties that give, like Wicklow, would allowed retain their money. So, I would be very anxious that that happens now.

BRIAN GLEESON: They will be allowed to retain their money, but the latest information we have is that the retention of the 100% won't come in until 2023, but based on the way the model, as you are aware the way the model is set up and the level of baseline there, whether we get it in in 2022 or 23, the impact is that we will only take in 20%, the rest will be moved into a self-funding category of the model.

CLLR TIMMINS: That is another problem, we won't be getting that extra money.

BRIAN GLEESON: Yes.

CLLR TIMMINS: We have to make sure we do get the full whack.

BRIAN GLEESON: It's a work in progress, but this is the first step.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: As I read there is not going to be extra funding for Wicklow County Council next year? Am right in that?

BRIAN GLEESON: There will be new money coming through, there will be an income yield, we don't know what ifs at the moment. They can't provide us. There will be extra money, if we just take the new properties from 2013, there will be additional money. The department or revenue and department of finance cannot tell us how much that is going to be at the moment. But in any event, if that is provided later on in 2022, it will be impacted by the funding model that obviously I went through last year with the councillors explaining the impact.

CLLR FITZGERALD: There is hardly going to be a game for us, if a lot of those people don't pay the property tax until later in the year. That is going to cause issues.

BRIAN GLEESON: You get the funding at the start of the year, regardless of when people pay it. I suppose the big issue is that we will not have, I suppose we won't have the information for the meeting this year on what that additional income yield may be in in 2022.

CLLR FITZGERALD: It's not going to be a gold rush for us.

BRIAN GLEESON: Absolutely not. Until we get, the big thing is until we get the baseline adjusted it's not going to be the...

CLLR FITZGERALD: Because it was said...

BRIAN GLEESON: Problems.

CLLR FITZGERALD: It was set out that it was going to be a major gain for counties but it's not.

BRIAN GLEESON: The devil is in the detail, Pat.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I understand, but I know some of the detail and I don't think there is a big gain for Wicklow, to be quite honest about it. We went back last year to the, we went back with, it was increased by 10%, but we went back to the position as was and obviously we had difficulties then with discretionary funding, so it's going to be difficult to see where we will get discretionary funding out of that.

BRIAN GLEESON: Especially in 2022. There may be adjustments to the funding mechanism for 2023, but for 2022 we are going to be limited in that regard.

CLLR FITZGERALD: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Behan, sorry, Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: The baseline, Brian, what is being done about that and how come the baseline cannot be sorted as part of this massive change that is being proposed? We are going around in circles. To be

told we are not going to have any benefit in 2022, that gives me a major problem.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can I take three questions together? Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thank you Brian and Cathaoirleach. Just to repeat what I said at the CPG this morning, councillors are being in a position at the end of July in the dark until we find out more in relation to the baseline and other issues. I think you said 64% of homeowners would see no increase then the other 36% will see an increase. We won't have that in front of us until the end of next month. The press release that was issued in relation to this clearly stated that local authorities are to retain 100% of LPT collected in their area and also that the effect of the changes to bring in the new properties since 2013 will yield 560 million. So, looking at that you would have to assume that it would represent a gain for Wicklow as a county. It's disappointing to hear we won't see a change in 2022. Just a question that the baseline adjustment will be addressed as part of this new model. I think you said that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. It's essential we get this baseline adjustment made and I don't see why it can't be done for 2022. Quite a lot of people will be paying extra property tax as a result of this, and they will be expecting extra services because they are paying more. Now we won't hear from the people paying less, but we will hear from the people paying more and it should be done at the same time.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will go back to you Brian.

BRIAN GLEESON: I will mention the baseline. I would agree wholeheartedly with the comments made in relation to the baseline. That is one area we have to get adjusted. You will recall we did put a fairly detailed submission in when the review of the baseline took place. That is still valid. I know the department today their own review on it. As soon

as this was the local authority changes were announced, I did make contact with the department in relation to that, to see a timeline. There isn't any timeline at the moment, but they are conscious of it and there will be a pushing forward, that particular proposal. I suppose why it's not being done at the moment is it's a matter for the department of housing and the local Government, it's not anything to do with revenue or the department of finance who are looking after the legislation, there is three bodies involved in this process, but rest assured we will be pushing the department as much as we can to try and get them in as soon as we can in order that we can get the full benefit of the actual additional income yield in relation to the local property tax. I suppose just to make a point in in relation to the 560 million. That would be the total yield that was referred to by Cllr Walsh. That is the total yield they were expecting from the new changes. The yield at the moment would be 492, so it's 68 million of additional income they are expecting. That is between all the new properties built since 2013, plus the changes to the bands and the revaluation of existing houses. As I say, there will be funding, there will be additional income in 2020, but how that will be applied we just don't know at the moment, hence the reason why we have been told that the LPT variation decision, that will be made in the next month or two, it will have to be based on an as is position and the existing LPT data that we have currently.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Brian. We are at 6.00pm now members so I want to thank you for staying with us and staying the course until 6.00pm and giving us the extra time. I think just one thing, next Monday is our AGM and we have, we have the special meeting next week as well. So, if we go for 2.00pm for next week to deal with the item that we deferred for the special meeting and our AGM then at 3.00pm, would that all right for everyone?

Okay.

CLLR FERRIS: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, everyone. I suppose if people that are on the protocol could stay on the link. I will bring Lorraine in. Sorry, I meant to say Helen. Apologies.