

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF WICKLOW
COUNTY COUNCIL HELD VIA
A ZOOM MEETING

ON

MONDAY 21ST JUNE 2020 AT 3:00PM

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Elaine McCarthy

Elaine O'Brien

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good afternoon members. Welcome back. Have we got everybody? I'm just waiting for a few other people to log back on there if that's all right.

Just have a little bit of background interference there, if everybody could mute their mics for a moment, please. OK, members thank you for coming back to us and welcome back to our Annual Meeting of Wicklow County Council, 21st of June 2021.

And just before I get to the election of Cathaoirleach, I would just like to say a few words myself if I can.

HELEN: Can I do a roll call. OK. Just go through the roll call, as this is a separate meeting. Thank you. (Helen takes roll call).

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Helen and members just before we come to the collection of the Cathaoirleach, I'd like to have a quick look back at the last year. So, members, who we are at the end of another council year. It has been a year like no other. A year of worry, a year of change, and a year of solitude, a year of difficulty. It has been a difficult year for all residents of our county. Old and young, big, and small. We are by nature social creatures. And over the last year, we found ourselves, being tested to its absolute limits. But we have preserved, a light is now on the horizon through the strength and the will of the people residents within the county and outside, we have sailed through a storm and the clouds are passing, it was not easy, it was without doubt a challenge. But we all met that challenge, we all accepted the change to the world that we found ourselves in. We as a council had to adopt to our ways. We

need today adjust to online meetings and virtual discussions and learn to represent those who elected us in new ways. I believe that it is when we are most challenged that we are often at our best. Look at what we have achieved over the past year. Wicklow County Council were the second highest local authority in 2020 when it came to own builds with the completion of 230 units, over the last year, 1050 local allocations have taken place, and large scale housing schemes have been completed in Rathdrum, Arklow, Wicklow, Rathnew, Baltinglass, Bray, Dunlavin and Kilmac but to name but a few and smaller infills have also been completed around the county. The building programme continues with construction under way in Arklow Wicklow, Bray and Newtown with numerous other sites due to commence before the end of 2021.

The housing and Disability Steering Group are currently preparing a new County Wicklow strategy, strategic plan for housing people with disability, which I very much support.

I want to thank all the staff for preparing the draft County Development Plan, it is the most important document in the county. The Bible that governance us. And while it is a challenge for all of us moving forward, I want to acknowledge the work, the time and commitment given to it so far from all the members here in this chamber.

A key pillar of the County Development Plan is climate action and environment. In this area, we are making great strides with the adoption of the climate adaptation strategy, and we had Wicklow's first decarbonisation zone in Arklow. We have continued the rollout

of badly needed infrastructure throughout the county. New footpaths and lighting, libraries and primary health centres, new road realignment schemes and upgrades and we've seen our infrastructure within County Buildings here. When we return to having normal meetings, we have a gorgeous new chamber to return to.

And when the people of the county now have a beautiful new customer care hub with fantastic staff to liaise with.

Our communities are our people, are the backbone of our society. And over the last year, I have never seen our communities come together to support each other in some ways and such amounts before.

As Cathaoirleach, I get to engage with community groups around the county in ways I never had before, and I can say with certainty that they are the unsung heroes of County Wicklow.

They too have adopted in the past year with many community projects, big and small, continuing at pace.

It would also be remiss of me not to acknowledge the Chief Executive and the management team on volumes of funding that they are securing for our county.

The results of this can be seen on the ground right throughout the county from north to south, from east to west. These are but a small number of achievements in the many recorded in the past year, through the hard work and dedication of all within this chamber and throughout the council and county.

Without a doubt it has been the fastest year of my life. There are a

number of people I would like to thank.

First of all, my own Fianna Fail group for supporting my nomination.

And Cllr Pat Fitzgerald for proposing me and Cllr Sylvester Bourke for seconding me.

I would also like to thank the members of Fianna Fail, Fina Gael, labour, Sinn Fein, the social Democrats, the Green Party, and independence, while we are, we may not agree on everything, we are the council, and the team that the people elected.

A council of, by and for the people requires people talk to people, and that we can agree to disagree, but do so in civility.

This, we have done, and continue to do, for all who put us in these seats.

I would like to thank my own family, Helena, John, Peter, and Kieran, and all my team, who work and support me.

I would also like to thank the staff of Wicklow County Council, from the bottom floor to the top floor, from the yards to the canteen.

I would also like to thank Cllr Shay Cullen the last Cathaoirleach for the support he gave me as Cathaoirleach.

And lastly, I would like to thank Lorraine Gallagher for her help, support and guidance throughout the work and not forgetting Helen Purcell in her new role going forward as Helen has taken over from Lorraine and has been a huge support to me in the last few months, I wish you well going forward. At the beginning I mentioned last year was a year of worry, we now look forward to a year of hope. Hope is a powerful thing. It inspires us to do, the impossible, and helps to carry on touring difficult times.

I urge you as a council to carry on doing the work that you do, serves the people of this county. I tried to be a Cathaoirleach, for and with the people of County Wicklow, I tried to be fair to all members in this chamber.

Ever since I was first elected to this chamber, I always maintained this seat, that I hold, is not my seat it is the people's seat, I'm just keeping it warm.

Well, the Cathaoirleach seat is no different and it is now time for the members to choose a new Cathaoirleach for the coming year. As I've kept it warm long enough, thank you members.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I know the Chief Executive wants to come in, so I'll bring the Chief Executive in first.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I'd just like to thank the Cathaoirleach for all his help throughout the year, Pat Kennedy, as you know is a worker, he works tirelessly for his own community, and we had the benefit of that work ethic for the entire county. He's an gentleman to deal with, and you know I can say that, but I know all the staff outdoor and indoor would say the same thing, he is available 24/7, never felt guilty at ringing him at 11pm at night or 7am, he supported us to what was a difficult year with COVID-19, there was a challenge to keep staff safe, support communities and continue provision of housing and infrastructure, when lockdown rules would allow us and to move on with the County Development Plan and climate Action Plan. I think with the support of Pat and

elected members we've done remarkably well, Cllr Pat Kennedy missed out on official openings because of the COVID but I think he was happy to put his head down and do the field of play in front of us to the benefit of all the people of County Wicklow, so I'd like to thank him once again for all his help throughout the year and wish himself, and his family a well-deserved rest, thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Chief Executive. Members I'm going to get this wrong, because I didn't know what hands went up in order. I think Cllr Anne Ferris you were first; I think but I'm not sure.

CLLR FERRIS: You're absolutely right, I wanted to get in there very quickly. I just wanted to say to you, on behalf of the Labour Party, that's Cllr Paul O'Brien and myself, to thank you, for being Cathaoirleach for the past year, and as you said yourself, you always made yourself available to the members and there was no time I contacted you by e-mail or phone that you didn't get back to me almost immediately. My one regret for you is that you didn't actually get to hold a meeting in our gorgeous new chamber as you called it yourself and that is one of the terrible things of the time. As any Cathaoirleach, who is going out of the chair, at this point, I did last year, or last week, we know, exactly what kind of year it was, trying to keep everything together, having Zoom meetings and which wasn't always you know, it wasn't satisfactory. But Cathaoirleach, you chaired meetings with a sense of fairness, of calmness, and an essential of good humour and didn't put up with any crap going on

either. So, you did have that firm hand when you needed it. I've known you for a long time, obviously I wish the emotional day of chairs and emotional day for the Cathaoirleach, leaving the office. Because, you know, it really means, it is a very special year for them, and it is a great honour bestowed on them. So, on half of myself and Paul we want to congratulate you for your successful year and look forward as a comrade during the next year, thank you.

CLLR MURPHY: You're just very professional in your last year and as Cllr Ferris has said you held meetings which were sometimes difficult and if you had been in the Chamber would have been hyper. You always seen two sides of the coin and were very fair in your attitude and I personally would like to thank you for keeping me in the loop when I was locked up with the Covid and you kept me in the loop, and you made me feel very involved, where I couldn't maybe be. It is a very emotional day; you gave it everything you had and done a great job and be proud of what you have done. I have one up on you I did Chair a meeting last week in the Chamber.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Murphy. Councillor John Snell?

CLLR SNELL: I alluded there earlier to the AGM last year down in Shoreline when you were elected. if hard work makes a good Cathaoirleach then you would not be found wanting. In regard to you and your family, I have known you a lifetime. You have been an absolute credit to your family. The last year has been very, very tough and I know that for you personally and I know for the Councillor in general. I do not think there is very many people could

have pulled off what you did for the last year in regard to Covid, Chair meetings from your own sitting room to our sitting rooms. Keeping law and order. I have been around long enough to be at meetings which unfortunately would not have been a pleasure, you know previous Councillors in bygone years have been very chaotic and to have somebody who has a cool head and a firm hand but also very balanced and really give to everybody and make everybody feel appreciate that their opinion is taken on board. I think that is an art. I think in regards, you know, when we as members, can sit back and say that you know the Cathaoirleach is still representing our best interests. As I say unfortunately for years, people feel that a Cathaoirleach must side with officials and it is a them and us, I don't believe that is true. There is no them and us. It is a collective effort by everybody, and I think you illustrate that perfectly for the last 12 months. I think that even the particularly new Councillors, all they had to do was pick up the phone and contact you and vice versa. I think you had a lot of good ideas. As an outgoing of the municipal district and as a contact at having meetings was a particularly good one. Even if it's only a chat between the five Municipal districts and the Cathaoirleach from Wicklow County Council. From someone who comes from a small area like Greenan, I tip my hat to you.

CLLR NEARY: Thank you Cathaoirleach and on behalf of the Social Democrats, which there is just me. I also want to say congratulations for an incredible year. I do not know how you did it. You are the online Cathaoirleach, the first and hopefully the last of that type. Hopefully, we will be back in the chambers soon. Thank

you for being so accessible and you know answering all my phone calls and as a new Councillor particularly important. It's confusing at the best of times, the procedures and everything and for your work with the mother and baby homes and that will be unfolding. I look forward to working with you outside your role as well. I didn't know you beforehand and I do know it's been a pleasure and I wish you and your family the best as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mags Crean?

CLLR CREAN: I suppose, just to follow others, certainly over the last year I think your professionalism and fairness make it easy for me to contribute. Two things stood out for me. As a Cathaoirleach, one is your capacity at meetings to get through the agenda. It was always far too long. I found that very effective and efficient all year and then taking the time to hold the second meeting, I particularly was impressed with that and hopefully the incoming Cathaoirleach can get through those motions. But the other thing that stood with me was the meeting that you chaired so respectfully where members paid respects to your late colleague, Pat Doran. I thought your words and how you managed that and just the total respect and it was lovely to absolutely observe as a new member to the chamber, just to say that thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Scott?

CLLR SCOTT: Many congratulations to yourself and your family as well. It only seems like the other day we were down at Shoreline when you were elected. I personally feel regret that I haven't met you in person since then. It has been a crazy year and I want to say a

particular thank you for chairing the meeting so well. It's incredibly difficult to chair online meetings I find myself. Where we are discussing the county development plan. We had recently a difficult meeting where there was a lot to be discussed and you handled that so well and again with fairness. I also felt space for me to be able to contribute and make my point. You still managed to get into all the agenda without rushing anybody and hearing all opinions. Thank you for that and enjoy a bit of well-earned rest and best wishes to you going forward.

CATHAORLEACH: Councillor Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: On behalf of myself and all of the Fine Gael members, I just want to say a big thank you to you for the year that you put in and for the way you work. They say to be successful in any job, you need to have the three A's, that is ability, affability and availability and I think you have all three in abundance. You have been exceptionally fair and have done an amazing job in what has been an extremely difficult year, probably like no other, Cathaoirleach and hopefully no other in the future. I want to wish you and your family the very best and look forward to working with you in the future.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR D O'BRIEN: I know that for myself I had the measure of seeing you in action in a number of committees over the year, the role of Cathaoirleach is about leadership and the year gone by we could use the words unprecedented, unorthodox, unchartered territory and leadership in those circumstances we depend on. We depend on

leadership in those circumstances. I think of the characteristics of leadership is consistencies and the two standouts of your consistencies, you have said at probably every single meeting I want everyone to be able to have their say and for me that is not rhetoric, that is someone who has deep principles about people having a voice. I really, really respect that. The second thing again, every single meeting I am at that you Chair, you express gratitude to everyone that turned up and contributed. That might be again small-time stuff for some people but for me to articulate that for me says something about your character. So, the greatest respect from me Cathaoirleach and congratulations to you on a year that won't be forgotten.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Congratulations. I think you have done an excellent job in your role. One characteristic you always spoke with, you're heard, and you didn't mind doing that as well. You were always open and straightforward. Also speaking that. If someone takes too long talking and you always cut them and save the day and carry on with the meeting thank you for that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Melanie Corrigan?

CLLR CORRIGAN: I just want to say a big congratulations and thank you for all your hard work in the last year. You were always contactable at the end of the phone, and you got back with any queries and thank you again for that. Like everyone else who has said it was a difficult year, we all had to adapt to Zoom. As Chairman that would be mostly difficult and how you have kept control of it. I

commend you on that. I wish you and your family the very best.

Have a good rest and thank you again.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tom Fortune?

CLLR FORTUNE: Congratulations on the past year, you've done a super job. A unique year. A year like no other and it cannot have been easy trying to run everything and manage everything. At the same time trying to keep people safe. The officials and the staff in the Council. You did a super job as well. One of these years that will obviously go down in history. Hopefully, we don't have a year like it again. I don't think you got the opportunity as Cathaoirleach to have any kind of meetings at all in the Chamber, which is you know a bit of a shame, but I am sure you will get over that. You're bigger than that situation. One thing that I must say, I was very impressed with a number of things you did. The one thing that impressed me was you initiated a whole new approach to the communication. You held meetings with the district. You held meetings with past Chairs, and I think that was very, very good and something that should be built on. I always found you fair. I always found you to call you and talk to you about something. Even if we ended up in an arm wrestle, it was discussed and started and move on. I think that is healthy and an integral part of democracy. It has been a fast year. We have come from a year, most of it anyway most inside our front doors. I think everyone is hoping things will be back to normal very quickly and I have no doubt you have a role to play. I will be watching you in the future as an interested political observer because I would say you're capable of things beyond the Councillor. I just want to wish

you Pat and your family all the very, very best and thanks for all you have done for the pass year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Fortune, Grace McManus?

CLLR McManus: Everything that has already been said. I don't know if you said it, you certainly shown me that you believe that every single Councillor here has something to contribute. Not only a voice but what they are saying deserves attention. Some of us newbies, it might take us longer to get to the point or to know what words or phrases to use and you have always held extra space to contribute, and I never felt an inconvenience to you. Something you valued. So, I really, really appreciate that I think that is one of your strengths in the Chair and thank you so much for all you have done.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald?

CLLR FITZGERALD: A lot of what I was going to say has been said but sure look, I just want to commend you Councillor in your role of Cathaoirleach, the role is always difficult but in the last 12 months or, so it has been a challenge and a more difficult year. I have to say your skill and fairness in handling meetings was noted throughout the year. You have tirelessly given your time and resources to the role of Cathaoirleach, and I have to admire that. You were always available during your time. Your prime interest during your term was to showcase the county. I would say you're delighted maybe in some respects because you won't be taking calls from me at ten at night or seven in the morning for that matter. We worked together previously maybe 30 or 25 years ago, and you were a good worker then. You worked and I looked on. But look, I just wanted to thank

you and I did hear what Cllr Fortune said there. You know, he alluded to another day ahead. Hopefully, there will be I want to wish you the best into the future path and thank you for your commitment to Wicklow and your fairness. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I do want to now note that you looked on and I worked. Cllr Mary Kavanagh?

CLLR KAVANAGH: Like everybody else I want to wish you all the best in the future. When I first become a Councillor, you were one of the first who approached me and offered help on different things and those are the things you never forget. So, thank you, very much for that path and thank you very much for your year in office.

Unprecedented. Different but at least you will always be remembered as the online man. That is something to remember for the rest of your life and to talk about to your grandkids. So best of luck and enjoy your rest.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, very much and thank you. Sorry Pier Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: Sorry, I just want to assure that you won't be having any rest, you have work to do down here in Arklow, I'm an apprentice Councillor. I think looking at Pat and work ethic, really, I feel so proud to be part of having someone like that in Arklow Municipal District and I want to thank you for all your work all year you really are passionate, and I think you really have the county at your heart. Thanks a million.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Gerry O'Neill?

CLLR O'NEILL: I wanted to thank you for your service for the past

year and I said it to you on a few occasions it was a tough year all round for everyone and something to Chair this Council. I always admired you being able to fend on your own. I noticed, since I was elected that you have a chairman in the centre of the Chamber and on the right-hand side you have Lorraine and Lorraine has been invaluable that I have seen in my seven years there. You had to work away without a right-hand woman or a left-hand woman and that for advice, with every issue, I think every Chairman appreciated the good work that Lorraine Gallagher puts into the Council and so, I admire that you just had to do this on your own from the word go. I would like to wish you the best of luck. You were always a fair-minded Chairman and I wish you the best of luck Pat.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr O'Neill. Thanks everybody.

CLLR BURKE: Yeah, I just wanted to congratulate you on a wonderful year, and it has been great credit to you, and I am sure you and your family are relieved it's over now and can also be very proud of you. As for fair, I am sure they are looking on you too with great pride on your achievements. Many of the Councillors often envy you and the work rate and tenacity and getting projects over the line, sometimes some of us might give up. You stick with a lot of things that you can claim credit for, yourself. I know where you live is a very beautiful place too. You did let the cat out of the bag about a couple of things. One thing was I was very happy to know this I have adopted it myself sometimes you told us that you set your watch ten minutes fast. I think it's really important because your nearly always one step ahead as the rest of us. I know too that one of the other things that

drives you is you're from one of the most beautiful places. It's no small place now, it's a fine big place, it might be, the valley of Glenmalure, I would imagine that the spirits up there, the Michael Dwyer's and Sam McAllister spirits definitely are a factor in driving you and give you that uniqueness of approach, being a public representative that we can all aspire to. Best of luck to you in the future.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Thank you, members, for all of those kind words. It has been a team effort from all 32 of us working with all the whole officials here in the county. A five-year term and therefore five years and then we hopefully will be if we decide to be on the team again. For the last five years and the three that is left, we are definitely a team. I am going to get out. I do not know whether you were talking about me a few minutes ago or what. But thank you for all those kind words.

Item number one is the election of Cathaoirleach under section 36 of the Local Government Act 2001. Members, I am formally going to ask you nominate somebody as Cathaoirleach for the incoming year. Do I have anybody?

CLLR WINTERS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I wish to propose Councillor Shay Cullen as Cathaoirleach. Shay was elected as a Councillor in 2014. The past seven years are a testament to his passion to see his electoral area to develop and improve for residents. The seven years are also a testament to his extraordinary work ethic, changes, and developments that his community are supporting. Shay's

tenacity to a family is straight. Shay's father died too young of leukaemia, hoped for a different outcome. His mother Mary raised over one million euro for research. Shay has inherited her resolve and determination. Shay grew up in a family embedded in community and where the community worked together for each other in good and bad times and Shay continued this work with community. All projects take a team working together and Shay been involved and worked with the red route district council.

Wicklow Town Team, the Up Hands Council, amongst many others to help progress and develop projects for their area. Most noticeable a variety trails, attracting significant numbers since opening. These projects take time and skill and an ability to work with people to respect all points of view to find common ground in a conflict. Shay has all these qualities in abundance. Shay's ongoing work on the country development plan, show of a true understanding of the opportunities that Co Wicklow face. Chair, he has proved himself to be fair and honest with a genuine kindness for others. I would ask all members to support Shay as Cathaoirleach and work with him the following year.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Shay Cullen, Councillor Fortune?

CLLR FORTUNE: I would like to propose, Councillor Mags Crean. I believe it is very, very important what we are doing here today. We are electing the members, leader of our local authority. We know the Chief Executive leads the executive. We, the members, require a leader who will represent us and the constituents. Someone in a positive manner will always work in the interests of our constituents.

Someone fair, emphatic, someone hold challenge and support the system in a manner that is in the interests of our constituents.

Councillor Mags Crean will do that and be fair and focused she will bring an attitude of freshness in that we need. She will bring a structured approach. She is a good communicator. In fact, a great communicator. She will work to improve a lot of constituents and us the Councillors. She has the experience ability and intelligence to do all of that. Excellent public representative. Please support her for the position of Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I want to second Cllr Shay Cullen. I have known Shay for many years, he was dedicated on the football, and he has been a very effective Councillor since being first elected seven years ago and I have no hesitation in nominated Shay Cullen to be the next Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh?

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thanks Chair. I would like to second the nomination of Councillor Mags Crean. Councillor Mags Crean has been a friend since she was elected back in 2019, we have been good friends since then. She always impressed me as a Councillor, independent in political lanes and in thinking. She based opinions on analysing information available and could always be relied on for a fair and balanced viewpoint. Cllr Crean spent all her working life dealing with issues like homelessness, addiction, and other social problems. Her academic work involves research into social policy reform to create a fair and more just society for everybody. As

Ireland recovered from the economic collapse of the mid 2000's, Mags worked to improve life for all sectors of society. A rising tide should lift all boats. The work that Mags has been involved with over the years including Councillor work based on the principles of fairness, equity, and natural justice. And this is the approach that she takes into everything she does. In seconding Cllr Crean for this nomination, I in no way wish to undermine or deflect from any other nominee for this position. Rather, it is to highlight the fact that amongst the group of Councillors, there are many talented and capable people with the skillsets to make them excellent candidates for the position of Cathaoirleach. Unfortunately, many of them never have the opportunity to serve. If I were to sum Cllr Crean up, in the lines of Rudyard Kipling's poems: If all men count with you but none too much. All people count with Councillor Crean. She shows no favouritism at all. Which is how it should be. I believe she would make an excellent Cathaoirleach, and I am happy to second her nomination. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Councillor Kavanagh. Any other nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach? Two people nominated Councillor Shay Cullen and two nominated Councillor Mags Crean. Are there any other nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach? If there are no other nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach, we go to Helen for a roll call.

HELEN PURCELL: What I am going to do is we have two nominations. I call your name and you choose either Councillor Shay Cullen or Councillor Mags Crean. (Votes Taken)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are there any other nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach, two people have been nominated, Cllr Shay Cullen and Cllr Mags Crean, are there any other nominations for the position of Cathaoirleach?

If there are no other positions of Cathaoirleach, care log, I'll go to Helen for a roll call.

HELEN: What I'll do as we have two nominations, I'll call your name and if you say the name you wish to vote for, so either, Cllr Shay Cullen or Cllr Mags Crean.

Cllr Tommy Annesley. Cllr Shay Cullen. Cllr Joe Behan. Cllr Mags Crean. (Votes taken).

There are 20 in favour of Cllr Shay Cullen. Ten in favour of Cllr Mags Crean.

One not present, one abstaining.

As such there's a majority of the members present voted for one particular candidate, that candidate shall be elected and that's Cllr Shay Cullen

Congratulations.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I would like to congratulate Cllr Shay Cullen on election of Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council, I would also like to congratulate and welcome his wife Rhona here, son Oisín and daughter Louise and welcome here today his mother Mary you're very welcome and I know Maureen and Liam can't be with you today

but they're with you and thinking of you and I know your dad is looking down on you. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of former minister of Andrew Doyle and welcome him to the chamber. So, Cllr Shay Cullen I would formally ask you to come up and take the seat of Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council.

(APPLAUSE)

HELEN: For those not present, we're taking photographs now with the chains being handed across to the new Cathaoirleach, Cllr Shay Cullen.

Just take a few photographs here so we will be back with you very soon.

Cathaoirleach is taken a photo with his family and the meeting will be back now approximately a minute. Cllr Shay Cullen thank you members, can you hear me OK, unfortunately this new technology is new to me, Cllr Pat Kennedy is a professional at it at this stage. First of all, I just want to thank my proposer, Cllr Irene Winters who I work very closely with in the Wicklow Municipal District and the kind family words, Cllr Irene Winters particular to my mother, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald who seconded the proposal, thank you very much. First of all, it is an absolute honour and privilege to be elected of Cathaoirleach of Co Wicklow, I'd like to start off by welcoming my family here today to unfortunately an empty chamber which is unfortunate in terms of it would be really nice to have everybody

here to celebrate this day, but that's the way unfortunately things are at the moment.

I just want to mention my mother and all she has done for me over the years, it is really appreciated, wonderful woman and this is her day as well as mine. Leisha and Oisin. My two adult children, Oisin was wondering what who was going to pay him the few hours he lost in work, we'll get over that. And my wonderful wife Rhona for her unwavering support, through good times and bad times, and I suppose, as we all know, if we haven't got family, doing this job, the support of your family it is impossible to do this job to a satisfactory level, so, it is very much appreciated, the family and support I have and I'm very grateful for that. I want to move on to the outgoing Chairman. There was a lot of lovely tributes to Cllr Pat Kennedy. It has been a pleasure to assist Cllr Pat Kennedy over the last twelve months, but in truth, I didn't really give him much assistance because he didn't need it. As Cathaoirleach, Pat was extremely fair to all members, his work ethic and organisational skills made him a wonderful Chairman. Pat had a difficult year in terms of the COVID-19 pandemic and not having physical meetings certainly was a drawback but I think, we'll call King of Zoom as he was wonderful looking after us. Since Pat was elected in 2014, he worked tirelessly throughout the Arklow Municipal District and County Wicklow. It is fair to say, that Pat has transformed his nay five Rathdrum area, and it shows what hard work and funding can do to really bring forward areas of the county that you work in and love. I know Pat you are held in very high esteem by the public, by the staff, and the

management of Wicklow County Council, and I want to conclude by saying thank you for everything you've done.

Some people said you had a well-earned rest, I know if I know Cllr Pat Kennedy a long time, I think it will be harder he will go rather than slower, but well done Pat and thanks again. Approximate We're coming through a pandemic that changed Ireland, changed the world and how we live and live our lives, and thankfully with the vaccination programme we can look forward to a return to some nominal as soon as possible. I would like to thank the councillors and amendment of Wicklow County Council for the work they've been doing over the last 18 months, to assist the people of County Wicklow, through this pandemic.

Looking forward, I would like to see cross-party co-operation on dealing with the concerns and challenges we face in County Wicklow, and we can support each other in achieving what is best for the residents in our county. As Cathaoirleach, I will be open, fair, respectful, to all members, and will always be available when called upon.

It is my intention to get back to physical meetings as soon as possible, and I will liaise with the management and the coming days, to put the appropriate measures in place for a return to the council chamber as soon as possible.

As our country starts to open up again, I will be asking the management to focus their attention on all funding streams available to this council. URDF, RDF, or are as, town and village, OPW, to name a few are essential to continuing the good work

throughout the county, I want to bring as much funding as possible, right around County Wicklow and every village and town will see the benefit of what we're doing. Our tourism sector is set to recover this year through the tourism task force and priorities are to attract domestic visitors through Wicklow outdoors and the many activities and attractions we have across the county.

We are engaged in developing master plans for the National Park and visitor centre in Glendalough, Claire month campus, Blessington, which all will improve our tourism offering across the county. We hope to be able to persuade the coddling wind park to select Wicklow aspirations and main tenants base as offshore wind farm and I would like to see the development of Wicklow, Arklow and Bray Harbour I would bring economic benefits to all these reasons why. I would like to see the start of an exciting new project to get under way the bright way blue light project which will enhance and develop the coastline from Bray to Arklow and supporting the coastal recreational offering.

I would like to drive forward, town centre renewal in conjunction with Town Teams and plan for the development of key sites aimed at attracting investment in our towns.

Climate change is such an important part of our future are fewer and I would like to continue to work towards 50% energy efficient business 2030 and true to secure climate action funding resources to restore projects. I want also to see upgrade of all public lighting throughout our county, as soon as possible.

Roads and road safety must be paramount for County Wicklow,

which such a vast network of roads around our county. I would like to see continued improvements on regional rural and local roads for and for our roads department to continue to access as much funding as possible to make this happen.

I would like to prioritise housing and continued investment in this area, we currently have 4,500 families on our housing list, the focus has to be reduced to this figure. We hope to have 150 social houses completed by the end of 21, and further 130 completed by June 22, we continue to work with approved housing bodies to deliver turnkey units and developers to maximise the part 5 units. We have allocated 2 million in DPGs and home improvements, and I would encourage all members to push the available of these funds to members of the public. Housing department will also be putting a big effort into the availability of vacant houses and try to get them back into circulation as soon as possible. Members, in conclusion, I could speak on a lot of different topics, but I chose a few items to obviously speak on, and there's a lot of work to be done in our county and I'm well aware of that, there's a lot of work that has been done in our county. I believe, Wicklow is a wonderful county with lots to offer and I look forward to working with all members over the next twelve months to achieve all that we can set out together. But this is a team effort. And I need the support from everybody, and I'll make it as easy as possible, and as joyful as possible, I hope, for the next twelve months and I'd like to thank you all for the support here today, I would like to pay tribute to Cllr Mags Crean who stood against me today and wish her well and I'm here for every member

of the council, and I appreciate all the good wishes thank you very much.

OK.

Just moving forward. There's a lot of hands on the screen and obviously who was watching first, so, I'll go to Cllr Mags Crean first.

CLLR CREAN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, just briefly to congratulate you and I have no doubt you will be excellent chair looking forward to working with you and thank you Cllr Tom Fortune and Cllr Mary Kavanagh for proposing and seconding. Thanks a lot.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I'll bring in the Chief Executive first, sorry, I didn't see you.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: No problem. Thanks, Cathaoirleach and congratulations, to Cllr Shay Cullen and his family and his election, it is a great honour to be elected as the first citizen of the county and I can assure him he will get 100% co-operation from myself and the staff throughout the year. Cllr Shay Cullen as everyone know sincere extremely genuine individual and best interests of the county at heart. I look forward to working with him, hopefully as soon as possible in the new chamber you I think now that COVID-19 is going we will have a renewed on priorities and successful housing delivery programme and also developing our communities to amenities, sport, and libraries.

Cllr Shay Cullen has an interest in the great outdoors, Greenways and Vartry Trails, and I know we will take full advantage of the funding

available are to sustainable travel and the other sources of funding that you mentioned, the FR, and Fáilte Ireland, et cetera, and that's very much a priority for us.

Town centres, tourism, roads, water, new County Development Plan, climate Action Plan, enhanced Customer Service are top of the agenda, and I know we'll get 100% co-operation and support from Cllr Shay Cullen as we do from all the councillors. So once again I'd like to wish Cllr Shay Cullen the very best of luck and certainly looking forward to working for him for the coming twelve months.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you new Cathaoirleach, and I know we go back a long way as well and I'd like to wish you every success. I had read like to give you an open invitation to come to Arklow Municipal District meeting sometime. We were lucky to have the outgoing sit in our chamber, for the last few years, so, but I will certainly, as the new Cathaoirleach, like to see you come too. One of our meetings during the year, so, I'm sure you'll be hearing a lot from me, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I take pleasure of addressing you as Cathaoirleach, on half of Cllr Anne Ferris and myself Congratulations, it must be a great honour for you and your family and supporters as well. I've gotten to know you over the last two years and always found you to be approachable, fair-minded and an honest person. You were in my

first Cathaoirleach at municipal level and as you carried out your duties as you will now you will make a fine chair. Cllr Anne Ferris and myself look forward to working with you in Wicklow. Over the past two AGMs Cllr Anne Ferris and myself supported those who we believe are the best candidates for the job and we did so here again today. We will continue to do this every year, no matter what party or non-party do those people and candidates belong to. This council works best, and when it is at its most diverse and everyone's rights should be heard. So therefore, I would appeal to Fina Gael and Fianna Fail to reach out to all of us and ensure the entire electorate the county will be heard in a prominent position. I've got to know Fina Gael A and Fianna Fail councillors and become good friends with most of them and indeed I wish you all well but I appeal to you civic duty and sense of right and ensure all electorate will be heard, and not afraid to work with those with a ditch decision ordeal with populism, I wish you the vest best of luck for the upcoming term and look forward to working with you as a Labour Party.

Euro that. Cllr Shay Cullen Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thanks, Cathaoirleach, congratulations. Well done. And I've no doubt what I observed of you, over time, you'll do a very, very good job. You're very organised in the way you go about things, I know you're passionate about tourism like I am myself and I look forward to you, maybe getting involved in that end of things and

getting it done. I think it is always healthy as well to have a competition for the position you're in, and I think we had a very good contest today. And just take the opportunity to say well done to Cllr Mags Crean, but Cllr Shay Cullen I look forward to working with you over the next twelve months and beyond, and hopefully we can, any pour you can give me would be most welcome. But this is a great day for you, and for your family. It is very special. It's very unique in fact, it is probably, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. So, I wish you the very best with the year ahead and I've no doubt that we all work together, you know, we can do great things for the county, well done.

- once-in-a-lifetime-opportunity.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I wish to congratulate you and family on your achievement today and it is a well-deserved achievement, well done. Secondly, I would like to wish you all the best in the coming year, and I have no doubt that you'll do an excellent job and serve the people of Wicklow very well thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you for those comments. Thank you. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. And congratulations to you and on your family are no doubt very proud. Also, I want to thank, you

were the first councillor to approach me and you could see the look of fear in my eyes, and confusion, of it all, it's been such a year really in trying to get used to things and you've been very helpful, I'll always remember the advice you gave me was to observe for the first year, and you know, you've been encouraging me to now speak up and not be afraid, contribute, and I really want to thank you for that because, as a new councillor, as a woman, it's just, it is quite challenging and hopefully I will get over my shyness and speak a bit more. But it is also great to see such cross party support, and to see how, behind the scenes you don't see a lot of it, it is the co-operation that's there between us all because we all have a shared goal of improving our communities and I really appreciate that. I wish you all the best and look forward to working with you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

Cllr Lourda Scott.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you Cathaoirleach. And just want to wish you many congratulations Shay to yourself and your family, it is a fantastic achievement. I haven't had much of an opportunity to even meet you actually; we've all been online for the last so long but look forward to meeting with you and working closely with you over the next twelve months and get to congratulate you in person. I do want to take the opportunity, I said it last year and again this year, I do hope, going forward, we've only a couple of years left until the end of the term of this council, I do hope going forward the leading parties will take the opportunity to have more diversity and

representation in their choice of Cathaoirleach. And I hope, Shay as Cathaoirleach you'll champion that yourself going forward. We've only had three women elected in the history of the council and we have the opportunity to lead and change that in the next couple of years. Thank you. Into

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: Thank you Cathaoirleach and congratulations to you and your family on your appointment. I personally want to thank you for all the support you've given me both before I was elected and after being elected and your personal attributes of how encouraging, how supportive, and that your levels of communication, I think will really stand to you going forward in the next year, I look forward to working with you and supporting you in the next year and in the future, thank you Shay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much Cathaoirleach, I also just want to wish you the very best of luck, it is a huge honour for you today and one that you really deserve, I know that you have put in huge work over the years you've been a councillor, you have commitment and dedication to your role and I have no doubt you will bring that with you. On a personal level you've been a huge support to me and great mentor, over the past two years, helping me along the way, when I was stuck or needed some advice, so I'd like to wish you the very best of luck and look forward to the year ahead with you.

CLLR O'BRIEN: As I listened to Cllr Jodie Neary there, it the

consistency, of the last lap you made it your business to a friendly face to someone who was a rabbit in the heat lights at that stage, I appreciated that and there was no question mark of you giving me a sense of welcome in that space, going forward what, is interesting for me is that, your contribution at every meeting, you are you are he insightful, you're prepared, you have the agenda, boxed off and you know what you want to say and everything, and while we might miss that at each meeting it says to me, anyway, that, you're someone with a vision and that you have a picture in your mind about how things can be, when they're at their best, and I imagine that you will drive us in that direction, and bring us with you and I suppose, allow our contribution toss feed into creating a vision for this county. So, congratulations to you and your family and look forward to working with you and.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry Pat, don't think you're coming across there on the ...

I'll come back to you there. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy sorry Pat, I'll come back to Cllr Pat Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Sorry, I forgot to say that you and I have been friends for a very long time and that will continue into the future and any support I can give you in your new role as Cathaoirleach, I'm here to give it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Aoife Flynn Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN KENNEDY: Just to wish you the absolute best, I'm absolutely thrilled that you have been elected. As many of the other councillors have said here, particularly for those of us that are new, you were never short of giving us your time and guidance and making us feel really welcome and I feel that we have a very safe pair of hands. Your advice has always been to listen to everybody's viewpoint and take everything into consideration and I know that has been regardless of party you've always listened to what people have to say. But you've always advised to take the hard decisions and best interests of the county and I think that is very admirable, it is not always the easiest thing to do, so wishing you the best of luck and thank you for all your support.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

I've known Shay since our school days, and he's someone who I admire. Certainly, I followed his sporting career from an early age and would have crossed Swords with Shay on football fields and on side-lines and the like, but, the one thing Shay always had, was a really strong determination, anything that he done he gave 100%. He was talented, skilful, and when he got elected in 2014, he brought all that in the chamber as well. He's a credit to his family, his mother, late father, I know that competition is healthy as one of the councillors said, but irrespective of what happens, when there's contest for any position, only one person can win. And on this occasion, Cllr Shay Cullen has won the contest.

And I want to say to all the members that we have many SPCs,

Municipal Districts, subcommittees, but we're one group and I know there's jostling and whatever for the final year of the council chambers, but the reality is that Cllr Shay Cullen is our group leader. For the next twelve months and I can assure him of my 100% support, and I know all the other members will be the same. We've seen what Cllr Pat Kennedy has achieved in the most extraordinary, difficult times. And I have, the utmost faith in Cllr Shay Cullen, I know him a lifetime. And I support him 100% and I want to say to you Shay, you deserve it, you put in seven years of hard work, I know your own political party has benefited hugely from the work that you have done on the ground over those seven years. And I know if Andrew is still in the chambers, he would be the first to acknowledge, it was great to have someone like you who would roll up their sleeves and do the hard work and put the shoulder to the wheel for national politicians. And I've no doubt at some stage that's where you're heading as well and I want to commend you on the work you've done to date and just say that we are one, 32 councillors and forget about the final year of the council, let row in behind our Cathaoirleach for this year, thanks Shay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you John, Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach and congratulations to you, and your family on your appointment on your election. Cllr Irene Winters outlined your vast quality there, in her presentation and your work with community groups in Roundwood, you know and

you're in your own presentation you outlined your vision for the county going forward, you know how to acquire funding streams or tourism, housing climate and other projects. Look, I know you through your role as well in the GAA and I would have observed you on the field and competitiveness, your talent, and you always brought leadership there, displayed leadership in the role and I'm sure you will bring that leadership in your current role as Cathaoirleach in Wicklow County Council, so look forward to working with you in the year ahead, best wishes to you and your family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think I covered everyone there. If there's anyone else. Sorry, Cllr Patsy Glennon.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you Cathaoirleach. Just wanted to join in congratulating you on your election of the chair, it is a great honour for you and your family to that position, I would like to join my colleagues, congratulate Cllr Mags Crean on putting her name forward, a very able candidate also, and if she had equitable experience in the chamber as you had, it would be a very difficult decision for you, so well done Cllr Mags Crean.

Finally, I just, add, that we're sorry here in west Wicklow we couldn't allow Liam to attend your function because he's very busy so thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks a lot Cllr Patsy Glennon. Look, before I move on, I just want to say thank you very much for those ...

Very kind words from everybody. And I just want to make it very clear that I'm here to represent all members of this council. And I will be fair, you know, respectful, and honest, in dealing with all of you individually, and collectively, and I look forward to the next twelve months and thank you once again.

OK. We'll move on to item number two on the agenda, is the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

So, I would ask, for nominations for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thanks Cathaoirleach, I'm going to make a nomination, before I do I wish you the very best success for the year and delighted your family is there, I only know Liam and he is an absolutely excellent council official, delighted to see he is working in west Wicklow, they're lucky to have him, I know your work rate, ability and skill will be valuable to us in the county in the coming year and look forward to working with you on that basis and congratulate Cllr Pat Kennedy as excellent job he did as Cathaoirleach. I would like to nominate Cllr Rory O'Connor for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach. Cllr Rory O'Connor was elected in 2019, he was the youngest county council member in the whole country. He made an instant impact, particularly in terms of climate change and biodiversity and passion with regard to that issue and he and others, really ensured that the council, one of its first priorities was to establish the climate change in biodiversity, SPC, he has been very much articulate, intelligent, contributor to council discussions, and

not only in County Wicklow but the Bray Municipal District. He has a great future ahead of him in politics and I think it would be sent excellent message to young people right across the county if not the country for us to invest our trust as Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year. So, I'm happy to propose, Cllr Rory O'Connor for that position, thanks Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Joe Behan S there a seconder for Cllr Rory O'Connor?

CLLR LEONARD: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: Delighted to select Cllr Rory O'Connor I witnessed his capabilities in pushing through important environmental policy for the county. Each one of us sitting here is the voice of the people who voted for us, and Cllr Rory O'Connor is the voice for the young people of County Wicklow. Who are a generation, who is unfortunately, left the legacy of our bad decisions going forward. In relation to the sustainability of our planet. So I'd urn all members to put aside party politics and allow a young voice with the environment at his core to take the position of vice chair, I have full faith in Cllr Rory O'Connor and his abilities to fill the role and just, like to say that, as Cllr Pat Kennedy stated, we are a team for five years, and it is very important within that team that nobody's left on the side-lines ever and it is important that one, core part of society

isn't brought to that table so in a true democracy, every voice should be listened to and heard and I hope everybody will take that on board.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Peir Leonard. Any other nominations for the position of Leas-Cathaoirleach. Cllr Gail Dunne?

CLLR DUNNE: Unfortunately I want to congratulate you for coming as chair of the council, I've known you a long number of years and when you were Chairman of the Municipal District the two terms how easy you were to work with and everybody had a fair chance, in fairness to you so as someone mentioned the football field you had a great career there, winning the senior football championship and I know what that means again. And yourselves and many battles over the years and you were always well respected so congratulations Cathaoirleach.

I would like to nominate Cllr Tommy Annesley, I'm honoured to have the opportunity to nominate Cllr Tommy Annesley I've known Tommy and his family most of my life, he has family in Wicklow Town who I have been friendly over the years, he was first selected to Arklow town council in 2009 and decided he was going to Wicklow County Council and elected in 2014. And after five years, it didn't put him off, he decided to go again and was elected in 2019.

I think anybody who knows Tommy knows he shoots from the hip; he is honest and straight and speaks his mind. And I've got to know him in the chamber, and I know he's going to be an excellent Leas-Cathaoirleach so I have no hesitation in nominating Cllr Tommy

Annesley, for Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Thank you, Chairman.

Cllr Sylvester Bourke Chairman, I'd like to, I'd be honoured to second Cllr Tommy Annesley there, as Leas-Cathaoirleach. For the coming year. He's superb councillor, very popular in Arklow. Hugely popular in Arklow and hard working for the community. Evident by the work he puts in the Tidy Town group, he is out there every week on numerous occasions actively working doing jobs, delivering for people.

So, I think he will be superb Leas-Cathaoirleach to you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks Cllr Sylvester Bourke, any other nominations for Leas-Cathaoirleach?

We currently have two nominations.

OK. The first nomination is Cllr Rory O'Connor, proposed by Cllr Joe Behan, seconded by Cllr Peir Leonard.

And secondly, we have Cllr Tommy Annesley proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne and secondly Cllr Sylvester Bourke. And I'll hand you over to Helen to take a roll.

HELEN: Again, in the same way as we had with the last vote, if you could either say Cllr Rory O'Connor or Cllr Tommy Annesley when I call out your name, please.

(Helen takes vote).

We have 11 votes in favour of Cllr Rory O'Connor, 20 in favour of Cllr Tommy Annesley. One not present.

And majority of the members present have voted for a particular candidate such candidate shall be elected and that's Cllr Tommy Annesley congratulations.

(APPLAUSE)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Moving on to item three on the agenda, I'll put you back on to Helen again for.

HELEN: We have circulated a list of the schedule of meetings for the coming year. You'll note that it is the standard ordinary meetings but a number of meetings for LPT and budget and annual put, LPT meeting is usually held in September in the year, this year, we're required to carry it forward and have it earlier in either July or before the end of August, its proposed that meeting would be held on the Tuesday, 27th of July so if I could get a proposer and seconder.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just beforehand if I could bring in Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Sorry carry, not so much about the date of the meeting, I want to ask will the meetings in July, I note what you said yourself about the intention that the meetings should be held back in the chamber, would it be possible for two meet financial July, if we have the second one at the end of July they will be held in the chamber because the AILG, are representative body have given members notice you probably got it yourself Cathaoirleach, that, the

next meeting of the ALG, plenary group will be actually meeting physically and because of the fact there's less than 50 people at the meeting on that basis we should be back in the chamber for the two meetings in July. I just wondered what your view was on that Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Derek Mitchell. Into

CLLR MITCHELL: Greystones Municipal District has a meeting that night and Garda meeting that night at 6.30 and 7.30. So, I'm not quite sure how those fits.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

Cllr Joe Behan, it is my intention to speak to the management, I suppose directly after this meeting to assess the situation with a view to physical meetings. But I assure you, it is something that I'm very keen on pushing forward as quickly as possible. I don't have a definite answer to your question just at the moment, but I will be moving on that as soon as possible.

OK. Now I'll hand you back to Helen.

HELEN: Just to say that the LPT meeting would usually start at 2pm F it is felt it is going to need more time it can always start earlier, if the meetings are in Greystones that evening.

CLLR MITCHELL: There is two, 6.30 and 7.30 which is our standard time for meetings.

HELEN: OK.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Brian Gleeson do you want to come in.

MR GLEESON: I was going to say Helen mentioned the start time would be 2pm, so, it wouldn't go past 5pm.

It would be normally finishing 5pm or earlier. So, it wouldn't clash with the Greystones Municipal District meeting that evening.

CLLR MITCHELL: Which we have another one starting at 6.30 with the Garda.

Brian: It wouldn't go back 5.00.

CLLR WINTERS: I want to propose a meeting on the 27th of July.

CLLR FITZGERALD: I second that.

HELEN: For the entire meeting schedule not just for the - thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: Briefly, Brian Gleeson is it explanation why your meeting was brought forward two months to July rather than September.

Brian: To allow the revenue commissioners to put forward a new valuation and get them on their system so they can produce the bills for 2022.

So that's the reason behind it.

It is just the way the legislation is working; they have to get the variation decision earlier this year. That will be the case in every evaluation year going forward, it will be back to normal next year and the next four years and the next valuation, time again it will be brought forward earlier, the reason it is to be the end of August,

officially has to be notified to revenue but we just felt that, ordinarily there wouldn't be council meetings in August, we just felt, that obviously with holidays and people probably have holidays planned given there are no council meetings historically in August, it might be better to do it in July and that's seems to be the consensus across the board with all local authorities, based on feedback we received most local authorities are looking to get it done, within the month of July.

CLLR TIMMINS: Will the valuations be applied to 2022, or will it be 23.

Brian: We won't have the information on the valuations, we will have the bands, the information of the proposed new bands, but we won't have the detail of how many properties will be applied in each band at that stage.

CLLR TIMMINS: Will people's bills will be based on the new valuations for 2022.

Brian: Yeah.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK, does that conclude, Helen, yeah. So, folks, that's it, thank you for everyone for their contribution and attendance today. Really appreciate it, and we'll be back to hopefully normal as soon as possible.

OK, thank you very much.

>>: Thank you.

