

ORDINARY MEETING OF
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ON

MONDAY, 9TH MAY 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Nicola Dutton

Randi Friedman

(At 2.00 pm)

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, you're very welcome. We will start off with our roll call. I will hand you over to Helen. Just before Helen comes in there, just anyone remote, can you hear us, okay? Yes. Thank you.

CLLR PURCELL: I'd like to welcome the press and the public to the meeting and to remind the members attending remotely to keep their camera and microphone on while speaking and to contact us if you lose any connectivity. Thank you.

[Roll call]

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thank you. We're just going on to condolences. Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Just briefly, Chairman. I'd like to pay sympathy to the family of Alan Gillis who passed away over the weekend. Alan was a Kildare man, born and reared in Kildare. We adopted him in West Wicklow quite a number of years ago. People will probably remember him in the farming community as IFA chairman for four years from 1990 to 1994. He was also elected an MEP for five years. A very dedicated member of the European Parliament, certainly on behalf of the farming community anyway in Ireland, but also, I think on behalf of the rural community of Ireland, I think he is held in well regard. He was an absolute gentleman for anyone who knew him, his dedication to the community he served. He was a family man. He lost his live Irene and a son Stephen in the last few years. So, to his other family members, his sons Nigel and Barry and his daughters Hazel and Anne, and to his extended family and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy. His funeral took place today in Baltinglass. My deepest sympathy to the family. A great man, a great friend and a great gentleman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Cllr Vincent Blake. Well said. I'd like to be associated with those remarks as well.

Cllr Patsy Glennon sorry, Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Sympathies to the family of Patsy Vickers. President of the GAA club, former Mayor of Greystones and a recent recipient of the

Lifetime Achievement Award from Wicklow County board. Just sympathies to Patsy's daughter Gertie and the extended Vickers and Hayden family.

Also, sympathies to the Hatton family on the recent death of Danny Hatton Jr, who is the current captain of Greystones Golf Club and a great GAA supporter for Wicklow, Danny's father, Danny senior is past president of Greystones GAA Club. Sympathies to the family, children and grandchildren.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Patsy Glennon, while you have the microphone.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to be associated with Cllr Vincent Blake with his condolences to Alan Gillis.

I'd like to pay tribute to Sean O'Brien who was buried during the break. Sean was previously a chairman of Fianna Fail in West Wicklow, would have been Joe Jacobs' man in West Wicklow at the time. My deepest sympathy to his wife and family. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Jodie Neary.

CLLR NEARY: Yes, sympathies to the death of Jennifer Whitmore's sister Lillian Claurie who died on Saturday, after an illness. Lillian who was very close to Jennifer, she was the first to come out whenever there was an election campaign. As we all know, our families get side-lined at those times and Lillian was the first to come out and help, so that Jennifer could focus on her elections. She's from Wexford. Her funeral will be taking place tomorrow. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Again, like Cllr Patsy Glennon, I'd like to be associated with offering my condolences to Sean O'Brien's family and his death. I had known Sean a long, long time. Long before there was Town Teams or forums or whatever, there was the old residents' association here, the tenants and residents' association, Sean was chairman of that. Sean worked really hard in his community, his adopted community here, for the people for many years. I'd like to express my sympathy to Florrie and the kids there on Sean's passing yesterday.

Could I also express my condolences and sympathy to the family of Mr Ultan McCabe? Long before I was elected, I had dealings with Ultan. He was a great, a generous man. Long before mobile phones or whatever, I could, as an unelected Gerry O'Neill, I could ring Ultan, and he would drop over here and help out with any issues in the area. He was a lovely man. I think, you know, I'd like to anyway pass on my condolences to Ultan's family. May he rest in peace.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Irene Winters.

CLLR WINTERS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I was like to be associated with the comments of Cllr Vincent Blake in relation to Alan Gillis and say that I've known Alan for 30 years at this stage and he was always a very kind generous man. He would have been one of the reasons that I probably ended up getting involved in Fine Gael politics in County Wicklow and when on one of the trips that I went to Europe to, to the European Parliament with him, he always said that one of the best things about the European Union was the hope that it would bring lasting peace within the European borders. I suppose we look at the situation in Ukraine and Russia today and think, you know, we need to hold tight for that. My condolences to all of his family. I would like to be associated with the condolences to Ultan McCabe's family. He was a real gentleman and a pleasure to meet and to work with. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Well said. Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. It is just to pass on the condolences of this Chamber here to the family, neighbours and friends of the late Robert Kearns, always a town councillor in Wicklow Town for many years. A lot of officials at the top table would have served with him. Indeed, a number of councillors sitting around the chambers. He was a hard worker, thrived on his independent values in regards to representing people and not being afraid to speak out and have his opinion. He certainly was very vocal when he had to be. Besides that, he was a gentleman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I was like to be associated with the comments of Cllr Gerry Walsh with regards to the Vickers family.

I would like to extend sincere condolences to the Smith family on the death of their father Jack. Jack was the life and soul in Kilcoole for many years. He was a mentor to myself over the years. A real gentleman and a great community worker.

I'd like also to remember today the very sad passing also of Frank Rennicks and condolences to the Rennicks family. Frank passed away recently and also to the Mitchell family who had a similar experience. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach. I also want to extend my sympathies to the family of Alan Gillis. Alan was a man of great pride and great passion. He was very highly regarded here in West Wicklow and indeed across the county for both his work within the IFA and in the European Parliament. I think the crowds that were at his funeral this morning just showed the great respect and the great impact he had on people's lives right across the country, indeed there were people from all over there today who spoke very highly of him for his great work he did for the farming community and indeed for the local community here in West Wicklow. I'd like to extend my deepest sympathy to his family. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Cathaoirleach, I'd like to be associated with all of those votes of sympathy. As I was listening to them, it was so clear to me, every single one of those people who have passed away have made a contribution to the community, whether it is through their sporting life, their political life, their political activities, or as members of the staff here in Wicklow County Council. We have lost of a lot of good people. I'd like to be associated with all of those expressions of sympathy. In particular, certainly, Ultan McCabe in my opinion made a huge contribution to the development of County Wicklow in his time as a senior official here, particularly when it came to the planning and development and purchase of land in north County Wicklow, particularly in the greater Bray area, where a lot of the work that was done there set up the future development of the Ballywaltrim area in particular. As already said, Cllr Gerry O'Neill said, a gentleman in every respect, a very good listener but a hard worker. He also finished up his career actually moving from Wicklow County Council to the mid-East region authority. The first

director there was Louis Brennan who came from Wicklow County Council. He was followed by Ultan. Both of those gentlemen had an impact on developing the regional authority.

Robert Kearns was a real independently minded person but a person who was very much for the community and working for everybody's benefit as best as he possibly could. I'd like to offer my sympathies.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I wasn't aware of the death of the sister of deputy whit more. As you all know deputy whit more would have served with a lot of us in the last term. Just to pass on the condolences to Jennifer and her family.

I wasn't aware of the death of the sister of Deputy Whitmore. Did you all know deputy would have served with all of us here in the last term. Again, just to pass on the condolences to Jennifer and her family. Okay, we will just stand for a moment in silence.

[Pause]

CATHAOIRLEACH: May eternal rest be granted on them. May their souls rest in peace.

Thank you. Members, just before we go on to the agenda as you see it, there are a couple of things I want to speak about for a second. First, I want to welcome our newest director, Leonora. Not new to Wicklow Council. We welcome you and wish you success in the future. No doubt you will do a fantastic job. Welcome back.

Secondly, I want to pay tribute to Katie Taylor on her victory over Serrano. What can you say about Katie at this stage that hasn't already been said? We can look back at great Irish sporting heroes, but in my opinion, Katie Taylor is the greatest athlete to make this country proud. The fact that she is from her own county makes it even more special. She's truly inspirational to young and old in this country. Her bravery, her self-belief, her humility, is just incredible. And there is no doubt she is a national treasure.

But, as I said earlier, the fact that she is from her own county makes it more special. And I will open it up to other members if they want to speak about that. I know Katie is a very private person. I would ask, with the support of the council that we would write to wish her well and

congratulate her. In terms of doing maybe a function I am not sure. Timing is everything. We certainly as a council don't want to put her under pressure in any shape or form. As far as I am concerned in the future, we should do something for Katie. For the moment, I just want to on my behalf and I assume everybody else to wish her well, congratulate her and continued success.

My other point before I open it up to members, is as you are all aware the LAMA Awards took place in April at the Crowne Plaza in Dublin and we had quite a unique success, the Wicklow County Council being awarded overall Council of the Year in six different categories I will go through them he briefly. Wicklow Sustainable Development Goals, mapping tools, won gold in the Best Environmental or Ecological Project. Housing project won gold in the Best Housing Initiative. Wicklow tourism passport won silver and another award. (Reading). Health initiative and Arklow Court House and Enterprise won silver in the best local authority for attracting inward investment overall Wicklow were shortlisted with 19 projects and there is no doubt looking at the projects. There was huge competition from every other council across the country. And to say this was a magnificent achievement is an understatement. I suppose I just want to pay, you know, presentation, I suppose . . . the staff and the members here of the council, firstly the staff: To recognise the contribution of the municipal districts across the county, the staff of Roads, Environment, Housing, Community Culture and Social section. Without all their efforts the project would not being completed in such a standard to be put forward to be considered as projects of the year. So, I want really to pay tribute and sometimes we maybe lose sight of the fact of the work of the staff and the council.

But this is a good story, it is a good news story and the staff deserve all the recognition they debt get out of this so: Well, done to everybody involved. That was from directors right down to the people actually doing the work. So, a particular thank-you to everybody. Secondly, to the members of the Council, the 32 members. You know we do this roll to make our county a better place to live, we are passionate about improving every area of our county whether a rural area in West Wicklow to a northern area for example in Bray. We look after or try to look after everywhere to the best of our ability and I think that's testament to the Councillors from the area who put forward projects big and small. So, I just want to say thank you to everybody for all you have done over the year and the years gone by in getting to this stage, where we were

nominated Council of the Year. I think it is a magnificent achievement for everybody involved and I just want to say: Well, done, to everybody. I will open it if anyone wants to come in. Cllr Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you. I want to be associated with your comments with respect to Katie the Council is proud on in Bray we are bursting with pride with her achievements. You covered the points well, so I won't go back over them. In relation to Katie, she was a student locally but what she has done for Women's Boxing is just absolutely phenomenal as well. We are delighted. We do recognise I suppose in the district that Katie is extremely humble. There have been lots of calls for statues and murals in her honour, which were supported; but, from Katie's own perspective, not something she wants. We will obviously be taken by her lead and we welcome the opportunity.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you. I would also like to acknowledge achievement Katie but also what she has done for young girls and, in the sense of raising the bar on what you can achieve from a small age, from a small girl, to go to the world's highest. I would just say it is very emotional and honorable that we have such talent in Wicklow. I also want to give a personal thank-you to members of the Wicklow County Council for supporting my motion of last month regarding children with scoliosis. Thank the people who rang me, sent beautiful texts; but also reported back to the Minister and gave me a personal phone call. I think that made the achievement of my motion achievable and very knowledgeable. So, I would like to thank you for that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thanks. I want to come in, send my congratulations to Katie Taylor for her win. In 2019, when we had our celebrations for her, the impact of seeing all of the young people at the front, celebrating Katie Taylor's win and get their glove signed. The impact she had on the sport is going to be seen in the next few years. You will see loads of upcoming Wicklow stars when it comes to the sport. I think it's really good. And also, to say: Best of luck to her in her next fight. There have been rumours of another fight coming up. I would like to include that in the letter. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, I would like to be associated with the congratulations to Katie Taylor as well. I think you put it appropriately what you said, Cathaoirleach, about her. She is no stranger to success. She is a great role model for young people, particularly for girls and young women in Co. Wicklow and particularly Bray. I also want to I suppose congratulate yourself as Cathaoirleach and the director's official staff and the members on the fact that we were crowned Council of the Year last month and particularly mention the great success of winning the silver medal for San Remo in Bray, San Remo was open in 2022 and has been a great asset in the town for people who find themselves in the unfortunate situation of being homeless.

And I think that I would like to congratulate the staff and offices in Sidmonton as well for running such a great facility on Sidmonton Road. The members of the Bray district are very proud of getting it through.

And I would like to pay a special tribute to Joe Lane, Director of Housing, and Jackie Carroll, who were instrumental in getting it from, I suppose, a project to an actual building and the real -- you know, get the budget going and to the members of the neighbourhood liaison committee on for meeting with the local restaurants on a monthly or two-monthly basis to discuss any issues that may have arisen about the centre.

I would like to, I suppose, pay tribute to all of the other members who are not on the Council who are on that committee and who are very supportive now I believe of the centre. So, once again, congratulations to everybody and thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: To add to everything that has been said about Katie: One thing not said enough about her as a young girl, as a pupil in Saint Fergal's, she tried and compelled in every sport. A great player, athlete, soccer player, great Gaelic footballer. We didn't do boxing in the school. She did that at home. But she competed in every sport which she participated. Apart from everything else that has been said I fully agree with in terms of being a role model for women and girls; I think she is also a role model for trying every sport and giving children every opportunity to participate in every sport. Because we have photographs up on the wall in our school of

her taking part as a very young child in Sports Day winning 50 metres or whatever it was at the time. Another point said and so well by Councillors here and commentators is her humility. She never, ever, ever seems to get anything go to her head. We have run out of superlatives at this point for her performance. She remained the same person and is unaffected by it which I think is a marvellous characteristic. I agree with Councillor O'Connor, who said it would be great to see her competing on Irish soil again before hanging up her boxing gloves. I think many, many people would like to have that opportunity. That is all. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks. I would like to add my congratulations to Katie. I have known her in the boxing world a long, long times since she was only a kid. I had two Leinster champions and she put the fear of God in the two of them. I think she was only 14, 15.

I also had the honour of managing the Irish Senior team where we boxed a Canada in 205. Katie was the captain, I appointed Katie the captain of that team. That time she was not even 17.

She beat Canadian Junior champion in London and Ontario. She is a great kid, great as Cllr Ferris said, a real role model. We have a treasure here in the county and in the country for Katie. The only thing, I see Katie box a lot, since she was a baby, 11, 12. She is doing everything now. If she didn't hang up the gloves, I would say fair play. Because the longer you stay in boxing, the tougher it is. I don't know if she has to prove anything else at all.

A great kid. Well done. Her proud parents and it is a huge occasion and time for them and she is a great kid and thanks . . .

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Melanie Corrigan.

CLLR CORRIGAN: I want to be associated with the well wishing to Katie Taylor. It was a really fantastic achievement that she made. I'm involved with boxing myself, as I have a son boxing abroad. I know the level of training, the attention to the diet, the dedication that goes with it, it is absolutely incredible. It is a huge achievement. For young girls, there's a huge number of young girls coming up through the boxing world

through the county. It is great to have a role model like that that they can turn to. Congratulations to her. It's fantastic!

Congratulations to all of the staff in County Wicklow. It is great to be associated with that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Just to add congratulations to Katie. I think you said a lot. It is about how we are drawn to her and you get close but she's way up there because there's a pedestal she's put on. But the achievements, the superlatives are all there. Adding to everything that everyone has said, how we honour someone like Katie is to keep telling the story of Katie Taylor and all of the different parts in her story, where she grew up, where she went to school, how she tried all of the sports, how she carried herself as a human being and a sports woman. Maybe someone will write a book in the county and maybe we can honour her that way. That's how her legacy will run on, rather than statues and murals. Huge congratulations to her.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'd like to be associated with all of the positive comments towards Katie Taylor and the fantastic achievement. I think to me, one of our outstanding attributes is her general attitude and the way she carries herself. She has been nothing only doing Wicklow proud wherever she went both as an amateur and as a professional. I can recall back in 2011 when we presented Katie with the Freedom of the County, it was a fantastic occasion back then. She was so gentle about the whole thing and the way she accepted it and everything else. So, I think we should be very, very proud of her. I think she's a fantastic boxer. She's beyond gender boxing, she's just a good boxer, one of the best boxers out there at the moment. It is a great credit to her. I want to wish her congratulations. If she does decide to have this famous last stand in Croke Park, I just hope that she can again, that would be a tremendous finish for her if that was to be the case. But her ability is just unreal. It's just fantastic! I'm delighted to be associated with the comments.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Like previous speakers, I'd like to be associated with the comments concerning the LAMA Council awards recently. Tremendous projects there, the area on sustainability, including the huge work that has been done around climate adaptation and climate action by the council. The Wicklow passport project, there, again, the work to promote Wicklow tourism and anything. The Tiglin project. All worthy projects. Congratulations to all involved with those.

And also, to be associated with the comments on Katie Taylor's success last week. Just reading an article there yesterday in yesterday's Independent, a commentator made a reference to Katie and compared her, the way she handled her fame, with other, shall we say those who remain nameless -- but with other athletes who obviously -- the humble way she handles fame and she's a role model for young progressive athletes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to be associated with the congratulations to Katie Taylor as well. I was in Bray the day she arrived back with her gold medal and it was really something to behold. It was a great carnival atmosphere and she was modest as ever, humble as ever. She had done something wonderful in sport for Ireland, for women in sport, and for the nation in general.

But I think if we want to pay tribute to Katie, we have to acknowledge that she came up through the ranks, dedicated herself to years and years of training, but she had the facilities to do so, and she had as well as the will and determination. I think the best way we can honour her is to ensure that facilities are brought into areas where there's a huge interest in boxing. I know near Wicklow; we struggle for premises for both the Wicklow and Rathnew Boxing Clubs. I know that Bray Boxing Club is having problems at the moment. I don't think we can talk about celebrating Katie's achievements without acknowledging that in order for us to continue the great work that she started, that we, as a council, have to be seen to be trying to facilitate all of those children who want to emulate Katie, who want to go on to be world --

Even if they don't achieve great success, it is a great discipline and sport to be involved in. I just think that we have to start putting our money where

our mouth is and actually providing facilities for the children of the future. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I, too, would like to join in with the congratulations for Katie Taylor as well. Just the fact that we, as a council, do recognise with the bursary every year the work that Katie Taylor have done. From a council's point of view, we have been looking after that in that record.

Primarily on 9th April, with the LAMA Awards, I want to thank the staff on the work they've done on behalf of Wicklow County Council and it is a great recognition to the work that the staff has done. Congratulations to them. I know there are issues in terms of the costs associated with running the whole team of the LAMA, it is an issue that LAMA are very conscious of. We have been doing some work on that in the future.

Leonora, congratulations on your new position now. I know there's a split up there on the top table. Well done to you. Well deserved.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: I just want to concur with everybody's comments there about Katie Taylor and especially Mary's about the facilities and supporting the facilities for young people to give them the opportunity to make a sports achievement as well throughout the county. Just a particular thanks to the staff down in Arklow MD for the work that Rob Mulhall did and who put a lot of work in the court hub there.

I want to really welcome Leonora. She has hit the ground running with a lot of work going on at the moment. I want to welcome her to the team and she's doing a great job already. Thanks a million.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, I will move on to the agenda. Just before I do, I suppose we've deliberately made the agenda as short as possible for today to get to the notice in motion. We may look for an extension later, depending on how we're going. I would ask for your co-operation to get through it as quickly as possible.

Item 1, to confirm and sign minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 7th March 2022. Can I have a proposer

and seconder, please? Proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake.

Item 2, to confirm and sign minutes of the Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 21st March 2022. Proposed Cllr Snell, seconded by Cllr Flynn-Kennedy.

Item 3, to confirm and sign the minutes of the Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 28th March 2022, proposed by Cllr Dermot O'Brien. Seconded by Cllr Pat Kennedy.

Item 4 to confirm and sign minutes of Special Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 28th March. Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Seconded by Cllr Tommy Annesley.

Item 5, to confirm and sign the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 4th April 2022. Proposed Cllr John Snell, seconded by Cllr Gerry Walsh. Thank you.

Item 6. To consider the disposal of property situated at 11 Gilbert's Row, Rathdrum, County Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW8503F, being the property known as 11 Gilbert's Row, to Mr Bill Porter, Ms Lin Ryan, Ms Ann O'Loughlin, Ms Mary Loughlin and Ms Ann Savage as trustees of Rathdrum Cancer Support Group.

Proposed by Cllr Pat Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. All agreed? Agreed.

Item 7. To consider disposal of 0.0017 hectares or thereabouts of land situated in the townland of Wicklow, County Wicklow, at the rear of 3 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow, comprised in Folio No. WW26778F to Mr Michael Canavan of 3 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow (as previously circulated).

Proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr John Snell. All agreed? Agreed. Thank you.

Item 8. To consider the disposal of property situated in the townland of Knockanrahan Lower and Knockanrahan Upper, Arklow, comprised in Folio No. WW2488L being the property known as 80 Fernhill, Arklow, County Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms Eileen Molloy of 80 Fernhill, Arklow,

County Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property (as previously circulated).

Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Seconded by Cllr Sylvester Bourke. All agreed? Agreed.

Item 9. To consider disposal of property situated in the townland of Arklow, County Wicklow, comprised in Folio No. WW4065 County Wicklow, being the property known as 15 Collins Street, Arklow, County Wicklow by Transfer Order to Mr Paul Canavan of 23 Oaklands, Arklow, County Wicklow, and Ms Margaret Canavan of 150 Belmont, Southern Cross, Bray County Wicklow, the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property, (as per notice previously circulated).

Proposed by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Seconded by Cllr Miriam Murphy. Thank you. All agreed? Agreed.

Item 10. To consider disposal of 0.023 hectares of land or thereabouts situated in the townland of Kilmacanogue, North, Wicklow, comprised in Folio No. WW36097F (part) County Wicklow being a plot of ground adjacent to 50 Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue, County Wicklow to Mr David Mahon, number 50 Rockfield Park, Kilmacanogue, County Wicklow (as per notice previously circulated).

Proposed Cllr Dermot O'Brien. Seconded by Cllr Melanie Corrigan. All agreed? Agreed.

Item 11. To consider disposal of property in the townland of Wicklow Town, County Wicklow, being the property situated at 30 Seafield, Wicklow Town, County Wicklow, by Deed of Conveyance to the legal representative of the Mr John O'Sullivan, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property (as per notice previously circulated).

Proposed by Cllr Gail Dunne, seconded by Cllr John Snell. All agreed? Agreed.

Item 12. To note the Annual Financial Statement 2021 and to approve by resolution (i) additional net expenditure in excess of budget in accordance with the Section 104(7) of the Local Government Act 2001, and (ii) transfers to and from capital (copy attached).

I think we have Breda to give a quick overview of this.

BREDA MCCARTHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Apologies, members for my voice. It is the remnants of the cold rather than a late-night last night.

In what was again a difficult year, the Annual Financial Statement for 2021 displays a positive picture for Wicklow County Council. The revenue count generated a surplus of 385,000 which has brought our deficit down to 1.3 million and it is important we continue to reduce the unit revenue deficit in line with the recommendation from the statutory auditors board. We had strong performance in our debt collection with the debt percentage rates increased to 83%, whilst the loans collection increased to 83% from 80% and the rents percentage was maintained as 85% which was good.

A lot was achieved during the year and some of the notable actions and initiatives are outlined in the Chief Executive financial review which can be found on page 6 and 7 of the FS document. Under Section 1047 of the Local Government Act 2001, the members need to approve the additional net expenditure in excess of budget. These are outlined on page 5 and 26 of the FS. The main overruns are in housing of 1.2 million due to increased expenditure on housing repairs and reduced income in the homeless and HAP area. In roads of 0.9 million due to additional expenditure on regional roads and public lighting and reduced income in car parking. And in the environment area which is excess of 0.8 million over budget which is due to additional expenditure across a number of environmental operations such as landfill, recycling and street cleaning.

. . . and in the environment area which is in excess of 0.8 million over budget due to additional expenditure landfill, recycle and cleaning. Net expenditure also exceeded budget in management of 218,000, recreation amenity 104,000 and agriculture health and welfare 79 now. * Pages five and 6 of the FS. The most significant transfers from capital are the ongoing appeals to the evaluation tribunal relating to the evaluation 2.6 million charged miscellaneous services and the provision for matching funding requirements up to 1 million charged to the development management area. The most significant transfers from capital are the revaluation appeal provision to fund rates income reductions which is 1.3 million and this is credited to miscellaneous service area also and internal capital receipts to pre letting expenditure, 0.700000 credited to the housing and building area. If I can have a proposer and seconder. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Thanks. Are we all agreed, members? Proposed by Councillor Dunne and seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald. Thank you. * Consider the chief executive's monthly management report, April 22. You have a copy of that. Chief Executive Gleason would you start off.

>>: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I want to put on record my own appreciation and staff to all of the staff of Wicklow County Council and, of course, the members, whose support is vital for implementing these projects. Just a few more highlights as regards funding schemes, which we received funding for and are applying for. There was nearly 300,000 was received in respect of over 100 community groups for a special government school. That funding is in support of community groups impacted by * received 75,000 for projects under structural fund. * Local authority infrastructure scheme. And recently applications that we have submitted. Emails being circulated, we have put in two exciting projects in respect of Rathdrum and * under RDF they equate to we are looking for funding 6.1 million for Rathdrum and six * for the *. We also made ten applications under Orris and another five under Clare. I will keep informed on the outcome of those. Inform the members as well the open library is fully operational in Wicklow end another library, open 365 days a year, a fantastic facility for the public now. And also, to note that the Wicklow Ukrainians hub was opened in the Old Wicklow Library to support those arriving from Ukraine. I just would like to take the opportunity as well, I know I said I would update the members, following our meeting with TII. And we had that meeting on the seventh of April, along with Dún Laoghaire County Council. Discussions from TII their overall funding application was reduced this year, subsequently six national schemes including N11 have been suspended. While they are supportive of the scheme, until such time as additional funding is provided, they cannot recommence it.

Likewise with the other five.

They did, however approve funding for the noise assessment related to the service road. As was agreed at meeting the last day we wrote again to the minister's office in relation to a meeting and Kilhaor minister commit today meeting with us. We are wait being for a date from his office. To inform the member as well due to the commencement of the main scheme and clarification on the likely requirement of any EIA is the interim scheme, TII have agreed to re-look at the extent of the treatment between lock lands town roundabout and junction 9 Glenview versus previous junction 6 Fassaroe stop. That is the update.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Peir Leonard.

CLLR LEONARD: Thank you for the report. Congratulations on the LAMA awards. Three items I want to bring in relation to * I know I raised it at last month's meeting as well. Is there any specific funding that should have been rolled out to support the small businesses and enterprises after COVID? I think municipal districts as well. I know they are to help and support small businesses we at County Council need to be looking at kind of more specific funding streams to help these small businesses I have been contacting and I know the other Councillors have been contacting the business in Arklow alone. Not just because of COVID.

A lot of the construction work has gone on here at moment. Would be great when finished. At the moment some businesses are struggling, taking in a small amount in May. They are just on a downhill spiral to closure. When these businesses close, we are going to lose our rates for the businesses; we are going to lose a lot of complement; it is going to take a lot more energy to restore than sustain and support them now wheel they are still open. I am wondering are there specific ideas coming down the track to support them? Heritage, we have the sewage treatment plan in Arklow, we have been planning for it, it is progressing, is fantastic and the whole town is rolled in behind it.

Putting up the construction work, waiting for the day our river is clean again and that is fantastic. But one of the things in the planning was and I just want to ask the Chief Executive if he is aware of the impact on our local economy and tourism and heritage, stormwater tank placed at the bottom of the castle on the river side. the river at time the planning order went in no one could have envisaged the potential of the river when clean and the economic, the mar times boating, all of that, that would bring to the town. We have historical medieval castle in the town. Even the national monuments, archaeologists have been into it saying it is a significant as this castle has Irish heritage. It was actually written out of the history books, really, because it was so hidden and undiscovered. I am wondering, can we mitigate impact of this sewage storm tank? It is fencing at the foot of a really important heritage structure. I would love to see intervention for it to be redesigned or clad or fit in some way to complement the castle; if Brian could just comment on that. Lastly, customer service, on the progress of the Councillors' access to the presentation, we had previously asked if we can see our reps and what impact that has on the customer service.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thank you. The N11 fiasco of waste of 5 million Euro by the Minister of Transport when he put a stop to the scheme and the fact that we now have to go begging the second time, looking for a meeting with him.

When in fact he has rolled back on decisions in other parts of the country where originally, he was going to stop funding then agreed to restore it obviously because of pressure from the local politicians. The Chief Executive said you had a meeting with him, Cathaoirleach; I welcome your update on it. Perhaps a call on anybody who has any influence with this government and particularly the parties in government to insist that we have this meeting but more importantly that this funding is restored.

Noise assessment survey is being done for the people to assess the noise at the parallel road there. Can I ask where are we with that? And when are we likely to get a proposal to actually fix this issue?

And also, I it has been said to me that the traffic buildup is starting again at that from Kilmacanogue back to Cherry Water (phon). It is obvious this scheme is still badly need and we can't afford to take our eye off the ball. I know Cathaoirleach you are not. As a body we need to ensure this gets back on traffic; number one.

Number two, Cathaoirleach, following on what Councillor Leonard said about the Arklow business people, shop keeps and so on. I presume we all read -- I certainly read the very long email we got from that group of businessmen, of local traders. To me it was a cry for help for Wicklow County Council and it is around the same time that the award was received for us being the best council in the country.

I am delighted we won awards. That is great and I congratulate everybody associated with it. But when you match the rewards with the reality of what people who are financing this Council through their rates, are experiencing on the ground, I think it's quite serious that the points they raise should be addressed and listened to. And this is a matter for the Chief Executive, as far as I am concerned. He needs to step up and he needs to say what is he doing about this. In particular about the issues that small retailers have raised. Not only in Arklow but also in Wicklow Town directly as a result of works done by Wicklow Council. The reality is these people are losing money badly after having two very hard years. They thought they were going to get back into some kind of normal

trading and in fact it is prevented. Chief Executive, I would like your comment on that if I could please.

The other, Cathaoirleach, are three items related to housing. I have to raise them here because they are a matter for the Director. When Part 8 was passed for development at Arden, a very strong compliment was given by the senior officials of Wicklow County Council that a football pitch which was going to be half-used in the development, would be restored to playable condition again.

I went up to see just basically a pile of clay and two rusty goal posts thrown there at either end. And this is supposed to be the finished product. I am glad I checked with the engineer before the meeting. He said it's not the finished project.

I want that on the record here from the Director: That the work is not yet completed on that football pitch. Otherwise, it's a complete failure to keep a commitment that was made by the officials of Wicklow County Council before apartheid was passed. That is number one. Number 2. Can the Director indicate: Is there some plan approved for Dún Laoghaire to develop a social development * on the Bray district? I read rumours that some type of development was coming.

Are we going to have any input into that development? Have people from Wicklow housing lists going to be accommodated? Who is managing it, allocating? Et cetera.

If the Director knows anything about that and can say it on the record, I certainly would appreciate hearing it. The last, Cathaoirleach, for the first time I addressed the fact that as chairman of the Local Accommodation Committee for Travellers, the Advisory Consultant Committee for Travellers on which there are traveller representatives as well as a number of members of this chamber: I am quite concerned in getting works done on traveller accommodation programmes. Looking at the reports for the last year if not longer, they are basically the same every month. It's the department * that, there are three people affected by this in particular I want to know what is hang with the work at Bal Heston (phon). Some people have been moved from the site and work was to be done when they moved. I think five months later nothing has happened. What is happening about that? What is happening with a proposal at Bran

Darragh (phon) where two small houses were to be built in again, nothing happened and people were given compliments. They are concerned now they heard nothing from the Council. There are two small units that seriously need upgrading under a whole lot of headings.

Now, we have a very good record of Traveller accommodation in this county, Cathaoirleach, but I have to say we're falling down on these particular points. I'm expressing the frustrations that have been expressed me to the Travellers affected by this, who are decent and patient people, whose patience is running out and I don't blame them. I'd like to get some form of commitment from the director on those particular projects here today. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Avril Cronin.

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much, Cathaoirleach. First, in relation to the masterplan for Blessington. I'm just wondering do we have any update on where we stand with that? I would just ask that the councillors in the district be updated on what is happening on that and maybe the council might speak to us and have our input on what's planned for the masterplan. I know that we have a lot of concerns in the area about lack of facilities and particularly among our younger people, we have clubs that are bursting at the seams that are looking for facilities, are looking for a community centres, and sporting facilities. I know we're working on our county development plan at the moment. As we work towards our town plan and the masterplan for Blessington, that we take into consideration the needs of the people in the area. I would ask that the Council work alongside the local councillors in the area on this plan and hopefully we can come together and work together and ensure that the needs of the community are met.

Also, I'd like to say it is fantastic that there's such emphasis and such passion being given to the N81 -- the N11 by the Council staff and councillors. I would ask that maybe the same push and the same focus and the same drive might be given to the N81 here in West Wicklow. As I've said time and time again, we don't have a proper bus service, we don't have a train route. All we're asking for is a little bit of help in getting an upgrade to our road. I would ask if the Council would give the same time and effort as they do to the N81 that they give to the N11. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will take one more. Cllr Anne Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach. As we all know, the An Bord Pleanála has made a ruling in relation to the Bray Sustainable Bridge Project and they said that they did not believe that an EIA was needed, which is an absolute shocking surprise to me and most of the people I think in Bray. However, it is now back with Wicklow County Council, so I just want to ask has work commenced in relation to this project and where it is at now Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I'm going to get the answers to those questions first. We will come back to the members.

First of all, to Cllr Joe Behan, I had an impromptu meeting with Minister Ryan at the recent opening of the solar farm in Ashford and I had about ten minutes with him and I made it very, very clear that the members of Wicklow County Council were very, very annoyed that of the shelving of the N11 upgrade. I asked him to come to a meeting of the Council here, which he actually accepted, which I have forwarded on to the Chief Executive to follow up on. A date now has to be arranged. That's where that is at. Look, I would hope that he will honour his commitment that he gave to me to come to a meeting. We will keep you informed. Hopefully that answers that question.

So, I might just bring in Joe, first of all, there to answer the housing questions. There were questions from Cllr Joe Behan there first of all.

JOE LANE: Ard na Greine, work is not completed there. We will push on with that. As regards the site in Dun Laoghaire, we are aware of a development that I think you're referring to which is we're not the authority. There were preliminary discussions circa 18 months ago. We have not heard the latest on that. We're not the housing authority.

The LTACC, Balineskin, we are in preliminary negotiations with the department around a budget. We have submitted our budget. We have asked for the draft proposal wouldn't be sufficient with the development. We have engaged with them again with a view of giving us a budget that would be sufficient to complete the scheme. If that is not, we have to go to plan B. I'm not quite sure what plan B is. We are actively and aggressively trying to push that.

Ballinacash ones, I'm aware of that. It is a challenging issue but we have a proposal for that particular one.

The Ballindarrick, we have a stage 1. I will make sure you will get a report. It is linked to a bigger stage 1 for houses at the back, so we will have a report for that particular one at the next LTACC. I think we need to make a decision on the full stage 1, which is the houses also on that one to progress them together rather than separately. We will come back to you after the LTACC on that particular one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There was another question from Cllr Joe Behan on the parallel road in Kilmac. Leonora Earls, do you want to take that?

LEONORA EARLS: The survey is under way at the moment. It will be between April and May. We hope to have a report in the coming weeks on that. If there is any mitigation required, we will have a look at how to deal with it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I might bring in the Chief Executive next.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Just in relation to, I suppose, funding initials for businesses, you are well aware over the last couple of years, we have provided a huge amount of funding through our restart grants and commercial rates waivers, on top of the normal grants available for businesses. In relation to specifically Arklow, I know the district manager is planning on meeting with the traders shortly to discuss their issues and, look, I will talk to the district manager subsequent to that meeting.

In relation to The Masterplan at Blessington, that's been finalised by consultants at the moment. They're taking on board the comments and submissions from the district members and that will be, as I say, finalised in due course, having discussed with planning section on the feasibility of the proposals.

In relation to the Bray part 8 regarding the bridge, obviously, the decision was forthcoming from An Bord Pleanála in relation to that matter. Where it stands now is that submissions were made over the period from 22nd July 2021 to 6th September 2021. They are now being considered. They will be reported as part of the normal part A process, whereby Chief Executive report will be developed so that's where the situation is at the moment.

In relation to the Arklow waste water treatment plant, I might pass that on to Leonora Earls.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Lorraine, I will bring you in first.

LORRAINE GALLAGHER: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Yes, Cllr Leonard, we too, in the customer services, are keen to roll out the elected members portal and we are looking at technical options to allow us do that. It will allow elected members to add to the representations on the CRM. We will keep you updated on that. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

LEONORA EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I will go back to Irish Water in relation to Cllr Leonard's queries. We will come back on that.

In relation to the N81 and Cllr Cronin, just to say that we have consultants working on two sections the road to look at upgrades to Whitestown and Hangman's Bend and on to Tuckmill.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Rory O'Connor.

CLLR O'CONNOR: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, I want to say it is great to see the solar panel car park fully operational now fully commissioned, especially during the energy crisis. That is excellent.

My second point, I believe for the housing section of the report we should have a section on the Ukrainian crisis right now especially since, you know, we have a section within the report about COVID-19 and that still is a crisis. When that popped up, we put that down in the report. It would be good to have the numbers of Ukrainians in our care, because at the moment we don't know how long this is going to go on for. There's no limit on the amount of Ukrainian refugees that could come to Ireland. I think it's good that we look after them and we keep an eye on it within the Chief Executive report, if we did have it within the section. I know currently we do have bits within the Chief Executive's report about all of the good work that is happening with the Ukrainians, but I think especially within the housing section it would be appropriate to have something about it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I'm not sure, is it Cllr Walsh or Cllr Glennon? I know you're sharing a microphone there.

CLLR WALSH: Firstly, on the rental arrears figure, it is an issue I have raised regularly where we had a high figure there last year during COVID and there were arrangements put in place to address the issue and looking at it, whereas if you compare the year-on-year figure, it is slightly down. If we compare the month-on-month figure, it's jumped back up significantly. I'm wondering if there is an explanation why that is.

Also, just on housing on the AALG webinar that took place on Friday last for elected members, it was on Housing for All, there was an announcement that the affordability housing regulations for 2022 have been recently published and that local authority housing delivery action plans were requested which included affordable targets for local authorities, outline locations numbers, et cetera in an effort to address the affordability gap and it included costs around costs and rental projects. I'm wondering if the director would have any comment to make on that action plan and affordability targets in general for plans for the local authority. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, Cllr Glennon, the fact you have the microphone on.

CLLR GLENNON: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'm going to be very brief, just I'd like to welcome our new director Leonora and to wish her well, as she goes forward.

We're completely cut off today. The Wicklow Gap is closed from Hollywood to Glendalough, causing convenience.

CATHAOIRLEACH: It is about upgrading the road. It is for the people of the west.

CLLR GLENNON: I hope you're not intending to cut it off permanently. Parking in Hollywood was chaotic and people couldn't get up the road to Glendalough. There's a parking issue that needs be addressed, particularly on Sundays and weekends. I don't know if could be addressed by a temporary measure where landowners are paid for the use of a field or whatever. It is a serious problem at the moment. The place was cut off yesterday. It caused a serious problem.

I'd like to follow on from what Cllr Cronin has said, I think it's important that we're kept abreast of what the developments of the masterplan for Blessington is. It's an area of concern to a lot of people there. As Cllr

Cronin says, there's a big push for some sporting area there. Myself and Cllr Gerry O'Neill met with the soccer club recently and they've no pitch in Wicklow County Council and they've got hundreds of members, absolutely hundreds. They want to be get informed about what is going on there. We would like as representatives elected locally, to be kept informed of it. I will leave you in peace. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: First of all, in January, we were told that there would be an assessment of the staff in the various areas. I can't see any reference to it in the Chief Executive's report. I'm just wondering when there will be completed and when we will have it.

I'd also like to emphasise the issue of the N11. It is disgraceful this has been put off. The studies have been going on for five years. This is as much about providing public transport and express buses and a road for the express buses to go on as it is not about providing for more car usage.

In that context, I was concerned to see that the 133 bus has now been decided it's not going to go to the airport and people will have to change in Busarus, adding to the difficulty of getting there and the time.

It is also this road, the work to be done on the N11 is primarily a Bray bypass and the improvement of that and the taking of traffic which is going from Bray to other towns off the main road, where it never should have been put in the first place. I notice there are statements from the department that bypasses are still on, whereas they seem to think that large road schemes are not. This is primarily about providing better bus transport and also getting the share of buses up, and also about a better bypass for Bray. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, Joe, you're up first.

JOE LANE: [inaudible]

CATHAOIRLEACH: Rental arrears, housing for all.

JOE LANE: [inaudible].

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, your microphone, Joe.

JOE LANE: The rental, I'm not aware of anything systematic in those. It is done on annual basis and a month-to-month basis. I would have to check. I don't think there is anything systematic in those. As we're getting more units, there are more rents, so it could be something do that too. I will take a look at it again for the next month.

On the affordable issues, there are the regulations on applicability of the regular laces and the affordability of the delivery. The affordable issue and delivering on it, it was included in the housing delivery plan. We indicated we were dependent on the national scheme of the shared equity where people could buy in from the private sector themselves and they would deal that with shared equity. I'm not sure that particular regulation is complete yet. I'd have to check that. But we were and indicated we were dependent on that for the 2022/23 periods. We recently took on -- the Council recently advertised for turn key affordable purchases where developers would be interested in working with in partnership with the local authority and we would get the grant for them and they'd be able to apply, build the houses and we will get grant and they will put it into the affordable purchase market. We did receive two applications and went through the stage 1, I presume, it is a different process, but we've been through a stage 1 process with them and we progressed on it a stage 2 where they'd apply. We're currently waiting for the developers to apply there. There's a bit of uncertainty regarding the market. We anticipate we will get two applications around that and, therefore, we will work in partnership with them and apply for an affordable housing grant for them, for the developer, which will drop the price.

There is at least another developer interested in that and with a lot of turn keys that are coming in at the moment we have automatically said social housing in a lot of places is under control and we have sufficient in our plan and we would expect to see some affordable purchase or affordables in every scheme just coming in for turn key but we wouldn't take them for full social in the moment. Like I said, we have at least one where he is to come back to us.

For our own, there's two elements, housing for all indicated that the local authorities would provide affordable purchase of 250,000 where all SPCCs have made it clear we can't on average 250,000. The affordable element is still, if we go to full tender, the affordable element wouldn't, we couldn't get that down to affordable based on everything we have at the

moment. Again, we will come back to you. We are working on that tempt.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Joe. Breege, can I bring you in on the parking issue in Hollywood? I know it is more of a district issue but you can come in on that.

BREEGE KILKENNY: I was discussing with the director of TWPS. In terms of parking, of course the district has been working with the local guards and had done in a number of areas in terms of putting down yellow lines, et cetera, but it is up to the guards had then to move people on. If we are talking about an actual car parking area, that's something that will need probably a little bit more detail. Again, just setting up a car park requires funding and stuff like that as well. Absolutely we will work with TWES within the district to see if we can alleviate the problem.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I might just ask Brian to come in on the Ukrainian crisis, housing situation and maybe give an update on the staff assessment for Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: In relation to the Ukrainian crisis, we can put some figures in the report, all right, but I would put a caveat that the figures are changing on a daily basis. It doesn't take into account obviously any refugees that are arrived, I suppose, off their own bat and are outside of the system, as in they've identified accommodation via friends or family. It would just be based on, I suppose, accommodation that IPAS have booked and Wicklow County Council has booked on behalf of IPAS.

At the moment, just to give an update and, as I say, these figures, they're probably out-of-date already, we're at just under 900 individuals are being hosted at the moment through accommodation, such as hotels, B&Bs and also includes the centre in Arklow. That is changing on a daily basis. We can give a brief update in the Chief Executive's report. There is a lot of information that cannot be provided, but it is being provided on a weekly basis in the community response forum. That meets every Friday. I know there's a lot of councillors who attend those meetings and a lot of information has been provided through that particular forum.

In relation to the HR, that exercise, the HR review of that exercise has commenced. The first -- it is different stages that we're undertaking. The first one is looking at the drivers. It has been undertaken and completed

and the competition has been carried out for fulfilling all of the requirements in that regard. The next step is moving on to the outdoor workers and we're undertaking that now and we will be in contact with the municipal districts in relation to the requirements. But to put a time frame on it will be difficult. We will keep the members updated as that goes on. Lorraine, do you want to add anything to that? That's fine. Okay.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, I still have ten people indicating to come in here. If I could just ask you to be brief with your questions. Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. In relation to the sustainable transport bridge. Will the submissions that were made to An Bord Pleanála for the AAR by constituents be included in the Chief Executive's report on the publication process? I have a bit of a concern that some people may not have submitted to both. As the direction from An Bord Pleanála was that the issues raised by constituents could we dealt with during the process, it would be important that those submissions be included, I think there were 60. Can I have clarity on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Just a quick one that is related to the environment. First of all, in relation to recycling centres, could the Chief Executive comment on whether there are plans to introduce charge in recycling centres in the county, Bray or anywhere else? I think it is important -- for me, it would be a huge concern. We have a culture of how we use our recycling centres and the culture is how we do things around here and people expect that their recycling centres are somewhere they can go and recycle for free. Just to comment on that.

The second one in terms of the decarbonisation project in Arklow and how it might relate to Bray and the air show. I wonder people are coming to me wondering is it viable to have an air show and is there a carbon footprint? I wonder if maybe the director can comment on, is there learning we can take from Arklow that when we gaze across to the rest of the county that we take it forward in terms of offset and mitigation for something like an air show.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Tommy Annesley.

CLLR ANNESLEY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. First of all, I'd like to come in on the main street of Arklow there. I was a trader on the Main Street for 27 years. I know first-hand what the traders are feeling in Arklow.

I went up and down the street all through the road w but I would like to welcome Leonora and the effort that she has provided for the traders so far without even having the meeting with them yet, but a lot of people, that letter was written as Cllr Joe Behan said, it was a cry for help from traders, a particular section of the main street was virtually caged off and it was just totally unexpected, even though I was sitting on the Council, I read the plans, nobody told me they were going to be putting the fencing around the particular shops. Now, one road has been opened up, so it is alleviating a bit of congestion for the traders seriously affected. I went in and out of the shops only last Thursday and I got heckled by two traders for not responding to an email. I don't respond to emails unless someone signs it. It is from the Arklow Traders Association, which had disbanded in 2004 and joined the Chamber of Commerce. I don't want to give a history lesson to anybody. I want to help the Arklow traders and help Wicklow County Council going forward. I don't want anyone to think that what is going on in Arklow is acceptable, because it is certainly not acceptable to the traders. But they all realise what work is going on is essential. Now, if I can just start by saying the minute you come into Arklow there is road works there with a new garage being built which is fantastic. You go on a bit and there's a full section. Arklow waste water treatment plant compound. We won't even go down the quay. You go down and you're directed around the corner and then you come on, what is very badly needed is seven new houses being built by Wicklow County Council. When you get up to the bridge, it is just gridlock. When you come down again, you have the main street under construction. There are several premises that is getting face lifts as well, so there's a lot of work going on in Arklow that hasn't happened for the last three decades, but this is very welcomed by everyone and it is just communication and I welcome Leonora going out there now and communicating with the traders. I wanted to say that.

Another very positive notes on Arklow is the housing situation. Like, I sat on Council since 2009, we hand out very little council houses. There is an amount of houses being given out in Arklow. It is the most satisfactory thing as a councillor for people who say, "Thank you very much, Tommy." It is the people in Wicklow County Council, the girls in the offices they

done tremendous work finding out who needed what and what houses to hand out. I have to commend the housing staff on that one.

I just want to come back in on the Ukrainian crisis. I welcome Cllr Rory O'Connor's comments. I read the report. I understand it is changing every day. But when you're in Arklow and you see the families going around the town, the Ukrainians, they're just lost souls, God help them, I know we're doing all we can. Hands up, I'm after taking in a family myself. Just the joy on the two girls' faces when they can go to the beach. The mother keeps saying to me, I'm going home. We have to assist, however, we can. I commend Wicklow County Council. I was talking to a couple of gentlemen down in the sports centre overnight. The stories they have, and it is ... it is great what is going on what Wicklow County Council are doing and all of the other 31 Municipal Districts around the country. But when you awake in the middle of the night, one of the girls, she wakes up with bad nightmares. My Ukrainian is zilch and their English is very poor. But we have a little system going, bad dreams. God only knows how long these bad dreams are going to last. That's all I have to say, Cathaoirleach. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Tommy. Well done. Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I will be brief as possible. In reference to in fairness to you, fair play meeting the Minister for Transport and getting him to agree to come back.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, well done. Councillor Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. The Transport Minister, getting them to come down, not just the N11, but the question I also would like to discuss with him which has come up at district needs and I assume at other meetings. In our strict we are starting our three-year programme now and I don't know what levels your district is at. But it has come to our attention via engineers 20% inflation in construction is come into play. Unless it is reflected by a 20% increase in the budget, projects will be dropped off the list and therefore we won't be able to get to them because the rest of us living in Wicklow will have to use another national road to get there. The three-year is a vital network programme in Wicklow. The construction inflation is coming at 20%, levelling at 20%. That means at least 20% if not one, two projects per district could drop off the list. I am wondering if we are seeking national redress of that.

Secondly, I want the up-to-date position of the Greenway project. I would like to commend the staff working on various snag points on the route engaging with the residents in various locations in the land other than in various location. At this stage I want to know if we are on target for the planning commission. I think the idea was the CPO planning, would run concurrently. I think it is important that it does. Partners as well as local stakeholders, remaining in communication with.

Finally, then, I would like to commend all of the staff and all of the units of this Council in relation to the response to the Ukrainian crisis. It is professional, it is compassionate, informative to those who want information and a credit to you. This is an emergency situation. Hopefully a once in a generation situation and I think the response of all of the staff here and all of the Councillors' reps engaged in this process, have been very, very professional, very compassionate and a credit to all. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I am going to go . . . environment, recycle.

>>: These are from Cllr O'Brien. Recycle, we are looking at upgrade of recycling, brought before the planning and environment SPC 24. All of the policy associated that will be developed there. Moving to decarbonisation zone. It always was our intention at the beginning, the Minister and department had asked to select one area. Arklow came to the top. Always going to be our number one. Looking at climate action plan also. Wicklow would be a decarbonised county all lessons learnt in Wicklow will be brought elsewhere. When compiling baseline of what is producing carbon that will feed into it. Leonora, do you want to speak on Main Street Arts.

LEONORA EARLS: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I spoke to the trader, and we have a meeting this week with them and the Chamber. To have a briefing on the project what concerns are, how we might assist them. Point of view of improving communications but also how we can keep the town to join the period of the work. Pardon our Progress, Business as Usual type message. So, we'll be working with the district members after that in relation to that.

>>: I might bring in . . . I am not sure who is taken the transport bridge question from Councillor McManus.

>>: We might have to check out the submissions. Leonora may have the submissions made.

>>: In relation to that we can check that. With respect to Greenway, we are working away on that matter. There is a Code of Practice agreed between IFA and TII. We are looking at running through that Code of Practice now in relation to this project also in conjunction with.

>>: Sorry, Cathaoirleach, to mention we had a good meeting with IFA in relation to that. As Leonora said, we are making good progress in that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Good. Moving on, Councillor Gerry O'Neill.

CLLR O'NEILL: Thanks. The Masterplan mentioned earlier. The CEO. There is no Masterplan for Blessington. There is a Masterplan in the pipeline for 26 hectares of land.

I as the only elected representative in the Blessington area town, I haven't been consulted whatsoever about this.

I believe no change can be made to the land except through the Wicklow County Council, throughout Councillors. I think too we had more problems this weekend with parking. We had a funeral yesterday here. And it's fairly chaotic, the whole lot. It annoys me that I brought a proposal, an amendment to the 106 houses which is all part of this problem, a few weeks ago; and I was defeated by mainly Councillors who wouldn't know Borwich (phon) from the moon. It's fairly sad that other Councillors wouldn't accept local knowledge and this problem, this problem will persist -- it's there in black-and-white the amendment that I put in a couple of weeks ago, could have been sorted. All I would ask -- I wouldn't interfere with the workers of a clowns in Bray or elsewhere. They know their area better. But regrettably, day in and day out they are talking to me about the parking situation. I had a reasonable motion amendment. Anyway, that's done and dusted. But we are in big trouble in that area there. And this adjustment of lands.

I'd like to be informed, as would the community. As it was pointed out, the soccer field needs ground. There is a lot of stuff we should be able to put on the table here.

The Chief Executive was asked that maybe he could have some influence with Irish Water. We have a house estate here, finished, completed, 46 houses.

And badly needed house. And they can't be occupied because they can't join up, link into the sewerage.

But my thought is there are over 100 units not linked in; connected, but they are lying there in older houses and older buildings in the town and surely something can be worked out here that the 46 houses that are ready for occupation could be -- there could be some arrangement put in place by Irish Water so that the 46 houses be connected and we get people into housing as soon as possible, instead of waiting maybe another 12 or 18 months for Irish Water to complete the upgrade at Borwich. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. One or two things I would like to echo. About the Ukrainians task force committee. It is just amazing to see the stakeholder as involved in this in our county and national bodies as well.

How they were coordinating it is just amazing. But also, to our local staff, county staff of County Council as well, who has been assigned to this project. On a very sad project it is. But the work they are doing is just amazing. But I did bring this at the meeting on frog find I will bring it up here to just have it out there: That the rumour is in our county, is that the Ukrainian people have getting housed.

Our CEO did clarify that is not true. But every person who has contacted me, saying oh, I believe there is a vacant house and the Ukrainian people is getting it. This is not true. And I think this needs to be said out that our people are own people are being looked at so much this image is not true. I think it is damaging to County Council and needs to be stopped.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: Shillelagh . . . we were convinced we would be updated on the project. And we will start work there soon. Particularly with the boundary, the entrance to it and also the service of a new sewage pipeline as well. So, what is the update in regard to that? Joe, maybe you can

arrange we have the report for our next district meeting. The second point I want to bring is the mediation. We are due to have a court case on the 25th I think it was of April? Just wondering if that case when went ahead and what the report back from it has been. Was there any judge's decision? Thanks, Chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay, thank you. Three more. I am going to take these three questions first of all. Brian, do you want to comment? In that there are more * statements other Shillelagh and * storage and heights Hoyt Town (phon).

>>: That is more of a procedural issue, where it is going to be heard, what court. So, we will keep the members updated on that. I suppose in relation to the Masterplan, Councillor Cronin, when she said the Masterplan, that is what is known as the Burgess (phon) Masterplan. Options are looked at. Obviously will be brought back to the members before finalisation.

In relation to the Ukraine issues that Councillor Murphy raised, yes, it's clear that Ukrainians refugees aren't on the house list don't qualify and as regards vacant premises there is a pledge system in place via the Red Cross for shared accommodation and for individual house. That is -- we are involved in that as well. Also, we are looking at kind of more major buildings as well.

Old vacant premises where individuals can be put at. That's separate to anything else. Rest assured that is not going to impact on housing lists going forward. I think that's it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Tom Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you. A few things first: Well, done to the group dealing with Ukrainians residents and hard work done all over the counties, fantastic job, I compliment everybody on all of the great effort. My first comment is with regard to housing, more around planning and probably around policy. I wanted to highlight and see: Is there an answer or solution I am aware in my own area where recently two applications have been turned down because of the distance, say relevant to the village. In one case, hundreds of metres in the other, a little more than that. I am wondering in the current climate where housing is very hard to get, very hard to purchase, could these situations not in the current

environment be looked at on a case-by-case basis and if need be, sit down with the applicant and come up with a solution? I think we need to do lateral thinking on that and not just stick to policy. That is the first thing that I would ask to be looked at and maybe somebody will come back to me. The second is in the area of HAP. Obviously with rents going through the roof I asked questions around this before. There tends to be a gap all the time in what has been asked, what they will pay what the residents can afford to pay. Again, I would like to get some info on that: Is that being looked at? Is that going to be changed? I also would ask that a publicity campaign be run around Housing for All. There is lots of stuff in the media. You read the media, lots of contradictory stuff in it. I think if the local authority would put a very straightforward publicity campaign out there so people are better informed and if need be, give us public reps when put together, so we can put it out there in that manner as well. Already in the report we can see that the housing project on the Lott Lane in Kilcoole is there. I am very concerned about the affordable regulations and hairy fairy stuff. Not the housing section's fault. Hairy fairy, coming from the department or the minister whatever. There is a contradiction between what is waffled about on affordable housing, how it will happen and how it is happening. I would like to see that dressed. My final point is I am directing this to the CEO. I would ask the CEO maybe if he would get together with the relevant directors whether that be one, two or three directors in the local authority in connection with the Cancer Support Group in ad do a fantastic job as all Cancer Support Groups do. They are bursting at the seams.

I am wondering in light of the massive housing going on in the Greystones and the greater area there, can we maybe sit down with the developers, get the use of a facility that they can use and would give them more room and more ability to even do what they do, on a better base? I would be prepared to go kick doors with the developers. If the local authority would help me with than set up access to whoever I should have access to. It is massively ardent. I can't put into words the work these people do. I ask that be addressed urgently. I would like the south directors to come back to me in the next several days. Development is happening as we speak, I would like something really, really spending urgent could be done on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Thank you, a couple of my issues are centred around bio diverse tin things like that. The first thing I was contacted recently about the possibility of installing water in a graveyard, a country graveyard, three-mile water, to be. I wonder if it's possible: It isn't possible to bring water to it because of where it's situated. There is a stream that borders it. Unfortunately, to build steps could be considered hazardous. I just wonder, as a policy, would it be worthwhile the Council considering the installation of water harvesting and water to hold rainwater. Maybe in the cemeteries that do, to save piping water, to taps and things like that. It just seems like the thing to do. It is a shame that people arrive at a graveyard with producer flowers and don't have anything to put them into with regard to filling vases and things with water. So are watering plants that they have planted there. Wondering if the Council would consider that water harvesting for grave yards. The second one is smore serious, really.

We get a lot of emails and press releases about what the climate change and biodiversity SPC is doing with regard to educating people about things like bees and pollinators and all kinds of little -- you know, wilding their gardens and all kinds of little strategies like that to help the environment. Then you have issues like a car and you wonder really how much consideration the Council has put into the biodiversity time, for example, we had a heron colony in Wicklow down at the river bank and a few months ago, their habitat was removed.

Now I don't know if any of you know about herons and their life cycles. I didn't know and awful lot about them but having researched that, I see that herons build and use the same nests for generations. If you remove their nests, you are effectively removing their habitats.

What happened was tree tops were removed which had a lot of these nests in them. Now, when I -- a very, very upset member of the public contacted me. When I carried out some investigation on it, I discovered that while some work had been done to find out if there were any wished nesting in the nests, nobody had gone that extra mile to discover well sit important that we leave these nests? Because now the heron population is gone from about six breeding pairs to possibly one or two.

And the Lily greet, which is a migratory bird which would have come back to nest in those nests is gone, disappeared. So, that is a big loss to the river bank. But also, to those birds and really, what I'm asking is: Is there

any training given to Council staff on biodiversity issues? I am not just talking about people to works in the offices. I am talking about people who work on the ground? Because we have instances of large swaths of food for pollinators such as dandy lions all caught at the same time that mean we go from a situation where there is food there for thousands of insects to none.

Where the accepted approach is that you stagger it, know this section and two weeks later the other section so there is always a supply. A lot of things have happened around the county that have been really disappointing. I just want to know: Does the Council invest money in training staff right across the board on these issues or are we going to have situations happening again where the likes of a whole her on group will be wiped out what steps are we going to take to ensure it does not happen again. Do we need a biodiversity officer? I don't know. But we certainly don't need to see rare birds the whole population being wiped out it isn't good enough.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Kennedy?

CLLR KENNEDY: Would it be possible to get a map we can read of the suitable size from the prow proposed route from Greenway as to * there is uncertainty as to which side of the river it is on. The people that live there are unsure whether it is one sides or the other. I am unable to tell them sit possible to have a map to show them the proposed raft the Greenway? Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Joe, will you take the questions on housing.

(Off microphone).

>>: Sorry, I have, we missed that, do it again. There will be a report, a written work for the next meeting.

HAP, has the question been answered? I will get you official word from the department on limits. I think it affects more than one place. I answered that before I think: We will run an ad when we have something to advertise, which is a school. We don't have that at the moment. An ad will complicate things.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, would you take Cllr Kavanagh's...?

CLLR CRONIN: To address Cllr Kavanagh's points: In terms of climate action and training, we rolled out a huge amount of training for staff. Whether it goes down to cutting tree tops and heron nests may not have done that in. However, district edge nears meet with * on a regular base. The engineers have to manage in their areas. I don't know that any of the districts would set out actually to cut the tree tops and disturb nests and I don't think it would have been done willy-nilly. But party from that we don't have a full-time biodiversity officer. Minister Malcolm Noon said in the Dail there will be [inaudible] of biodiversity. I send my emails up very regularly, saying when is that post going to be provided for? Yes, we could do it Finance we get one in place we could roll out very, very regular biodiversity talks and training associated with it. As I said there has been a lot of training already but maybe not down to that nitty-gritty end of things.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Finally, the last yes, Leonora from Cllr Kennedy.

>>: I have emailed and I will get that organised.

>>: I think that is a sensible Y the cemeteries are largely dealt with in the district organized , it would kind of be an initiative within each district. As a principal idea I think it is an excellent one.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. If you want to liaise with Joe . . .

(Off microphone).

>>: Councillor, myself and director * will Chat on that the next few days.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you a lot. Item 14. To receive a presentation on Wicklow Civil Defence. Do we have Michael Carroll?

[See Screen]

CATHAOIRLEACH: Welcome, Michael, you are very welcome.

MIKE CARROLL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach and members of the Council. Today is a short overview of Civil Defence which I suppose has changed over time. To bring everybody up to date with the news of Civil Defence.

Civil Defence is managed in each local authorization two full-time employee. Michael Richardson my colleague in the back and recently

appointed assistants Civil Defence officer. Michael and I usually go with Mike and he goes by Michael so there is less confusion of the Michaels.

Who we are? A volunteer-based government organisation as laid out in the 2015 White Paper on Defence. The government have continued and want to develop and support Civil Defence going forward. Our policy document is Towards 2030 as written in by Minister for Defence at the time Paul Keogh. We will see more of that in the presentation. As I said, Civil Defence is managed locally by the local authority by myself and Michael under the director-hood of the T.S directs and also partly split between local Anthony the Department of Defense. So, the Department of Defense look after the Civil Defence section, * policies and planning, training, procurement, and &: 30% is local authority and part is department of defence. Our explain is role in Civil Defence is provide is important assistance to the principal response agencies and local community across the county. We have 50 active members at the moment and is important assist other voluntary organisations, RNLI, Coast Guard, DWMRT and order ever malt A Greystones middle Road is our training centre, also in Baltinglass, there is a unit.

We do a lot of first aid at local events and sports partnerships, so, local charities looking to run swims, you know, sport runs, school runs and stuff like that. Again, our trains are trained in first aid and we support lonely nation events. National events like the Pope's visit. We do first aid for sports and games, Concerts and stuff like that as well.

We have a drone support within the county. We operate here in Wicklow one of the three drones in the country. We support the local authority so helped a lot with assistance on mountains. Our drone is capable of carrying two payloads of images. Payload on the right and the left is what we are flying at the moment.

New to us here in Wicklow as well is the E.M.I.L.Y sonar platform supports in missing persons. This is the only one in the country, developed and condition by a company in Arizona. A remote-controlled sonar unit provided great support in the search for missing person s in rivers and in waterways.

Next slide?

We have a fleet of jeeps, 4x4s. We respond to severe weather, whether it be snow, which is less infrequent, but when it does hit, we're able to assist. We have six 4X4 vehicles that are able to get up to any part of the county to assist the health service or to get district nurses in to help patients who are on chemotherapy, dialysis or need other medical attention.

We also support the Local Authority during severe flooding. Again, we support during flooding times. The local districts, we provide pumping flood water. We assist the fire service in extreme circumstances, where a lot of flood water needs to be pumped out of somewhere.

Also, quite unique to what we do here, we operate our own local and national independent radio system. In times of media blackout or digital blackout, where communication towers are taken down, whether by means of intentional or unintentional, we can operate our own TETRA, digital UHF, and VHF marine radio. We can operate a communications system across the county without the means of GSM or phone-based communication.

Our Towards 2020 programme, these are our core services, search and rescue, medical responses, emergency responses, radiation monitoring, and community assistance, are our five core areas of our Towards 2020.

We run four different programmes for our volunteers. We have cardiac first responder, a minimum level we have everyone at. We have a First Aid responder, emergency first responder and emergency medical technicians.

One of our big parts we play is in search and rescue. Again, you have probably seen us out there in times of missing persons. We have our guides trained up in open country search films, map casualties and casualty handling, and stretcher carry out. We are trained to deal with that.

Again, urban-based search and recovery. Again, in open country, when you're up in the low lands or the hills or you've got urban space, you can see us in around the towns searching waterways and searching locally.

Water-based search. We are unique, all of our guys in the water are trained up as swift flood responders. They can enter bodies of water to recover a casualty or recover a deceased person.

Radiation monitoring is another thing that we branched out to as well. Working with the EPA we do soil sampling and radiation monitoring and report back, usually once or twice a year. We will take soil and grass samples in conjunction with the EPA and report back and give them the readings so they can do their analysis.

Again, we assist the fire service, by pumping flood waters and through drone support for wild land fires and we are able to assist wherever needs be.

Probably more prominent now at this moment in time, evacuating and supporting of displaced areas. Our guys are proficient in. We are all seeing what is happening in Arklow at the moment. But generally, we are training people in the event of a department fire, where you have to evacuate displaced persons in an emergency setting you, but with the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and in Arklow, it's been proven invaluable, the training that our guys did have. Small calculation over the last five weeks, Civil Defence volunteers have committed almost 2,000 man hours to the rest centre in Arklow, along with Council staff. Again, it's a huge undertaking that the Civil Defence have put out there and provided, you know.

Again, all of the areas we do cover, it could be quite stressful situations that our guys are put in. Again, we look after the guys with critical incident stress management, again dealing with the side effects and the effects of being faced with either a fatality or, you know, a stressful situation or traumatic incident. It is just having the peer support there for people so if they do need to speak to somebody, we have enacted liaison person within each unit there that they can go and contact and we also have provided a support service further on from that as well.

Again, COVID response, we've had a huge COVID response. This is the national figures for Civil Defence Ireland. Within the two-year period, over 41,000 hours were put in by over 900 volunteers in the Civil Defence. It is a 3,500 membership-strong across the country in the Civil Defence. Again, we're a small drop in the ponds but again, we still make a difference.

Some of the activities we have for 2021. I won't go through them all, you can see. I've pretty much covered them all, they are there for reference at the end. I think we're on to the questions. If you've got any questions, I'm

more than happy to answer them. If I can't answer them, I will push them on to Michael down the back.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Mike. I appreciate that. A good presentation.

MIKE CARROLL: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will bring in the Chief Executive, first of all, and then open it up to the members.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I want to highlight the amount of work that Michael and the Civil Defence have done down in Arklow. I know he touched on it briefly. It is absolutely been phenomenal. They set up the rest centre within a few hours on short notice. As Mike has pointed out, 2,000 man hours that have been put in to date. It is phenomenal, really. I want to put on record thanks to Michael Richardson and all of the Civil Defence crew.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you, Michael, for the presentation. I only had the pleasure of meeting Michael a few weeks ago when I went to visit the hub in Arklow. I've been long associated with Civil Defence. I'm just thinking of probably 40 years ago when I was a very young girl, the Civil Defence was the first people to assist in bringing people of disabilities from Ardeen Cheshire home out, the only trip that then members in Ardeen had been one day a year, a fete, and they used to go in a horsebox. It was the Civil Defence who gave those people dignity in their care and their transportation for many, many years around the country. Everywhere you go, you'll see the Civil Defence. My family is involved with horses and gymkhanas and national shows and the first thing you see in a field is the Civil Defence. The first thing you see when you go to racing events is the Civil Defence. That's volunteerism. Oh, my God, it is just amazing to see that passion and care is still ongoing, when all other communities are trying to fight for members. This seems to be ongoing for young and old. It is just fantastic!

Just to echo what our CEO acknowledged on the work of the Civil Defence at the rest centre in Arklow. To see them set up that centre in 24 hours, or 48 hours was just fantastic. To be honest, I feel that the hub wouldn't be in the centre and couldn't run without the Civil Defence. I wonder how

far they could continue with this work. It really needs to be questioned. They are giving their time up in their schedules to help others. From the bottom of my heart and I'm sure the 32 councillors here, you are just amazing people, even though you gave me a lot of slugging, Michael, you were just amazing! Well done to everyone behind the scenes, your national bodies and everybody. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: [inaudible]. Again, I just want to compliment you on what you do. As I said, I have experienced your dedication and your enthusiasm and your sheer professionalism in the work you carry out.

I'm just interested in the particular work around missing persons. You mentioned there the drone support. In particular, the E.M.I.L.Y solar platform you referred to it as, Mike, in relation to river and waterway searches. I have recently finished a book by a former member of the Gardaí unit, he experienced the difficulties he incurred over his career in water searches for missing persons. I think this is something obviously he could have done with in those situations. Look, again, thanks for the presentation. Well done. Not to forget the tremendous work you're undertaking in Arklow at the moment with our Ukrainian community. Long hours being put in there by your members. Well done.

MIKE: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy.

CLLR FLYNN-KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you very much for the presentation, Mike. The breadth of what you guys are involved in, I actually wasn't really aware of the extent of it. I really appreciate it. My thanks to you and the team personally. I know you were helping with the missing person in Bray recently, which is ongoing. My thanks for your support there. Also, with the support you have given to some of our disability service providers over the years, particularly during adverse weather conditions, getting supplies up. A little bit like Cllr Gerry Walsh, I'm interested in the E.M.I.L.Y system. I wonder if you could explain what it actually is and what it does. I appreciate that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Do you want to take that now?

MIKE CARROLL: I could take that now. The E.M.I.L.Y solar system, it is an autonomous device you can send in to waterways. It is used preliminarily for searching underneath the water. It is also a rescue aid. Again, if you find somebody in difficulty, you can throw this into the water. It is remote controlled. You can either drive it out and also somebody can hold on to it and you can drive them back in. It is a rescue device and also a sonar device. The sonar is quite unique, it is the only one in the country at the moment. The London Fire Brigade have invested in one. It is a hefty piece of equipment to invest in, but we're lucky enough here in Wicklow that we have managed to get our hands on one. It is proven invaluable now. We were only at a call-out before Christmas there in New Ross where unfortunate a gentleman had thrown himself in. It has proved invaluable in locating somebody under the water, where usually it could take anything from a week to two weeks for something to surface to be able to find it, either on a shore line or sometimes never at all. The device itself has proven worth its weight already. I hoped that cleared up the question. It could be used in the sea but again, it is more primarily used for either river searches or lake searches as such. If you're using it in the sea, more than like you will you can get bigger boats in and handle swells. It is ideally in locations where you can't really get boats in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Thanks, Mike. Cllr Joe Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: Thanks very much, Mike, for the presentation. You know, we talked at the beginning about the number of people who have served the community in different respects. We were passing votes of sympathy to their families in passing. You look to the contribution of many Civil Defence volunteers have made for the welfare of the people of the county.

I want to point to one man there at the back, Michael Richardson. For many, many years, he works as a volunteer with the Civil Defence. Then he was appointed to the full-time position of full-time officer. That man epitomises everything that is good about Civil Defence and community action in all of the work he has done for many years as a volunteer. We know he had a lot of challenges in the last few years to overcome. I was absolutely delighted to see him here in uniform today, Michael. Thank you for everything that you've done for the people of County Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Mullen.

CLLR MULLEN: Yeah, again, Cathaoirleach, an appreciation from a rural perspective, I suppose. Civil Defence is very important to us in rural areas, particularly during winter weather and emergency events, like snows, flooding and other events like that. I remember during the last big snows, the famous one in '82, 2010 and 2011, the Civil Defence were always at the end of a phone call to get food and medical supplies to people. We're very rural in Wicklow so the Civil Defence is crucial to the operation of emergency services in this county. It is an appreciation. You're very well respected. You're admired and you're a credit to the county and to the service nationally. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks, Mike for the presentation. Yes, could you paint us a picture of the numbers? So, obviously, the praise and the awe we have for what you're doing, but can you give us a picture of who is a volunteer in the Civil Defence? So, we get the scale of it. Have they done their day job, they get a call, they're jumping into a car, they're heading off to meet up? I would like to get a sense of the reality of that picture so we can again appreciate, as people have said, what is involved. Even just the scope across the county of the numbers.

MIKE CARROLL: Yes, the volunteer is the me and the you of the county, you know. They come from all walks of life. Some of them are professional fire fighters, paramedics and guards. But again, that's the emergency side of it. But again, a lot of them come from backgrounds of either being retail assistants, being, you know, engineers or train engineers, and people working in Tesco's. It is your general Joe Soap; Joe Public is the volunteer. Again, they're highly trained and again, they do it for the love of doing it and doing it for the want of it. They don't ever ask or want anything. They don't want anything. They want to do it because they want to do it. These people that are helping and assisting in the Arklow rest centre, they're putting a day shift in at work. They're going to work and coming in. They finish at six o'clock. They get a bite to eat and work until 10 or 11 o'clock at night. They go to bed and then get back up the next day to go to work. They sacrifice their family time and their social life. They sacrifice an awful lot to be able to give to this. They don't do it and they don't whinge about it. They don't give out about it. They do it because they want to do it.

Geographically, we have a unit based over in Baltinglass. Again, we're primarily based on the east coast here with units based out of Greystones. We do have another unit based in Baltinglass as well. Hopefully, in the future, we will again expand on that with more publicity and funding, we could grow bigger and better with that. To sum it up, when the Civil Defence volunteer, our old saying is, "When it counts, we're there." It really sums them up, to be honest.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Mike. I have three more members looking to come in. Cllr Peir Leonard first.

CLLR LEONARD: Yes, I suppose I want to come in and thank Mike for the people over in the rest care centre and all of the good work they're doing.

On a personal level, I'm a family member of somebody that went missing. My father went missing over 26 years ago. Unfortunately, at that time there was no equipment to look or search in time to find his body. Twenty-six years later, we still have never had a burial. I suppose, I want to emphasise the importance to the families of missing people. Usually when people go missing in waterways, there is only one ultimate scenario, they've gone into the water and especially near the coast, once they go out into the sea, it's very, very -- the chances of recovering their body is very minimal.

But I just want to I suppose emphasise the importance of the funding for this kind of equipment because it affects families. My family is not the only family in Arklow who have lost people and their bodies have never been recovered. I suppose it is just to emphasise the importance of the funding. If the Council can roll in and help with that funding or do anything as local representatives to ensure the Civil Defence have this funding for this the equipment, I would be happy to help in any way.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Well said. Cllr Derek Mitchell.

CLLR MITCHELL: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I want to thank the Civil Defence for their work, which I've seen over many years as a councillor myself. They don't always get the recognition which is deserved, which suppose as a councillor you say parts of their work. The general public may not see the work so closely. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers for their work. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr John Snell.

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Thanks to Mike and Michael for coming here today to speak to us and give us this presentation. I suppose, it is great to hear all of the glowing reports and appreciation from the elected members. It is important because I always class the Civil Defence has unsung heroes. I have a couple of good friends who are members of the Civil Defence. While a lot of us in this chamber dedicate our time to maybe sport and organisations or voluntary community groups, this is their passion. It is only when you end up in a situation like adverse weather that people start thinking about the Civil Defence in recent times, as has been outlined, and with the good work that is going on with the Ukrainian community in Arklow.

It is to say to Mike and Michael, in regards to questions for you, I'd like to ask the question, what can Wicklow County Council do to help and assist you more? We know there's an awful lot of collaboration going on between you and that's hugely important. It is not to undermine that but it is to enhance and make it better.

You mentioned that you have obviously on the middle road in Greystones a centre and in Baltinglass. Could the Local Authority help you in regards to having another strategic location within the county because we all know that this is a huge geographical county. We are divided by the mountains. The Civil Defence have a huge role to play throughout the whole county. It is land, sea and mountains. Is there anything we can do it assist you more?

MIKE CARROLL: Again, Wicklow County Council and the Civil Defence have a great partnership. To date, anything that has been looked for has been granted. Again, I can't fault it at the moment, in fairness. We will keep that door open.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thanks, Mike. Before we let you go, on behalf of myself and the members, I want to thank you very much for all of do. You have heard the appreciation shown by the members to the Civil Defence. We all know you do fantastic work across all communities, responding to all sorts of situations. Above all, keeping communities safe. I want to offer you continued success to you all. Mike and Michael, thank you for all you have done. I want to echo what Cllr Joe Behan said earlier, very well put, you have given a huge amount of time and effort over the years to your role as a volunteer and now being more involved in the Civil Defence. There is some talk of you retiring, I don't know whether that is true or not.

If it is, continued success to you and your family in the future. Thank you for everything you've done.

MIKE CARROLL: Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Members, we're going on to correspondence. Before we do, are you happy to extend the meeting? I really do want to get through the Notice of Motions. I suppose, do we have to put a time on this? Can we go to a finish? Can we go to a finish on these motions? Look, we will say 5.30 pm, even though we may not go to that. We will try and get through them as quickly as possible. That's up to yourself how quick we get through them.

First of all, before we go on to the Notice of Motion, can I have a proposer and seconder. Proposer by Cllr Joe Behan, seconded by Cllr John Mullen.

I will bring in Helen in on correspondence. There is one item of correspondence.

HELEN PURCELL: There is one item of correspondence that was sent to yourselves. It relates to a previous circular O4 of 2020 which outlines specific circumstances for exemptions from the 80% attendance requirements from the elected members in order to qualify for full [inaudible]. If an elected member has a special arrangement in relation to cocooning or self-isolating or if we had limited the number of people permitted in the Chamber, they were exempt and could still qualify for the 80% attendance. Those exemptions are now gone with effect from 1st May 2022. I can say that we never needed to actually apply those exemptions in any circumstance because the councillors attended the meetings in person or remotely when they could and we never actually had to make an exemption in relation to any of the councillors. While the circular is there and while the circular withdraws the previous circular, it is not something that you actually applied to yourselves anyway. There has been some confusion with some of the elected members who think it means that the hybrid meetings will no longer continue; that's not the case. It is strictly just removing those exemptions in relation to the 80% attendance.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay.

>> Does that mean we're continuing on forever with hybrid meetings?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Effectively, that's what it is saying as far as I can see.

>> So, we're not going to have full physical meeting in the future, then?

CATHAOIRLEACH: It looks like, I will let Helen back in. It looks like there's an option of either hybrid or physical, that you have an option to do either.

CLLR PURCELL: That's right. From what I read of it. The option to attend hybrid meetings is continuing in accordance with the circular and legislation that is there, currently.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Notice of Motion in the name of Cllr Anne Ferris, proposer, seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien.

"It is the policy of Wicklow County Council not to purchase goods or services produced or provided in whole or part (as practicable) from illegally occupied terminologies by illegal settlers, and that any such contracts should cease as soon as allowed."

I will get a response from Helen.

HELEN: The responsibility for procurement is an executive function and the Chief Executive is obliged to comply with statutory procurement legislation. The Department of Enterprise and Trade advised that neither Ireland nor the EU have restrictive measures in place in respect of Israel. Ireland has given undertakings to grant non-discriminatory access to its markets in goods and services and has joined the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) expanding its commitments with regard to market access. Under the regime, suppliers in a country outside of the EU that has signed up to the World Trade Organisation's Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) are eligible to submit tenders for Irish public sector contracts. A full list of GPA members is available and there's a link we can send out.

The department has previously indicated that any move by a public authority to act outside of any agreement may be seen to breach our international trade commitments and also may be seen as discriminatory in relation to goods and services otherwise legally saleable within the union. The law has advised it would not be appropriate to interfere with contract law as proposed by the motion as this would leave Wicklow County Council open to a specific court action and costs. Political

assertations are not grounds to alter procurement in the process unless grounded in existing legislations. It is arguable that the subjective consideration alluding to a form of trade sanction regarding another country's actions are outside of the remit of the powers of the members and would be an unsubstantiated criterion that does not exist under procurement law. It is determined that it is not possible to adopt the policy as set out in the motion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Now, I know we have discussed this on a previous occasion but couldn't take any decision on it. So, I'm going to bring in Cllr Anne Ferris first of all.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach. We briefly discussed it before, Cathaoirleach, and, obviously, we didn't get, there were a lot of people who wanted to come in on it who didn't get an opportunity. I wanted to make some points in relation to the reply we got from Helen and to thank Helen for the reply.

First of all, I wasn't sure when the last time we mentioned if any councils around the country had adopted this motion, the motion has been passed by Dublin City Council back in 2018, South Dublin County Council in 2021, and Rathdown Council in 2021 also, a similar motion as this one. Now, I just want to say this motion only refers to the purchase of goods produced in the settlements that are illegal under international law. It does not refer to a boycott of Israeli goods. This distinction is already made by governments around the world and the European Union. Settlements are built on land outside Israel's internationally recognised borders.

It does not refer to a boycott of Israeli goods. This distinction is made by governments around the world and European Unions. Second, built on lands outside Israel's internationally recognised borders. Under international criminal law the transfer of a state into a territory it militarily occupies is a war crime. It is also a crime under Irish law. More than 500,000 Israeli settlers live across the West Bank and East Jerusalem controlling most of the water and natural resources in the West Bank. The European Union is clear that Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territories are illegal under international law and an obstacle to peace. Yet EU states, including Ireland continue to make settlements financially viable. The motion in front of Wicklow Council has concrete action to oppose continued illegal settlement and this aligns with Ireland's political policy. In passing this motion Wicklow County Council is

making a statement that it believes it is on injustice for innocent families to be evicted from their homes and lands in order to make way for illegal settlements. In passing this motion, Wicklow County Council will be standing in support of international law and for the principles of peace and justice.

Finally, trade rules as per those referred to in the meeting administrator's report are generally uniform across EU Member States but exceptions are granted where justified. On grounds of public morality, public policy or public scrutiny and the protection of health and life of humans. These exceptions certainly apply in the cases of the occupied territories. In the West bank.

And finally, can I just say Cathaoirleach, that we know all too well what is happening in Ukraine at the moment and the illegal invasion by Russia. A lot of -- you know, every day we are bombarded by news. We are very, very upset about it and yet the situation in Palestine is being once again ignored. I had a meeting I think I mentioned this to you before with the Palestinian ambassador and she is so grateful that Wick Wicklow County Council allowed this motion on its agenda and that it will be discussed. She said herself even if it cannot be formally adopted but council this is a show of solidarity that the people of Wicklow County Council have with the Palestinian community. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much for your articulate response there. Thank you. I don't have any member show. I will say that I will be putting this to a vote, Councillor Ferris. I do believe it outside, a breach of our obligations, on a legal basis; and for that I can't sport moments I do appreciate where you're coming from but I think we have, know legal -- I suppose legally binding. I don't see how we can go outside of that on this particular occasion. For that reason, I will be putting it to Councillor Snell?

CLLR SNELL: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We discussed it a few months ago. As outlined. We did pass in this chamber for expulsion of the rush and ambassador to Ireland. At that meeting I did say that there is very little difference in what is happening in Ukraine. I don't think that we took that Councillor's --

>>: Did we not vote on it?

>>: No, no. G. but it was discussed. Anyway, there was very little difference happening in Ukraine than what is happening in the Gaza Strip. East Jerusalem and the West bank and the reality is that 80% of the people in the occupied territories are living below the poverty line. And, you know, people believe it or not, have more freedom in Kiev now at this moment in time than what some of the people in the Gaza Strip have. Less than a year ago less than 250 people were killed in Gaza Strip, 66 were children. It was two tholes and 400 housing units destroyed that could no longer be occupied or livable. It was 50,000 homes were damaged. 331 educational facilities destroyed. And we all know that if you want to keep a people down as a country down, you attack their educational systems. And then, ten hospitals. And the World Bank estimated that it would cost \$380 million in regard to the damage that was carried out. And that particular time, which was less than a year ago. While everybody is raising and rightly so to help the Ukrainians people, very few people are talking about what's happening to Palestine. This is going on since 1947, all the way right through, to the current day. And we've seen those of us who take an interest, where people who are going in to protest are being shot on the streets. People who go with knock other than sling shots and stones, are being bombarded with come bombs and bullets. And the reality is that in my opinion the Israeli ambassador should be expelled from Ireland as well.

I support this. I support the wholeheartedness of where it's coming from because by shearly having the conversation is showing that we are not sheep, we are not keeping our heads down and we are speaking up. We have seen what happened in the occupied counties in the North for many, many decades and no one wants to go back to that. But the reality is: This is going on in the world and it's time that people spoke out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay, Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thanks, Cathaoirleach. I will be brief. I want to support the motion. Oven my mind, there is something symbolically important. It should be the policy of Wicklow County Council. I would like to think that we wouldn't be bombard requested a legal argument to kind of maybe persuade us kind of not to support this. But I think that's really, really important that recognize that we are talking about an art apartheid state that is supporting -- the definition of an apartheid state or regime is that

some people who live there have a racist privilege that is enshrined in their laws, policies and practices. If we are trading with an illegal occupier then we are enabling a coloniser, a brutal coloniser. Russia -- there was celebratory applause when Russia -- the sanctions were applied to Crimea, Luhán and other places we won't trade because Russia annexed them, won't recognise or enable that. Enabling an apartheid regime called Israel occupying Palestine by trading with them for me I think we are doing something reprehensible. There are 6 million Palestinian refugees denied the right to return to Palestine. It was mentioned this morning how Ukrainians are intent on returning. Palestinians don't have that chance. Every time we support occupiers we prevent that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Mitchell.

COUNCILLOR MITCHELL: We have been given legal advice that we can't do this. Can't be effective. More important, we are not a foreign policy here. People mentioned Crimea and the Ukraine and things. But there are loads of disputes around the world where people have been pushed out and other people now using that land and producing things. I don't see that we can determine which ones are the ones we should buy from in all these various disputes around the place. I do have some sympathy for the view that the Israeli state has not made enough effort to try and come to grips with the Palestinian problem issue which they have created; and that is a mistake. But I certainly don't think that we should be trying to get into a foreign policy aspect and I would be abstaining on this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I want to go to a vote so Councillor Mullen if you can be as brief as you can.

COUNCILLOR MULLEN; Councillor Mullen. I would like to be able to support this motion. It is not possible because of the legal advice we are given. Plus, as members of the European Union, the European Union has long supported a peaceful resolution between the Israeli sustained Palestine two-state solution was endorsed many years. The reaction of the Israeli sustains IDF and illegal assessments should be condemned all around but I think appropriate bodies are involved in that and in the European Union to tackle that. I am abstaining.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring in the Chief Executive before we vote.

>>: To clarify, before the members are going to a vote on this, regardless of the outcome, it will not be possible to implement the action due to what's been outlined in the response, breach of our international trade commitments, procurement laws and leads the Council to possible court action. Dublin and Dún Laoghaire, referenced earlier, none of them have actually actioned the motion either. So, just for information purposes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to hand you over to he will own.

CLLR PURCELL: Could I say before you go to a vote, I mentioned what the Chief Executive said there: The motion was passed by the other councils. No action was taken on that. I think that's the whole point. I don't know whether it's illegal or in fact if it is illegal or not. But I think even the fact that we pass it.

It shows a mark of our support to the Palestinian people. I don't think the Palestinian ambassador to Ireland or anybody else thinks that we are going to change the world on this. But it is a message of support to the Palestinian peoples.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Briefly Councillor **.

>>: Cathaoirleach I am not abstaining; I am voting against. Because I don't think we have the power or the authority or in fact the necessarily the public support to start interfering in the affairs in the Middle East. We have had situation in this chamber where we couldn't discuss Greenway. Now we are going to solve Middle East politics? Right. It is a bit farcical that we are in this situation. I completely understand and accept the sincere ty of the proposals of the motion. Government policy down through the years has been to support a two-state solution in the Middle East. And let's face it if we are going to look back in the history, look at the Holocaust and Jewish people and what they suffered not so long ago. So, I would say, from our point of view, we should concentrate and ensure tag we get our business done here properly and support the efforts of the Irish, others right across the world including the United States. Recently, as far as I am concerned a ground breaks agreement Abraham Accords was reached between Israel, United States United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. A process that will lead to agreement between the Jews and Arabs. Us taking a side on one side of the argument, I think we

should wish everybody well getting on with the peace process and did not
ing take up this issue today. That is why I am voting against.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Two more members. Can I go to a vote or do you want
Councillor O'Neill and did he ever echo daily do you want to talk on this?
We have another six or seven motion s to get through.

CLLR O'NEILL: Er want to support Councillor first's motion and support
every word she said there. This threat of legal stuff we get all the time. If
we have any backbone at all we can show our support for people of Israel
or of Palestine.

>>: Thank you. Councillor Doyle.

CLLR DOYLE: I do support the spirit of the motion and understand why
this motion has been put forward I am uncomfortable voting against legal
advice but I have a question. Does the potential for legal action come as
the result of the motion passing or as a result of attempting to enact the
body of the motion?

>>: I would assume enact the body of the motion. I will get correction on
that.

>>: Is that correct.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Going to Helen for to a vote.

HELEN PURCELL: It is the policy of Wicklow County Council not to produce
goods or services produced or provided in whole or part as practicable
from illegally occupied territories by illegal set letters and any such
contracts should cease as soon as allowed.

[Vote taken]

HELEN PURCELL: 64, nine against, 8 not present and nine abstaining.
The motion does not pass. The motion falls.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to have to pass on motion two. I don't think
Councillor Crean is with us on motion two. Motion three in the number of
Paul O'Brien and Cllr Ferris. Wicklow County Council is calling --

>>: Sorry, Cathaoirleach could we defer until Councillor Paul O'Brien is able to be back with us next month.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Yes. Want to do that?

>>: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Motion four. Councillor Corrigan, second by Kennedy. Wicklow County Council looks into the space finder app currently trialed in Limerick City and County Council. Technology gives realtime information on where parking spaces are and supported by the Disabled Drivers' Association of Ireland and this adds a hidden disability, parking spot. This parking space should slightly wider than normal spaces be near a lift and have a universal disability sign to differentiate it. Can I get a response from Helen?

HELEN PURCELL: There are no explanation plans at present to introduce this app by alternative suppliers. Each manager manages their own facilities and can consider the app for future ca (Reading)? In full, GPS and resourcing requirements would have to be identify and included in budget proposals at a later date.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. Councillor Corrigan?

CLLR CORRIGAN: Disappoint. It would support people with disabilities to access Free disability parking spaces. Using the technology to shorten their search for time available for spaces, saving time, traffic and most importantly stress on people. It is available on Apple and Android, easily accessible and can pinpoint available parking spaces. Disabled drivers' association of Ireland are asking every council should consider it. I think it is something we strongly should be looking for. Thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Flynn Kennedy?

CLLR KENNEDY: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, again, similar to my colleague, slightly disappointed in this. The Hidden Disability Parking space is something really advocated from a lot of individuals arrange the county, the Irish Wheelchair Association who manage the current disability parking, any person with a hidden disability such as dementia, brainj autism or anything like that, is not actually able to get awarded the

disabled parking bay; and therefore, is not able to access them. The Hidden Disability Parking is something that we really need, specifically in the main urban areas. And I would ask, the reason why my colleague and I brought the item to this forum is because we wanted it to be something rolled out in all districts and not led district by district. So, I would ask that maybe the Cathaoirleach would ask it to go to a vote if possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am very supportive of this motion, actually. Before I bring in a couple of speakers, is maybe we send it to the SPC for further discussion I think that would be the real of SPC. Maybe they can give us some indication of how to go about it. I think it is a very good idea and worth pursuing. Councillor Behan.

CLLR BEHAN: I want to support it, an excellent motion and * might have something to say. I look forward to a further discussion on it. Thank the two members coming forward to put it in.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Fitzgerald chair of SPC tuck I fully support this motion. I think we are * * we are having a discussion at SPC I think they will have no problem with it. Limerick, I saw and other counties are trying it as well. It is not because other counties we are doing it. We should do it anyway to help people with disabilities of it is a huge problem for a person trying to park. My own town, if I Limerick, find it difficult to find a space. for people with disabilities, it is more difficult.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Murphy are you happy for it to go to the SPC?

CLLR MURPHY: I am happy. It is a very much inclusive moments I really appreciate the two Councillors bringing this issue up. I think if there was some research done into it from Wicklow -- from Limerick County Council as well to give us more input. As well maybe we bring this forward to the * commit as well.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: In supporting it can we ask Limerick any success we have.

>>: I am going to bring in Lorraine.

LORRAINE: That is a good question. Limerick manages the parking for the county. We will definitely look into that, contact being Limerick.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillors are you happy to pursue this through SPC?

Yes, all agreed? Agreed.

Moving to motion five. Counts lor could you take this?

CLLR FERRIS: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Second by Paul O'Brien. The library service (Reading).

>>: CPE, are a project assisting (Reading)? At this time a minority of local authorities have made them available through the library assessments despite the cost being 300 Euro each Wicklow County library service plans to purchase 20 pens and make them available at borrowing and mobile libraries, two in full-time and one in part time mobile. Addressing dyslexia features highly on Wicklow County Council's agenda programmes available online from each of other our libraries. These products were introduced to all 83 presume are you schools and 21 'primary he schools and four secondary schools in Co. Wicklow 2018. We have had great benefits from parents and teachers. Wicklow County Council is the pioneer of these ponds library staff gave presentations on them at a National Library conference. The availability of C pens will add further negligent E. dimension to reading challenges by many.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am going to bring in the director, Michael nick Olson to comment.

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach following this there was a long discussion. We agreed to buy the pens. We are just waiting on prices from a number of explores. As soon as we get the prices, we intend to buy them.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Councillor Ferris.

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you. And thanks Michael for that feedback. Just to say I am delighted with the very positive response. I think that will be invaluable for people using the libraries.

And I think anything that we can provide to make life easier for people with dyslexia, with vision problems, will be great. So, I would like to thank everybody involved for that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed? Yes?

>>: Just wanted to update people. I had actually applied to the library service back in January. I started communications with Brendan Martin and Margaret Barchil the latest I heard is they are seeking funding from dormant accounts for the purchase the pens. As soon as obtained the orders will go on and they are hoping they will be available in June in the libraries in Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Okay. Number six notice of motion in the name of Councillor Ferris, seconded by Cllr O'Brien. Happy to take this, Councillor Ferris?

CLLR FERRIS: Yes. Sorry, Cathaoirleach. Sorry. Yes. Please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To ask is the Chief Executive if he can seek a report from the Irish Water on their capital expenditure in the Wicklow area since 2016 and seek information as to which projects were funded through the 1% for arts scheme. Furthermore, can the chief executive contact Irish Water requesting an update on how they intend to deliver any balance of that one per cent due to our council area.

CLLR FERRIS: This can be circulated to the elected members after the meeting. Our scheme predates Irish Water administered through each of these Irish Water undertakers to honour existing commitments inherited on exiting projects, first January 2014. In co-ordination with water service transition office, WSTO it sought to clarify and confirm what projects were eligible for arts scheme funding according to a number of key criteria. One, the percent relates to wastewater scheme and two, there was a construction budget also indicated by the department that showed allocation for the percent for arts scheme and three, contractual commitment was made by a person/person's company to produce something to be funded for the percent arts scheme water Irish Water clarified further through the local authorities. (Reading)? In circumstances where local authority entered into contractual arrangement for percent arts scheme first January 2014 without a construction budget allocation from the DECLG liability for finance scheme rested with local authority. On future projects, Irish Water will not allocate funding for arts scheme there are a number of reasons including the need for Irish water to target expenditures and key areas where water and wastewater

infrastructure requires improvement for the consumer. Irish www.water is prioritise something expenditure on procuring and improving safe water slide. we wastewater and infrastructure are targeted in line with objectives outlined in the Irish water business plan, e.g., lower level of water notices increased compliance levels, lower level of major pollution incidents and reduced supply introductions. The arts office also has added Irish Water do not provide for percent for art in their work on behalf of local authorities. Clarification was student inception of Irish wore hands with the e.g., case 12% not afraid any national schemes. There is a national review of the percent for art process, which is an opportunity to mention this and ask the government to give it further consideration.

CLLR FERRIS: Can I request a copy of that reply?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy with that?

CLLR FERRIS: Very happy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Item 7. Motion in the name of Cllr Anne Ferris and seconded by Cllr Paul O'Brien.

"That Wicklow County Council calls on the Ministers for Justice; education; and Children, Disability, Equality and Integration to immediately implement an Operation Encompass-style programme between An Garda Síochána and schools.

"Operation Encompass is a police-led, school-based early intervention safeguarding scheme which supports children and young people who experience domestic abuse. Operation Encompass was created to ensure that by the start of the next school day, a child's school will be informed that there has been a police-attended incident of domestic abuse at the home of the child. The child is then supported immediately upon arrival at school. In 2020, Women's Aid (Ireland) reported that there were 30,841 disclosures of abuse, including 5,948 were against children. We need to support these children now."

I will get a response from Helen first.

HELEN PURCELL: This is a matter for the elected members to consider.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Okay. I don't have any issue with that myself. Is everyone agreed that we send a letter to the ministers, Cllr Paul O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: It is Cllr Dermot O'Brien.

CATHAOIRLEACH: That's my first slip up today.

CLLR O'BRIEN: I very much support this. One edit I would ask to include, the youth is my world. So, in that department, children, equality, disability and integration and youth, it is a little edit. Can the Government department have the word "youth" in it?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy with that, Cllr Anne Ferris?

CLLR FERRIS: Yes, absolutely. Sorry about that, Dermot.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Miriam Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Yes, I fully support this but I also wonder can we bring this up at our local joint policing meetings. I know we have one tomorrow. I will bring it up to discuss it. It was brought up at the County Wicklow joint meeting last week. It is fantastic. I would like to know the reality of it and the implementation of it.

>> We have our policing plan committee tomorrow as well at 5.30 pm. I will bring it up with the superintendent and the other Gardaí that are there, okay. The motion has obviously passed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed? Agreed.

CLLR FERRIS: Agreed. The letter will go out with the word "youth" in it as Dermot proposed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you all for your attendance. We ran three minutes over --

Cllr Snell.

CLLR SNELL: In regards to the Notice of Motion. It is better to bring it up in full Council. Is there a standard of motions that anyone can bring?

CLLR FERRIS: They've been there since last July.

CLLR SNELL: I'm not finished. In regards to Cllr Corrigan and Cllr Flynn-Kennedy, who had a very good motion there, and everyone in the chambers and at home recognise it as a very good motion but it was

submitted in February. I'm just wondering, was it not recommended that it go forward to the SPC in tandem with staying on the agenda for the full Council? I thought there was to be interaction when motions come in that the officials would liaise with the proposer and seconder of the motions. If like in the case where the director Michael Nicholson has agreed to purchase the reader pens for the library that that could be related to Cllr Kavanagh and Cllr Ferris and it wouldn't be taking up time. I know you, in particular, are under a lot of pressure to try to clear up the agenda here today to make way for the incoming chair. I think it is commendable of you to try to do that. It is unfortunate that there's still going to be two left on the agenda and that's through nobody's fault. People miss meetings and they can't be here and that's the natural course in anything in life but you've done a Trojan amount of work today to get through this. I'm just saying standard procedures must be followed. Is there a number that we all know because it seems to be that maybe the information is not going back from protocol to various organisations or groups or individuals or whatever their grouping is, I thought there was a designated number, you can only be on it on a designated amount of motions? We're had seven today. No disrespect to the proposers and the seconds of those motions but it is top heavy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will get a response from Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: It is covered in the standing orders in 14(D). I can circulate the standing orders to the members. It details the amount of time a member can appear on the agenda as a proposer or co-proposer. They are entitled to have the Notice of Motion listed even when we have received the response even when we have received a response, like the one with the pens.

>> It is only, three, Cathaoirleach.

HELEN PURCELL: No member should be permitted to have no more than three motions for any one meeting and the name of the member should not appear more than nine times on the agenda as proposer or co-proposer of motions for any one meeting.

(... reading to the words ...)

A similar order of procedure should apply to any further notices in motions remaining to be proposed by two or more members. That's why

the order of the notices of motions often alters. You will note they're not in date order so that's why ones by a concern councillor will be towards it's ends.

>> One just slipped in there.

CLLR SNELL: No, it is just to make the point to all 32 members. I do concur with that. Obviously, it is regulation to be followed.

>> We do normally, yes.

CLLR SNELL: And also in regards to people who are moving new motions, if I'm not here to move my motion, I assume then it won't be the first on the listing the next time, as you've outlined. There is one there going back to the middle of last year. It could have been heard today. Unfortunately, the councillor is not here. That wouldn't necessarily be the first motion for the next meeting. The Cathaoirleach has cleared it. Unfortunately, both councillors couldn't be here today. What I'm saying is the natural order should be that if, for example, Cllr Corrigan and Cllr Flynn-Kennedy moved their motion tomorrow, to me that should be heard first. It should come before those two. I think it would only be fair. If you've missed your slot, you have missed your slot. Now, it just so happens you cleared the decks today.

>> Cathaoirleach, we try to apply fairness. We look at the date order and that starts and then you look at each elected member and who has proposed first and second. The next person comes in and all of that. I mean, we'll check the standing orders, but we do try to be fair to elected members and apply fairness.

CLLR SNELL: Ah, no, that's the very reason I have brought it up. There are 32 members sitting here and a lot of what went into Notice of Motions could have been dealt with the Chief Executive, with the Directors of Services and indeed with Municipal District level. That's why I think that some people use that avenue, Notice of Motions and an awful lot of others don't. I just feel that a lot of it could have been dealt with before today. It's the same names that is appearing. That's all I'm saying.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I will conclude there are two things that I'm concerned about. One is the time scale of the length of time that some motions are on the agenda. As you know, with the best will in the world we've tried to

get to them meeting after meeting after meeting. Even today we shortened the agenda to try and get it cleared.

The second thing is I fully agree with what you're saying, Cllr John Snell in terms of any motion that is in front of us should work in tandem with the relevant director or SPC so that at least it is moving and can be worked through with the people who move the motion. I definitely believe that's important to continue that.

HELEN PURCELL: We would often refer motions back and say they are more suited to an SPC or to the district, and that's not suited as Notice of Motion at all.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Can somebody just clarify following on from what Cllr Snell said about the three motions? A few months back, my name was on three motions and I think I couldn't put any more in or propose or second or whatever it was. In order to can you collar five going forward. If there is a case that there is a fourth motion in from anybody, will that be allowed even to appear on the list? Will they have to drop a previous motion to submit a new motion?

HELEN PURCELL: There should only be three proposed by councillors. A councillor can appear on the agenda nine times if they're seconding. Usually, we work with the councillor in which three they want to appear.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you all.

>> Sorry, Cathaoirleach, can I just --

[All speak at once]

I hear what Cllr John Snell is saying. Elected members are entitled to have their motions listed on the agenda. They're entitled to have them heard. We provide reports for those motions. Helen decides, it might rest with another committee or whatever, et cetera.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I fully accept they should be heard and can be heard.

CLLR FERRIS: Thanks very much, Cathaoirleach. Clearly, it is because my name -- I had four notices of motions down today. I want to make clear

that I don't set the agendas. I don't set where they go on the thing. Because we haven't got to that one since, I think, January, the one about Palestine, that we started off in January, so just to reassure people that I'm not pulling any strings here getting four motions on the agenda instead of three.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Thanks to all of for your attendance.

(At 5.13 pm)