

ORDINARY MEETING OF
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

ON

MONDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Heather Casali

Tara Meyer

HELEN PURCELL: Can I ask people to keep phones on mute, if attending remotely to be on mute. If members can leave cameras on. If you lose connectivity to contact myself or Teresa to get you back into the meeting. Thank you very much. To welcome the public and the press present with us today. Now, for the Roll Call. Register Roll Call ... Cllr Avril Cronin is joining later.

Register Roll Call ... Patsy Glennon is joining us later.

Register Roll Call ... John Mullen is joining us later.

Register Roll Call ...

HEAD OF FINANCE:

CATHAOIRLEACH: Helen, please ...

HELEN PURCELL: We pray for Sheila Kelly, mother of Brian Kelly, Carol Bates, Eileen Walsh, Eileen Dunbar, Ruby Hall, Finton Colamor, Humphrey Hennessy, and Nora Murphy.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Can we stand for a minute's silence. Is there anyone else? Sorry, Gayle Dunn.

>>: Rita [inaudible] of Dunbar, we send condolences to the family.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. That's it. Will we stand for a minute's silence, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: May the souls and souls of all the faithful rest in peace. Amen. Item one is to consider and sign the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday, 4th of July, 2022.

HELEN PURCELL: To submission from minutes in relation to council Stokes as not listed as attending so will be amended and row posed and seconded with that amendment, please.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Who has seconded it, Cllr Irene Winters? Thank you. I confirm, councillor Stephen Matches, Stokes, apologies. Deputy [inaudible] was at a meeting, excuse my indulgence. I have no doubt you will make amendment apparitions Councillor Stokes. I want to thank the staff for providing me with head lights but I am struggling at the moment. Helen, can you?

HELEN PURCELL: Item 2, to consider the disposal of 18 square metres or thereabout in the townland of Newrath, Rathnew, Co Wicklow, being known the property of 4 Clermont House, Rathnew by way of a 1-year lease commencing 26th June 2022 of Teagasc, Oak Park, Carlow, R93 XE12. As previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: A proposer? Cllr John Snell? Seconder, Cllr O'Brien. Thank you. All agreed.

Third on the agenda, Helen, please.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider disposal of 0.232 ha. Folio WW37437F in the townland of Knockenrahan Upper, Arklow, Co Wicklow to Votumann Ltd, 5 Drynam Road Swords, Co Dublin. As per the notice previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Have we a proposer? Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Second? Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy. Thank you.

Item 4.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the disposal of 0.1932Ha or thereabouts in Talbotstown Upper, Wicklow comprised in Folio No. WW4484 Co Wicklow, being the property known as Cottage 56/1 Talbotstown Upper, Kiltegan, Co Wicklow by transfer or order/deed of rectification to Mr Henry Murphy as LPR of Laurence Murphy, deceased, of Talbotstown Upper, Kiltegan Co. Wicklow, the person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per notice previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer, please.

>>: To propose that, chairman.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

Proposed and seconded by Cllr Gerry O'Neil? Thank you.

Is that agreed by all? Thank you.

Motion 5, Helen, please.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the disposal of property comprised in Folio WW2963L in the townland of Kindlestown Lower, Co Wicklow the property known as 25 Upper Grattan Park, Greystones, Co Wicklow by Transfer Order to Ms Ciara McCoy and Mr Colm Egan of 25 Upper Grattan Park, Co Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Stephen Stokely, yes. I heard. Who has seconded it councillor Derek Mitchell. All agreed? Thank you.

OK. Next, Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: Item 6. To consider the disposal of 0.0034Ha in the townland of Bray, Co Wicklow within Folio WW40424F, being the property known as 20 James Connolly Square, Bray, Co Wicklow by deed or transfer and rectification to Ms Deirdre Walker as LPR of Anne O'Donnell, deceased. As per notice previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposal, please.

Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, thank you. Seconder? Councillor Rory O'Connell, thank you. Is that agreed by all? Number seven, then, Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the disposal of 0.0017Ha in Co Wicklow comprised Folio No. WW16147FF, at the rear of 3 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow to Mr Michael Canavan of 3 Lakeview Grove, Wicklow as per notice previously circulated. The members will note it was previously agreed, however there is an amendment to the folio no.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, councillor Gayle Dunn. All agreed.

HELEN PURCELL: Item 8. To consider the disposal of 0.2230Ha in Johnstown, Co Wicklow, known as Sea Road, Arklow, Co Wicklow by transfer order to Ita Fox as LPR of Terence Fox and the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per notice previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Thank you, as seconder, Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. All agreed. You will not miss out, Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Well done. Next on the agenda, Helen, number 9.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the disposal of 0.0348Ha or thereabouts in the townland of 0.0348Ha in Sheepphouse, Co Wicklow Folio No WW4065 by Transfer Order to Linda Lennon of 17 Mill Meadow, Arklow, Wicklow County Council, the person in the title previously circulated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed and seconded by Mary Murphy. Thank you. All agreed. Item 10?

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the disposal of 0.0024Ha or thereabouts in the townland of Doodys Bottoms, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines folio WW4484 Wicklow County Council. Being a strip of land to the side of the Church Road, Donard Wicklow County Council. By deed of transfer, rectification by Thomas Dwyer Junior of Church Wicklow County Council.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed? Thank you. Number 11.

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the disposal of c650sqm or thereabouts in Ballynerrin Lower, Wicklow County Council on a site of 0.25acres with car parking facilities for up to 8 cars, by temporary lease by Dublin Simon on 5, Red Cow Lane, Dublin, by way of 4 yr. 9-month lease commencing on the 1st of October, 2022.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Agreed? Now, to get to the next agendas, I will be delighted but, item 12 is?

HELEN PURCELL: To consider the taking in charge of the following estates, we need a proposer and seconder for each as we go through.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. The first one is.

HELEN PURCELL: Ballyraine Court, Arklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Carraig Beag.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposer,

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you. And Cllr Irene Winters to second. All agreed. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Cre Na Mara, Arklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: [inaudible] the seconder, is Cllr Sylvester Bourke. Third one on the agenda is? Sorry, all agreed on that one. Agreed. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Deerpark in Blessington.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed Cllr Gerry O'Neil and seconded by Cllr Edward Timmins. All agreed. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Mariner's Point, County Wicklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Dunn, second by Cllr O'Brien. All agreed. Yes. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Mount Usher Glade.

CATHAOIRLEACH: All agreed. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Seabank, Arklow.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Sylvester Bourke seconded by Cllr Pat Fitzgerald. Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: The Friary, Bray.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Proposed by Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy and seconded by [inaudible]

Sorry, councillor Rory O'Conner seconded, thank you. All agreed, thank you.

OK.

HELEN PURCELL: Item 13 to consider the adoption of Wicklow County Council's scheme of letting priorities for affordable dwelling purchase arrangements under section 11 of the affordable housing act, 2021. Directive services. Joe Lane of we have the Director of Services, Joe Lane.

>>: Wicklow County Council has a scheme, an affordable dwelling arrangement in consideration at the moment. It has been forwarded to the department. We are hopeful that it will be progressed into early, over the next 6-7 weeks with the idea of selling 36 of four doubles early next year. That is why there is urgency on that. It will be in the Wicklow area. Again, we don't increase expectations so I have sent an FAQ with application with the department at the moment, that would make a scheme feasible in that period.

So, it was considered by the Wicklow Municipal District couples in July with a special SPC in early August, the scheme is to allow the maximum number of local applicants, that is 30%, which the regulations is the maximum allowed and we catered for that this scheme has as drafted is agreed with [inaudible] so if agreed I have a live scheme to operate on. Assuming my application for funding for affordable, I will be able to advertise an affordable housing scheme in Mead to the end of September. That is why there is urgency in the regard. With the maximum amount of local need in the application. So with the SPC and the [inaudible] within the area, we looked at it in the time frame because of the urgency and I recommend that it be adopted it is noted that the

ministers and the elected members can amend to bring in a new scheme and we agree that the SPC with more time will look at it but to try to get this one up and running we all agreed to move on in this approach. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK.

Any questions on that? We have a light on there? Cllr John Snell?

CLLR SNELL: As has been said, we have had a number of meetings on this, including with the Municipal District and the meeting last week. I want to thank the members of the Strategic Policy Committee and the members of County Wicklow East, who have put time and thought into this, to say to all the 32 members, that this is a welcome development that needs to be supported here today, wholeheartedly. It is the first such scheme in 12-14 years of an affordable model. We have waited a long, long time for something like this. It so happen, it is in our Municipal District but it is that the reality is that it is open, the 30 % is open to everyone within Wicklow County Council, it is not restrictive to the Municipal District of Wicklow, we felt that very important. I am sure, you, like me, are inundated with regards to people trying to get a foot on the property ladder within our own county, it is a golden opportunity to be supported, 46 family homes, 2- and 3-bedroom units. We have met our obligations to Wicklow East but factoring in that we provided over 350 social houses within a 3.5 period in Wicklow East, and I will correct myself, there, that is in the Wicklow/rat knew environment, it does not take into the rest of our Municipal Districts, that is 300 ... (loss of connection.)

HELEN PURCELL: Sorry, the microphone dropped if you would like to go again.

The people who are remote cannot hear you. We will get IT support there.

CLLR SNELL: Thank you.

That is Tommy's way of shutting me up!

CATHAOIRLEACH: Sorry, I wanted to say we had missed you, I hit a button by accident. It is my apologies.

CLLR SNELL: I believe you, thousands would not for the benefit of members online, to say that the Wicklow Municipal District have considered this also our SCP members, the housing scheme, as do affordable housing come up in their areas, they will engage with the Municipal District level and to go back to review the structures around this, so what is passed today is for the scheme and for this scheme alone. It is a great formula. I think that all 32 members, I hope, will support it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, John. Cllr O'Brien?

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you. To start by the Director for involving us in this to keep us up dated on the process. We called a Special Meeting of the DMV to have a good, long discussion, to get the facts before coming to agreement ourselves. So we have had long discussions about it. As Cllr John Snell stated we are in full agreement now.

I am speaking on behalf of all of the members of the EMD [sic] we had a meeting and it was agreed I would speak on the behalf of the members as the Municipal District. This is a welcome approach. I'm a councillor three years now. And like yourselves inundated with housing issues. When you look at the news last week, 711 houses to rent in the country, not just in Wicklow, we badly need affordable housing for too many hard-working people they have not been able to get a mortgage or not on a housing list as they earn too much so falling through the cracks. The sad indictment, they are saying it is affordable, they are in today's market but unfortunately, it is the same price

that I paid for my house in 2004, so affordable in every sense of the word but looking at the property market at the moment with 3- and 4-bedroom homes going at over half a million, I think it is disgraceful, so I want to support this, and like Cllr John Snell I ask for your support, I think it will send a strong message to the residents of Wicklow County Council. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien, councillor, Rory O'Conner.

>>: I welcome the scheme and cannot wait for it to come to Bray. The first thoughts as I have seen schemes like this in other countries but also seen the short fall, such as people getting in and then a few years later as the market is messed up, they flip the houses and put them on to the market as way more than they paid for them. So I wonder is there something in place to stop people from getting them and then years later to put them on the market for more? I know that the council has X percentage of whatever the house is. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Grace McManus.

>>: In terms of the 30% of people in County Wicklow, to prove a local link do they have to prove it for five years or a recent five years? I am concerned of people in 20s and early 30s who Mae have emigrated and may not be able to prove they lived in County Wicklow for five years but did grow up here. In terms of the caveat of owning a previous property but prove overcrowding that you can purchase one of these, is there a safe guard around if somebody owns a property and transfers it to their children, and then becomes eligible to buy an affordable property? Is there a way of stopping that? I wonder about those who try to cheat the something to buy something? Is any of this rental or all purchase? If you can indulge to answer that. Finally, I said it at the SPC, I know it is outside of your control, the fact it is first come, first serve is a

concern, it was a concern for other councillors as some may not have access to IT systems, I know that you said we may not have the resources to support people but I wonder about the library services or us as councillors for us to have a plan if whoever is in first on a Tuesday, Wednesday when it opens at 12pm and we have somebody who is not computer literate that we leave them behind. And knowing the time pressures of the scheme going forward, I know we will look at doing other schemes and it is something important to reconsider.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gerry Walsh?

CLLR WALSH: As previous speakers, we welcome the scheme. Most of us here have been inundated from requests who are middle income earners caught in a trap of high rents and ever escalating house prices, so I am sure there is a demand for this scheme and I hope there will be many more to come. A question for the Director, you mentioned it is interim scheme of priorities associated with this proposal only, so not sure how it works with other schools going forward, will they have to be negotiated or approached individually or is there a national scheme associated with the Affordable Act itself. And to ask councillor Grace McManus, to address the rental options so maybe to address this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Director, can you take the few questions or would you like to keep going?

JOE LANE: I need to clarify one thing, this isn't an interim, this stands until we amend it. If we were lucky enough to have a second scheme in early 2023 and hadn't amended this, this scheme stands, until we amend it, it's not quite specific to this scheme. I can answer the rest just to help. First of all, I intend to have in the next couple of weeks if we get approved, I intend to assist with

applications, I said that, we have no problem and we will also allow us to tease out the issues. This is new for us too. And some people were privy to it. The legislation is quite challenging and difficult at time and one of the questions particularly, the questions particularly asked in the FAQ as well, the four pages, the three pages I sent out were the questions that came out through the SPC as we tried to work through it ourselves, so again, over the next couple of weeks we will have one or two workshops and that will allow us to tease out some of the issues raised. I took the path of least resistance regarding the scheme of priorities and it has been adopted and that's why I used it because apart from being familiar with that one, I felt if I went away from it and we had a long conversation about it, it would delay it and the time may be a priority here, depending on where, if we get this scheme back from the department, sorry, if we get a funding of circa 50,000 from the department and approval for the scheme, I would like any spare time would be with the applicants and the application process and that's why I took that, there was a lot of sense as we walked through it. The regulations of the fact, I can't remember which, says first come first serve basis if you go for 100% or 70% of the non-must be first come **fir** served basis. Like I said it would be IT based but we will have worked with elected measures in the workshop to assist in those regards. The application will require certain stuff to be attached to make it eligible. You can't just lock in an application. This is a very complicated process. And cost rental would have brought another issue with it. If units don't sell, one of the options is available under HF is cost rental. We will look at it then, but I would envisage that both the local and the extended requirements, its location and people have looked at where its location is in Wicklow town, that it will be fully oversubscribed. We will look at cost rental in the future and see if our own schemes or in all schemes at this stage, where approved housing bodies

approach us, we first of all try to make it work as affordable rental, either a cost rental either part of the development or all developments, and that's, sometimes it doesn't work but we always make bodies look at that as a first option. It's not that easy and bearing in mind one of the issues with affordable purchases must get a 15% discount to market value, one the issues with cost rental must receive 25% discount cost rental and that is challenging and particularly the areas that in the north Wicklow, east and western side, it is very challenging to try to get that work. And even from today's scheme we are looking at in the Wicklow area, we are looking at a whole lot of options, but cost rental is more challenging but we will keep going. I will have to come back on the particular question about locking out. There is a shared equity element which is the difference between the market value and what people pay for it. I will have to get help recording whether people can sell it but they must pay back their shared equity. I think there was a caveat it must be for the next person who requires affordable. I will have to come back on that. I actively encourage the SBC members to send them in, this is brand new legislation, Fingal is ahead of us but after that we are probably nearly, it is probably the only local, maybe the Fingal one, so we need some of those questions looked at. There is no reason why a person, the regulations, the scheme of priorities given since five years, we will be as flexible as we can. I see no reason why that person wouldn't apply. We will be as flexible as we. It is 30%, we don't want to discount people but we won't be using a high bar. Like I said, the Lottery scheme doesn't work, the thing that, when the elected members said, it's particular scheme only, the scheme if we advertise, eared ago, some of Sea bank the older members are letter, there was a - that doesn't employ this time, every time you have a scheme you advertise it, you tell people what to do and that's why if we are lucky enough to get the EHF in the next couple of weeks,

we will need the scheme a priority to refer to it. I think that was it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We have three more speakers, four more speakers, councillor Joe Behan.

Cllr Joe bean: If you understand, fair play to you, because I am struggling to understand what the director has said about this. The first thing that should be noted about this it's not an affordable housing scheme because the people who are fortunate enough to get these houses will still owe the council money for part of the equity. It's a shared ownership scheme rather than an affordable housing scheme. It is not going to bring down the price of houses for people who don't qualify for social housing. It in fact could well have the capacity of increasing house prices, what will bring down house prices is supply of social and affordable housing, built by the council and private housing built by developers. This is a sticking plaster, when you consider that if we pass this scheme today, we are agreeing that a maximum of ten of these houses can definitely go to Wicklow people, but the rest can go to people from Dublin. Or elsewhere. So we want to be very, very careful. Obviously nobody wants to hold this up, but this is a rush job. I understand why the director is rushing it, because two months ago when I asked him was there going to be any affording housing scheme he said there wasn't. This has suddenly come on the agenda, okay and we are raising now, copying the Fingal plan without having a lot of time to consider the implications of it. But the first implication is that we are ruined in this county by people coming from Dublin to buy our houses. Joe will say it's in the act we can't do anything about it. Only 30% of these houses are guaranteed for Wicklow people. So be prepared for a huge issue if everyone else that gets these houses comes from Dublin. Dublin has its own responsibilities to provide housing for its citizens and one part of Dublin Fingal has an affordable housing scheme, Dun Laoghaire doesn't. Many applicants

will come from Dun Laoghaire town. We are going to pass this scheme and allow this to happen without querying it because we are in a rush, we want to get it done quickly and maybe we look at it again for the next one. Nobody wants to stop, we all know that people are crying out for it. But we better get it right. One of the big faults I see apart from what I have said about the 30% is this business that it's going to be first come first served. So everybody's finger is going to be on the button of their laptop or their iPhone or whatever at one second past 12.00 some night or whatever, and that's how it's going to be judged. I don't think that's fair at all. Because it immediately puts people who are not IT savvy at a serious disadvantage. And surely to God we could come up with some fairer way of ensuring that people have a proper chance to get in their application, to answer their queries that might be there and at least to give them a fair chance of being successful. I mean, the director just said lotteries don't work. How do you know they don't work. We haven't investigated that. He throws out a statement, lotteries don't work. They could be fairer than first-past-the-post system where some IT system is going to make the decision. I don't think that's right or proper. The last thing point I make, I'm not going to hold the thing up today, I'm not going to say we should stop this. I am pointing out we better be clear on what we are voting for. We are voting for a situation that people from Dun Laoghaire are going to get the affordable houses in Wicklow, not the people in Wicklow. Ten will get it from Wicklow, that's it. We can't guarantee the rest. The last point I would make is that Wicklow County Council with the support of the Government, the same government that, has been given a fort tunes amount of money to buy up private housing units in Bray. 208 units are bought with government money and the people in them are going to be council tenants. Great for the town tenants. But that's an entire huge amount of housing taken off the market.

That's the problem with affordable housing and lack of affordable housing and I hope, I really hope that this system will solve, begin to solve the problem, but I have my doubts, thanks.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr. It's a pity you left the FPC and housing we could have hashed through a lot of that. Thank you for being so articulate in that response. Vincent Blake.

CLLR BLAKE: I wish the county council levy successful programme and certainly the people of Wicklow and to the district as well. I say well done to them and well done so the SPC. I want to bring up a related element to it. It's in the fact in relation to the fact that we have affordable (Inaudible), we are doing all the work in Wicklow at the moment, we shouldn't forget about other sites as well. To me, there are affordable houses being built on those sites by whoever applies for them whoever gets lucky enough to get those sites as well. We have been preach being it for a long time. It's time we moved on with them and made use of them and provided houses or let people provide houses on them.

COUNCILLOR TOM FORTUNE: The first thing I would say is I'm encouraged that there's an effort being made in some form to delivered some affordable housing, because that's really where the demand is, most of the calls I'm getting on housing is affordable. What I would like to understand, I would share some of the points Cllr Behan has made but I am trying to understand by what we mean by an affordable house. We all know the price of houses. If I talk about my own area, the prices are phenomenal and they have gone up by God knows what percentage. I would like to understand what is the real definition of affordable that we're talking about. And the implications of that and as Cllr Behan said, if it's been subsidised by the local authority, brilliant,

but is it still going to lay on top of the purchaser. I made a note in the early parts of the conversation that this first come first served basis that's a serious issue. I think it's unfair. Because I would equate it to when tickets go on sale for a popular concert and the tickets are sold within ten seconds of the site opening up. So I see this happening and the danger with it that people who have real genuine cases may not be able to be as sharp as that. So I need to understand a bit better the details behind this. I think it is rushed. I think there's political circus going on at national level because of the way the opposition are pushing the Government. They are trying to come up with all kinds of schemes to in some ways, pretend is an unfair word, but it touches on that kind of word. I would think affordable housing is urgently needed. It's needed right across the county. It's certainly needed right across north Wicklow. The situation in north Wicklow is an absolute disgrace. The amount of young people who can't afford. We have a problem on trying to get school teachers, some of our schools now won't be able to provide certain classes because they can't get teachers and it's driven by this kind of stuff. As the Chairman of the SPC makes the point, these are badly needed. I agree, but I'm confused, this sounds very exciting and great, but I'm wondering is it? I would like to know, I think there needs to be more efforts or consideration put into this first come first served bases, that's grossly unfair. If this thing can be rolled out say in Wicklow town based on whatever has gone on in Fingal, I can't understand why it can't be rolled out across north-east Wicklow, South Wicklow, East Wicklow, whatever the case may be. I don't understand that. I do think it's - the danger is and I know the director is doing this with the best will in the world but I sense he's also being used politically as well. That is the concern. The people who will lose out on that are the people who won't be

able to afford it. I'm struggling with the cost. I need to understand that a lot better.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Jerry O'Neill.

CLLR JERRY O'NEILL: I will be very brief. It's not on the application or qualification I want to zoom in on, it's the, we have in west Wicklow (Inaudible) what I want to know is we talk about affordable housing for a long time and there will be a couple of dozen people in west Wicklow who are waiting there on affordable housing. If this is passed today, for example, there's one housing estate in Blessington there, it's complete, it's we're waiting on the upgrade of the connection to the waste water treatment plant. That has started out as private, then it moved from private to social, now it's going to the housing agency. What will it do, when will we be able to say of those 46 houses or 100 down the road or the other 100, when will we be able to tell the people of west Wicklow that there's X amount of houses will be affordable. And will this today include the allocation of affordable housing within those estates which have started and some completed? It's just to get the straight answer when will these be available. That's the main thing.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Gayle Dunne.

CLLR GAYLE DUNNE: Thank you for the contributions made by the other members. I would like to welcome this scheme. I think over the last number of years we have done quite well with the social housing. We have provided a lot of housing within our area as Cllr Snell alluded to. One of the big things was a lot of people who didn't qualify for social houses and couldn't get mortgages to buy houses within our area. So they were caught in a trap, and they deserved to be on the housing list as much as anybody else. And they felt trapped. They were out working. Both the couple is working and cannot afford anywhere to

live. It's a basic right for people to own their own house as far as I'm concerned. That's why I wouldn't vote against social housing either. So going forward, it's a scheme that started off as one of the first schemes in many years within the council and of course there's going to be teething problems and questions that the members are not sure of and that's why we are going to meet people. 30% for the locals, in fairness I would like that to be more but obviously this is a Government decision, but the other 70% there's nothing, if you are first in there in that other 70%, maybe Joe can let us know, that they are entitled to apply for that as well. The local can apply for the 70% as well. There's nothing stopping people going in there as well. But this is badly needed. There are going to be problems here. In fairness, I understand the concerns of the members, but it's trial and error, and we're trying to provide people who cannot get on the housing ladder, that's what we are trying to do and we have met as councillors in our area and we are delighted to be the first within the county to do this scheme. Maybe other parts of the county can learn if we do make mistakes. But it's not a good enough reason, okay, there is problems there, but we have to go ahead with this because there's people crying out for this. It's 36 houses, it's not 336 houses. It's 36 houses. Let's see where it brings us and we will learn the next time if there is problems. If there is problems. We will learn.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Councillor Stephen stokes.

CLLR STEPHEN STOKES: I would largely be supportive of this scheme and building houses generally. We have a crippling shortage and just to allude to Cllr Tom fortune made a good point about not enough teachers in the Greystones area. There was a teacher from cork and had a job teaching at a primary school in Greystones and they were commuting from Lucan, so it

shows you how crazy it is out there and in the end that person was able to rent a room in Greystones. I wouldn't say that this is necessarily rushed. I would say that this is moving with pace. But the big concern I would have, I think others have alluded to it and I would love to see if there was some way of having a fair online system, because if you look at it, this could potentially suit someone more tech savvy. If you are queueing for tickets for ticket masters and you press the button and get lucky and you can then fill in the application with a certain number of minutes, or is it what I am wondering, do you have to complete the full application and then press submit, because that's going to suit people who are a bit more tech savvy, that they can auto fill their address and phone number and some people may miss out on that. I'm just, that's my only big concern really with this, how can it be applied online and in an ideal scenario it should be Wicklow houses for Wicklow people. It may not be possible. But I also would like to warmly welcome the advice session that Joe alluded to. That will be a positive development.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Cllr Mary Kavanagh.

>>: Mine is just a very quick question. If this is passed today, when will it be advertised and I am assuming that as councillors the add is going to be in that week's press because I'm sure there are hundreds of people that will be awaiting news of this kind of thing and just to add on from what Cllr Behan said, the act is the act, but it's just an awful pity it isn't 70% for people from Wicklow and 30% from outside, because it just seems it's very, very unfair that the people that are waiting for houses here in this county are going to only get such a small percentage, if there was even 50-50. But that's a different point. Just about the advertising.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Cllr Scott online.

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, I will be brief. I have been listening very carefully to the discussion and a lot of my questions have been answered. I broadly welcome this scheme. It's certainly badly needed. There are disadvantages to it. I think some of which are out of our control as Cllr Kavanagh pointed out, particularly in relation to the 30% for local people. But my one reservation is the idea of the first come first served on the application process, and I do think it should be more of a lottery system. We were talking about teachers not being able to afford houses. If you are teaching a class you are not going to be logging on to the Wicklow County Council website and getting your form or whatever the process is for these houses. A lot of the time that's not going to be possible. So I was just wondering Joe, you mentioned that will be information meetings subsequent to this and I welcome that, but is there any room for changing just that application process. I would have severe reservations about this first come first served piece. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Flynn-Kennedy.

>>: Thank you. Again like the others I welcome this scheme. I would like to thank the director Joe for the information sessions he's done on housing for all to date. And the information he's provided to all of us here to try and get a better understanding of these schemes. I think this is an option. It's one of a suite of housing options. I referenced the SPC myself. I availed of the shared ownership scheme when I bought my first home. I was not eligible to go on local authorities housing list and couldn't provide one and living in Wicklow I was able to avail of the Dun Laoghaire down county council shared ownership and able to buy in the area in Bray that is covered by do you know Dun Laoghaire rath now. For the north of the county we do have a situation where our community is stretched across two local authority areas, and people from

the Dun Laoghaire down area are part of Bray and the north Wicklow, and so I can understand how it's not so straightforward and probably shouldn't be so straightforward, or I certainly wouldn't have had that opportunity previously. I do share the concerns about the first come first served and I do think a lottery system would be better for all of the reasons that people have outlined. I know that is shared by a lot of people on the SPC and hopefully we can address that for further schemes coming down. But I think it takes away from - I don't want to take away from the fact that this is really exciting and it's fantastic. Certainly not a scheme that's coming because of challenges at a national level. This is about local and it's coming from the houses for all, which is a cross-party document. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Dermot O'Brien please.

>>: Just a couple of points. First of all, I appreciate the work that is the SPC has done and the MD have done and the team in housing have done, because I'm sure there was a deep dive into this and there's a lot of wrestling to get to this point. Respect for that. For me, the challenge is about how, to what degree we stand over the scheme being fair and equitable in the sense of its fairness. I wonder, two things, one thing I wonder is how can we ensure that it's fair in the tech savvy dimension. People have mentioned that. I imagine if it was me and I was desperate to get a house, I would have my ten best friends with laptops all alongside me and we would all be ready to go. I wonder how we make sure and where I am coming from, the director and his team have to process all of this. And find a way to do that equitably and filter through why is Dermot O'Brien made ten applications, which one landed when. So I think there's - again I don't, I am not going to sit here and, I see it as a challenge but don't have a solution, so I appreciate people are committed to finding a

solution. But I'm not sure, do people the right to appeal if as Cllr Stokes said, they give information, it's enough to get them on the list and when you loop back in with them and discover there's something missing, the volume of work for your team, director, I wouldn't underestimate the amount of work that's involved and I know you are striving for it to be efficient and for it to work, because we need it to be successful. But I think there's a challenge there in terms of how we overcome the equitable dimension of this and also the volume of work the director would have to handle.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Members, before I go to the director for a few answers, I would like to say a few things myself. I have been on the housing SPC since 2007, yet I wasn't a councillor until 2009. I have dealt with a lot of directors of housing and there was one previous Director of Housing, used to have a famous saying, it's the only show in town. At least the director did not use that word to me or other members. I spoke to the director about this scheme, I asked him to put it in lay man's terms and I think that's what Cllr Behan was asking for without asking for that technology or terminology. So can I put to you director, a three bed house in Wicklow, can you tell me how much that is, how much you are offering it on the affordable house and how much for first-time buyers. Then the two bed in lay man's terms, that is just my couple of questions, but thank you very much members. We have one more before the director, Cllr Ciara Doyle.

>>: Most of my questions have been put out there already, but just one thing people were referred to but nobody actually asked. I am wondering why would a lottery not work? I presume if they are picked out in the Lottery and if they don't meet the criteria for whatever reason, they are just refused and it would be simple to go back to the Lottery and pull more from it. It seems like the

fairest way. I am wondering if there is a reason or is it based on any evidence why a lottery wouldn't work. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Director Joe Lane, please.

JOE LANE: The Lottery is quite simple. First of all, some of the amendments, some of the things you suggested particularly the 30-70 I would have preferred a different mix. If you said 30-70 to 60-40, it has to go back to the department and they will reject it because it's not, the regulations are clear, it says 70-30, there's no point arguing with it. That is the legislation we have to be bound. We can amend it today. It will be a delay we don't need for the scheme. That is why we deal with the Max available in the act. The Lottery scheme, there are two situations of three, where it is quite clearly said with the housing shall give priority to the application in the order the applicants are received. That is if you go for 100% no limit to local residents, if you say all in, in that situation it's all on the order of the applicants. In this act it also says the 70% where is 70%, sub section 5.2, it also says quite clearly there in 70% it is applicants in the order they are received. So that's word for word in the regulations. 30% local is moot. Technically we could have put it in there, Fingal didn't, Cork did, we can amend it for the next scheme, in that situation it's as somebody else said, it's 36 units, you are still only looking for a very percentage on a lottery versus first come first served. The second one is, somebody said the local applicants are limited to 30%, but they can also apply and will be assessing them in the other category in the first come first served basis. They will have two hits of that. Like I said, the hope is this scheme could be, again depending on the department giving us AHF money, that this would be up and running in the next couple of weeks and that's why I really like Stephen Stokes there, I was objecting to rushed, I like the word at pace, I used the word prioritised. It is prioritised.

That's all it is. A lot of the stuff I am aware, I have a lot of the members views, so I would have gone for, I have gone for the maximum that I can hold on to for local residents. If I had a choice I would have gone up to 100%. It's not in the act. It's going to come back to me if I send it in and we are only delaying ourselves and fooling ourselves. It is within what the members, within the confines of what we can work with. At the moment I just need to grab another e-mail.

... it's within the confines that we work with. At the moment I have to grab another email. To ask the particular question in the Wicklow area at the moment, a 3-bed, market value, it can be anything between 350 and 3490. It was [inaudible] 370 to 390, I think that the Rathnew, there is an offer of 370, to 390, in that range. We are marketing the value of the stemmy terrace at 325. Basing the EHF on application for 325 market value with selling at 3756789 the two beds, going from the 3 bed down, the 2 bed, I don't know how many as there are not so many. But the maths, subject to 50,000 from the application from the department, we have them built and market value of 275, hoping to sell around the 225. In that situation you pay 225 if you have it, it is the minimum you can pay and, in that situation, you have a shared equity of 50,000 until paid back. So, that is to answer the specific question you asked. So, the question to Cllr Tom Fortune, with the maximum available, during the SPC, I did more than once read the legislation out to people to show the difficulties I have. But each of the housing options must be looked at. The person must apply for the maximum available and they are limited to a situation that is 3.5 times the salary exceeding 35% of the market value of the house so we work them out for each. We are working with you with the workshops to do that if the scheme is up and running. And the essential part, yes, Cllr Mary Kavanagh, of course, I will tell you to point to when there is the

paper being advertised and the regulation, that I cannot remember, it must be on the website or published in a local newspaper to point to the elected stores of that and within the days of that to have a workshop and then to dig out some of those.

Like I said, there is, this is still, again, going back to another councillor who helped me there, a deep dive is a lovely way of putting it. Yes, we are on a critical path but working in the best way we can with the housing office giving me a hand, every time there is a question, we will forward it to get the best solution as we can. But I work within the legislation, that is there, I recommend that scheme of priorities as we have circulated.

We have approved today, we will be backed through the SCP to try to amend and to perfect but I cannot do anything within the 30%. It is in the Act and within the regulations that I will forward if you want them. So, it will take a while to read them, I think!

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Director. We have two other members who want to come in, if you can keep it short and brief, please.

Councillor Anne Ferris?

CLLR FERRIS: Thank you, Director for the responses. A couple of responses I favour the lottery scheme. I know that remembering back many years ago in Bray with our own housing authority we had a scheme of affordable housing that was carried out by lottery, the housing officials, you know, obviously did the work on which applications were valid for the scheme. I was the Cathaoirleach at the time and there was successful applicants invited to the meeting so, fully above board, all of that. I took whoever it was, many, there was, I cannot remember out of an envelope and the names within were called out. It was completely above board. And there was no back lash, or nothing against that. I fully regret that there is only 30% for the local people living in

Wicklow County Council but as you said, Director, there is nothing to be done about that, it is in the legislation.

I suppose, one question I want to ask is, do the people have to apply online for the scheme, or can they fill in application to deliver it down to Wicklow County Council? That is the one question now. It may have been included in the FAQs but if it was, I did not see it. The last thing I want to say is to congratulate you, Director, and all the members of the SPC and the Wicklow Municipal District as I know you did a lot of work during August on this, and when other were on holiday and that, I know the urgency of it. We can't be putting things like affordable housing schemes on hold.

You know, I just wish sometimes, that members would remember this, when we are talking about providing houses, schemes for social housing or whatever else and that they are unfortunately voted against them, so, sometimes it is tough to take. But I would like, Director, if you can answer the question about how the applications would be made and the very last thing, to thank the Director for agreeing to set up the workshops for all the members on the scheme when it goes through. I will be supporting it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor Anne Ferris. Cllr Tom Fortune?

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you, yes, that has been very interesting, listening to the members' input on that. Because it is only 36 units, and because a lot of the questions I have asked are still unclear, I am prepared to support this particular project as put forward today on the basis that when we discuss is at district level and go on to another one, that the points that some, that I have raised and others may feel the same are tested as there is lots of weaknesses in this but I am prepared to support it today because it is 36 units. If it were more units I probably would not. But I will do it on that basis. To see how this works.

To see what the flaws are, what the flaws I see in it, to see if they come to fruition.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Tom Fortune, Cllr Joe Behan?

CLLR BEHAN: The Director said this is the scheme until it comes back for future alteration. If we pass it today it could be the scheme in Greystones or in Bray unless it is changed, he has put that on the record. Everyone speak being the system of decision-making has all said that they would prefer a lottery. We have the right to put in a lottery now, here, before we make a vote on this. And the Director has not answered the questions about how the online would be worked. Particularly what Cllr O'Brien said, about people organising their friends, because they are so desperate. So, I would propose to adopt the scheme's subject, to a lottery system being used to decide on the successful applicants rather than first come, first serve basis.

I would be happy to accept that scheme on that basis.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Joe Behan. Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, chairman. Apologies, I missed the beginning of the debate as my colleagues in the West did as there was an event in Blessington, where a minister was here. So, briefly, as I will not go into it having missed the debate but to welcome the affordable housing scheme. Something that we have been crying out for with my colleagues for the last couple of years to finally see the affordable housing scheme in County Wicklow, it is welcome. We have to roll it out as much as possible. In relation to Cllr Joe Behan's point, I missed the debate but from memory, correct me if I am long, from reading this documentation, it is on a first come, first serve situation, that would not seem entirely fair. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Director, do you want to come in there to clarify a few things. Sorry, Cllr Irene Winters, I do apologise.

CLLR WINTERS: Thank you, when we met as a Municipal District with the Director and discussed all of this, we did talk about first-past-the-post and lottery. Both have complications and difficulties but first-past-the-post, where it is proven on an electronic system, rather than a lottery which can be open to interpenetrations, actually seems a fairer system. So, I am not so sure that I think that a lottery which can possibly be interpreted as being manipulated would be fairer than somebody, everybody trying at the same time to go online and get their stuff that they have to put in, the PPS number, all of those things, so I don't think you can be lining up 10, 15 people, I'm not sure exactly how it works but it seemed to work well in Fingal and I am not sure that I would agree with a lottery system. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Irene Winters. Joe, Director, Joe Lane?

JOE LANE: If we have adopted this scheme, the minister will tell us, we will be looking at, more than once and we will be seeing improvements that we have to make on it. The, again, SPC members we have had affordable housing on the agenda for the last year, this is something more concrete, this is a scheme, this is why we are progressing this at pace. Fingal ahead of package, we are working out that package. It is IT-based. Going back to.

CLLR FORTUNE: Not on his, firstly on the supporting of the 36, we are told we will have a large number of applicants. One of the advantages there is that you are required to have a whole lot of information, including the loan application, with that you are eligible, therefore it is assessed after that. If you are going on a first come, first serve basis you must assess each and every application to ensure all are valid, whereas this you only validate the first phase themselves and therefore you prioritise those who come in to progress them so there are a number of advantages in this. If we, if when we have a scheme, we will be able to show as people have said, to be able to say where the

improvements are, at the moment we only have one scheme in the country, that is Fingal there are a number of Local Authorities working on this, therefore we will have information on this as we progress. They will get information on this for us. I will check regarding the package on the multiple applications, I am sure that has been dealt or can be dealt with, again, I hope that we will deal with those together and the issues within the working groups. If you do an amendment today that is contrary, it will come back to me and we will be here again in October. I will have hoped to have advertised at that stage if everything goes well. The application, 100% application is contrary to the regulations if you are telling me today that all applicants must come on a lottery, it does not pass, it is going to come back and it is against the Act, the grey area, if it is considered must be the 30%. I am not recommending that. I don't know where the scheme is with the department, how long it takes, we were with the SCP last Thursday week, to head up to the department to get approval for the draft scheme last week. That is what I was hoping and what we agreed with the elected members. We also used the same template. And I loved "at pace" we are trying to work at pace and we are working at pace the scheme that is approved by the department, that I took that the SPC are happy with, with the understanding that we will go back, I have to go back with whatever amendments you make today. The First Amendment you suggested it is not going to work, saying that it says 100% of application, if there is no residency requirement without using the 30% that must be used on a first come, first serve basis, I will get the exact wording again, it is on the order that they arrived, with regards to the exact wording. So, if that is not right, the 30% is not right, the 70%. Technically, you are talking about sending back 5 or 6 applications at moment, to assess each and every one. I am not recommending it, we must go back to the department then we have a delay in. And with the

pace acquired by the applicants, I am recommending what we send out in the last [inaudible].

HELEN PURCELL: A point of order from the Standing Orders, if a resolution is passed it cannot be revisited within 6 months in accordance with the Standing Orders.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Two more speakers then to bring in the Chief Executive. If that is OK. So, Cllr O'Brien.

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you, and to all of you for your contribution, it has been invaluable. Even though I was briefed in August, I have learned things today. I have never vote #D against social housing I am not voting against housing today. I will not handcuff the Director with the possibility of losing the scheme. I have said it from the outset, I fully support. This I would like to propose it officially now if I can. I think that we have dealt with the issues as the Counsellor Gayle Dunne and others alluded to, it is not perfect. But if we wait for a perfect system we will be waiting for a long time. We cannot do anything about [inaudible] here, what we can do is to send out a clear and a strong message from the council that we providing affordable housing to people that need it. If the people out there are listening to the comments today, I am sure that they will be frustrated they want housing. They don't want it tomorrow, the next day, they needed it yesterday. I will not for one hold up any housing in this county including County Wicklow Town, so I would propose it, and hopefully to get a seconder and to get it voted on to move forward. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr O'Brien. Derek Mitchell.

>>: Following on from the Director, I think we should go ahead. I don't think we should delay it, people are needing the houses and e we should not have to come back to it. I would like to see the system of allocation is for this particular scheme, so that if we wished, for instance, for another scheme within the next

6 months to come back to it. But I think that we should go ahead with what is here for the scheme and to get on with it and to get the houses allocated.

Thank you.

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

CLLR SNELL: Thank you, I think, to be fair to all public representative, I think that everyone wants affordable housing, indeed. It is something that is being said in the Chambers for well over a decade now. All councillors are looking for affordable housing. And understanding with regards to look into the crux of the figures but the reality is that if you are listening to this it may be interpreted that only 30% of people local to Wicklow County Council can get some of these units, that is not actually true. The minimum is 30%. The other 70%, obviously, people from the local of the Garden County can avail of the other 70% as well. I believe that with all due respect we should support what is in front of us. This scheme of letting, to be honest, it will be at least January, February, March, before you see action on this into the New Year. The Director has said that we will revisit this, the SPC have said that they will revisit this, the factor of land costs and the further you go north of the county, obviously it will have to be a different scheme. We in the Municipal District, the 6 councillors within the Municipal District, are supporting this whole-heartedly. It is 36 units in our district that we believe is right for the people, for the constituents of county Wicklow to avail of. These are people who want to get on to the property ladder, they are not people on a social waiting list. 350 people have been accommodated on the social waiting list at Wicklow Town and I believe that all councils should support this, not going away from what is proposed in front of us. To look at a lottery system or otherwise later on but factor in that once the 30% of locals have been picked, as they come in, if you do a lottery, then they also have to go into the lottery of the 70%, so it is two draws.

I had said from the outset, that, obviously, on proposing this, on supporting it, I think that the vast majority in the chamber are as well, and I would like it put to a vote as I believe we need to support this, to support our officials, to support the people who are out there, crying out to get on the property ladder, to give them the opportunity. Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy brought a stark reality to the situation, that people will find on the peripheral of our county, so not an ideal situation but the reality is that people from outside of council Wicklow will be purchasing houses in county Wicklow, yes, we would like to see locals within a certain mile radius but that is parochial, so, we wanted everyone within the county of Wicklow to have the opportunity. So, please, to put this to a vote.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr John Snell, thank you very much. I have another two speakers. Counsellor Gayle Dunne,

CLLR GAYLE DUNN: Thank you, I think we should put it to a vote. Everybody has had an opportunity to speak, it is important to put it to a vote. And then I second Cllr O'Brien's proposal.

>>: I have listened with intent to the debate. I, like the rest of my Municipal District colleagues have discussed this on numerous occasions. We feel it is the best solution for Wicklow and for our Wicklow district. The housing scheme is up and running in 36 houses, we need this for our area. I wanted to make exactly the opportunity that Cllr John Snell is after making, so will not go over it in detail. But the minimum is 30% to a local Wicklow people. That's 70%, that is open to all, obviously, local people can be participate in that as well. So, I will not go over everything that has been spoken about. But we need this in our Wicklow district. I ask the members to support it in the current form and let's move on.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Shay Cullen. Cllr Joe Behan?

CLLR BEHAN: The last point we guarantee it is only 10 houses but I understand it is a national scheme, that is the Government's fault. But the issue is that everyone's member that has voted was in favour of a lottery. What I suggested was, I never said not to pass it but to pass it with the lottery. But the Director said he has to go back to the department for the permission? What the hell are we here for? If we can be asked to pass a scheme but only for a scheme that the department wants us to pass? You can have a scheme, as long as it is black, as long as it is with the department? Why waste an hour talking about it if we cannot change any aspect about it? Most people felt it better to have a lottery. I don't see how it delays things by saying let's have the lottery. I do not accept that the Director must ask for permission, it is our right to pass the scheme of letting priorities to include a lottery as the decision-making factor. That is all. I would like a vote taken on that before a vote on the substantive motion as it is an amendment to the scheme as proposed.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Last word to the Chief Executive.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I strongly advocate. There are a number of difficulties that are associated with having a lottery of the 30%. Outlined by Cllr Irene Winters and Cllr John Snell. And to say, that there will be a delay, if it is amended and included. So, I think that the Director has committed to reviewing the scheme after the Wicklow Municipal District development has been implemented and amended in the future for future schemes and the proposal, it has been to the Wicklow Municipal District, agreed by the members, gone to the housing SPC and agreed there and brought to the full council here today. In relation to the point made about the IT solution, and duplications, I have no doubt that any IT solution developed would prevent duplicate applications, we had the restart grant scheme in various versions of that grant scheme, and applications put on that, there was no duplications. There was the software

that was developed in such a way to prevent buying unique numbers so, I do not have an issue it will be flagged on the system. So no concerns about that. But I will have concerns if we do not vote on the scheme, we will delay the scheme for obviously those nurses, teachers, guards, who are crying out for affordable housing in county Wicklow, so I ask the members to vote this through.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Chief Executive. OK.

HELEN PURCELL: Just to clarify in relation to the standing orders, and to when an item appears back on the agenda item 15 of the standing orders states: No such motion is allowed to appear on the agenda to revoke or to amend any resolution of council within 6 months of the date of the adopted resolution other than with the written assent of 16 members of the council. That is just to clarify the 6-month issue. So the first vote to have been in relation to the amendment as proposed by Cllr Joe Behan, seconded by Cllr Tom Fortune. Which is the scheme as has been put before you an amendment subject to a lottery system used rather than first come, first served. Is that, OK? [inaudible] For 100%.

[inaudible]

[All speak at once]

... restricted to Wicklow applicants, within the 30% it shall be a lottery. If they qualify, they qualify lottery, the same with the 70% including Wicklow people, anyone who wants to go for it but a lottery in both cases is what I want.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It is my understanding that the 70% is in relation to first come, first serve. So you cannot make a lottery in relation to the 70% is my understanding?

JOE LANE: Shall I read it again? That is correct. So, in relation to 70% do you want the full regulations? In relation to the 70% of dwellings, the scheme of

priorities provides for: The number of eligible applicants exceed the dwellings for the applications accepted a housing authority should give the priority to eligible applicants on following: 1 with bedrooms with 3 people or more are given. The dwelling with 3-bedroom priority given to households not less than two dwellings. B with subparagraph A the number of applicants exceeds the number of dwellings for which the applicants accepted to the housing authority are given priority to the applicants in the order in which their applications received. That is for the 70%. It applies for the 100%. That particular line is not included in the 30%.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you. Cllr O'Brien did you want to say something?

CLLR O'BRIEN: I wanted a simple yes or no. If we vote for the lottery, yes or no, will it delay the scheme? That is all I need to know. I think that the members appreciate a simple yes or no on that one. Thank you.

>>: Absolutely, 100% and even up to 6 months, depending on if we have to bring back a new motion. Without a question, it will be delayed a minimum of 1 month without question.

Can I just say ... I would have concerns about bringing in a scheme where one element is first come, first serve and the other element is going to be lottery. We don't know how it will work on an IT solution. I strongly propose it is approved as put forward and that we can review it going forward but I think that we are overcomplicating things here today. Let's get this scheme up and rung.

[inaudible] the Chief Executive had his say ...

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I was clarifying as you were ... putting forward a proposal for the 100%. I clarified it can relate only to the 30% as per the legislation. So, I made that clarification.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I appreciate you have made a serious recommendation. I have one more speaker? Two more speakers? What about the lady waiting in the background, Cllr Erica Doyle, let her have a few words. Bear with me, two more speakers, then a vote. Cllr Erica Doyle?

CLLR DOYLE: Thank you, Chair, I will not. I wanted to ask of the implications of voting for this amendment through in terms of delay or other implications and I think that the Chief Executive has answered some of that. So, thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: Considering for what the Chief Executive, the Director and the Chief Executive were saying, first come, first serve is how it is based, given it boils down to that, can you explain how first come, first serve is enacted.

[inaudible] will there be an email, emails first? Is it who arrives with a letter of application? How will that work? Will there be a closing date? Is there a start date? Is the start date the cut-off for who applies, who gets it first? If they all come in at the same time, how is it dealt with? Somehow this first come, first serve actually to work? Director.

JOE LANE: We set information required and when people apply, there will be an IT solution. So put in loading stuff into an application and therefore that will be timed. Timed electronically. That is a solution.

>>: Will it be like buying a ticket online when the tickets are on sale at 9am and who is lucky to log on to get the link, the quickest gets it? Is that how it works?

JOE LANE: We will have workshops to figure that out to give people a hand on it.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Helen, can we go for the amendment vote?

HELEN PURCELL: Voting on the amendment proposed by Cllr Joe Behan seconded by Councillor Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: To adopt a scheme of letting priorities affordable property arrangements subject to a lottery system being used, rather than first come, first serve.

We will set the information we require and once people have applied for.

Cllr Annesley

>>: Against.

>>: Joe Behan.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Cronin.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Cullen.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Doyle.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Dunne.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Ferris.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Fitzgerald.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Fortune.

>>: For.

>>: Glennon.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Kennedy.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Leonard.
>>: For.
>>: Cllr McManus.
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr Mitchell.
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr Mullen
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr Murphy.
>>: For.
>>: Neary.
>>: Against.
>>: O'Brien.
>>: Against.
>>: Paul O'Brien.
>>: Against.
>>: Rory O'Connor.
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr Jerry O'Neill.
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr Scott.
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr John Snell.
>>: Against.
>>: Cllr Stephen Stokes.
>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Edwards Timmins.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Jerry Walsh.

>>: Against.

>>: Cllr Winters.

>>: Against.

>>: Six in favour of the amendment and 26 against, so the amendment falls and we will now have a vote on the adoption of Wicklow County Council scheme of letting priorities for affordable dwelling purchase arrangements in accordance with section 11 of the of the act proposed by Cllr Snell.

>>: For.

>>: Behan.

<< For.

>>: Blake.

<< For.

>>: Bourke. For.

>>: Corrigan.

>>: For.

>>: Cronin.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Cullen.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Doyle.

>>: For.

>>:Cllr Dunne.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Ferris.
>>: For.
>>:Cllr Fitzgerald.
>>: For. Kennedy
>>: For.
>>: Glennon
>>: For.
>>: Kavanagh.
>>: For.
>>: Leonard
>>: For.
>>: McManus
>>: For. Mitchell.
>>: for.
>>: Cllr Mullen.
>>:For. Miriam Murphy.
>>: For.
>>: Neary.
>>: For.
>>: Cllr O'Brien.
>>: For.
>>: Paul O'Brien.
>>: For.
>>: Cllr O'Connor.
>>: For.
>>: Cllr O'Neill

>>: for.

>>: Cllr Scott.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Snell.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Stokes.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Timmins.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Walsh.

>>: For.

>>: Cllr Winters.

>>: For.

>>: That's 32 in favour.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you members and thank you for your good discussion and good debate on this issue. I wish you the very best of luck with it Joe. Next on the agenda, I think has been removed.

HELEN PURCELL: 14 the update on Glendalough master plan and visitor orientations has been deferred to the October agenda.

CATHAOIRLEACH: The chief executives report. Can I bring the Chief Executive then on the Chief Executive's report please.

>>: Just to highlight a few items, I suppose over the last couple of months, given that we're back in July, was the last meeting. On the funding front, just to flag that we were allocated 170,000 for five projects. We were also allocated 282,000 for ten projects around the other scheme measure 1. Well done to the CCSD staff involved in that. Also we got a primary grant of 200,000 for

Clermont enterprise hub, and that's to engage consultant prime the development of a food incubation centre at Clermont. So that's a very positive development. Just to highlight as well, the visit of the roses that took place last month, which was a great opportunity to promote the county's tours and attractions as well as Arklow, and just like to say congratulations to our Wicklow rose Roisin who represented the county so well at Tralee. Also the highlighted that Wicklow County Council were shortlisted for the chambers Ireland excellence in local government, in respect of six awards, so that's a great achievement to be recognised nationally, for these awards. Well done to all the staff involved in these fantastic projects. Thank you Cathaoirleach.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I will open it up to the floor. Cllr Joe Behan.

>>: Just a few questions for the Chief Executive and the directors. First of all in relation to the Bray public transport bridge, there was a proposal to build a bridge next to the railway bridge in Bray. The owners of the land, the all-Bray golf club Ballymore and can the Chief Executive tell us what are Ballymore saying about their lands at the golf club being traversed on a road on what seems like a huge embankment. Apart from the loss of floodplain that local residents are insisting is vital for them, and I agree, and for future residents on that land, are bally more not worried about the loss of space, to the use of a road way would entail. At the last meeting I attended the June meeting there was no further information I believe there is a judicial review process in train, but what I would like to know is what contact the Chief Executive has had, if any with Bally moor about the issue of this bridge about taking up so much of their particular land given it will have impact for their housing development. That's the first question. Sticking with transport for a minute I want to sincerely thank the new director for the magnificent for she gave and her staff

gave to a local childcare business, with regard to certification and so on, which was needed before the beginning of a new school year. I won't name but I want to say thank you very much for the magnificent work you did in that regard. Could I ask where are we with regard to the noise mitigation measures for the seven or eight houses at Kilmacanic where it has been accepted that noise mitigation measures will need to be put in place as a result of the New Road having been constructed there. There's no further information in the CE's report. Can I ask where are we with that and also with regard to the N11, M11, what's happening about the suspension of funding of that project as I have said on more than one occasion, five million euros has been spent, if not more, by this council, government money, public tax payers' money, designing a scheme to upgrade the N11, M11 to Ashford. Junction 4-14. We understand we have been told that the Green Party have basically decided they're going to stop this. It was threatened before the general election by Eamonn Ryan. He's now the Minister for Transport and it looks like he's going to continue to prevent this funding being released for this work to be done. Now that we're back at a return to work for many people after COVID, it's quite clear that the complete and utter traffic chaos that's happening on the N11 will have to be addressed by an upgrading of that road. The Chief Executive was to have talks with civil servants, the minister was supposed to be coming to talk to us, there were all sorts of promises made. We are heading into the winter and there doesn't seem to be any further progress. I would love to know if there's anything we can find out about at the moment. With regard to the housing director. Can I ask the director does he know how many vacant houses there are in Bray and when was the last time a vacant house was done up and relet? Maybe he will give me the answer to that. He has a statement with regard to rehills land that

the department, again the department have insisted or said that we hills land is going to be part of a public private partner sip bundle. I hope that does not mean that our public land is going to be sold off to a private developer. I hope we're going to have an affordable housing scheme, a social housing scheme and a sheltered housing scheme. But can he explain what are the department looking to do with this particular site, the last remaining large site in the municipal district. Could I ask the director for Bray what's happening about the Bray town centre? We're having a meeting tomorrow, Cathaoirleach, the people of Bray and surrounding areas are just sick and tired of looking at that place boarded up, a car park ready to go, we're nearly five years without a public car park on the eastern side of the main street. And there seems to be no further progress on it. Can the director enlighten the members of Wicklow County Council what is happening with regard to that. Finally, second last, an engineer got in touch with us on Friday from the municipal district about a proposed cycle lane system in the Vivian Bray and very wisely he asked if he had contact with business people. Can I ask the Chief Executive that a meeting be organised well anear of time with the local businesses and local residents before plans are put down on paper so residents will be properly consulted and we don't have a big row in six or eight months' time because Westminster didn't know what was expected, that we have a proper dialogue. Can I ask the Chief Executive to be sure of that. And can I just note, I wasn't present at the last meeting and I want to thank Chief Executive Cathaoirleach and their members on their condolences on the death of my mother, but I notice in the minutes, that the Chief Executive or the directorate are floating the idea of charges for recycling in our recycling centres. Now I can tell you this, at a time of the worst crisis in incomes and cost of living that this country has faced for

many years, and at a time of intense global warming when we are encouraging people to do the responsible environmental thing, for any Chief Executive of a county council to come to the members of the council and suggest or even hint that there might be charges put on people for doing the right thing at a time of serious pressure on cost of living, to me, that's completely unacceptable and I can promise the Chief Executive, you are going to have one hell of a battle on your hands if you decide to proceed with that particular proposal.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Paul O'Brien.

>>: I wasn't going to raise the recycling but in terms of Cllr Behan I fully support him there. I want to thank the Chief Executive for his comprehensive report. I want to congratulate the council on the conservation project and the new footpath, it's something I have been calling for. I want to thank the landowners for facilitating the overflow car parks. This time last year I asked your predecessor to form a committee involving the officials, the councillors and residents and emergency services because of the amount of phone calls and e-mails I received last summer from the residents. I was told by your predecessor that it was going to go to the SPC. I have no doubts the members of the SPC will have taken this up had it gone to them. But from my experience, it obviously didn't go there. To quote some of the residents, it was a living hell and it's the worst they have ever experienced. I know it's hard to legislate against stupidity and ignorance, but that's what these people had to endure for the entire summer and they seem to be forgotten about. Though they welcomed a new footpath out there and I hope that will make a difference. I called for it last year, I'm calling it for it this year that some form is set up where we can sit down and plan ahead. The summer hasn't come to an end, we hope we have more good weather but we need to start working on

this now. I was fobbed off last year. I am not going to be fobbed off this year because of the phone calls I received. On page 50 it has water safety and I want to thank the lifeguards throughout the county for their service. We acknowledged 100 years of the guards and service and I want to acknowledge the work that the lifeguards have done. I know some residents in Wicklow town abused the lifeguards because of toilets down there. I want to condemn that. The work these lifeguards do is life-saving and we should encourage them. I want to acknowledge Wicklow surf rescue, who won the all-Ireland. What happened this summer in terms of Wicklow surf rescue has happened. There were mistakes made, but to charge the people who train our lifeguards in Brittas Bay, I think was wrong, I think it was a mistake, but what's happened has happened. I would like a reassurance there will be a dialogue between the council and Wicklow surf rescue, we should not be charging the people that are training our lifeguards in Brittas Bay. The last thing I will say is that I have been in touch with a lot of my Labour Party colleagues around the council and they acknowledge from the Chief Executive's report, I didn't want to circumvent the agenda, I knew it was going to be tight, a number of my colleagues have put motions of no confidence and I want it on the record I have no confidence. Some of the decisions they have made around this county are appalling. They have gone against the Vice of the council and locals. They need to be held to account sooner rather than later. But I want to put it on the record, I am not looking for the Chief Executive to comment but I have no confidence whatsoever.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I'm going to focus on one issue, it is a massive issue on this side of the county. The RRDF funding that was allocated in October 2019 almost

three years ago 3.5 million was allocated. I have been saying we want to see action on the ground. We have seen the report, we have seen the plans, took us a long time to agree the plans and layouts and the business etc. People were saying what actually is happening on the ground, money being spent on consultants but not a penny spent we can see on the ground. And then very disappointingly and shockingly I suppose to be honest, a couple of months ago when we were case chasing it we found out the tenders have come in way over what the original funding allocation has been. So it just calls into doubt the whole project or certainly the extent of the project. So I would really urge the Chief Executive to do everything in his power to make this project happen and happen as soon as possible. I know Chief Executive that this project pre-dates your reign there, it existed when you came into office but I ask you do everything possible to make this happen. There's huge frustration on the ground over what's happened. We saw the delays, we were waiting and told it would happen. It would commence in July was the latest information I was given at meetings earlier this month. To suddenly find out the whole thing is up in the air. I would just ask what stage are we at in relation to possibly securing extra money from the department to make the project go ahead, if you could let us know as a matter of urgency and give us some comfort, that this vital project will go ahead in the near future. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. I'm going to ask the director to come in on Cllr Behan's questions first. There was a few directed there.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just to confirm in relation to the minister coming down, the minister's office was in contact with me recently and has confirmed that they hope to have a date in early October for the minister to come down and address the councillors. Also in relation to Ballymore, I haven't had any

communication with Bally more myself and I will just hand over to Lenora in relation to that. I might before I go over, take the RRDF given that it's transport related as well. Similar to while we get the delays here up-to-date on this, I share the frustration and the shock as Cllr Timmins mentioned over the funds. That was brought to the attention of the department immediately. A meeting was held with the department last week, we are working with the department trying to come up with solutions. They requested an assessment of the costs to see how and what elements have gone over to such a degree and also an economic assessment. So a further meeting is due to take place in the coming weeks in relation to that once we've put forward all the information. So we're still committed to the project, we're going to continue to work with the department to come up with an appropriate solution in order to get this moving along. Thank you.

LEONORA: I haven't had any direct contact with Ballymore, but they would be aware there's a reservation on that old golf club land for a possible future route for the loos. So they will be aware of that on their lands. In reals to the noise mitigation measures, that study has been completed and we are working with the consultants on their proposal for repairing a design for mitigation measures. Once we have that agreed we move to the design stage. And that will all be subject to funding from the TII. The Chief Executive has covered the piece about the M11, N11. With regard with the Vivi proposal, we will engage with all the is abouts, we are pulling together the different options, we will then engage with them on the various options. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Director Joe Lane, there was a few housing questions from Cllr Behan.

JOE LANE: I am going to give numbers, re-lets, people who are familiar, they

move out very quickly, it's between 30 and 34, I'm confident it's 34 at the moment. Don't make a liar of me if it's 30. 30-34. Three units currently that are nearly complete or will be complete in the next three weeks that could change that. But that's roughly the scale of things. We are working with the areas and trying to get the easier units out as quickly as possible. I'm pretty sure I have answered this before. The PPP is the delivery method, PPP is a national delivery method where large bundle of units or schemes are bundled together and given out to consortiums who are required to construct, fund, and maintain units for 25 years. There is no, the properties are not sold, and back to local authority after 25 years, it's a delivery matter and it's in the housing for all. It's particularly suited for bigger schemes. Wicklow County council has applied successfully under bundle one, about the 51 units, bundled 3, which is the part 8 we did recently for Blessington. Bundle 4 was Dublin alone came out recently, we couldn't apply for Dublin and again they are moving through with schemes and bundle 5 we submitted three schemes, got approval to be included in those. It's a delivery method and it allows us move to with other units at the same time. This is just an extra. I can confirm that there will be affordable units on it. Not saying the PPP scheme will be able to deliver it, we may have to take those ourselves and find another vehicle for those. They are having trouble with the PPP is for social housing. So in this case we had sheltered units, I spoke to Bray council, sheltered units, social housing and affordable. Affordable yeah looked like it will be included in the PP. So we will just take that part ourselves and find some other method of delivering it. There will be consultants regarding the criteria. Soon.

CATHAOIRLEACH:

>>: In relation to Bray centre, council officials, they have been working through

the documentation and the requirements regarding practical solutions to the standards set out in the development agreement. This is at its final stages which will trigger the transfer of title and payment of the funds to the council and both parties solicitors are progressing that element of the transaction. Leases are signed with Stella cinema, Burt's Bowl, Elephant Castle and Wo Burger and another signed leases on the small medium-sized units and they are also at latter stage of legals on the two retail anchor spaces in block three. The promoters are actively considering offers on the final medium-sized units with heads of terms issued to several tenants in recent weeks. It anticipated the two restaurants, car park and plaza area will open in the coming weeks further by further tenant openings in the coming months.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Just the last question was on recycling, Brian.

>>: I will just say it was a present, it was made a couple of months ago in relation to recycling. The charging was one element. It's an investment programme. Looking at putting a new roof on the Bray recycling centre Arklow recycling centre and a brand new recycling centre in the west which is badly needed. It's one element of an overall investment programme of which there was a proposal put forward and outlined by Mark Deafrow here a couple of months ago. I suppose that's the proposal. It's an executive function and I had gone through the SPC and previously, the CPG as well, I don't think it's any surprise to anyone and it was broad forward to the full council for information purposes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Lorraine.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: There was a presentation made a couple of months ago in relation to the recycling. Obviously, the charging was an element. It is an

investment programme to look at putting a new roof on the Bray Arklow Recycling Centre and a new recycling in the West, badly needed an overall on an investment programme of which there was a proposal put forward and outlined by Marc Devereaux here last year. That was a proposal, gone through the SPC and the CCG, no price, and brought forward to the full council for information purposes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Joe Behan?

>>: Sorry, I have to cut across.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: It did not go through the CPC.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is this the recycling that you are talking about? The recycling centre.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The recycling and the investment programme went to the SCP and CCG.

CLLR TIMMINS: The Chief Executive said it went through the SPC, it sounds it was passed by the SPC it was not. I am the chairman of the SPC and vigorously opposed it. So to be clear.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: It was presented to the SPC and to the CCG.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Brien had questions relating to the recycling and to British Bay Road. Leonora, will you take it? It is not your area.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: In relation to the forum that Cllr O'Brien mentioned I was not aware but can commitment to looking at that, if the appropriate form is the SPC or if we set up a separate group to look at it but I will talk to the District Manager and with have a good relationship with the local Guardia in Wicklow, so I don't see a problem in organising something in regards to that, councillor.

>>: The charging for the water rescue within the car parks.

>>: Just to say after extensive dialogue with the car parks and the surf rescue. And I understand, as you know the operator that had changed. They were in initial consultation in relation to it. And then as far as, they have the franchise to run it. There are mechanisms open to the surf, to the Surf Rescue of which to apply for sports grants to cover whatever cost it is. So, it is one of the costs associated with it. But absolutely, the section had extensive dialogue trying to get the two sides to come together. I understand there was, there are issues on both sides, if I can put it to you that way.

As far as the council is concerned, we are there to facilitate as much as possible. But the arrangement has to be with the current operator of the car park.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I understand that but at the end of the day the council are responsible but I understand it was for tender, not trying to cause an argument but saying what has happened has happened. The operator is leaving the middle of this month. It will go to tender again, unless it is a 3-year tender?

>>: I think it is a little longer than that. What I will say is that the staff in the section will operate to facilitate as much as possible. Nobody wants an issue to arise but there was issues on both sides. We will be there to work and to facilitate as much as possible. Everybody recognises the work that Surf Rescue does. They do provide a very good service. But at the same time, they have to work in co-operation with what is there in place.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think that the message should be that they are co-operating, not to aspersions, that they are a volunteer organisation, that the tempers should calm down to move forward in a proper manner. There was a miscommunication, and it needs to be resolved before the next summer. That will be all I am saying.

Cllr Avril Cronin, please?

CLLR CRONIN: Thank you very much, click, I also want to speak on the Baltinglass town plan to support Cllr Edward Timmins in his points he made. As he stated we are waiting on the development to start. Funding has been approved since 2019. We are still no further into the development of the town. I think that each councillor here in the West of the county has been inundated with the inquiries from the residents and the local businesses in the area asking when the work is to begin? What is the status of the works? I appreciate the answer that the Chief Executive gave there but I just want to clarify, he said that, he has to go back with further costings to the department, does he have any idea when the work will be begin? Does he have a timeline of when the work will begin? I think it is very important that we are all aware of what is happening with this project. There is a lot of questions that people are waiting to be answered. Again, this is a lack of communication as to what is actually happening. The community themselves don't know, the business people don't know and us as the councillors do not know where we stand. So I would really appreciate an update on that, as I said, if we can have a timeline as to when we hope that the works will begin. To bring up the issue of the foot bridge in Baltinglass [sic] that is another issue we would like to query to see the status. We need a push from the council to begin the process and to get a footbridge for Baltinglass, the last two questions in relation to housing, I know councillor Behan has asked along the same lines what is the timeline for reletting vacant properties, we have a number vacant for a number of months, we have a huge housing list and getting calls when are the houses to be available, and this they are ready to re-let and again we have no idea of when the houses will be ready, what work must be done, and how long the work is to take. Can you clarify if there is a time line as to the turnaround from a person leaving a property and when a new family can move in?

Finally, again, my last question, is in relation to the purchasing of land off the council, there are massive delays in purchasing land. I have people contacting me wishing to purchase land from the council. In the process over a year and no further down the line. We are told the same thing over and over again. This is holding up the development in much needed development within the area. Again, is there a timeline as to when this process should take place? I'm dealing with one case at the moment, they are over a year waiting. Again we are told the same thing over and over again, getting nowhere. So, grateful with your update on that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Avril Cronin. Cllr Lourda Scott?

CLLR SCOTT: Thank you, chairman, I will be quick, I can see that the time is ticking on here. A couple of questions for the Chief Executive. First of all, to when to expect the publication process for the speed limit review? I have had contact from the constituents locally keen to input to that. I know yes had a presentation at the district meeting a couple of months back, about can we see that going out to the public? The second question is partially answered, I think, by Cllr Joe Behan's question, similarly, in relation to the PPP and the Burnaby that Joe answered some of the questions on that. But wondering when we will hear more detail on the 75 units on the ND and the other question then is, I note we have 16CPOs underway for vacant homes, which I welcome, it is good to see, although, surprised there are only 16 under way at the moment. I am wondering where Wicklow County council are at in terms of engaging a full-time vacant homes officer that funding is available to all Local Authorities to have one in place by June of this year. I wonder where we are with that? That will be very welcome in pursuing more, or identifying and purchasing more vacant homes throughout the county. And a final comment that I wanted to thank the staff that were working on the very, very wet day on Saturday in the

Balko Road recycling centre, and there was a huge through-put of cars bringing through mattresses and really efficient staff helping everybody there, I wanted to thank the council workers for that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Lourda Scott, Cllr Peir Leonard?

CLLR LEONARD: A few things to start off with the recycling charges. I don't think it came to the climate SPC which I think it is important to come to. I know that the council must invest to create a revenue but I have concerns about introducing this tax that it may have adverse effect on what we trying to achieve to get people, I have sent a few emails to look for the details of the costs and charges but yet to receive anything back. So grateful to get detail on how it is charged for what, and the quantities, et cetera. And a couple of other things in relation to the cost-of-living, I suppose, and in Arklow, I have to raise this again, the local traders asked Minister Simon Harris to come down, to ask the Chief Executive, is there any capacity in Wicklow County council to fund and to support the rising cost of overheads on businesses and the impact of the works in Arklow for traders and especially the hospitality industry, experiencing nearly 300% increases in overheads. When speaking to small businesses that want to start up, it is not available because of energy costs and I know that we rely on Government funding but is there capacity within the council to help or is there a plan in place for the local businesses? And in relation to the arts department, I noticed in the Chief Executive's report as well, that there is some really brilliant work going on, I know that Christine Flood has worked with that in creating a craft strategy for county Wicklow, the first in Ireland, I believe, we have over 400 practitioners throughout the county, it is a key part of everything. We talk about shortages in construction costs going up, that is because they cannot get staff. The craft strategy is not just about the small makers, it is about carpenters, carp entry, all different

levels of craft. So it is really important to put it into the Chief Executive's report monthly, and to see the development of it. And also to ask as well, is there a funding available to develop this as a key part of the small economy in County Wicklow and the last question as in relation to the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme, when is it due to start? I know there was planning from An Bord Pleanála but is there a start date for that?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you and back to Cllr Avril Cronin's question, who would like to answer?

JOE LANE: To take that on relation to Baltinglass to confirm.

There is not new costing but analysis of the initial costings and economic assessment of the RDF submission to see where the cost increases relate to. We can't give you a timeline as regards when works will start as we have to get agreement with the department in relation to the costs and how they are to be funded, obviously, we are looking to the department to increase their allocation in that regard. So, we have to look at the different options available in relation to that project, so, unfortunately, we cannot give a timeline in relation to when works will start. We need to get agreement first from the department in that matter.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

JOE LANE: Relets, when the housing comes back, there it determines where they are. There is a providing in the estate. There is an estimate of 78, 79 at 11,000 Euros, those with the bigger schemes take two to three months. It depends on the house, if we can hand them back quickly, if it needs just a lick of paint but they all must be assessed under health and safety to see if this are safe to go back. That determine it is. I cannot give a time frame it depends on when the house is brought back in. Some are subject to minimum maintenance

so therefore they take longer. So each house must be assessed and that will determine it.

And in the area councils they have a brought to do it the best that they can. Some of the houses that come back take a phenomenal amount of work, some are quick. We have a policy to minimise the works, by either to get it back with a lick of paint or asking people that we are not refurbishing them in the interest of those [inaudible] so that policy is to speed up but there are those that are taking longer, it is not avoiding the question, it really depends on the state that the house is coming back in. The disposal of property, the statutory requirement and the amount of work that is put in behind it. A safe guard is that the market value and the requiring of evaluation from a local valuer regarding the properties, and unless there is a statutory cost rather than an evaluation. When a developer, particularly, seeks a property, that we did not ask him to come forward to and he seeks to buy it for us, we have to get it value and the value must be fair. We have had difficulty in the past regarding values in that area, so we are looking for another to get evaluation but the safe guard is there, and actually, it is required.

So, it is that process particularly that takes time. The vacant sites officer is not 100% funded but we have designated somebody. Yes, we are going through the units' bit by bit. It will be a slow process. The CDPO has to balance everyone's rights, so it is the law. We have, whereas a full-time person has one job, I don't think there is anyone in housing without more than 2 or 3 jobs so we are dealing with those at the moment. Each process, there is a process, there may be a delay, it can go to An Bord Pleanála, we need two to three CPOs but when we get them, it is not [sic] some must be refurbished but visible, it is good to see the units coming back in. I think that is the three for me.

Did.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Peir Leonard's question on flood relief.

>>: I can answer that. There are construction works next summer like fencing and trenching done in the marsh in the winter and the main contract is to start in 2024. As you know, we can only work in the river during the summer time. So it will take, unfortunately, 3 or 4 years of works in the river over 3 or 4 seasons. So, there will be work starting in the river next summer.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. There was a question on speed limits. Would that be for you, Leonora?

>>: Thank you. Yes. We plan to go to public consultation on speed limits the week beginning the 19th of September and to Cllr Avril Cronin's question to the footbridge in Baltinglass that is separate to the town centre works so seeking additional funding from the department so as we have more information, I can provide that to you. And in relation to Cllr Peir Leonard's query, we had a meeting with the traders in the chamber on the 25th of August to discuss how we can best promote now after the work is done on the Parade Grounds, so agreed to look at organising an event to get the launch of the Parade Grounds to get the traders involved to have local activities, promotions and a really good launch of the area to promote the business, that is ongoing, we said we would be keeping the traders informed through September of that progress.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Gerry Walsh?

CLLR WALSH: Thank you, to the clerk and to the Chief Executive on the report. On housing and maintenance and looking at the new gas and oil heating installations for houses. Wondering where it sits, given the current energy crisis along with obligations and commitments under the climate action plan and the second thing, the Local Authority home loans applications, to wonder

if there is increase in the applications and the time frame? I see there is an approve #-D in principle against 22 applications but imagine there is increase in the applications for that particular loan given what we spoke to with the affordable housing scheme as many applicants for the scheme will be looking to this loan to facilitate that purchase? Also, on the homelessness issue, I see reasons for homelessness presentations, landlords on 13st of July, wondering from the homeless team, are they increasing on the ground? I know we are seeing more and more of it with landlords selling up to get from the market and families presenting as homeless to take up the opportunity to acknowledge the work done by the homeless section there and the place trying to transition people into emergency accommodation and there is a longer time frame out of emergency accommodation into permanent and looking outside of the counterparty at this stage, so it is getting to be a huge problem. Joe covered relets but on housing requiring minimum maintenance, people are saying that they can do that work themselves if they had the opportunity. Is that an option or not? And to move on, outdoor staffing levels to look at figures, Q1 to Q2, down from 273 to 264, we started a process there of a review on the outdoor staffing levels across the county, coming from the situation in Greystones where our staffing levels to put it mildly, they are far less than adequate with volunteer groups, the Tidy Towns stretched to the bone to do work that without assistance from the council staff as the staff do not exist in the first place. That disparity is pointed for a period of time so we would hope to see it addressed before long. Finally, Cllr Joe Behan raised the issue around the M11/N11 improvement works to ask that the Director communicate with the minister and he did and got a response from the minister's secretary to say it was a matter under the remit of TII to forward the correspondent to TII for direct reply and that was forwarded to the 12th of July

last, and basically the reply states that the TI engaged with the Department of Transport on the matter, however, the situation regarding the provision of funding for the Lincolnshire Lincolnshire/in 11 scheme is unchanged and likely to remain in that position for the remainder of 2022 -- M11/N11. So, that is update on that, and that is on the agenda for the meeting on Friday next.

Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Gerry Walsh, Cllr. Vincent Blake? Sorry, Councillor Rory O'Conner.

>>: Residents in my area have been suffering with noise but that is finally finished and with the residents there, they were suffering so long, so we want to get this right, so, two question, I noticed in the report there is a few CPOs processing over time. Can the CPO units be used as cost rental or only social housing? As a council we have to build up our cost rental units over time and another question, I noticed that the rent arrears have been going up year on year compared to last year and next year, this time next year we should be reaching over £3 million rent arrears it continues at this pace, I was wondering what the council will do about the bubble, is there actions that they are considering? Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Councillor O'Conner, so, before I bring in John McMullen, can I propose that we extend the meeting to 5.30pm? OK. Thank you.

Cllr John Mullen?

CLLR MULLEN: Thank you, click and to the Chief Executive for the report. Apologies for not being there but we opened up the swimming people today that clashed with the meeting. I am with colleagues. And Cllr Patsy Glennon and Cllr Avril Cronin and Cllr Edward Timmins have been listening to the answers that were give on the Baltinglass Town Centre project, I welcome the

update. But yes, serious concerns though, we want to clarify that the economic analysis that is taking place with the tenders, I presume we have data on if it is the only RDF project to be such above the proposed platform tender prices and is the economic analysis a value for money audit with the procurement tenders in with a view to the justifying of increased cost or is there is risk that the project could be in any way retendered or worse again, abolished? And that would be a total disaster. So, we have serious concerns about that. And I would like it clarified by the Chief Executive while thanking him for the update. The other project I would like update on, I understand there are staff changes and I wish Margaret Hartnett all the best in her new career but the [inaudible] Greenway is an ongoing matter with agree to process with the department and the IFA, that we should be well into the process at this stage. I wanted an update, are we proceeding according to plan on that? In the third and the final technical question on the county development process, which is that do we have to put back in for the third time proposals that have been accepted or rejected by the Chief Executive in relation to the next stage of the planning process? I wanted clarification on that. If we do, we all have to have a job of work to send them in individually. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr John Mullen. To go back to Cllr Gerry Walsh's question. I think there are a lot there for you as the Director of housing?

[inaudible]

JOE LANE: Increase in the presentation. But a lot you can see the conventions kicking in. And early interventions can prevent homelessness so to get on to the team as quickly as possible. But you are right, the homeless are coming in in particular and the homeless team. There are a number of new units in Q4 to alleviate the issues there. Again, people with particular issues with challenging cases and the section 183 that is a part of the solution in Wicklow, the

Fitzwilliam Road solution. As regards housing and maintenance. The central heating is a scheme, that is working with, it is more targeted now. The other part of that is the relets, sorry, the fabric upgrade in general. Some of our houses are not ... when you are talking of climate change, some houses to heat, the heat pump is not social as you need more insulation and the relet programme, sorry, the fabric upgrade, the 71 schemes are moving ahead and part of the scheme includes heat pumps for the particular units but it does require a fabric upgrade if you put in a heat pump other than that you need the central heating. That is for that particular one. Another one, cost rentals and CPOs are not suitable. The cost of the rental works as with [inaudible] departments or bigger units. Individual cost rental is challenging to get to 25%. To get to 25% market value, discount, you are at a disadvantage as the CPO requires you to buy property at market value and housing for all to extend the CPOs to affordable but I have not seen that. We are still working on the 16 social houses and [inaudible] moving to, in some of those, we would not be able to even to be affordable to bear in mind the market value and then to have to refurbish it after. So, look, with a lot of those in place with the 16, all of them, there is not anywhere we don't need social housing, it is a good programme at the moment but affordable, it will take a good jump to move on to that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Director.

The Chief Executive, can I ask you to come in there and to answer a few questions.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Just to mention about the M11. There's been ongoing discussions with the department and TII in relation to the N11 upgrade and they will continue and as mentioned, the minister has committed to coming down here in early October to address the councillors, so we will keep pushing

that element. In relation to the workforce, the first phase of that review is completed, that was in relation to the drivers in each municipal district, that competition's concluded, all the positions have been offered out and are now being implemented and filled as we speak. That has actually resulted in an increase in numbers in the Greystones municipal district area. There will be two extra GOs, which will be of benefit to the area. The next stage is reviewing the full outdoor staff numbers and a request from the district engineers that have been submitted to HR in relation to their needs requirements. So that will be examined, but we do have to examine it now in the context of the Irish water transition, where by there will be, there's options to staff, whether they want to stay or move across to Irish water and there will be surplus staff. That has to be taken into account in any review going forward of outdoor staff. Just in relation, I forgot to mention, Cllr Leonard in relation to the businesses in Arklow. Just to point out that we do have new business rates incentive scheme, that is available, not just for Arklow, but any business who a business sets up in a vehicleant premise which has been vacant for over 12 months, they get a rates deduction 50% in year one and 25% in year two. In relation to the RDF project, in relation to the, I expect there are other projects around the country that have seen cost increases, I'm not sure have they seen cost increases to the extent of basically double what the estimated cost was, I suppose the department have expressed concerns in relation to the size of the increase in the cost. At this stage, I can't confirm that it won't be retendered. I think we have to just let the conversations with the department conclude. But I can't rule that out. I can't rule out a phased implementation. I don't know at this stage. We have to go through the process with the department, but we're fully committed and the department is committed to the project, so I don't think there's a chance of it being cancelled. But I can't 100% tell you it won't be

retendered. We just have to go through the process with the department. Obviously we will be looking to, our ideal solution would be as you said councillor, to get increased funding to cover that increased cost in relation to the tender that would be the ideal solution, but I can't really pre-empt it at this stage. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: There was one question about the Greenway.

>>: I will take that. Thank you. Councillor Mullen, the matter is moving along in accordance with the agreement, so we issued letters to all the landowners during July about the voluntary land acquisition agreements. In addition to that we received we advertised and got two tenders which we're going to be going to go through the tender and we will have documents up on our website during September and October, so we are moving along with the project. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much. Councillor Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: Just one or two issues there as well, can I just say, going back to the Rose of Tralee, the atmosphere and the hype in Arklow was great to see, as it was positive and the whole town got behind the great girl Roisin, but can I tell you the background, how she raised the profile of Wicklow. Each rose was given a Pope assignment in Kerry and the supporters literally took over that pub every night. So far, so to the point that Roisin got a great write up in the local paper, saying how the Wicklow supporters raise the bar for any other supporters, so she's raised Wicklow and Arklow to a very high bar and I wish her well. Also to say thank you for Wicklow County Council for sponsorship of Roisin and more importantly, to each and every boutique in Arklow, person that gave sponsorship to her outfits. Also Roisin had to raise 5,000 Euro to give to two local charities, which she did tenfold over. She sponsored Wicklow hospice and also the cancer support, so her work started way, way before she

ever got to rose of Tralee, so we shouldn't underestimate a nomination again to rose of Tralee because it certainly was an honour to sit Wicklow being interviewed in the national rose of Tralee. The other issue I would like to ask is going back to the Greenway which I know is progressing well, as has been reported, I have been brought up to a concern which I did not realise, and maybe this can be clarified today, I know there's been one or two routes being talked about and looked at. But seemingly the preferred route would be going through the national disabled angling facility. I would be very, very concerned about that. That national angling facility has been there for many years. I was actually one of the persons that they used to promote that many years ago, the funding that went into that was just enormous. I know it's going through a bad time over the years but there's a new committee up and Rapping with that and they're going to put it back on the map and we cannot use that, lose that facility. Under no circumstances. Also, I would like to agree with Cllr Jerry Walsh regarding the outdoor staff. We've taken over three extra estates sheer today and I know that Arklow outdoor staff are stretched to their collar and I think we need to upgrade and increase our staff as Cllr Walsh has said. The tidy towns are doing some of the work that our districts councils should be doing and I think this needs to be certainly sorted now it's gone on too long, and I look forward to reporting on that. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Grace McManus.

CLLR MCMANUS: Thanks for the report. Just a couple of points. I'm just concerned in terms of our capital funding that we have received on projects are that under way in general, is there any conversations happening with the department about the increased cost of building works and inflation, because if it's happening for some projects I'm wondering if it is coming down the others. My concern is where we have committed to match funding, does that

mean that if there's inflation that's going to have to come out of match funding. My second is a query about the EV strategy. I have had a query from a constituent who lives in a private development who wants to drive an electric car but the management company don't want to put in the charging point. I am wondering if there is a way we can play a role there, or is there legislation that means that there should be one retro fitted there, if someone could give me an update on that, I would appreciate it. It's been raised before today and previous months about our rent arrears. I really understand that if people have an ability to pay their rent they should be paying rent but I would also caution we are in a cost of living crisis and I think we should be mindful of our most vulnerable when we are talking about rent arrears and make sure that's also part of the conversation when we are talking about a strategy to deal with it. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Fortune.

CLLR FORTUNE: Thank you for the report. A number of things. Just in the early part of the report, what you refer to bundle 5 in regards to the Greystones, I am curious why that particular site has been treated differently than the site on, at one stage they were the same package. I would like to know why the difference. Just on general comment on funding. We are hearing in my view too often about funding when it's already been received. I have asked the previous meetings that we would be proactively informed about funding and I think I would like that acted on because it's been ignored, based on the previous requests. The health centre is referred to, the four apartments for senior citizens. I would like confirmation on where we are on that and there's not going to be a shift in the usage. Town teams will be coming up shortly with Christine, so we will talk there. But there is one item in the manager's report, the town team has submitted an application for funding to hold an annual Film

Festival. I know nothing about that. And I think it's disingenuous that I read it in the CEOs report. I am a democratically public representative and I should be informed before that kind of stuff is carrying on. SH, there's a SHE, four of them referred to in the CEO's report. My understanding is that scheme has already, is finished. I will probably be told that they are an over lag from the scheme. It just seems a bit purchase. Also with reference in it to strategic infrastructure development, I would like to know more about that. This is not, I couldn't find it in the report but there's a vacant site at the bottom of the village of Dacool (?) that has been there forever and I have raised before many times. I would like some action taken on that. We need to find out what is the owner going to do with it. At this moment in time it's crazy it's left the way it is. I would also like to understand that there's going to be proactivity in relation to the breaches between kill cool and Newcastle. It's been an issue for the last three or four years. I doubt whether Mark is still with us, but I would like to get a real proper update, maybe he would send me a note on it so I can understand what's going on. At the moment it's just inaction. There's talk of four different entities involved in that area doing various studies. That's again been going on for more than a year, maybe two-and-a-half years at this stage. I would like to know what's happening there. It's been a problem on an ongoing basis and it's not fair to the people who live in that area. There's 18 houses potentially affected between kill cool and Newcastle and they do deserve better.

CATHAOIRLEACH: We'll go to councillor Murphy's question first. Can I echo her words. They made an old lad's dream come true, I got the honour of escorting 14 roses off the bus. On to a more serious point. Mary Murphy's question about Greenway, director, Leonora.

LEONORA: Thank you. Councillor Murphy, I will have a look at that. The final,

final preferred option hasn't been agreed as yet. So I will talk to the team about that query and those concerns and we can come back to you on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Grace McManus was on housing again, director.

JOE LANE: Rent arrears, yes, up to about two or three months ago, we were not able to issue warning letters or letters due to COVID. Recently, we have started that, the process is there could be a number of letters. So there is engagement sought and we don't go in heavy. You are sent out a first warning letter, engagement letter, you wait two weeks, then you go for stage 2, 3, 4, so people who talk to us we can work around it fairly quickly. There are a number of people not engaging with the process. We have issued 60 warning letters and that's only a starter, there will be more issued. That should bring down arrears, but going back to the question that was asked, there are safeguards for the people who engage. But for people who don't engage, there will be issues there. It's a balance again. That problem answers both questions. Regarding (Inaudible) the second part of this might be hindsight I'm not sure but remember last year we were trying to progress it fairly quickly. It was one of our schemes but there was a master plan required. Wicklow County Council progressed that to try to get a balance between the two and again there was no affordable scheme at the time. We were trying to not wait for that to try to progress it. It was really expediency for the lock lane one. The other one had more challenges and still has. On hindsight, I'm not sure if it is hindsight. Lock lane was master planned for 150 units. As I said earlier, at the moment the PPP only deals with social housing. Now we have always flagged the rehill site, the same with the other, we think they will only deal with the social on those sides. Lock lane in particular, people were anxious they weren't separated.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Brian, you want to take the inflation question?

>>: Cllr McManus raised the issue about the inflation. It is a concern. A couple

of departments have recognised that in relation to housing projects guidelines were issued in relation to housing projects where there was the inflation was shared between the departments and the developer. Also in relation to roads projects, recent guidelines have issued in relation to how we claim, put in a claim for additional costs relating to inflation. So I suppose they are two of our main capital elements. In relation to individual projects like the RDF funding, obviously we have to communicate and engage with the department on a case by case basis as we've done, and that will be looked at. But it is going to have an impact on our match funding. We are not going to have everything covered by the department. So without question it's going to impact on our pot of match funding. Thank you.

>>: Just to say to you that the Government is part of the department of climate communications and have set up a section within their called zero emissions vehicle Ireland, so they are spearheading the national approach with regard to EV infrastructure. They have three different sections on it. So just specifically in terms of private development and management company, that is really down to the management company. However, what I would say is that ZEVIs are looking at the whole issue because they are keen that people will get the charge points etc. So I think it's part and parcel of that. But if you look up the department website, they now have a link to that. Then just to say to you I know this might be wider and I don't know the particular state you are talking about, but in terms of apartments and getting EV charge points for apartments which is a big issue, as part of ZEVIs there are representations from SEVIs on that dealing with let's say charging points for apartments. So if I could say to you, each individual apartment, if they were bringing a line down, let's say if it's three or four-storey apartment, there's health and safety, electrical issues associated with that. What they are trying to do is set up a scheme where you

would have a series of charge points within the development and that the people within, who are in the apartments would schedule when they will get charging. They are looking at that in quite a bit of detail at the moment. Just while I'm on, when Cllr Fortune mentioned about the vehicle site in Kill Cool. With that particular site we have been pursuing them under the vacant site levy and the next step is court. They are on our register, therefore, there's a burden associated with that property now going forward as well. So we're doing the best we can within the legislation to move that forward in order to get that developed. Finally in relation to the breaches in Newcastle, I have tasked Mark Deafrow and he's been working on that over the last couple of months, so if you don't mind I might bring Mark in on that.

MARK: Members, if you can hear me now, I have had contact with the National Parks and Services as recently as last Friday and they are responding to queries from the OPW on the matter and I'm still working with the three agencies to try and get some progress on it. It's not inaction on our part. But it is difficulty with the number of agencies involved and the environmental matters that are holding up activity there. It's difficult to do works in that area because it is an SAC but I am in contact with the National Parks and Wildlife Services on a weekly basis to try and resolve the issue there.

>>: That's the same response we have been getting for two or three years. At this stage now, it's absolutely ridiculous and you've got the agency management is referring to all playing off each other. I have spoken to the agencies myself and really, it's just been ignored, that's the crude way of describing it. Mark may not agree with what I am saying but at this stage it's ridiculous. We have talked about it and talked about it and nothing is happening whatsoever.

>>: I will add in my own support in relation to this and I have already arranged a

meeting with Mark on it, that I will also contact the NPWS& OPW to try and move these things forward.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you Brede and Mark. Can I bring in Cllr Kavanagh now.

CLLR KAVANAGH: Just a couple of things. The coastal erosion further up and down is going to be a huge investment and funding application, so I want to know if it could be included, how it's progressing in the monthly report. I think I asked about it a couple of months ago and at this stage I don't know whether it's progressed any further or anything like that and I think it's such a big deal because it's potentially going to save the railway and potentially going to help create the Greenway. Could I just ask for it to be put on to the Chief Executive's report, if there's ever any updates or anything like that. The second thing I want to talk about, and I want to bring this up because there's a bit of a time factor involved. I was sent details, I wasn't aware of it myself but I was sent details by a cycling enthusiast to say that minister Ryan had ordered councils and had personally contacted 31 local authorities in recent weeks and told them to identify a priority list of so-called path finder projects, big impact bike and walking schemes that could be delivered within two years. He wants responses by mid-September. Apparently there was an underspend of 129 million. But it has to be claimed by the end of September. So I had a look at the actual councils that had applied and there was nothing there from Wicklow. So I think there's up to almost 470 or 490,000 unclaimed by Wicklow. It's a scheme that we can't really afford to miss schemes like this. The kind of scheme that other councils applied for, park and stride, feasibility studies, cycle laneways, footpaths and pedestrianisation of areas. So I just think it's an opportunity not to be missed. I hope that Wicklow does follow up on it. The third thing I want to mention is I have written to the council about this and I'm

not really getting any kind of satisfactory answers. Back in 2018 Ireland ratified the UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities, and it was great on paper, but it doesn't seem to be translating into an awful lot. And I just wonder if there is some way that the council can try to pin point a funding stream that would allow at least one beach in every municipal district to be wheelchair accessible. Because there are an awful lot of children and adults who on nice sunny days would love to be down and recently here in Wicklow we had a situation where three adults had to try and lift, because we know how heavy the modern wheelchair is with massive batteries on them, had to try and lift somebody, a wheelchair down over stones just so that the wheelchair user could actually have a bit of a swim on the beach. I just think it's just a basic thing, it should be such a basic right that everybody who wants should at least within their municipal district have one beach that they can go to, that has a ramp, that can allow them to be wheeled down and let them get in and enjoy the water the same as everybody else. We're paying too much lip service to disability services and not actually delivering on them. Finally I want to say, something that happened over the weekend, I have been told by National Parks and wildlife that there is a very serious case of avian flu in the county and there are birds found dead everywhere and it's also transmissible to humans, so just to let everybody know, if you are anywhere near or if anybody contacts you about dead birds, it's quite dangerous and not to touch them..

CLLR BOURKE: I would like to support Cllr Kavanagh on that plea for improvements to access to the beaches for disabled people. I got a message from the tidy towns association from Sandra Duffy there suggesting it for Arklow and I said I would support her on it. But secondly, something came up

earlier which triggered my interest as well. It was talk about Britas Bay and I would like to propose we would review our system of charges for Brit as bay because it's becoming an issue for local people, where some of them who like to use it every day can't afford to use it every day because it's 5 euros every time, so they start parking on the road and out of the way, but some of them have been fined for that. And it's creating tension and I think we should be reviewing that in the future for next season. And then another item came up about the main street in Arklow and there might be some razzmatazz attached to the reopening on the completion of it and I would like to suggest that Leonora would consider inviting the Arklow silver band to perform on the band stand. I asked them last year when I was mayor and they said yes they would love to. When they went to get permission they were asked to produce insurance, so they couldn't do it. It's farcical that we have a band stand on the main street which no band seems to be able to use. So I think we should waive those charges and cover the insurance ourselves and invite not just them but any other performers who want to perform there on a regular basis, because it's a long, long time since I have seen anyone perform there and I think it's something we should be proactive in engaging with the musicians in our community to perform publicly. Thank you. Cathaoirleach Cllr Kennedy.

CLLR KENNEDY: My question is for the Director of Planning and I want to thank you for the information in the Chief Executive's report in relation to planning. But I have something that's been tossing around in my head for quite a while and I'm not over happy with it and I don't know how other members feel about it. When somebody gets a planning application in the rural area and to have a register a burden for seven years, so they can't sell it, no issue with that.

Where I do have an issue is if they wanted to sell the house, I have no issue this

they want to sell it, they have to sell it to somebody who lives in the rural area. No issue with the burden, or them selling it to someone else. Where I do have the issue is if for some reason that house has to be sold, the lending institution, the person who has the power over the mortgage can sell that house on the open market. Now I actually feel that if there is a rural house being sold by a lending institution within the seven years it should be sold to someone who qualifies to live in the rural area. I don't think it's fair that somebody who cannot pay for their house and it has to be sold by that lending institution, that they can sell it on the open market. When that neighbour may have got the site off their family, or a neighbour, and all of a sudden there's somebody from Donegal or Cork can buy that house. Within the seven years the same rules should apply for the lending institution as it does for the person who got the planning application in the first place. I don't know how other people feel about that but I think it's wrong. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Chief Executive, please.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: Thank you just to confirm in relation to the path finding project, our road section are working on a project in relation to that and it will be submitted to the department very shortly and we will send out details to the members of that particular project after it's been submitted. So we have been working away on that over the last few weeks. In relation to coastal protection in the Chief Executive report, that's no problem, I think we can stick that in. There's Irish rail have plans for a coastal infrastructure protection scheme. So as things progress in relation to that, we can update the Chief Executive report. With regard to the accessibility for beaches, obviously we will look at whatever funding resources are there. But I would remind the members if we are looking at it, we do have discretionally expenditure where

by the members could fund it from that but notwithstanding that option, we will look for funding from relevant state bodies where possible. I think they are the main issues.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Sylvester Bourke had questions, Leonora, can you answer them, please.

>>: Yes, we can reach out to the Silver Band in Arklow, the plan is to have music, festivities and lighting, with the regards to the long-term use of the bandstand, I will engage with the administrator on that.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Finally, the last question?

>>: Completely concur with you, Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy. You know, we put in the conditions, such that they would be followed, as you know, lending institutions are a law unto themselves. One of the ways that is controlled is that outside of a lending institution when somebody goes to buy the property the first thing checked with the slower is does it comply with the planning, if not, there are issues and there are a number of councillors who would have had that with their constituents with regards to the seven-year rule. So, unfortunately, we don't have control over the banks. And the only way we can react to it is that if we get a complaint associated with the person that bought it and then we follow through in terms of enforcement.

That's my only comment but I fully agree with you, the rule should be for everybody. But it is generally the way that it comes into effect.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Director. I have another three speakers, four speakers, actually, two have been in already, so I leave them to last, hopefully to come back only on a follow-up question. The next one is Cllr. Vincent Blake, we had called you but you disappeared we will give you the floor now. You are OK now? Thank you very much. So, ...

CLLR BLAKE: One question, only one question. You will be happy to hear. So, I will presume, like the majority of 2,596 people, I am presuming that they are happy and well in placements but would love to know the data around inspections, do we have the capacity to undertake inspections? Are we doing that? How many have we done? And love to know the degree to which the landlords comply with notices to improve or otherwise. Imagine that for us as members, the worst-case scenarios are what land on our doorstep but we rely on HAP so much that there is expectation around quality. For knee is a human rights issue, a children's rights issue and a quality-of-life issue and we have obligations to ensure that they are met. So maybe at the next meeting there is data around inspections or the level, the volume of inspections we are doing and to what degree we get a good response on that. Thank you very much.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you, Cllr Joe Behan would you like to come in again?

CLLR BEHAN: To adopt a planning on that with the planning authority or the councillors to give effect to what he has rightly pointed is extremely unfair and for once, the officials agree with it. So, therefore I think we should do something and work on this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Edward Timmins?

CLLR TIMMINS: Thank you, the reason to come back is in relationship to the Baltinglass this is serious, it looks like the turned doubled in price after the funding, when originally drafted when the allocation was made, so to be specific to ask, have we met with the department? If not, how is our correspondence? What is happening? Are e we going to meet imminently as I think we need to meet imminently. And on this side of the county, talking to colleagues, since, like, we are deeply concerned. We are calling a Special

Meeting to get clearer answers as to what is happening. If I can ask the Chief Executive, I think you are in a difficult decision, Brian but to ask, have you met officials within the department? Are you planning to meet them in the future? This is deadly serious. It is a massive, a massive issue for us over here, I cannot emphasise that enough. And in relation to that the planning team, to make up to the amendment next Monday on the planning if that is possible. [distortion of sound] to have a little more detail if that is possible.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Joe, did you want to take Cllr O'Brien's question or to leave to the next meeting?

JOE LANE: I will take that out.

CATHAOIRLEACH: So, Director, you can answer?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I am not sure if you missed the start of the meeting but to confirm that I met with the officials from the county department last week. Following that we are providing an analysis of initial costings to identify where the cost increases relate to and an economic investment so working closely with the department. To have a meeting following submission of the details. And we will continue to work with them to try to come up with a solution.

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I urge we do it as a matter of urgency.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: We are fully committed to the project, councillor.

CLLR TIMMINS: Can I ask ...

[All speak at once]

Can I ask that we be treated as a matter of urgency?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: The fact as I said, as soon as the tenders came in, we contacted the department immediately to try to get a meeting because of annual leave, that own happened last week. But as I say a subsequent meeting is made and information collated to assist the department to aid discussions

on the matter. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you very much, Director. I hope that everyone had questioned answered, if not, please email to the Directors or if you felt you did not get a chance to speak. So, delighted to move on. speaker.

>>: Can I discuss specifically to deal with the county development plan we do have our SPC tomorrow, we can raise it there to discuss this, is that OK?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Is that OK with you, Cllr Edward Timmins.

CLLR TIMMINS: I missed what was said. Is it possibly to discuss Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy's proposal at next Monday's meeting?

>>: The opposite, we have a specific task starting at 10am next Tuesday to hopefully adopt our county development plan.

CLLR TIMMINS: Sorry, what were you answering when you said that, please? I was talking about a Special Meeting in this cricket, not talking about next Monday.

>>: What I said, councillor was the follow-on we have our SPC tomorrow, we can raise it there? We can start the discussion on it then.

Is that, OK?

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Aoife Flynn-Kennedy do you want to come in?

CLLR KENNEDY: Not to hold you up, perhaps the director can send on the discussion notes from the SPC tomorrow in relation to what I propose. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Next on the agenda is the long-awaited review of the Town Teams. That is right, Helen? Yes? Who is taking that. Christine Flood, please.

CLLR FORTUNE: Can I make a point. It is now 5.10pm the meeting is extended to 5.30pm. I think it is an important item and I don't think that 20 minutes is

sufficient to take forward. [distortion of sound] I think this is so important, it justifies a Special Meeting.

CATHAOIRLEACH: OK. I take your point. But I have been told that we cannot put anything else on the agenda next Monday.

CLLR FORTUNE: Then I propose to have a Special Meeting as 20 minutes is not sufficient to take this.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Are you happy to put it in the October meeting?

CLLR FORTUNE: Yes.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I feel it is important. I do think it warrants a Special Meeting if everyone else does.

CLLR FORTUNE: I am happy with October if it is a key item that is taken early in the agenda.

CATHAOIRLEACH: To explain to the Chief Executive we do not have time to go through this on the review, so, now, Cllr Shay Cullen would like to come in.

CLLR CULLEN: To concur with Cllr Tom Fortune, it is that, a very, very important issue for members of the council. It needs ample time we have given other items lots of time during the day. I think it should be put off to the October meeting if agreeable with the other members to have a proper discussion at that meeting.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I don't think we very a problem with that. Just to make a point for the members to be conscious, we do have the Glendalough presentation. We can put the Town Team on it, so it will limit the agenda next month. But I ask the members next month, the Chief Executive of the Report, albeit, though we have had 2 months with lots of questions but it has gone on for over 1.5 hours so it does not help us getting over the agenda. We have raised the issue with the CGP. So, if the members wish it put it back to

October, that is no problem.

[All speak at once]

>>: When agreeing the October meeting with Helen to ensure that the item is up on the agenda not at the bottom of the agenda. It is too important not to be dealt with fully, to have time.

HELEN PURCELL: What we can do, is to place the Town Teams report and the Glendalough report ahead of the Chief Executive's report.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I am in agreement with that, is everyone else? Helen.

HELEN PURCELL: On to correspondence, the county development plan meeting starts at 10am next Monday if we can be here. It is a hybrid meeting so available online. And the Charlie Bird freedom of the county is on the 26th of September, you will receive invitation, asking people to be seated by 4.30pm if you do not mind.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you.

HELEN PURCELL: Notices of motion. We have two. The first is proposed by Cllr O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Anne Ferris. Wicklow county council calling on the Minister for Justice to introduce legislation for stricter penalties on those found guilty of damaging or tampering with defibrillators, or life buoys, these are installed for public use and can be a death sentence if they are not available for a patient in a cardiac arrest or if a life buoy is drowning, that serious. Locking up AEDs or life buoys is not an ideal solution, you would not lock up a fire-extinguisher. That is a matter for the elected members to consider.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr O'Brien?

CLLR O'BRIEN: Thank you. I think it is fairly self-explanatory. We have had a

long day. I ask for fellow councillors to support this. We have had an excellent summer. It is sad to think there are people out there that will damage this equipment. A slap on the wrist is not good enough. I think a severe penalty should be dished out. Thank you.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Walsh.

CLLR WALSH: I support the motion wholeheartedly, but to my knowledge this legislation to address this going through the office at the moment, I can check that out further. But that's my knowledge.

CATHAOIRLEACH: I think everyone is in agreement, Cllr O'Brien, yes.

>>: If we are all agreed, that's fine, thank you very much. The second notice of motion proposed by Cllr Murphy, seconded by Cllr Flynn-Kennedy. All events requiring (Inaudible) under the development act 2001, licensing of outdoor events regulations that is outdoor displays of public entertainment, comprising of an audience of 5,000 for more, must provide Changing Places... either permanent installation of a Changing Places at the venue or hire ago portable Changing Places is acceptable. I won't read through the rest of the notes because they have been circulated to the members in relation to Changing Places. The response of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Council acknowledges the importance of the provision of the Changing Places facilities at such events and will undertake to liaise with the applicants a pre- application consultation to request and encourage the provision of such facilities in recognition of the importance of to support inclusivity in all such licenced events in County Wicklow.

CLLR FLYNN-KENNEDY: I was going to let Mary Murphy go first.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Murphy.

CLLR MURPHY: It's a simple explanation if over 5,000 could be a requirement, I

think it's vital, just like the air show, or the festivals and outdoor things in our county. I want to highlight two of the issues, this providing changing places and promoting the use and represents the implementation of public sector you national convention on the rights of people with disabilities and national disability and inclusion strategy at local level. If this is past we will the first county council to improve this, so again we are raising the flag on inclusion and disability and it will be another positivity in inclusion.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Cllr Flynn-Kennedy:

>>: Thank you, I think Cllr Murphy has said everything that needs to be said.

Thank you.

>>: Thank you Cllr Murphy and Cllr Flynn-Kennedy. I just need to point out that this in relation to the licensing, this is an executive function, it's not a matter for the members to either vote this in or out and just to say to you is that while we believe that this is extremely desirable and it would be our wish that this could happen, we are a body of statute so no matter how willing that an organiser might be, it may be impossible for them to actually achieve this level of at their event. However that all aside, what we can do and which we will do maybe an amendment to your proposal is that in terms of pre-planning and any discussion that is we have with an event organiser, we will do our utmost to get them to - we will request them in the first place and then encourage them to provide these type of facilities, but at this stage we can't actually put this in, because with the way your motion is stated, all events requiring them must provide a Changing Places, would actually be...

>>: That's when they come before us. It is for events, we only get to licence events of 5,000 persons or more. But what I am saying to you when they come before, we will definitely be encouraging them and what we found is with most

organisations, they are trying to do the better thing. But even how much they might be willing on doing it, it may not be feasible to do it, to provide the actual Changing Places. As you know we are so supportive here, we are one of the first councils to have a Changing Places unit within the library, so it's definitely something we really want to encourage and request and we will do our utmost in terms of the pre-planning to put that in place, but we cannot have something to say that it has to happen. Because it's not within the legislation.

CLLR MURPHY: Are the other proposers ok with that?

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: I am suggesting on the basis of what was outlined, we change “must” to “shall where possible”. Would that work?

CLLR MURPHY: Yes, thank you CEO. Yes, that's perfect. If that's okay with the others.

CLLR FLYNN-KENNEDY: I won't delay it, I appreciate where you are coming from, absolutely, the increase in mobile Changing Places was seen by a lot of proposers as being addressing some of the difficulties people would have had difficulty with providing this sort of the equipment. Is it possible to have if people aren't doing this they give rationale for not doing it, if that would be possible, maybe we could learn from some of the issues raised.

>>: That is something we were hoping to do, we request them and they have to demonstrate why they can't.

CLLR FLYNN-KENNEDY: I'm happy with that.

CLLR LEONARD: I was going to say would it be possible to look into how much one of these units costs and maybe along the line explore the possibility of purchasing one, that could be accessed by event holders, just an idea.

CATHAOIRLEACH: Thank you. Would that be possible? To look at a price? Okay,

that's great. Great answer. That's it I think. I didn't get through the meeting folks but I got finished before 5.30. I do apologise about that. So we will look forward to seeing you next week at 10am.