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**ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY
COUNCIL HELD ON ZOOM**

ON

MONDAY 5 JULY 2021 AT 2:00 P.M.

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Heather Casali

Andrew Howell

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05.07.21

1400-1430

SHAY: Good afternoon, members, can you hear me OK. Welcome to the July meeting. I want to hand over to Helen for a meeting etiquette and roll-call.

HELEN: To remind everyone that mobile phones are silent. You may use the Chat Function to send a message indicating to speak or to raise your hand. Speakers should keep camera and microphone while speaking, if you lose connection, contact myself or Teresa by phone and we will try to get you reconnected. I would like to welcome the press and the public. I will commence with the roll-call.

Are you there? Councillor Shay Cullen.

>>: Present.

Councillor Erica Doyle.

...

Councillor Gail Dunne.

>>: Present.

Councillor Tom Fortune.

>>: Present.

Councillor Patsy Lennan.

>>: Present.

Councillor Mary Kath nor.

>>: Present.

Councillor Pat Kennedy.

>>: Present.

Councillor Pier Leonard.

>>: Present.

Councillor Jodie Neary.

>>: Present.

Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

>>: Present.

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Councillor Paul O'Brien.

>>: Present.

Councillor Rory O'Connor.

>>: Present.

Councillor O'Neill.

>>: Present.

Councillor John Snell.

>>: Present.

Councillor Edward Timmins.

>>: Present.

Councillor Gerry Walsh.

>>: Present.

Councillor Irene Winters.

>>: Present.

I see Councillor Erica Doyle has a bad connection but is present.

Councillor Avril Cronin.

>>: Present. I'm the same as Councillor Erica Doyle. Apologies if I am cut off.

>>: Councillor Irene Murphy and Councillor Winters. And Councillor Mags Crean are joining now.

>>: Present.

SHAY: We will move on to votes of sympathy.

>>: We remember former colleagues, Michael Cavanagh and Katie [inaudible] and Mary Fitzgerald. Jim Whitty. Father of colleague, Gemma Whitty and Marie Healy, mother of colleague, Lenny Healy.

SHAY: Anyone else?

>>: We have the death of Damian who died tragically here, only this day last week. He was being buried today. He was a larger-than-life character. A young man with a young family. And he left this world last Monday in tragic circumstance, if I can offer sympathies to wife Collette and his wife Lisa and mother Collette and father, he will be sorely missed in the area. He lived across the border in Kildare. A well-known character here and someone always there to look after the vulnerable and the elderly, whatever, in need. He was a larger-than-life character. A big man with a big smile and a big heart. And the community is shocked with his departure. May he rest in peace.

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SHAY: Thank you, Gerry. Councillor Aoife Kennedy.

>>: If I can offer my condolences. I want to pass on sympathies to them.

SHAY: There is no-one else showing. Councillor Blake.

>>: Briefly to join in with the sympathies, and to the [inaudible], a neighbour of mine here for a number of years who passed away last week. A reasonably young woman but my sympathies to the family as well.

SHAY: OK. We will take a moment to remember everyone that was mentioned.

>>: May the souls of the departed, rest in peace.

SHAY: I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate the respective districts, Councillors, it is an honour, for yourselves and for your families, and in order to wish you the best for the year ahead.

Again, before I continue, I would like to explain to the members, I have asked for a short agenda to try to cover the notice of motion today. I would ask all members to try and keep to your allocated 3 minutes.

I know that the report is comprehensive each month but issues that are raised more suited to the district meeting. I ask the members to remember that when you are putting forward your views and this is really just to facilitate the agenda going forward and to make sure we can get through the agendas as today we have a light agenda but normally the agendas are quite long, so, I would appreciate people's support on this.

Finally, I want, we will be given an update on the new legislation on the county development plan at 4.30pm to be aware of that so, we move on to item number 1 to confirm and sign the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 10th of May, 21, combined amendments and Chief Executive recommendations attached to item 2. Can we have a proposer and a seconder for the minutes.

Proposed by Councillor Snell and seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

OK.

Item 2. To confirm and sign the minutes of special meeting of Wicklow County Council held Monday the 17th of May, 21. Elected members' amendments attached. Edward Timmins?

>>: I got the minutes before 2pm. I noticed a small omission in them. I emailed Teresa Byrne. can I read it out, please?

SHAY: Go ahead.

>>: In relation to amendment 117. There is an omission, I will call out what I would like to be inserted. This was omitted. Councillor Edward Timmins stated there was an ... (inaudible) that was an important thing omitted from the minutes, I ask for it to be inserted into the minutes.

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SHAY: We need a proposer and seconder. Proposed by Councillor Blake and seconded by Councillor Kennedy. Helen, in terms of the proposer and seconder does it cover both the amendment and the actual item number 2?

>>: For the amendment and a proposer and seconder.

SHAY: We need a proposer and seconder for item 2. Councillor Brian and Councillor Cronin in second.

>>: In relation to the amendment, the one I had on glamping, the wording of that changed in the draft plan. There was an omission of [inaudible] half was omitted in the draft plan itself that was published.

[inaudible] I wanted to draw it to your attention.

SHAY: Sorry, can I have everyone to mute when not speaking, please. Thank you for that. Councillor Kavanagh?

>>: Mine was changed in the wording. In the transcript it showed the words that I used. So the word omitted was "alternative" an alternative rail service. As it reads, it looks like it is trying to get a Dart to Southwick low. I agreed to change the wording of the amendment to include some form of life rail service. But the way it reads it looks like a continuation of the existing service which could infer that it is just a few extra carriages, that is not what the amendment was about. It was an alternative rail service.

SHAY: Noted. If that is, OK? Moving on to item 3.

Consider the disposal of property comprised in folio (inaudible) of Sheepphouse, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, 107 St Peter's Place, Arklow, Co Wicklow by transfer order to Ms Maureen Horan, Ms Amy O'Reilly, Ms Patricia Mackey, Mr Matthew Jenkinson and Ms Michelle Kennedy of 107 St Peter's Place, Arklow, Co Wicklow. Tenants-in-common of one undivided, 1-5 and the persons entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per noted and previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Fitzgerald. Seconded by Councillor Bourke. All agreed? OK. Agreed. Thank you.

Item 4 to consider the disposal of property comprised in WW2174L in the property known as 49 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. By transfer order to Mr Eamonn Molloy of 49 Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per notice previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Fitzgerald. And seconded by Councillor Kennedy. Thank you, all in agreement? Thank you.

Number 5. To consider disposal of property come priced in WW1596L in the townland of Bray 4 Raverty Villas, Bray, Co. Wicklow. By transfer ordeal of Sylvia Brennan of 4 Raverty Villas, Bray, Co. Wicklow. The person entitled to the freehold interest in the property as per noted previously circulated. A proposer and seconder. Councillor Rory and seconded by Councillor Kennedy. In agreement all? Yes. Thank you.

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Item 6 to consider the disposal of property to be disposed of as come priced on the attached map as highlighted in blue, part of the townland of Bray Wicklow County Council in exchange for land under Lord Meath ownership as per noted and previously circulated. Can I have a proposer and a seconder, please. Proposed by Councillor Kennedy. Seconded by Councillor Ferris. Thank you very much.

Item 7. To consider entering into a Section 58 Agreement with Dublin City Council for the provision of social housing at Burgage More, Blessington via Public Private Partnership bundle three of the National Social Housing, PPP programme, copy attached. We have director Joel Lane to give a presentation on this. We are also joined by James Nolan from Dublin City Council. So, Director Lane, if you are there to give an update on the item?

>>: Can you hear me? The presentation is a big word for it. It is just the item, it is, this is acquired to progress the next stage of the PPP bundle. We have had a second meeting and kept the members of the Blessington area informed. Wicklow, as people know, Wicklow were a part of under one and successful completion of the land in which the town, the 51 units there, if you were looking at it last year. And the local authority were pleased. In 2019 we were given the opportunity to have included in bundle 3, including the Blessington lands. This is just for the Dublin City Council to progress as the lead into this. Thereby a discussion on the Blessington area office and it will be advertised and brought to the members in the near future.

It is just that you need a holding. You need somebody to be the lead agency. In this case, Dublin City Council, who are the lead agency in the successful bundle 1 are also proposing that they are in bundle 3.

SHAY: Thank you. Edward Timmins?

>>: I would like to make comments on this. The detail of who will manage the houses and the ownership, brought to your attention last Monday. I do have some concerns. Firstly, I welcomed the housing in Blessington, it is badly needed, I think it is 106 units. But my concerns, a coup of points to make. That the council owns the land and yet they are going to hand over control and management of the houses to accompany or to a housing body. This is council-owned lapped. Paid for it £11 million, 13 years ago, 32 acers and everyone has heard it is used for housing, which is great. But I am concerned that the council are basically giving up control of the site. It means that the tenants will have no rights to purchase. The tenants purchase scheme is a model that worked well in Wicklow over the years. Giving people the chance to own their own home and now deprived going through this route. I know to come back to the party, it will come back before us to discuss it further in a local area meeting but the principle we are handing control. Additionally, there are no affordable houses as a part of the scheme. I appreciate what the executive are doing, it is a difficult task but we are still operating in a bubble, that just focuses purely on delivering the houses and not taking account as to the implications of how it is done based on the points raised. I am deeply concerned with some schemes in the county that the council executive that the numbers don't add up for the councils to do the houses but it does add up for the companies or the housing bodies to do it. So, the council is hampered from developing housing and other bodies are. It does not make sense in advocating our role in providing housing. I there is something fundamentally wrong, it may not be at

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council level but when it means that the council find it more attractive to outsource this even on their land. Generally on the council we know that water and waste, and planning with national policy and we have little say. And now I have concern about the housing. The section 85, I ask them to reconsider the ownership model before coming back with a party.

SHAY: Councillor Snell?

>>: I would propose this, if I could as unfortunately, we as public representatives at a local level, we have to play the hand we are dealt. It is going to take a certain, a two-pronged approach to address the issue of the housing crisis. Therefore to use every available tool that is available to us, such as PPP, approved housing bodies Andorran social housing stock. I would welcome a broader debate but I suggest that public representatives make contact with the party ministers and with the TDs, and the reality is that, we all deal with people who are on the social housing waiting list. Those of us who live in areas such as Arklow and Bray and Dunlaven, Curnow, Wicklow, Bray, Newtown, have been lucky in the last 14 months or more where houses have been provided for let it be on a small level but at least houses are provided. Some are large-scale developments but people are on a waiting list to get an opportunity to avail of a social housing, if it is under any of the various schemes but the reality in Blessington and we have heard it in a number of occasions and a share the sentiments of the representatives of the area that they are crying out for houses. It is a golden opportunity to provide an opportunity for those people waiting for so long. Some of our councillors who live in other parts of the council will realise that people don't have to wait 8 and ten years anymore in some parts of the country to avail of a house in their own locality. That is not true for people in Blessington. This is an opportunity that we should avail of and grab it with both hands. Bundle 1, as the Director said, it was very, very successful. Indeed, [inaudible] as the Chair of the municipal district at the time that the houses came up at first in 2019, we welcomed it in east Wicklow and got the 51 units and there are 51 families, thankfully with a roof over their head today. I would wish the same for the people on the social waiting list of Blessington. And I urge the members to support this. There is a wider debate that needs to happen. But unfortunately, we as public representatives at a local level in this county, will not change what is happening.

It is going to have to come from our national politicians.

That's why I urge you, if you wish to change it national level to get on to your own party colleagues and ministers, that we have to provide units and this is an opportunity for us within Wicklow County Council to provide units in an area that is crying out for units. I would like to propose.

SHAY: Councillor Crean.

>>: Can I ask the Director for the rationale of the PPP? With the county council leading on it?

SHAY: Councillor O'Neill?

>>: As was said by Joe Lane, we had a meeting during the week and reassured to a certain extent. I do understand and agree with what Edward Timmins was saying as regards the housing [inaudible] and it is probably not the best way forward when you are looking at this bundle 3 for Blessington

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and however, we have been assured, and we are taking Joe Lane's word that the land will never leave the ownership of Wicklow County Council, that it will be a 25-year lease, that will be reverted back to the local authority in 25 years' time. And I agree with Councillor Snell that it is not at our level that these issues will be solved but at higher level and it is the way that the country is going, that people are renting the housings and with the developing that are in the pipeline it looks like we are heading down the same road, this that they would be rented properties. I have questioned before about the housing agencies they are on a par with the likes of the group that bought 112 houses in the [inaudible] recently who claim to be the biggest private landlords in Europe. So there are those concerns. But I think that what Councillor Snell proposed, Section 58 Agreement, if it were the case, that I second it. I am satisfied having spoken to the council officials that this will be, the area of worry would be that it would be private building on public land, which would be totally wrong. It indicates losing ownership of the land but in this case, we have been assured that it will remain in the hands of the local authority.

There is one issue there that has not happened before and should happen this time. That all will be involved. I like, other councils in the area, we know what is needed. We do know that the likes of units there, there should be units included for the elderly and for people with disabilities. I think that instead of putting the cart before the horse, that I think that public representatives, should be informed and talked to as regards the type of units that is going into bur Burbage, it should not be just planted on the desks. We know there is a need for bungalows to cater for people with disabilities or whatever. So I would like to be this to be a part of that plan.

SHAY: Thank you. Councillor Mull yen?

>>: I want to share the concerns of Councillor Timmins and others. We arranged a special meeting on Friday. In fairness to Joe and Declan, they answered practically all of our concerns and questions. At the end of the day this is a technical piece, the party will cover a lot of the concerns that we have as regards the design lay out or ownership and the management of the estate. We do need units, we need the units quickly, at the end of the day as councillors we have to play our part in the delivery of homes. I agree, while the communication around this could have been a bit better and a bit more inclusive when it came to keeping the local councillors informed it is a technical part of a bundle of delivery of houses. Retaining 100% of the nomination rights assured several times, so, 100% to be on the Wicklow County Council list and that was the major concern. And also that the approved housing body, that we would have some role in consulting with the approved housing body, whoever they are towards the end of the process, so, in that case, I would like to be supportive of this today.

SHAY: OK. Councillor Leonard?

>>: I'm in support of this because of no other option at the moment. But I would like to see in the future, there are housing agencies and bodies out there with a potential for the tenants to buy in a sustainable way going forward. I would like that to be considered going forward, if possible, for future developments like this.

SHAY: Director Lane if there are questions to be answered. Sorry, Councillor Blake.

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>>: I very much support the project. As was said, there were issues raised that are a concern to the future. I would like them to be addressed as well. But we have provided a huge number of houses to Wicklow County Council, and from Bray to Carnew, a huge number of houses built. But at the end of the day, we do need housing in Blessington, it may not be everything that we agreed with but nevertheless we should proceed and I very much support it as well. Thank you, gentlemen.

SHAY: I don't think there is anyone else showing? Sorry, Councillor Cronin.

>>: I wanted to say that I support this development, in Blessington, it is badly needed in the area. I have concerns about the way it has been handled. We have notice of this last Monday at our meeting, it put us all under pressure. There were issues that we wanted to raise. and explain to us. In fairness to Declan and Joe, they gave us great time on Friday. I would like to thank them for that. It was short notice. It is great to see the housing built in the area, there is a huge demand but I echo the concerns that Edward Timmins raised and in particular the ownership of houses going forward. I know there are a lot of people in council houses like to have the opportunity to die buy them later on. I have concerns with the model, that they may not have this opportunity. I also have concerns about the timeline. I know that we were given a predicted timeline on Friday.

But going by the houses that have been built through social, through a social housing agency in done arson, I have concerned on the time lines I hope to have more successful in the success of this development than the one in Donavon

SHAY: Councillor Behan:

>>: I want to note that yet again, the councillors are bounced into a situation with little warning or notice and with little opportunity to input. Another example of something I have been talking about for a long time and still goes on, unfortunately. Thank you.

SHAY: OK. If everybody else is happy enough. I will bring in Director Lane?

>> Apologies. My connection is very bad today. I wanted to say that I do support this development in Blessington. It is badly needed in the area. I do have my concerns about the way it's been handled. We got notice of this last Monday at our meeting, and it did put us all under pressure. There are a lot of issues we wanted to raise, and explain to us that, in fairness to Declan and Joe, they gave us great time on Friday. I want to thank them for that. It was very short notice. It's great seeing houses being built in the area, huge understand for it. I would also echo some of the concerns that Cllr Timmins did raise, about the ownership of houses going forward. I know a lot of people who are in counsel houses like to have the opportunity to buy them. I have my concerns with this model that they may not have this opportunity. I also have concerns about the timeline. I know that we were given a particular timeline on Friday. But going by the houses that have been built through social - through a housing agency here in Dunavon, I have my concerns about timelines, but I hope that we have a little bit more success on this development than we have had in the one in Dunavon.

SHAY: Cllr Joe Behan?

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>> Thank you. I want to note that, yet again, councillors have been bounced into a situation. It's very little warning and notice, and very little opportunity to have an input. Another example of something I've been talking about for a long time still goes on, unfortunately. Thank you.

SHAY: Is everybody else happy enough? I bring back in Director Lane?

>> Right, Cllr Timmins, yes, there is no right to purchase. In a lot of choices, in some of the newer schemes, that only refers to local authority-owned social housing development units. That is correct. No affordable housing. When we were planning that, the build wasn't there, and rather than delaying, we have a number of schemes that we are waiting for the affordable build, and they're holding back schemes. In this case, we wanted to progress this one. We had the opportunity to apply whether the opportunity arose when ... looked for PPP. In that period, there was no way of - there was infrastructure difficulty in Blessington. This scheme was planned with that risk taking into account, so this thing has been progressed while that risk was there, and now they're quite happy that the scheme was never delayed, so we never waited for the procedure. We kept included it and included it as the risk on the assumption that the waste water would be there before the PPP would be ready. So we didn't want to waste the affordable housing bit. The affording housing bill has two schemes in it, including the shared equity that are the - there is a grant system in there for under the service site that may be available in the Blessington area once the bill is in there and regulations. We come back to that through the SPC the minute we get the full details of that. At the moment we were planning this time last year, the bill was not there, and therefore that opportunity to deal somehow in affordable owners scheme would have brought in uncertainty. Third, Cllr Timmins said the figures didn't add up. Yeah, in one or two cases, we approved of housing bodies takings the lead. We have attempted to do our maths, and the market value, we weren't able to work with the developer in progressing ... keys but the body is included different - there are two different evaluations, two different regulations. So, yes, it happens. However, it's not us and them, it's a partnership as at least two or three council members messaged you're providing sly and you're increasing the supply, and on Friday's meeting, we gave a good example of ... where there are 90-plus units where we built our own unit with 30 and the housing unit came in giving 60 making 90. It's complementary rather than us and them. Part of the supply - this is part of the supply. And by the PPP progressing, Blessington were able to concentrate, Declan and our team, were concentrate on the order to supply. Mags Crean, there was a call for PPP applications. We included Blessington on it, and we had an opportunity for them to progress. We did tell the elect members in 2018/19 we were including it in an application. That was including 2019, I think. Subsequently in 2019, we did tell elect members that it had been included, and the director went over and explained it to them in detail what was involved. Again been Declan was involved in the Balting Glass meeting. I will draw attention to the executive's report where it has been included in the last year of PPP. This idea of not informing is a small bit unfair now. The other thing to answer, or the question I think is that there were a couple of advantages, including the PPP, and one was that it allowed the scheme to progress in its entirety. We have found in the past to some of the bigger schemes, and I will pick Arklow as an example of 64 has been split into phases where the PPP takes it in its entirety, and the sustainable community element is dealt with by an ... body managing the units. I think I've answered those two

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questions. Yes, that's the phased ... 2017, treatment, I'm not 100% sure what that is. Does that answer the questions?

SHAY: I will bring Cllr Timmins back in there.

>> When I said about being informed, I didn't actually raise that. The issue about it being informed, we were informed only for the first time last week that the council wouldn't be owning these houses and tenants wouldn't have an opportunity to purchase them. First of all, we were informed that was last Monday. We knew about the bundle and section 85 - that is no problem, you buy things as a group, a council, I get that, there's no downside whatsoever. The only thing that I raised as an issue is the fact that the council has abdicated their responsibility for providing social housing, and tenants will not have an opportunity to purchase houses. That was news to me last Monday.

>> Briefly, what Joe raised there a moment ago about the 25-year lease, would it be a case that in 25 years' time, then, that the people, well, it's back in the ownership of the council. Can the people purchase the houses at that stage?

>> I can't answer that because it depends what scheme is there. I can't issue a guarantee or anything like that. I can't say we will have to say in 25 years' time, but they will be reverting to us. It's not a lease but a licence on it. They're all technically never leave our ownership. The land never leaves our ownership. I can't answer that because I don't know what purchase scheme will there be, if any, in 25 years' time.

SHAY: We have a proposer, Cllr John Snell and seconder Cllr Gerry O'Neill. Are we in agreement?

>> Yep.

>> Yes.

SHAY: That's agreed.

>> Can I also note Cllr Winters and Murphy have joined us and been in for a while now.

SHAY: Thank you. Number 8 on the 18, to consider the chief ...

>> I will take the report as read and take any questions.

SHAY: Cllr Pat Fitzgerald.

>> Yes, sorry, was on mute. Page 9 your report there deals with the vacant homes scheme, and I welcome the fact that CPOs are being issued in cases where houses are lying idle for a long time. I have a problem. I recently asked about on the few occasions asked a question why can't commercial buildings be dealt with the same way and I was told because there was no waste water treatment plant in Arklow. To me, that is not right. There is no way of treating water, there is no treatment water in Arklow, but we're in a position to issue CPOs, which I agree with. I checked with the Department this morning and awaiting on a response to it. In my view, the residential should be treated the same as commercial, and the whole main Street is destroyed with people who have brought premises, left them there, or they've been wrecked by fires, or whatever, and I'm told you

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cannot issue a CPO for the buildings, so I'm asking the chief executive is that his take on it, that you can't do anything about derelict buildings, commercial buildings on a main street in the town?

SHAY: I will go three questions at a time, if that is okay. Cllr Gerry Walsh.

>> Thanks, chief. ... you referred to the ... scheme Greystones with a starting day of Q4 of 2021. I know at the end of last year, you said that would start in Q2, so wondering why there is the delay there. Also on the mobility aid grants and the housing adaptation grants, the social housing in particular, look at the spend figure, the 91,000 in comparison with the overall grants, what are the plans to spend that money before ... are you assuming any monies not spent will be carried forward? On the tenant purchase scheme, the number of declined [audio dropped].

SHAY: Cllr Walsh has gone. I will move on to Cllr Derek Mitchell.

>> In relation to the chief executive's report. The ... into Black Line Road and cycle way, the CPO has been approved last week, which I'm delighted about. It has been almost every month for the past 12 months that it's going to be approved. I'm delighted to see it's moved. I did ask last month this feature of the chief executive's report, it is quite a major projects for the area, houses being built all over the place in the area. And I think of all the ... this project has not mentioned anywhere, it doesn't get mentioned at the municipal district, because it's not been managed by the local engineer. It doesn't get mentioned in the chief executive's report and only seems to mention central government approved schemes and ones which are funded from levies and things like that - construction levies - don't get mentioned. I'm anxious that the pressure is kept on the management and of the system to deliver this road. I understand, of course, there could be court cases with the CPO, but I would like to see construction start date pencilled in on the basis that there will be no court cases, and I just would like to see further public mention of this major scheme. Thank you.

SHAY: I will hand you back to the chief executive for response.

>> Thanks. Just in relation to vacant houses, it's working out well for us, those CPOs, because there are buildings that are not being used, an opportunity to get social housing back into the stock. In relation to the commercial vehicles, I might come back to Cllr... separately. If we do a CPO on a commercial vehicle order, there's going to be a water treatment demand, we have to justify that through the CPO process. That's maybe what he was referring to. If there are specific sites, I can certainly talk to him about it. We will have to prove if we are CPO that we can't develop and we need him for a particular purpose. That's maybe where he's coming from there. In relation to Cllr Walsh, look, it's on the programme. It's a very significant programme. In terms of social housing delivery, direct delivery, we delivered more than - we're the second highest last year in terms of - so, there is a detailed work programme there, it's a question of appointing architects, et cetera. The mobility aid grant is demand-led to a certain extent, so obviously we deal with demand. There are delays now in relation to getting builders. It can be difficult because the people just back from lockdown address the difficulty of getting labour, et cetera. Sometimes, there can be a difficulty there. We move to to help the demand as quickly as possible. Cllr Mitchell, probably be in all hearing

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to that anyway, it's gone to the board now, but we will get a bit of publicity around it, and included in the chief executive's report.

SHAY: Cllr Fortune followed by Cllr Behan.

>> Thanks for the report. Just a few things. I welcome the idea of the centre in ... getting the four-two beds of the people of the mature age. That is good, but, I'm curious why we only - I only know about it today. I think that's a problem. I think Cllr Snell made a lot of sense in what he said earlier on to the previous discussion, but, it doesn't excuse us as public representatives being properly informed in advance and not saying, oh, God, is that happening? How come I wasn't told about it? I raise that as a kind of side issue, but I do welcome what is listed in your report.

What is the gap between what we're giving tenants and the market at the moment and how is that being covered if someone can't afford to make up the difference? And on the homeless side of it but staying with housing, could I get a list, or could we maybe get a quick rundown of in addition to Wicklow County Council themselves who is providing accommodation for homeless throughout the county and how that is working. Also, on the Glendalough master plan, is it possible get a 21 page on that, I presume at some stage we're going to get a presentation on exactly what is going on. I'm genuinely interested because tourism is something I'm interested in. A full understanding of how we're doing there. On derelict sites, can I just get a feel for what we are actually doing about derelict sites? I'm aware of a derelict site of my own, and I live with myself, sitting there for years and years. I think whatever penalties are in place, it is a hindrance to anyone just leaving them like that. I would like to know what we are doing and how we see that plan happening on the timeline basis, because I think at this stage now, some of these sites need to have action taken on them in a very serious manner. On ... town I see there's been more progress from the last report, and curious looking at what is in your report to see what kind of quotes, what the expense level of the quotes we are getting, to get an idea on the potential expenditure on that particular project. Thanks, Chair.

SHAY: Cllr Behan?

>> Thanks ... First of all could I acknowledge and thank the roads section for engagement they had with residents on Kilmurray Cottages there. There had been a major issue of speeding on that road which is effectively a residential road, and there's going to be a trial scheme where it will be one way in the southerly direction.

I want to acknowledge the engagement of the staff of the road section with the local residents. I think that trial is due to start soon and certainly welcome the fact that the road section moved so quickly on it to try to address the dangerous situation there was there, and obviously see how the trial works out. But on roads, can I ask the chief executive, does he have a date yet for when the route, the optimal route, or the proposed route, first-choice route for the new M11 and N11 work will be announced? We're getting kind of hints that it might be soon. I would like the chief executive to confirm what date we know that preferred route is going to be? Could I also ask what is the proposed date for the completion of the parallel road in Kilmakanak. Traffic is now again back on the M11, the tailbacks are beginning again, and I would welcome if there is a completion date, when is

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that going to happen? I note that there is certainly information now on commencement notices - I raised this at the last meeting - but I have to be honest and say I don't understand some of the information. As it is presented. And really my question is, are there delays with the processing of commencement notices and completion certs? I'm not really clear having read the report whether there are or not. Is the chief executive happy with the throughput of the commencement notices given there's such a pressure now to get houses built? I'm quite concerned what was said or not said in the chief executive's report regarding Bray town centre. There's been no activity on that site effectively for the last couple of months since the Covid restrictions were lifted. We know there was no activity during Covid, but since Covid restrictions on building have been lifted, there's still suspiciously happening on that site, and quite a lot of machinery has been moved off the site. I noticed that we're now talking about Oak Mount rather than Glen Briar, where the actual building contractors on the site, Glen Briar. Are there problems there between Oak Mount and Glen Briar, are there difficulties that will hold up the progress on that particular development? Rumour would have it that that is the case, and I would like him to clarify that if he possibly can, and I would like him to clarify what is the position regarding the cliff walk between Bray and Greystones. Where are we at in terms of trying to organise an alternative route for walkers, many, many of whom will have used that route over the last number of years. Has Bray Municipal Direct taken up his suggestion about applying for funding for public toilets in Bray? The chief executive made a very good point at the last meeting that there were grants available for public toilets. I haven't heard back from Bray MD whether they've put in an application, but they certainly need it. They have put it and other municipal districts. Can the chief executive tell me what is happening to Bray in regards to this particular issue.

SHAY: Councillor Leonard.

>> I will go on about the derelict buildings. In relation to the maritime section, I just want to ask is there any update on the nature-based cost of protection being applied under the climate fund. This is something that we need to look at all along the coast but particularly Arklow which won't be covered by the Irish rail system and I would like an update on the Irish rail coastal protection works as well. Also in relation to the maximising the offshore wind opportunity, are there any plans for a dredging or planning regime in Arklow or Wicklow? There is a substantial concern of stakeholders and users of the port that we are missing an economic opportunity that they won't be able to access the ports. I wanted an update on that. In relation to the RDF for the harbour, I was wondering, you state that the Department of Housing and URDF has been requested for feed I look on the previous applications that weren't successful, and when you get the feedback, would it be possible for the Arklow councillors to receive a copy of that report, and to input into the next submission prior to the submission of it - if we could have the input into that, that would be great. In relation to the Arklow flood relief scheme, this is a strategic infrastructure development. Will that come before the member similar to the recent fund we inputted into before planning is decided? I think the date is 23rd July for submissions, and I would urge all of the Wicklow County Councillors to have a look at that scheme. It is a substantial scheme - I know it's a local issue - but in the bigger picking of things economically, I know it's very important and I appreciate everybody's input in that. Then just in relation to the environmental section, I was wondering would it be to be to, under the chief

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executive's report, to maybe list mature tree removals every month and trees planted on the report to keep a record of it for municipal?

SHAY: I will hand you back to the chief executive.

>> Just going back to Cllr ... and the housing ones. In relation to the tenants of market, the homeless, and the homeless provision, if he's there?

>> Yes, the service one is a particularly awkward one to answer because there are a number of bodies that are involved in supporting accommodation, specifically disability, but there's more than that. There is the housing first bodies, also support for the UN refugees, and the pro ... bodies also can purchase specific houses for under ... for specific groups. Maybe I will talk to Cllr ... of specific questions, but in general, there is, it is a partnership arrangement, and they're involved in a lot more simply than just providing services in particular cases. Maybe we're just better off - widening the question, they're involved in a lot cases in a lot of support services, and also mentioned it there, but maybe if he asked a specific question, I will give him an up-to-date or detailed explanation of it. As regards the HAP, there is an allowance for the Wicklow - I didn't check it on the website, there is a specific allowance for Wicklow. That is the allowance of the rental variable. If there is an extra allowance which is 20% under homeless HAP and that increases, but if there is a grab between it, that's a relationship between the applicant and the landlord, but we don't although them all of the borrow, or take too much money, or take too much of a grab. They're not allowed. We want to prove that. That might answer that specific question.

>> In relation to the Glendalough master plan, there was a public consultation in relation to all of that. That's gone back to the consultants who are now preparing their report. It will be ready I think around the end of July, so as soon as we have that, there will be a presentation to the councillors, so we can get an executive summary, et cetera. Derelict sites, the legislation isn't very strong on this. We have the derelict site register, a penalty that the owner has to pay, and, if something becomes dangerous, then we can step in and carry out the works. Look, I think it's something, if the specific sites might talk to Cllr ... separately in relation to it. We do maintain the register, and, if it is dangerous, we keep an eye on them. In Whites Town, we have ... it's sub judice - so we will leave that while we go through the process and we will have details in relation to that. Cllr Behan, the exact date for the parallel road and the optimal route, now, I don't have it, but I might ask Colin Lavery or Helena if they're there for the date of that if that is okay?

>> The date, driven by the contractor, now, it is the 17th August for the ... service road. That is the current completed date.

>> Great. Thanks, John. The M11 update. Do you have a date for the final route?

>> We are targeting the publication of the preferred option as early as possible. Before we go to public consultation on it, it will be organising the briefing with the members and advance consultation particularly with effectively land owners, so - given that this is going to - given that we are now running into the holiday season, we are kind of giving consideration really, but the time we had that Scott when we commence the public consultation process. It is in the coming weeks.

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>> When we have an exact date, we will let members know. The commencement notices: you know, the framework for building control authorities allow seven days for building control to validate, invalidate, or request revised information. So, obviously, since the lockdown, there's a significant number of applications coming through. The problem seems to be they're not getting through the validation process, so, for example, in April, there were 72 commencement notices submitted, 58 commencement notices required further information which was requested and reviewed upon resubmission. So 14 commencement notices were validated within seven days, remaining 58 were validated within 14 days, so as soon as the information came back in, the seven-days clock started ticking again and were all done on the 14 days. In May, 16 commencement notices were submitted and 51 validated. 19 were validated within seven days and remaining 41 were validated within seven days of the requested information coming back in, so 19 within seven days, 31 and 14 days. So, really, it's the accuracy of the submission, it is the issue. The most common reasons for the request for information or statutory forms incorrectly completed or submitted, compliance, incorrect commencement notice submitted, inadequate or instructions provided, multi-unit developments. There was a technical glitch in the national system late April early May, so some emails didn't come in, but that was all resolved. So, look, what date? What I've asked them to do is to liaise with the BCMS users, the agents, et cetera, talk through the submissions over the phone, and email, and, if there are commencements, you know, just to make sure that the agents understand and the individuals get the right information in to make sure there is enough information there to validate it. They will work with people like that. If there are any particular commencement notices, let me know, but that is the situation as it stands at the moment. Bray Town Centre, I might ask Lorraine to comment. There is a report ready for the Bray MD tomorrow night. I know they're getting mobilised to go on site. I'm not aware of any disputes or whatever with the Glen Briar. I don't know if Lorraine wants to come in on that?

>> Yes, sure, executive, thank you. There is a full report that's been circulated by David Forth to the members. They concentrate on keeping the site COVID-19 user-friendly in the last couple of weeks and have done a big housekeeping exercise. They've removed plant and small machines no longer required. As with all construction projects they're trying to line up the contractors at suppliers to come in one condensed period to get the work completed in the most efficient and costly manner. This is proving to be a bit more difficult than originally expected, but in the meantime, all the design team work is continuing and there are regular project management team meetings ongoing. The major anchor is now at legals, and ... so that is to have been too. In relation to the toilets, there is, provided across the five districts. ... during COVID-19, and, I know Greystones, for example, have provided additional toilets, but they were starting out with one toilet, Wicklow town as well only starting out one toilet, whereas Bray, we have a number of toilet facilities, as you know, on the prom, so we are going to use that finance to upgrade the aquarium toilets which will be a permanent upgrade as they're in dire need of upgrading. It will be a spend of just over EUR 20,000. To compliment the outdoor staff on the way they cleaned up to keep the prom 3- from members of the public, users of those toilets facilities. Thanks.

>> In relation to the cliff walk, negotiation with the land owners hasn't - haven't concluded. When we have news on that, we will let you know. Building it back up, the area into the sea has to be

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rerouted. It is working through with the land owners. Cllr Leonard, the coastal protection, that is a big scheme, as you know, and it's going through the full public sector process, so that involves setting up a project team and setting out a business case. That's the first stage. That's where that is at at the moment. We will be looking at that area we're talking about in terms of nature-based funding. We will look at that as well, but the stages of that at the moment is a cost benefit analysis stage. The dredging of the ports, yes, it's something we're looking at in terms of how we go about that. You need typically, if you're dredging, you need a Dump the At Sea Licence from the DPA, and an Foreshore Licence, so we are working at how to fast-track that. I know that Wicklow was dredged back in 2014. We are looking at that, and there is a meeting take place today which we will have the outcome later. But it is something we are conscious of and have to be done every couple of years. The RDF, that meeting will take place this month. We will have feedback from the department. We can certainly discuss it and get your views. We will be applying with a consultant to get that application which I understand is opening up again in September. We will get that back in. And we have a just in relation to the trees, we have a tree policy being prepared at the moment, so when we have that, that will be presented to the SPC and to the members. We can obviously give information and the report in relation to trees.

>> No.

>> We will come back to you on it.

>> Sorry. I was just on mute there. Apologies, chief executive. As you know, the tree policy was up for discussion at our last SPC, and it has been, you know, the final draft has been looked at now. By the team. The climate action team. So, as soon as that will be finalised, we will get back to you as soon as possible.

>> Cllr Kavanagh?

>> Just a couple of things. With the funding to the toilets. Wicklow got their outdoor toilets last week. I know everybody's very appreciative of that, because they were really badly needed. ... for the provision of internal toilet facilities, across the districts during COVID-19. I know that there are additional toilets but they started out with one toilet and Whittle Town start with one toilet, whereas Bray, we have a number of toilet facilities on the promise, so we will use the finance to upgrade the aquarium toilets permanent upgrade as they are in need of upgrading. It is a spend of over 20,000 euro. to complement the outdoor staff on the clean-up, the waste management and the management of the toilets that we have got, as the members know, as the members of the public come in and use the toilet facilities. Thank you.

>>: In relation to the cliff work, the negotiations are not concluded with the landowners, not concluded, when we have news on that, we will let you know. Building it back up, the area that fell into the sea it is not realistic, so it must be improved. Councillor Leonard, the coastal protection, it is a big keep, as you know. It is going through the full public sector spending court process. Involving setting up a project team and setting out a business case for the cost benefit analysis. That is the

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stage at the moment. We have a member on the team, that is the first stage. That is where that is it. And to look at the area that you are talk about in terms of the nature-based funding but the stage is a cost benefit analysis stage. The dredging of the ports is something that we look at in terms of going about that. You need, typically for dredging a dumping and a sea licence from the EPA and a licence from what is now the department of housing so working on how to fast track that, is what we are looking at. I know that Wicklow was dredged in 2014. We are actively looking at that. There is a meeting taking place at TPA that I will have the outcome later. It is something that we are conscious of and will be done a number of years, typically ten years and a ten-year licence for dredging. DRDF, that meeting takes place in the month with feedback from the department. We can discuss it and get views, we will have a consultant to get that application, that I understand is opening up in September. We get that back in. We have a, in relation to the tree, we have a tree policy being prepared at the moment. So, when we have that, it will be presented to the ESBC and to the members and we can give information on the report in relation to the trees. Thawed gnawed is there anything more to add on that? it is important from the climate action point of view? Now, moving along, I was reading on the report. Under pollution, I didn't see anything updated on them. I know there are nitrates in the water. Is there an update on the residents, when they can have the water supply restored to them? It has been going on for about 4 to 5 months. Another thing a few months ago, we were informed that we had the results of a study that was commissioned to do with coastal erosion and that a number of areas along the coast were earmarked for protection because they were deemed to be necessary to save in order to protect railway lines and things like that. I want to know, has the council done any further work on receiving any kind of investment, any funding or funding stream, are they pursuing it? Obviously, time is moving on. The sooner we get started on the coastal road and the problem, the better. So an update on that. And then another item, to do, again, with mature trees or the cutting down of trees, I had also submitted a motion that I forwarded on to the SPC for comment. One of the things that came back to me was that they didn't understand why we needed to give notice to councillors, and the reason is that sometimes trees are removed and there is no good reason given. I'm still waiting for a response to why the mature tree was removed in Wicklow last year. I felt that the trees needed to text, I said two weeks, it could be even a week, so that people are aware before it happens, because you can't restore a tree after it's been cut down.

They mentioned that arbourers were involved but it was not the case, it was a tree surgeon, a completely different profession all together. So, while I appreciate that lots of things are being looked at in the tree policy, it is very important that if the tree is not causing any structural damage, is not diseased, isn't about to collapse due to storm damage, that I think councils should be notified and I think that should be in the tree policy, that we are notified because people are very attached to trees especially in urban areas, serving all kinds of purposes, and people get upset. I don't want to have to console people after the act to find out a tree was removed for absolutely no reason, other than the branches are hitting off a bus.

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SHAY: Councillor feed forward information to the climate action and Breege and the tree policy. I have to move on. There are lots of people waiting to come in. Were there any other points?

>>: No.

SHAY: Councillor Doyle.

>>: Can you hear me. Apologies for not being on camera, I have bad connection difficulties today.

I wanted to ask the Chief Executive about the proposed 30-kilometre per hour speed limit. This was proposed, it was put down as a motion in Bray Municipal district in 2018. It was approved. It was sent, a proposal for 30-kilometre speed limit in residential areas. It was accompanied by a detailed map and lot of work went into data proposal, endorsed by the district engineer and the Guardia, going to Wicklow for approval and it sort of disappear. So, I am requesting and asking for the Chief Executives' input on my request to put to the full council to ratify, to the full Wicklow County council to ratify so it can move on to the required public consultation process.

SHAY: Councillor Blake?

>>: I was going to say that the CPOs buildings in Arklow, does it extend to small towns and villages? There are many derelict buildings that could be CPO? So, I want to know have we done the CPO in the small towns and villages? And I know you asked to refrain from bringing things up at county level when it could be dealt with at local level but there are a number of houses in the rural area that the council own that have been left in a derelict state for the last number of years. In one place, in Carnew, it was brought up in the past, a property there for years and years. I remember it being a fine house, a lovely house but it has derelict now, it's been brought up on a number of occasions, and at local level but nothing has happened. Also a second one at [inaudible], it is a council house, that a family lived in for years, that has been left there. So, what is the situation regards bringing these houses back to use? And I'm aware of the fact that there are houses in the walk ram area left unused for a number of years. Look, we have a lot of houses but we [inaudible] have, people want to live in the rural areas, this they are asking the council can they have the houses, yet they are left there in a derelict state.

SHAY: I will hand you back to the Chief Executive.

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>>: To that area, Burn Derry quarter, if John Bowes has an update?

>>: Irish Water have installed equipment to monitor the nitrate levels and working on a proposal to enable them to remove the do not consume notice. So we hope that there will be progress on that in the coming weeks.

>>: Thank you, John. In relation to coastal erosion, I agree with Councillor Kavanagh, it is a necessary and a priority project. It is going through the first stage of the public sector spending code and consultants appointed to do the cost benefit analysis, with all big project it is where you start now. When I get the information, I will alert the members. The trees, I may suggest passing it on to the SPC who look at the issue and we will come back as part of the tree policy.

In relation to Councillor Doyle. I have a report here on that a county wide review of speed limits commenced in January 2016 carried out in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Transport, tourism and sport for the application of speed limits in Ireland. The process includes, extensive pre-draft consultation with TAI and district couples, following which the draft by-laws were advertised for public consultation. So reports presented to each municipal district and following the meetings and a frame draft drawn up by the [inaudible] with a new special speed limit by laws approved and adapted so the county Wicklow Road traffic special speed limit by laws of 2017 came into the force on 1st of December, 2017. And so, must be adhered by the guidelines and each road in the counterparty examined and the overall objection to ensure that safe limits are set for a road in question and reflecting appropriately the current network, so that the roads are self-regulating and explaining. Such speed limits may not always be compatible but should be in accordance. And reviewing a particular response to road safety area, engineering measures must be implemented if necessary. A review of special minutes are conducted in 5 yearly basis and the setting and management of speed limits is trained and competent in the use of the guidelines, so the Wicklow County council will be reviewing the speed limits and the 5-year period, at which the Bray area will be considered. [inaudible] there are not individual roads or streets considered separately. So, the process is starting, and the issues raised were the 30 kilometres and Bray will be a part of that. Councillor Blake, the CPOs, yes, we have funding now for revised for long-term vacant properties. Looking at those. They are labour intensive to get the work done. But we have a group that are committed to look at those houses that remain vacant for a significant period of time. The CPOs, there is a lot of work involved, five to date, and spread around the county and looking at more vacant properties but the ones you mentioned we will take on board.

SHAY: Councillor Dermot O'Brien?

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>>: A couple of brief and concise questions. Looking to see, maybe not now but, to request a report on the retention, the recruitment and the retention of the Fire Service.

I know that a lot of money is put into the recruitment, to get the best people for the job. That is baffling that in 2020 or 2021, you can live in the Durrigal Road in Bray and dream of being a fire firefighter but not a chance of getting into the service because of the living arrangements, so if we can get recruitment across the county. And to follow-up in terms of Bray central. There is, I think it is fair to be concerned if (Greenbrier) or (Gonzo) as they are the ones that do the work of getting the subs on side and managing the work, so for that to be taken over from Glen Brighter is really important to get to data bottom of that. And two more, wondering about the CRM system, maybe getting, is there a review of that, to see how it is operating and fulfilling the ambition it was set up to fulfil. I will not be the guy that says as it does not work for me, it is not working but I'm struggling with the response and I'm trying to honour the CRM system, to not 20 by-pass it, and to go to the directors but struggling with the auto response. It brought in that, that a review of the CRM for members, maybe, it man a glitch or maybe it is me. And the last one, celebrating the Disney stuff in Innerscary, there seems there is a beauty and the beast about it. I wonder is there an S LA involved in that, what is our role in terms of a multibillion-dollar company like Disney coming into the village to appropriate the space and working from there? Is it something with a contract associated with it? Money exchanged? What role do we play? 6 weeks in, there is 6 weeks left and emerging issues that the community are responding to, huge credit to them but to get a sense of format as elected member as to what the deal is with Innerscary. If not now, maybe a few lines will be great.

SHAY: Councillor Scot.

>>: Just to say, I was just wondering if I could have an update on the study rooms or areas in the libraries across the county, when they will be opening up to use. I don't know if it is reliant on national guidelines or if it is a local decision. I know that the one in Greystones is open. If there is a booking system or plans around that.

SHAY: Councillor McManus.

>>: A question around the outdoor dining. It is great to see we are doing so much work to encourage that and lovely to walk around and to see the businesses getting the chance. But I have a concern about the accessibility issues for people maybe in wheelchairs and is there a support or guidelines for local businesses if they are applying to have outdoor seating? How they can best make sure it is

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accessible for those who may also need to use the space or is it within the planning application or more information about that? Thank you.

SHAY: Back to the Chief Executive.

>>: Recruitment and retention in the Fire Service we can look at that. I think we have a full complement. But maybe it is retention, that is the question you are asking, so we will get information on that. Bray Central there will be a full report for Bray tomorrow night, so I think we can deal with the issues. The CRM system, thank you for sticking with it. We may, I will certainly look into it if there are issues with the members. But we may get a presentation in the autumn in how the system is working, if there are issues, we will take it up. With the film industry in general, we have a film commissioner. Obviously, who will work with the industry and work with the roads and trying to facilitate it. You know, we are a destination for films and they have to find sets. I don't think there is a formal contract in relation to that but we do provide as much assistance as possible. You mentioned issues taking place in presumably in relation to traffic, that with will discuss with the Gardai to deal with the issues but I will take it up with the film commissioner. And the study areas in the libraries, we usually go with the national guidelines with the library development section in the LGMA, the booking system, yep, we will certainly look at that. It makes sense, when it comes back, hopefully not too long.

Just in relation to outdoor dining, the applications going to the area engineer, and planning but mainly the area engineer and they look at the issues on the ground. We will ask them to look into the accessibility on the ground and ask them for their full attention.

SHAY: Councillor O'Connor.

>>: One thing that came up at the climate change, and the biodiversity SPC, about the decarbonisation zone. One thing I noticed from the Chief Executive report, is that support is given to Arklow SCC to gather data. I was asking the Chief Executive, as it was coming to the decision as the SPC that air quality data needs to be gathered in Arklow, as currently it is not nor in [inaudible] or Wicklow Town so asking the Chief Executive to think about having air quality data to be measured in Arklow for a big project like this. Thank you.

SHAY: Thank you, Councillor Bourke?

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>>: Thank you. I have a few short questions there. To the Chief Executive in relation to the film industry can you comment on what film is being done in Red Cross? I noticed yesterday there is a lot of new hording on the premises, so it looks ready for filming. In relation to parking, I am concerned, I noticed that the parking receipts for Bray are off the scale in comparison to Arklow. I know it is a bigger town but looking at Wicklow, Arklow would have been similar. Wicklow receiving 66,000, we are down to 40 in Arklow. It must be ringing alarm bells to the traders in Arklow as it seems an indication there is not much business taking place in town. I am concerned, can we have your reaction and what can be done to address that. The [inaudible] report, to clarify if agreements were come to with all of the landowners, that I hope you can say yes. Finally in relation to a bit of reflection there, on the tree stream on the site, when we brought it up earlier in the meeting. This time ten years ago I was in Shay Cullen's place, we spent a lot of time discussing the tree trails and the CPO costing £3 million. We had a couple of special meetings, I am not sure if all of the members who were annoyed at that time, still on the council but it is not bad value for money. Sites for sale in Greystones today are advertised at 1 million an acre. It is not bad value for money. And so, well done to the engineer Mark Devereux and his assistant, they have done a good job on the Arklow proposals for the scheme, I hope it is looked on favourably by [inaudible] with a couple of amendments.

SHAY: Councillor Snell.

>>: We have a good report again, 69 pages from the Chief Executive, a decade ago, Wicklow County council carried out essential studies through all of the towns and the villages of the area, to save we change the face of all of our towns and villages is an understatement. From that funding was secured and work was carried out, particularly at pedestrian crosses, footpaths to help people with visual impairments mobility issues and it has stood the test of time. I think it was one of the best things that happened over the last ten years within this county.

But my question is specifically to the Chief Executive in regards to, it seems that there is a gap now, unfortunately, where housing estates, and not new housing estates, housing estates built 20 and 30 years ago, unfortunately it was contacted this morning on a housing estate, a couple of hundred yards from the county council buildings, and the occupational therapist there says that they cannot allow the residents within the estate who need wheelchairs to access the estate in and out as the footpaths are not suitable. Now, I'm talking about the recess for wheelchairs and mobility scooters to get up on the footpath. I ask the Chief Executive do we have a policy to look at the older estates? The newer estates will be going by the new planning laws and with regards to people who know the area, and to take on board that [inaudible] is not wanting to discuss district issues and using this as

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an example as obviously it will reflect right across the whole county. But the particular estate, who those who live and work in east Wicklow as public representatives realise there was a policy where trees were planted at the time. It raised not just the pipe and the sewerage and the network water under the fat paths, it has risen the fat poots so talking about the tree policy going forward, to have it reflected within the planning laws where for new housing estates, while it looks lovely to have the trees planted along the side of the road that they are mindful of the type of trees to be allowed planting as some of them, the roots go into the adjoining properties and that. But to get back to the point. Chief Executive, I am looking to see, is it possible to get a study carried out on housing estates? Particularly housing estates built 20, 30 years ago as it is an aging population that live in them. If, as I have discovered today, that the HSE and the occupational therapists have major concerns that will impact on people's lives, and I think if there is funding that we can chase for all housing estates to carry out the studies, similar to what happened in the county ten years ago, I think it would be a worthwhile project. Thank you.

SHAY: Thank you. I will bring in Director Kilkenny, followed by Director Gallaher before the Chief Executive.

>>: Thank you very much in response to the query 254 licences. We have been processing a lot of them. You may see it in the districts in the various restaurants and the dining areas. There is the one issue that we pay attention to, accessibility. I can't remember which one but last week there was one restaurant refused on that particular issue alone and the decarbonisation and air quality, what I will say is that we are actually proceeding with trying to establish an air quality monitor not only in Arklow but also in the [inaudible] district and putting it forward as part of our plans on climate action.

Thank you.

SHAY: Director Gallaher?

>>: Thank you for raising it. There is a dedicated email address and phone line number for elected members. I will circulate it again. It is highlighted about the automated message may be long. It is there because of COVID-19 to explain to the members of the public we are operating on an appointment basis, and giving various information but we will look at that. Thank you.

SHAY: Now back to the Chief Executive.

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>>: In relation to the parking receipts, much of that is COVID related. It is up and down. We don't know until it is back to normal. We are doing the traffic management plan for Arklow to highlight many of the issues and general economic development is what we are looking at also in terms of all towns with the likes of DRDF coming on stream to improve the public realm in the town centres but lots to be addressed within the traffic management plan. The CPO, everything is CPO, so that is how that is operate. It is almost ready and ready to go to the board. In relation to the flood relief scheme, Mark Devereux and John Bayley and the team have put lots of work into it with the consultants so hoping for a favourable response in relation to that.

In relation to Councillor Snell the estates, needless to say, they are taken in charge and they become the responsibility of the municipal districts we can look at exactly what you are talking about with the trees, if it is a problem or the footpath is a problem around the town, and the other towns, so, sent, if we can get funding in relation to that, it will be worthwhile, we will look into it. But it is a problem that will cost money to solve, I will say.

SHAY: Thank you. To bring in Director Gleeson there.

SHAY: I will bring in Dr Gleeson there.

>> Thanks, Cathaoirleach. In relation to the parking income, the overall income is down in comparison to a normal year. Arklow is down 39%, so actually in line with the overall situation for all the districts, I suppose. Historically, looking at a full year, Arklow wouldn't have been in line with Wicklow municipal district. I think our last normal year 2019 was 360,000 was taken in Wicklow municipal district and 250 towns in Arklow. It's not comparable, those two, but I would say Arklow, it is isn't any different to any of the other districts in relation to the parking income, and obviously that's the chief executive mentioned, that's been impacted by Covid. So we will be making the case to the department like last year to try and secure funding for the loss of income in that regard.

SHAY: Thank you, members. Item number nine.

>> Cathaoirleach? Just before you ... could I briefly ask the CEO if there was any update on the turning of the sods for the new fire stations in Dunlaven and in Could I also previously put on record our gratitude and thanks to the chief ... officer Eamonn Dempsey who travelled out here on a couple of occasions over the last few months where we had gorse fires and summer fires setting to burn homes. I want to put on record thanks for his dedication and his concern and visits to people in the area, and his reassurance, so just did have an update ...

>> Thanks, Cathaoirleach. We have appointed an internal team that have members, the chief fire officer and other members of the fire team and appointing consultants to do detailed design for

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those who fire stations and bring them to the planning process. We want considered a sub turning occasion, but we will look at that and come back to you.

SHAY: Cllr Walsh, I really want to move on. Be bereave, please.

>> I want to acknowledge the work done by the council there on dog fouling, the animated video programme, the audio device programme, and the LED signage of the bag, et cetera. The technology works done there because that continues to be an issue.

SHAY: Thank you. Okay, item number 9 on the agenda to consider and approve draft civic memorial policy, copy attached, deferred meeting from 14th June.

>> The ... has been circulated to the elected members, approved by the CPG and considered by the plenary council on 12th April. It has been since considered by each of the five municipal districts, all of which have approved and recommended the policy for approval with few minor amendments. The minor amendments being includes the Cathaoirleach of the relevant municipal district, so it gives strengthens the role of the municipal district in the policy, an opportunity to use bilingual wording, English, Irish, and another language, the availability of the inventory online, and to revert to applicants in a timely fashion, if to notify donor's family if a seat had to be removed. Basically, just to recap, it's in two parts. The first part is the naming of key infrastructure and the setting-up of a technical, memorial technical committee to consider that. The second part considers community memorials such as the installation of park benches and the planting of trees, and they're to be considered by municipal directors. All five municipal districts have considered and recommended the policy to the plenary council collectively for approval.

SHAY: Could I ask for a proposer and a seconder, please?

>> I propose.

>> I second, Cathaoirleach.

>> Seconded by Aoife Flynn Kennedy. All in agreement? Yes, thank you. Number 10, correspondence. I will hand you back to Helen.

>> Just a few items of correspondence. Firstly, the minutes of the protocol and CPG minutes and all correspondence received since December 2020 have been circulated to the members, just to note that. The remuneration and expenses of local authority members regulations came into effect on the 1st July. I will go into more detail at the protocol meeting later. But the salary will come into effect from 1 July, and the expenses will come into effect from 1 July but there is to be further correspondence in that regard, and once the detail is received, the changes will be made in relation to that. A compulsory vouched expenses allowance called the Local Representation Allowance, is being introduced, and that will replace the fixed annual rate as well as the current optional vouch expenses allowances. Finally, the council adopted a new dignity at work policy and that includes the elected members, copies of that will be circulated tomorrow. If there are any questions in relation to the policy, you can contact either myself or Lorraine Gallagher. Director of Services, we will be happy to assist with any of that.

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SHAY: We will move on to notice of motion, in the name of Cllr Joe ... I need a seconder for this proposal.

>> I can second it.

SHAY: Okay, Cllr Leonard. I will read the proposal, that Wicklow County Council acknowledges the final report of the commission of investigation into mother and baby homes, and proactively reaches out to survivors and survivor groups to understand how the council can best support their needs as well as acknowledge this dark period in our nation's and county's history in a sensitive and appropriate manner. I will get the response from Helen.

>> At the meeting of Wicklow County Council held on Monday 21 March 2021, the Cathaoirleach of the council made a statement to the meeting acknowledging the application of the report of the Commission of Investigation into mother and baby homes of the state. The apology issued by Taoiseach at that time was echoed by Wicklow County Council. The council ...ly will be given to the report in the coming months and support local measures furthering the development of the government's action plan as related to local government, and under the eight specific teams set down below. The survivor-centred approach, apology, access to personal information, archiving and databases, education and research, memorialisation, restart of recognition, dignified burial. Miss Catherine Wright is dealing with inquiries in relation to the county home and Wicklow County Council will engage sensitively with survivors living in our area who can benefit from the council's services. Arrangements will be made to make a copy of the commission's final report available in all our libraries once they've reopened. In addition, the county archive services propose to reprint the book Time Did Not Stand Still for Anyone Interested in the County Home. Mr Byrne has given his consent to the reprint of this book.

SHAY: Cllr Neary, would you like to comment?

>> Yes, thank you, Cathaoirleach. Thank you for that response. I want to acknowledge the great work the council has been doing behind the scenes. I worked with Cllr Pat Kennedy previously. I had submitted this motion about three months ago, and unfortunately, for mother and baby home survivors, they're still looking for truth and justice to what happened to them. And I thought I put in this motion back then just to acknowledge where they stood at that time, which is they were digesting a report that they are still trying to address some issues that are in that report, so, while we acknowledge the report, we must also acknowledge survivors' responses to it. I didn't want to have in the motion itself that we just say sorry. I believe in active apologies, and I think our apology to all those that suffered, it will take time, and it will take a lot of work behind the scenes to reach out to survivors, and to offer them support, so I'm asking that the council continue to do that, and, where they can, to proactively engage with councillors as well, because I know we were contacted by many survivors. I'm contacted by family members quite a lot, who may have had parents who had passed away who were survivors, or who have grandparents, they have a history in their family of it, and they want - they're really looking for somewhere to be able to tell their story, to find out more information, and further down the line, when we get more clarity, when survivors get more clarity from the government about what they're going to do, that, as a council, we look to memorialisation

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in the most sensitive manner, too that we work with other councillors and constituents and proactively engage with survivors and their families to see what would be the best way to memorialise and commemorate those who unfortunately suffered such tragedy that we still remember to this day. Thank you.

>> Can I come in?

>> Sorry, I just wanted to echo Jodie's sentiments there, but I think there's a wider unseen amount of people that actually would have been linked to a lot of these homes, especially the one in Rathdrum that people are not aware that they were part of this growing up, my own parents would have fostered children out of Rathdrum in the early 1960s and 1970s. I think there is a wider extent of people that were affected by homes and people who were adopted, some of which are my own family members, not from there, but the fact that somebody hasn't got - somebody at a desk can have more information than a person themselves to their own birth right and information about their own family history is so wrong in this day and age. I think that support should be extended to everybody in the community that is affected, not just in these homes, but the wider society that are adopted as well. Thanks.

SHAY: Thank you. Well said by both of you there. Moving on to motion number 2. Notice of motion in the names of Cllr Joe Behan, Mary, Leonard and Crean, that this council welcomes the government's decision to ratification of CITA to allow ... committee level. We call in the government to allow a free vote for all ... members on any possible ratification, bearing in mind the impact of the proposed investor court system on national and local economies and services. Would someone like to - actually, I will get the robs from Helen first.

>> The response on this one is that it is a matter for elected members to consider.

>> Cathaoirleach, if I thought -

>> Just to say that events have overtaken the original motion we had proposed in February, which was asking that the government would postpone the ratification to allow for an opportunity for discussion, and, thankfully, that has happened. That discussion is ongoing at the moment, and the implications are very, very serious for us in Wicklow, and in the country generally if Caesar is passed and there is a national debate on that. We're asking the council, the full council, to support the idea that members of the Dail and "Would have a free vote when it comes to this issue when they eventually come to vote on it. I don't think we need to say any more on it. That's the motion we would like to propose today, Cathaoirleach. Thank you.

>> I would like to second the motion. Obviously, it's nice to see that, or it's great to see there's going to be a discussion on it, but a free vote is definitely required, so that people can vote according to their own consciences, because, as a lot of people who have read up on this, I'm not sure if everybody has, but, anybody who has read up on it will know that it would certainly impact on our ability to introduce certain social policy changes, such as, for example, the introduction of a living wage, or change in the minimum wage, change in the number of hours worked per week, or anything that could impact on the profitability of companies. We could be sued if the profitability of

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companies in which these Canadian companies have invested is impacted. It would also affect things like our ability to bring about climate change improvements such as, for example, ... bans, levels on fossil fuels, et cetera. That could also be impinged. So, I want to second this motion. I think it's a really important motion, and I think if anybody hasn't read up on it, I would advise them please, please, please go and read up on it. It could be one of the most important pieces of legislation ever to be passed, or not passed in the Dail.

>> Thank you. Cllr Crean? You're on mute.

>> Sorry. Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just to support the motion. I think as local public representatives, we will be the ones that meet head on, the implications this on the ground, particularly in terms of environmental policies and environmental law, that could be challenged nationally, and then obviously as we heard earlier, we just have to accept the national legislation at a local level because we can't change, but we certainly can raise our concerns or objections whereas we should do that relation to CETA and this motion is a good way to send that message to the government.

SHAY: Members, are we agreed on this motion? Happy to move on?

>> Thanks to members and the Cathaoirleach.

>> Number three, notice of motion in the name of Dermot O'Brien. Do you have a seconder, Cllr O'Brien?

>> Ly second it.

>> That this council undertakes a process to become a trauma-informed organisation. Trauma is a widespread public health problem that impacts on every facet of society ... events and circumstances that people experience throughout the course of their lives or physically and emotionally harmful, and that having lasting adverse effect on an individual's mental, physical, social, or emotional well-being. When we talk about trauma-informed services, we mean systems that recognise not just the signs and symptoms of trauma, but the widespread impact of trauma in our society, and respond by addressing trauma through policies and practices. Services should be delivered in a way that address people's experiences of trauma and actively seek to prevent retraumatizing people who use services. Just hand you over to Helen.

>> That is one of the first - as one of the first point of contact for service users, the customer service innovation hub is operated by a team of customer service advisers. All advisers have undertaken and participated in extensive training relevant to their role which included a tailor-made programme facilitated by the IPA, the excellence and customer care programme. This programme contained training on crisis trauma, dealing with behavioural and conflict management. Additionally, the customer service innovation hub has liaised with project leader and ... for information and support. One of our own customer service advisers has completed a certificate in professional pastoral care. One of the key service areas includes the housing department staff. Wicklow County Council have a qualified social worker and a resident social worker available along with other staff members with

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relevant qualifications. Supports are also offered to staff members of Wicklow count could not for counselling services for them and their families experiencing trauma or other crisis situations.

SHAY: Dermot O'Brien, would you like to comment?

>> Thanks, Cathaoirleach. Just briefly, thanks, Helen, for that response. Very comprehensive. I appreciate that. Cathaoirleach, this is just something where, for me, it's a vision of our council bringing itself to that level of care and attention to those who are the most vulnerable, and it's bringing us to the highest level, and I think we're always striving for that. Also, when I imagine other councillors, and especially the veterans across the council, I'm sure, and I've no doubt in my mind, that every single councillor has a story to tell about somebody who has presented to them in a really most vulnerable scenario, and that maybe, I know for me I would put my hand up and say there are times I walk away and wonder could I have done something better there? Are they leaving more distressed than when they arrived, or is there more skill I could acquire to be better at meeting them where they're at and maybe managing co-regulation in a scenario and I'm sure some members here are tuned into that world. I just believe that a trauma-informed organisation is one that has at every point of contact an understanding and awareness of what it means to be trauma-informed, and an understanding that for some people it's about adverse childhood experiences they carry into their adult life, or for others, it's an incident or moment in life. For others again, it's ongoing. Struggles, so really, yes, I just feel that this is something that we could really bring this council to the highest level in terms of its quality, both amongst members and staff. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

>> Cllr McManus?

>> When I was doing research on this, mental health Ireland and Alcohol Action and other stakeholders have either started training. I know that Jigsaw have started training all their staff, including admin staff on being trauma informed and asking front line services such as local authorities to become that, because, while you can imagine that some behavioural results of trauma might come out at things like confront table meetings, people who are traumatised also have to pay their motor tax and do the mundane things. You don't know when a trigger might happen, and so it is about understanding that as well. It's everyone from the person at the door to the person behind the counter, to us answering phones, and I will just say, from my experience as a councillor, since trying to learn about what it means to be trauma-informed, I found it, hopefully, beneficial for my own reactions and responses to individual and my own well-being as well to know that I have the tools to be equipped to deal with what is in front of me. I think it would be great for us to move to that next level as Dermot says.

SHAY: I think we are all agreed with that. Eat number 4: notice of motion in ... that this council writes to the minimum responsible for local government with planning for the following proposal, that as part of the conditions for planning applications for new housing estates, developers must install automated external defibrillators, AEDs. We are also calling on the minister to investigate or review in order to install AEDs in all existing residential developments across Ireland. 70% of cardiac areas happen at home. Every minute there is a delay in acting reduces the person's chance of survival by

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10%. Having the AED close at hand provides a vital link in the chain of survival, and that offers the person adult, baby, or child the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest. Response from Helen?

>> It is considered that the provision of AEDs in new housing estates should be dealt with outside of the planning process in a similar way that the provision of AEDs in public areas and existing housing estates is dealt with. Hence it is considered that the timing for the provision of the AEDs is best suited to when estates are already occupied either partially or fully, and in addition it is beneficial to work with the resident in an estate to agree the location of AEDs. Planning permission is not required in existing estates.

>> Thank you for that response. I think today is about sending out a strong signal that this council is in support of AEDs, not throwing up obstacles. We believe that Cllr done in an Ferris and myself believe planning is the appropriate place for this because that's where you start, not end. A number of councillors got together, cross-party and non-party, and to listen to some of the stories, it was harrowing, to be quite honest with you. It should not take an incident like Eriksen instance to highlight this. The former Cathaoirleach predecessor spoke very emotionally about this, because of his experiences, and I think if we were put it out here today, each and every one of us would have our own experience of this. We would like the motion to go through. There no harm in looking at it, no harm to be looking into, for it to be instigated, not for it to be passed right away by the minister, but if we don't start looking into these things, and asking for these things, we're never going to get them. We're talking about life and death, not a foot path or a road. This is life and death. I would appeal to my fellow members to come on board on this as it is a matter of life and death. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

>> Cllr Ferris?

>> I would like to support the motion. I think the points that he makes are very relevant. It is indeed a life-and-death situation. During the cross-party and non-party presentation we got, we were asked a specific town, or area we lived in, did we know where the defibrillators are its situated in most fuss there didn't. In fact, they didn't know where they were all situated. And generally, they are situated in main streets and in shopping areas, and that kind of thing, where there are people, you know, away from home. So it doesn't really help if you're living in an estate, and you have to maybe driving out somewhere to get an AED, so I think as Cllr O'Brien said, it would do no harm to pass this motion today to contact the minister, and to see where it goes from then. I think that we should support - I would ask for all the member support on it. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

>> Cllr Mags Crean? You're on mute again.

>> Sorry. My head's not working today. I had my vaccine, so! Yes, I think it's a great motion I would like to support. It's simple suggestion, and something that it could be looked at nationally, it could be as Cllr O'Brien said life or death for people, which is fundamental. I think it's excellent. Happy to support.

SHAY: Cllr Jerry Walsh.

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>> Again, I would like to support the motion, and listening to Helen's contribution, if there are statutory reasons why it can't be part of a planning process, it could be a suggestion, that at preplanning stages, certainly at every new development, and existing developments for that matter.

SHAY: Joe Behan?

>> It's one of the best motions to come towards Wicklow County Council. It's a positive attempt to ensure that lives will be saved practically, and I think we should all support it, and extend it to the minister. Well done to the proposers and seconders.

SHAY: Cllr Avril Cronin.

>> I would like to offer my support to this motion. I was lucky enough to attend that meeting with the group, with a number of our cross-party colleagues, a number of months ago, and to hear the stories was absolutely harrowing. A defibrillator can really make a difference to save a life. My own family had a tragic incident in 1997 at a football match. My 13-year-old cousin dropped dead on the football pitch, and unfortunately there was no defibrillator back then on hand. I can say that I can't say it would have saved his life, we will never know, but I do believe we should have them on hand at every opportunity that we can. I'm happy to support the motion. Thank you.

>> I'm someone who is blessed to have an internal AED, both my children with the same heart disease, don't have a defibrillator nearby, if anything goes wrong, so I think the spirit of this motion, and the substance of it is really, really important. Thank you.

SHAY: I also would like to congratulate Cllr O'Brien on bringing this forward. We had a presentation at our Wicklow district meeting on this, so I think it's unanimous to support this.

>> Yes I wanted to support the motion, I was proud to be on the motion. I think everybody in the chamber at some stage realised that we need these machines around us, they're so important, just so important, a lot of good afternoon clubs have them at the moment, as we all know, and, in fairness, they're along the main streets, et cetera, but I think in the housing estates, to give people who suffer heart attacks a better opportunity to survive, and one of the reasons maybe that would have been a problem is electricity supply, but I was talking to someone in the ESD and they said it could be run off public lights to get power to the machine, so, I really support Cllr O'Brien's motion. Proud to be on it. Thank you.

>> I just wanted again to say it's an excellent motion, to thank Cllr O'Brien for bringing it. I was at that cross-party meeting. I remembered the woman who delivered a lot of information how long would it strain to get to your nearest defibrillator, when - when you think about it, it is scary being in that situation, and having these in estates would be different.

SHAY: All agreed?

>> Agreed.

SHAY: Thank you.

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>> Thank you, Cathaoirleach, very much appreciate it. I get a little bit emotional about it because it is very important. But I do want to thank everybody for their support.

SHAY: Thanks, Cllr O'Brien. Number 5, notice in Crean Leonard, Behan, Fortune, Kavanagh, and O'Connor. This this council writes to the ... with special responsibility for local government and planning with a request that the strategic housing development legislation is abolished. Helen?

>> This is a matter for the elected members to consider.

SHAY: Who wants to come in first? Cllr Crean.

>> I had my vaccine, my apologies. I won't labour it, because I think most ... around the table are aware of the limitations and the issues with the strategic housing development legislation, the biggest one being that seeing this particularly in our district here in Graystones where it contravenes our county development plan to undermine that local process. It doesn't - the process itself doesn't take recognition of local experience and knowledge of the area that we as councillors have.

>>: Thank you, I had my vaccine today. I keep being on mute. I will not labour it. Most are aware of the limitations and the strategic issue, the biggest that we see in Greystones where it contravenes the plan, to undermine that local process the process doesn't take issue as we have the councillors have of the area. [inaudible] and there is, this piece of legislation is poor. We are seeing is the negative impact at a local level. I know that the point is made, it will be abolished or not extended but it is not the point of the motion. It is important to send a message from local council to national Government about legislation such as this as it a part of wider suite of legislations coming out more and more. So, these pieces of legislation are by passing local democracy, we don't know what will we place it. We really need to send a strong message, the strongest message is to say is to abolish the legislation.

SHAY: Councillor Fortune?

>>: I obviously support the motion. I think that the SHD process brought in has not delivered. I don't believe that, it is a personal view, I don't believe the intention of it was constructive.

In fact, what it is doing, in fact, it is causing problems within the communities, it is destroying communities, potentially. You have heard me articulate the problem in [inaudible] with what is being proposed as it can go to the board, nobody has input, even the local authority has limited input. and the sooner the better that this thing is taken out of the system. And we revert back to the planning procedure that works to the local authority.

SHAY: Thank you. Councillor Ferris.

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>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, to support and to say that the Labour couplers support this motion as proposed by Councillor Mags and in relation to the motion on the A&E, that the proposal, that we want it sent to all local authorities as well. Thank you. Cathaoirleach.

SHAY: Councillor Walsh?

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, just to say that the strategic policy development, it is a process that has not been working. It diminished the role of the local representative, recognised not just in Wicklow hospitals but across the country. It creases in February, it has not achieved the target of fast delivery of housing partly due to the number of judicial reviews that have taken place. Over 80 have been upheld, delaying the much-needed delivery of housing. So, really, that it is something that has not worked. It is coming to its end in February. It is up to the members to make a proposal.

SHAY: Are we all agreed to send a letter to the ministers? Agreed? Councillor Fitzgerald?

>>: I was enquiring before the meeting on the situation, obviously, people have said it there, that there is a commitment now to abolish the strategic health and development legislation, hopefully before Christmas. I believe it was wrong. It is still wrong. I fully support the motion.

SHAY: All agreed. Thank you.

Number 6. Notice of motion in the name of Councillor Grace McManus and Councillor Dermot O'Brien. Writing that the minister for housing outlining the objection to the proposed shared equity loan scheme, contained within the housing legislation due to concerns raised by the ERSI and others about the negative impacts of the scheme.

HELEN: The equity scheme is among a number of inclusions afforded in the housing bill. The main objective is to provide a number of options to people who cannot enter into the housing market. The scheme would provide equity support to householders seeking to purchase homes in the private market but unable to secure a full mortgage.

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SHAY: Edward Timmins?

>>: Hi would oppose the motion. I think that the motion is an attempt to help people who can't afford to buy their first home.

I mean, this are a cohort in society that has been left behind and not been helped and this shared equity scheme is an attempt, at one level, to help them acquire their own homes. So, it is not going to be the silver bullet to solve the problem but it is an attempt to help these people who I feel have been left behind.

They need to get the opportunity to own their own home. Albeit that they will not fully own it from day one but will have the opportunity to buy out the shared equity but if it gives people on a slightly lower salary than the banks will allow them to qualify for mortgage approval for the full, 90, 95% loan, this is an opportunity, a leg-up, to help them to have the opportunity to get a loan, to buy a house and it will put some people on the property ladder that currently are excluded. So, therefore, I would oppose the motion.

SHAY: Thank you. Councillor Mitchell?

>>: Yes. I want to say I oppose the motion too. This is trying to help, the first-time buyers get their own home, and I believe in supporting the first-time buyers in buying their own home and as Edward Timmins said, it will not solve everyone's problem but it will get people on the housing ladder who cannot get on at the moment. That is important for society. Thank you.

SHAY: Councillor McManus?

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach, I appreciate the colleagues' perspectives but I disagree. I think that I am in the age cohort that the shared equity scheme is targeted to help. And speaking to others of my age, there is no way that the definition of affordable contained in the scheme is reachable for any of us. I'm concerned with the impact it has on house prices in the dense areas of the county. So the Central Bank, the ERSI, the house agency all warned Government it will drive up the house prices in higher dense areas, I think we have the obligation as a county with a lot of areas of high density to warn the Government against it. I'm not against schemes that work for people who are first time buyers in that market. In fact the affordable housing bill has good stuff in it but it has not passed yet,

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the scrutiny and the impact that the bill has on the counterparty, we should make noise about this part of it, I don't think it will work for the people we are trying to help in data county. There is confusion about what the definition of affordable is, it is anything up to 400,000 in Wicklow. Anything up to, not just 400,000 but anything over 280,000 upwards for the vast majority of people in Wicklow is not affordable. My fear is that if somebody would in a couple be able to afford 350,000, and the developers know that the state is stepping in, they will know to charge a further 20%. What we will see is that the people who were maybe on the margins of being able to afford a house, can afford a nicer house but it does not help those not able to get on the ladder in the first place. To heed the regard. To say that the other schemes that we hope that they work and to acknowledge the good work in the bill. But in this particular part, there is evidence to say that we have a cause for concern. Thank you, Cathaoirleach.

SHAY: Councillor Kennedy.

>>: I would not be in a position to support this. The media have discussed the subject to say 400,000, and as Councillor McManus clarified there, for those reasons. I bought my home under a shared ownership scheme. It was legislated at the times. I was a couple of euro over the limit to look at the housing list, as a single mother at the time I had little options that scheme allowed me to purchase my first home, to get on my feet, and to allow me to buy another shared ownership. I think that we have to have a suite of housing options for people. People are at all different phases in their lives and on different incomes to be able to have different choices depending on the circumstances. I very much support as many different housing options as are available at the time, so I would not be able to support this.

SHAY: Councillor Walsh?

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. Firstly, to point out that the monies allocated is to the shared application scheme, there was a suite measures to address affordable housing. Shared equity scheme is helping a couple or a single couple within the income, to reach the cap wean the amount that they can borrow and the price of a new home. In most case, it is the difference between people being able to pay out on a mortgage on their own home this year or next or having to continue to pay exorbitant rent prices ... [distortion of sound]

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SHAY: Councillor Behan?

>>: No, Councillor McManus has said I wanted to. No point in repeating it.

SHAY: Councillor Winters?

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I wanted to say that I want to support Councillor Kennedy's comments and agree with her, thank you.

SHAY: Councillor O'Brien? Dermot O'Brien?

>>: Quickly, it is mad to think that people are working of their aspirational understanding of something, rather than the evidence presented by experts who have concerns about this issue. So, maybe a little bit of parking of our nostalgic aspirational sense of the potential of something, when really the list of entities that Councillor McManus outlines and has concerns, that we should consider that in the decision of whether to support it or not. Thank you.

SHAY: We don't have agreement on the motion. I will hand over to Helen for a vote if you are happy to proceed? Councillor Blake?

>>: A couple of weeks ago, we got a presentation from the ELIG on a training day. The impression I got from, and they are of the department as well. There, some of the experts, I found nothing negative with regards their presentation, anyway. And it came across with people getting 30, 40, 50,000 extra in order to get them on to the housing ladder in that respect. So, they were the experts that I listened to. I didn't see anything negative in the presentation from the training day. I would be, I can support this motion. Thank you.

SHAY: Councillor Fitzgerald?

>>: The question that the Central Bank cleared away for the main mortgage providers to participate in the scheme, the reason that the reservations in the bank, the preliminary decision, subject to the bank agreeing the defined terms of the scheme, make it is interesting but they don't have an issue

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with it. So others mention people who have a problem with it but the Central Bank, you would think would have an issue but they don't have one. So I won't be supporting the motion. I'm dealing with people at the moment, that applied for funding. I am certainly not going to oppose it, ... [inaudible]

SHAY: Councillor Kavanagh.

>>: I know where Councillor Kavanagh is coming from. Once anyone think there is her, thank Government money available, they will put up the price of houses to affect all, not just those looking to have the houses subsidised. I would in essence not support the motion as I do think subsidised housing is a good thing, I wonder if there is any kind of inbuilt mechanism that we could try to write to the Government about to ensure that it does not just lead to an automatic 50,000 being put on to the price of a house, as that is really, really worrying, not only for one sector of the community but all sectors.

SHAY: Councillor Snell.

>>: Thank you, Cathaoirleach I support this. I appreciate the sentiments behind the motion but unfortunately, I can't support it, as I think that we need diversity of opportunities for people out there. Once again, I want to thank Councillor Kennedy for her honesty shining through in regards of what she is outlining to people. And you cannot beat a personal experience of the situation. She outlined a scheme that would have had the same sort of negative effect around it, that this is getting the moment. But the reality is that it worked for her and for her family. I would, certainly would love if this was not in front of us at all, that it could have been brought in some other shape or form. But the reality is that it is going in front of the members at the national level and I think that, you know it has to be changed it needs to be changed there. But I certainly can't support what is in front today and to thank Councillor Kennedy.

SHAY: Councillor Ferris.

>>: I want to thank Councillor Kennedy for her contribution and honesty in what she said. But having said that, I think that Councillor Grace makes a compelling argument for the motion put down. I think, there, you can say there are a lot of schemes out there, we should not be closing any of them down. But as Councillor Grace said for people of her age, indeed, my own daughter who, is unable to buy a house with her partner in county Wicklow as they are too expensive and they both have fairly good salaries, she has driven to Whetford or whatever to buy a house. So, it is not fair to say, there

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will be a certain sector of our people in county Wicklow who can't afford to buy in their own towns or villages or whatever. I think that Councillor Grace makes a compelling argument, what the developers will do, they are out there to make money. They are not out there to help the people who need housing. They are not a charitable organisation or anything like that, they are out there to make a profit. I think it is, you know, it will be incumbent on them, actually, to put the money up. That will drive for people who may be able to buy at that stage, it could drive them out of the market as well. So, I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

SHAY: Councillor McManus, are you happy for it to go to vote.

>>: Yes, Cathaoirleach.

HELEN: The council writes to the minister of housing to outline objections to the proposed shared equity loan scheme contained within the minister affordable housing legislation due to concerns raised by ESRI and others of the potential negative impacts of the scheme.

HELEN: Councillor Ansley ...

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Joe Behan

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Mags Crean.

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Cronin

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>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Shay Cullen

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Doyle

>>: Against.

HELEN: Counsellor Dunne.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Ferris.

... Councillor Ferris?

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Fitzgerald

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Kennedy.

>>: Against.

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HELEN: Councillor Tom Fortune

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Patsy Lennon ... [inaudible]

HELEN: Councillor Mary Kavanagh.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Kennedy.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Peir Leonard.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Grace McManus.

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Derek Mitchell.

>>: Against.

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HELEN: Councillor Mullen.

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Murphy.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Neary.

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Dermot O'Brien.

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Paul O'Brien.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Rory O'Connor.

>>: For.

HELEN: Councillor Gerry O'Neil.

>>: Against.

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HELEN: Councillor Scot.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Snell.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Edward Timmins.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Gerry Walsh.

>>: Against.

HELEN: Councillor Patsy Lennon?

...

HELEN: Councillor Winters.

HELEN: Against?

>>: Yes, against.

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HELEN: Thank you.

SHAY: Members can I ask you to mute, please. There is back grouped noise, there. Thank you.

>>: Nine in favour, 21 against, two not present.

SHAY: Thank you.

Number 7. That Wicklow County council establish an internal working group for community building beginning with increased priority on the inclusion of green and social clauses in procurement criteria for services and goods. Helen?

>>: Looking for a seconder?

SHAY: Seconder, Peir Leonard.

>>: The Government agrees a faced introduction of sustainable green and social criteria, targeting priority services as well as building into the OGP frameworks and providing support and guidance to procurers. To this end, the LGMA, OPA and EMA, are advising on how best to incorporate sustainable public procurement into policies and practices, we must be guided by them. The OGP commenced updating of frameworks, which as a local authority we look to first when procuring in line with green procurement practices. Wicklow is rolling out a draw down from the office supplies framework including green criteria in the award criteria, all local authorities are to be advised what sustainable standards are incorporated into the public procurement and how they are to be measured and recorded. The areas examined in relation to sustainable procurement: Updating the procurement plan, policies and procedures. Manage, monitoring and working with suppliers for improvement at all stages of the procurement process. Identifying where green and strategic public procurement is implemented, e.g. in tender specifications in the selection and award criteria in contract delivery. Taking features and eco labels to build into specifications rather than using the eco labels themselves. Setting award criteria linked to the future. The Wicklow plan outlines the goals in relation to sustainable procurement, as outlined in the plan, the Wicklow County Council is continuing to engage with the department of communication, climate action and environment and the GPP for growth project. Bringing together 9 countries to exchange practices. To improve procurement and exploiting opportunities for green procurement. The council procurement officer

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undertook the green procurement training course in advance of the roll out of the national guidance from the area. The corporate plan includes targets in relation to sustainable procurement we wade for sector wide guidance and agreements in methodology before reporting statistics in the area. Given the national guidance provided to the local authorities, it is not considered necessary or advisable for a separate working group to be established.

SHAY: Councillor Crean are you happy with the response?

>>: It is great to hear the good work done. And to acknowledge as the procurement sector is small. So great work. I worry about the idea of the co-ordinates of work and I interviewed the head of key staff in Manchester, they all say in terms of best practice in Wicklow wanted to be a leader that setting up the internal working group is good as it does not then fall to one staff person. I note that Helen said that the procurement officer was trained but it is not to fall to one person, to have a working group it becomes part of everyone's thinking on procurement, not for one person to lead on. So I still wish for a working group considered. If it is stage up at the stage where the criteria is emanated, I think it is a very good idea and best practice.

SHAY: Thank you. Dermot O'Brien?

>>: Quickly, I support the motion. I think than community wealth building could be the game changer that helps us to navigate out of the impacts of COVID and also maybe to help us to manage future impacts if it is climate or otherwise. I think there is so much scope to community wealth building that procurement is a core part but also about the co-yaps and the fair working conditions and practices, if the council became a leader and took it on, maybe there is someone, Councillor Crean can get someone to do a presentation but a working group supports the potential for the community wealth building to service well.

SHAY: OK. Before we go further are we happy to extend the meeting to 5.30pm to get rid of the rest of the motions? I have to take a question on the development plan as well? Are we happy with that?

Agreed. I will bring in Brian Gleeson.

>>: If relation to the motion, I suppose, this are two issues here, community wealth building is different to, green procurement and social procurement. So, I think that what the councils are

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suggesting is internal working group on the community wealth. I suppose, so public procurement for green issues is separate. What we said in the answer there is that we have to take the lead from EPA, the OGP, and the department of [inaudible] climate and communications. So, for all intents and purposes, it will be an attempt that is pushed out to all local authorities in order to measure local authorities and performance, there must be consistency across the board and set criteria and measurement, so I don't think, like we don't have to recreate the wheel here. It will be provided for us and tweaked accordingly. As regards concentration, there will be consultation with the climate action officer who has recently undertaken the green procurement training course as well. and it is not a case of one person, one section, that are devising it and pushing it out, there will be consultation with the relevant people. But regards, I don't think there is a specific group set up for procurement, given the fact that we will be taking guidance from the sector. And we can't go off and go in a tangent to do our own thing. It must be that there is consistency across the board. It is the only way to measure ourselves against the other local authorities. So, there is a thing between the community wealth building and a spate notice of motion on that as well, to clarify that.

SHAY: Councillor fortune?

>>: Picking up what Brian is saying, what Councillor Crean says it makes sense. If this is put together and Brian is referring to the local authority system, I think it is productive, and constructive. That a group from Wicklow County council look at this and feed into it on what is desired and what should be there. I can't see the problem with that.

So, I would, I fully support what Councillor Crean outlined and the reasons why. There is a lot of thought and research put into this. It is not on a whim she is kicking this out. It does deserve a group of whoever members and parts of the executive to look at this to make sure that our interests are fed into the stem before they come back with a dictate and we are told, this is how we have to do it as this is what we are told.

SHAY: OK. Thank you. Councillor Leonard?

>>: To support Councillor Crean. And I don't see why they can't run in a parallel. It is creating awareness more than anything to gain insight in what, like we have huge structural projects coming down the line. A lot of which the materials are coming in from China, and I think, if nothing else, we can gain great insight into how much is going out at the county, or of the country and where we could be investing in our own county and skills and trades, so lots to it be gained for research further and to gain insight into running in parallel to what is going on at Government level.

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SHAY: Councillor Murphy.

>>: Is it possible to read the report? That we could make a decision at the next meeting. It will be interesting to see what your report does entail. I am sure it is detailed and for me, it would be better for me to make a decision on it.

Thank you.

SHAY: OK. Councillor Crean?

>>: I am happy to do that if members would like more information, to defer the motion, as Councillor Murphy said, I can distribute this. And what may be in interest to you, Councillor Murphy, in relation to the model, this is a percentage employees must be from different groups, so, people who may be from different groups there must be a percentage. So I will research this and we can make a decision at the next meeting.

SHAY: One more notice of motion and then to the development plan. Number #, the motion in the name of Dermot O'Brien, to look for a seconder for this one. and for Councillor O'Connor that the council invites the planning department of Wicklow County council to prepare and deliver a presentation to members to illustrate the existing provision of the land that is available across the county to be used for education.

>> I want to support Cllr Crean on her research. I don't see in reason why both creating an insight, huge bringing instrumental projects coming down the line. A lot of which, the materials are coming in from China, and I think if nothing else, we can gain great insight into how much is going out of the county? How much is going out of the country? We could be investing in our own county and people, skills, and trades-based. I think there is a lot to be gained from - for researching this further and gaining an insight into it be with running in parallel to what is going on with the government.

SHAY: Miriam Murphy?

>> Thank you, Cathaoirleach. I'm just wondering is it possible to read the report that, you know, that we could make a decision, maybe at the next meeting, because I think it would be interesting to see what your report does entail. I'm sure it's very detailed. For me, it would be better for me to make a decision on it. Thank you.

SHAY: Okay. Sorry, go ahead.

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>> I'm happy to do that if members would like more information, I'm happy to defer this motion, and I could distribute it. If it is of interest to you, Cllr Murphy, is in relation to the Preston model, a certain percentage of employees have to make sure that people ... underemployed, they have to have a certain amount employed in very large projects. I will circulate the research if people are interested and you can make a decision at the next meeting.

SHAY: Thank you all agreed with that.

>> Agreed.

SHAY: I will take one more notice of motion and then we will go to the development plan. Number 8, notice of motion in the name of Cllr Dermot O'Brien, looked for a seconder for this one, Cllr O'Connor, that this council invites the planning department to prepare and deliver a presentation to members which specifically illustrates the existing provision of land available across the county to be used for education.

>> As part of the County Development Plan, the local area plans that flow from it, significant areas of land are zoned for a variety of land uses, where the development of schools is open for consideration. Including but not limited to land zoned, community and education, residential, town village centre, and mixed use. There is no shortage of zoned land available for the potential development of new schools in the county.

>> Really quickly. My intention for this motion, we often get hammered at a local level when there is a crisis, in terms of school places. ... and that may be rather than us getting into parish pomp and trying to fight for school in our own areas of development, that as a council, we might look to prioritise, like when are we going to the department. And putting collective pressure on them to activate some of these critical schemes, instead of coming back around the houses all the time, into this space, war we are freaking - *where we are freaking out, and having constituents really, really worried about not being able to go to the school in their local area. To show that our team are on the ball with this, we need to look at how to activate the department.

SHAY: I might bring the chief executive in on this. He might give as rundown. From my point of view, I think a lot of the problems were the Department of Education and the land not that is zoned in County Wicklow.

>> We have more than enough land zoned, covered in the County Development Plan. It's there in the draft at the moment. When we come back from the draft, we can certainly discuss that in detail at that point in time. I can assure you that all those studies are done in terms of future population growth right around the county. It's their end of the development plan.

>> Cllr Mitchell?

>> The issue certainly is the council gets blamed for the lack of school places in a rapidly expanding place like Graystones. As councillors and at the suggestion of the officials 16 years ago, we zoned two sites, one for primary, one for secondary. The department sat on its backside for 12 to 15 years, particularly on the secondary school, I don't know how they could have known. The as a result of

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good planning was that the children of Charles Land which is quite dense, one of the densest developments and largest ones in Wicklow, should have been able to walk to school. We did act on it. And the default was entirely with the officials. And, not so much with the minister, it was actually with the officials from the department who seemed to be, seemed to be completely unanswerable to the minister. In an independent republic, and they seemed to be allowed to do this, which I feel is peculiar. Anybody could see there was going to be a need for the schools in Charlesland. It's not rocket science. I'm not in favour of doing this if we're going to do this in the area plans, but the default is definitely in the department.

SHAY: Cllr O'Brien, could I suggest maybe we send this to the planning SPC for discussion. How would you feel about that?

>> I think as the chief executive said, it will come on the agenda, Cathaoirleach. I'm happy for it - I believe it is going to be on the agenda, and I think, and ,genuinely, it's about recognising our work is done and maybe the planning SPC, or the relevant SPC can consider where to put the pressure on the department side of things. Thanks, Cathaoirleach.

SHAY: I'm going to move off the notice of motion for a few minutes and deal with the members that are concerned about the development plan, and the update on the new legislation on the County Development Plan, so, is Sarco with us?

>> While she is setting up, I will mention very briefly that the planning and development number 3 bill is going through the houses at the moment. Is back from the Senate and going back to the Dail this week. It covers three areas broadly, right? One is to extend the time period for adopting a development plan where there's been issues around Covid, right? And that came from a request from the county and city managers' association because a lot of local authorities, ourselves included, have run into time delays because of Covid. So as you know, there's a 9090-week process for a development plan, but since Covid, there's been a lot of issues working from home, ICT issues, closure of schools and childcare, setting up meetings with members, more detailed Zoom meetings, et cetera. So the best will in the world, if we've got a development plan on display at the moment, we could, if the amendments come back or not, material have it adopted next January, but that would still be three months late. We would be looking for an extra three months. More than likely, the amendments that come back would be material amendments, so they would be re-advertised. We get submissions and go to that process. It will be next July realistically, adopted fully in July whether we have our new development plan. That will be eight months longer than this 90-week period. So we will definitely be recommending in the September meeting when this is enacted that we approve that the councillors approve this eight-month extension. The other items in the bill are one to extend an existing development plan. We don't need that now because our development plan won't run out, and the third item then is planning permissions that are on sight where the planning permission has run out and the extension has run out, a further two-year extension at the end of 2023, I think it is, for those sites to complete assuming the commencement has been sent in. So those are the three items in the bill, two relate to us, but in particular, this one about the extension of timelines for the completion of the county development plans, we will need that, and

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be proposing eight months - we may need the full 12 if we run into further difficulties with Covid, if there is another strain, if there are difficulties around setting up meetings, et cetera. What we think at the moment is that we will need the eight months, but there are some slides now to explain in more detail.

>> I think you've said everything there I was going to say anyway. If you want me to run the slides, Theresa I think has the slides that sheen share the screen there. Thank you. This is called the planning and development (amendment) number three Bill passed last week in the Senate last week. I understand it might be enacted this week quite quickly. As Frank was saying it's an act to amend the planning act. This is clear from the title what it actually is. It is in response to disruption caused by restrictions introduced in response to COVID-19 to provide for an additional period of the preparation of development plans required by planning authorities, planning authority may extend the generation of the existing plans, making new plans. That will be the case of some councils that are coming, their development plans are about to run out. That is not the case with us. Our current development plan is valid until 2022, and you can see the rest of the amendments due to the duration of the planning permission and so on. If you go on to the next slide please, Theresa? So there is further explanation in the Bill and they make it clear it is to do with COVID-19 and says whereas it has been and continues to be necessary for the state to be in a position to respond quickly and take extraordinary measures to mitigate the adverse economic consequences resulting, likely to result from the spread of the disease, and to mitigate its impact on planning authorities. So, it's very much about COVID-19 disruption the to the system. If you want to move on, Theresa? This is just some of the text of the plan. It's all very legalistic. I don't think I will go through that. It basically says that you can take an additional period of up to one year, like Frank was saying, the review of the plan is normally a two-year process, 99 weeks, and you can lengthen that out if there's been delays related to Covid at any stage so far. I will give you an example, in the county that's not our own, in County Meath, they were at the amendment stage last September, and the stage should have taken them eight weeks to come back and have a council meeting, it took something like six months, because it was last winter, and it was particularly difficult to meet with the councillors to convene meetings because they had something like 1,000 amendments that were proposed. If you want to move on, Theresa. Move on one more, please. I will send this all over to the members. Okay. So, this is suppose the crux of what Frank was saying. [Reading slide]. This bill would not provide ... on the basis of say any dissatisfaction on the members' behalf or the public's behalf of the contents of the plan, or feedback from the public, or any new policy guidelines or circulars, anything like that with regard to planned content that might arise during the planned programme. We've been very responsive to any new government policy or guidelines or circulars if they emerge during the course of making a development plan, and there would be numerous stages, even in the remaining programme that we have available should any government policy change that we can integrate it into the development plan. As Frank was saying, the next big meeting is next January where you can choose to adopt a plan. In the meantime, that's six months down the road, so plenty of time to integrate it into the plan. Am I at the end there. One more slide? We don't know what is going to happen with Covid, why Covid-related issues could require the county council to - during the end date that we are currently, that is our current programme, so impossible Covid-related reasons

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might include having regard to lack of open public meetings and planned space, unlimited access to council buildings and officials. It could be put forward by members of the public that they would like to see the public consultation periods extended, so the period that we are in at the moment, any future amendment or consultation period to ensure they get the right to participate in the planned process. So say, for example, our draft plan is on display at the moment, that finishes up on 16th August, we are doing everything we can to connect with the public. The public can come into our offices and review the plan. They can talk to our team members by appointment, but that might be considered by some to be restrictive that it's not as open as the standard public meetings we have. If we or yourselves felt that maybe a bit of extra time two or three weeks of public consultation might be better for the development plan because of restrictions caused by Covid, that might be the type of thing that this Act would allow for you extending the period. Similarly, issues could arise of future stages with, you know, getting you together, having workshops and council meetings, and I know we're doing all of this by Zoom but I'm sure you remember before Christmas, it was beneficial when we had in-person workshops, Act to look through maps and so on. I found that very beneficial to talk to each municipal district face to face and look at maps in front of us. If we're not able to do that, it might cause problems or we might have more meetings or workshops moving forward. Finally, issues arising with a new resurgence of the virus which hopefully will not happen such as illness or quarantining of members of staff, or council members, or school or childcare closure. It's possible that delays could be incurred in the support of amendments. We might ask for extra time to finish a report, or you might ask for extra time to consider a report. Finally, as Frank was saying, the process for commencing review of the plan commenced in November 2019, so having regard to each of the timelines set out in the act should each future stage from today occur exactly as per the act ensuring the amendments, the plan would be adopted in and around June next year and coming into effect in July, assuming all future final lines are met with no delays going forward. In that regard, the plan is already seven to eight months behind schedule in particular not only due to Covid but other issues, you know? This is a common issue across a number of local authorities so was a key figure for amending legislation. Should the members decide they want to extend the period within which the plan may be completed, it looks like we're going to utilise eight months already, so there would be another four months available because the maximum time is 12 months, so say, for example, as I mentioned we felt that maybe an extra couple of weeks were needed for the public to consider the draft plan, that two or four weeks might be have to come out of that four months, that is all we have left out of the year. So at this time, I suppose, what we would be recommending to members is that we seek an extra extra eight months and if we need extra time, the act would allow us to add up to a full year. So I think this is it now, Cathaoirleach. I'm repeating a lot of what Frank said but I can send this round to members and a copy of the Bill as well if they want more information.

SHAY: Cllr John Mullen.

>> Thanks for that. Thanks to the chief executive for the statement and the evolution in thinking - the leave Lukes in thinking that's occurred in the council there in regards to our powers related to the plan. Councillors asked for these employers as well, and I though it's come from the county managers' association, but councillors asked for these powers to delay the County Development Plan because of obviously the way we've been able to to do public consultation under Covid ... that

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gives us the chance, and I haven't spoken to the minister, and I would like to thank councillor Gale Dunn for arranging a meeting with the minister recently. He acknowledge there are difficulties, particularly in the housing aspects of the County Development Plan, and this would allow public to really see the plan in detail, how it affects their image and rural area, how it affects their large town, and I really welcome the fact that the council executive are proposing and agreeing with that that we delay the plan. I think we should go for the 12 months. It's been very difficult for me as a new councillor, but the plan is - we've got a hard copy of the plan, thank the planning department for that as well. It's four volumes I have weighing up my desk here. Most people don't have access to a hard copy of the plan. It's very hard to find on our website. It's very hard to navigate on our website, and putting in a submission isn't exactly straightforward, either, and again I welcome the PPN's efforts to try and get an educational piece out there, how to make a submission to the county plan. This is the most important document we are working on in the lifetime of our council. In the middle of a housing crisis, it has significant changes that we are making. Covid in my view has changed the landscape how we should think about housing. In conclusion, I thank the county manager and planning staff for reflecting on this, and I hope we use the full 12 months whenever we get the power in the next couple of weeks, and I sincerely urge all my colleagues to back that.

SHAY: Thank you. Cllr Mitchell?

>> I just say I would like the - the delay which might have happened because of Covid, my concern is that the Kilkool and Graystones development plan, subsidiary to the county plan, and my understanding is that I think it ran out in 2019, although I'm not sure how that relates to the County Development Plan, running out to 2022. But, it's been suggested to me that we can't start revising the Graystones and Kilkool plan until the county one is done, and it will be a further two years after that, which means it will be 2024 before the Graystones plan is redone. It means it will be five years out of date. Now, in those five years, this - there are around 2,000 to 3,000 houses will have been built in that time, and that's really out of date. In terms of the infrastructure which we need for the town, it's not going to be described properly in the old 2019 plan, so I just would like to confirm that those dates which are given are roughly correct, and certainly I don't, I want to see something done to speed up the production of the plan which I was told has to wait for the full county plan. Thank you.

>> Thanks, Cathaoirleach, and thanks Frank for that. I can snapped the process and the timing. It's kind of been flagged for a while now that we would like to be in the extension. The interest, an issue I need to understand better is in the plan as it was progressing, we were basically being instructed from the carpenter, or whoever, that we would not be able to put in certain zonings, maybe have to dezone and things like that. If I heard Frank correctly, I thought he said that permissions, planning permissions in existence would be given a stay to completion until 2023. I'm wondering on the basis that this plan is put back by eight or 12 months, if that is what it agreed, the impact that's going to have on building, so in the meantime, everything carries on as is under the current plan, and there could be loads of houses built, and what impact is that going to have as you then move into the official completion of the plan process in relation to house numbers and population numbers and all of that? Is there feedback coming down on that, or is there a process at the stage where it's null and

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void because of Covid, et cetera. In other words, going through the process is mechanical, going through it for the sake of going through it. Are you going to be faced in a situation where you scrap the whole thing and start from scratch?

SHAY: Cllr Scott.

>> I'm sharing the concerns of my district colleagues there, and I'm concerned about the knock-on effects to the local area plans and the knock-on effect to our district. At the moment, there's a huge growth in the area and I realise that Cllr Mullen was speaking on the housing crisis which was true, but certainly in our area, we have an issue with over development and a lack of corresponding infrastructure going on with that. My concern is that as sort of, you know, permissions granted to allow to continue to completion until 2023, at the same time, there is nothing improved with infrastructure, and at the same time we get to the local area plans. ...

>> Thank you, I suppose a lot of it has been covered, but I think most importantly, is the development of housing, and also, like how do we, I suppose, get this out to the public and for them, the public to understand it and they're muddled themselves about it. I'm led to believe until the County Development Plan, couldn't take plans from local areas. That's I suppose very vital in the way we're going forward with developing housing, and I suppose that rezoning as well of land, and businesses is coming ahead. So it is very worrying, and you know, what with the uptake on the public taking part again in another round of development plans, I mean, it was for a larger input this time, and I mean, it is probably very confusing to the public, and how do we get it across.

SHAY: Cllr Joe Behan?

>> Cathaoirleach, I would like to second councillor Mullen's proposal for the full year. We may or may not have to use it. If we are going to make an plaques, we should do so, but we most definitely should use some of that time to extend the public consultation period that we are in at the moment. Due to finish in the middle of the August, summer months, restrictions on the public meeting and so on. I think a good bit of that time should be used to extend into September, maybe until the end of September to allow for public physical meetings for the public and also for us to attend with officials and so on. So I would be happy to second the proposal. Thank you.

SHAY: I will bring back the chief executive. Who is that? Cllr Dunne.

>> I would like to support that motion as well, because I fear there has been a lack of public consultation. More importantly, when we went to the meetings, in fairness to Cllr Kenny, we done a good job. This is the most important document we - of a council. It's very important that we can be physically as well, and maybe suspending meetings, going out to discuss it. Just one more thing, without being smart here to Graystones councillors, the Wicklow area plan also is running at the same time. Our local area plan will start straightaway after the County Development Plan, but if we don't care to get it right in the County Development Plan, then the local area plans will suffer. There is nobody banging down my door saying we have to start the local area plan in my area. More worried about housing, about their thereby. That's what they're worried about in my area. So I would be definitely supporting Cllr Mullen and fending it out for a year.

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SHAY: Chief executive?

>> We may need a year anyway. We know more than likely we need eight months at this stage. Just in relation to the core strategies, you really have to have a core strategy in place, so you know your numbers, your county, wide numbers before you split up. Local areas stands are still viable, they're still legal documents and we are working towards those in terms of development management. So, the legislation isn't in place yet. That's when we come back in September and take a vote on it, that will allow to us enact the legislation.

>> Thanks, Frank. Just a few of the issues that were brought up, as Frank said, it won't be possible to prepare a plan for any place until the county plan is adopted. You don't know what your housing target is, as simple as that until the moment that you adopt your county plan and it can change up to the moment you adopt it. You won't know whether it is 1,000 units or whatever it might be. You can't actually start the process of working out how much land you need to zone to reduce if you don't have a county plan adopted. That said, any time where there is a lull period from my team will be out to the background research on each of those towns, it's Wicklow, Graystones, and Blessington are the first three plans to be done. We will be doing as much work as we can behind the scenes so as soon as the county plan is adopted, we can kick-start the process, and do as much as we can in the fallow periods we can with the County Development Plan. It will still take a bit of time. There are three plans there, they have to do SEAs, and flood-risk assessments and those kinds of things. Public consultation, so there won't be a magic plan, a new plan appearing for each town the moment the County Development Plan is adopted. Just with regards to the delays and the timing, Cllr Mitchell, you're along the right lines. The County Development Plan is adopted next year, whether the middle of next year or the end of next year will start the process of doing the LAPs, they could each take, depending on the schedule of delivery of them, they could take about a year. The process from start to finish from the moment you publish a draft plan, not the pre stuff is 35 weeks from start to finish. It could easily be more than a year before you have a development plan adopted. And Cllr Scott hit the nail on the head and Cllr Fortune in terms of Graystones that in the meantime, development will be happening on the foot of the current plans, and some people feel those plans are out of date. So, the sooner we have new local area plans, the better, because we have a new more up-to-date framework, but Cllr Dunne is saying in Wicklow with the current plan being rolled out, whereas the opposite in Graystones. We will move as quickly as we can to do new local area plans. With regard to public consultation, we spend a lot of time of resources and website and way of getting access development plans. Please just couple to me or a team member. If you type "consult Wicklow" in Google, it's on all our pages from page one of our website, so I haven't found any difficulty of anybody accessing it. Please come to us if you found particular difficulties. I think that's it.

SHAY: Councillor Walsh ... [meeting continued].