

Minutes of Economic SPC 2nd May 2024

Chair Michael Whelan MCC thanked everyone for their attendance.

Matters arising, the minutes from the December and January meetings were proposed and seconded by Seamus Murphy and Senan O'Reilly.

Seamus Murphy raised a previous proposal that a workshop around economic activity was to be held exploring how to develop policy and direction. The Chair agreed to keep it on the agenda.

The Chair requested an update on progress on the remote working hubs in the county. Breege Cosgrave Head of Economic Development and L.E.O. stated that the department will be making progress on that.

Economic update. Seamus Murphy congratulated LEO on their success as the third highest job creator LEO office in the country.

Ernest Levingstone queried the progress on the Butlersland advance factory. Liz Hore stated that there is strong interest from two interested parties and discussions are ongoing.

Eoghan McCarthy presented the Economic Community Monitor with an explanation of its uses and data.

Chair Michael Whelan complemented Eoghan on the website and the information contained. He enquired about crime figures included. Eoghan replied that they are based on reported crime figures from CSO.

Frank Burke asked about information to come in 2024 and 2025. The site is constantly managed by Eoghan and staff. Live register information is updated monthly. All other data is updated as information becomes available. Once the site goes live, workshops will be hosted in local authorities.

Seamus Murphy suggested that when it goes live all relevant members and communities should be notified via the PPN as the information would be beneficial.

Liz Hore stated WCC commissioned it, and it will be available to all free of charge when ready.

Frank Burke AO in the Climate Action team for Wexford County Council presented the Climate action overview and introduced himself and the new Climate action team. The Climate strategy was adopted 12/02/23 and the team appointed in March 2023 with various stakeholders involved over summer. The main theme is Mitigation and adaptation.

Following the presentation, Frank Burke invited questions. Chair Michael Whelan asked about communicating with schools. Discussion around this included that a public campaign had asked for submissions from schools in 2023 resulting in a communication café for students. Breege Cosgrave stated that the school's

coordinator with LEO might be of assistance. SETU will arrange a seminar in each campus with Wexford to deal with sustainability offshore.

Ernest Levingstone raised the topic of bad weather with farms and businesses struggling and coastal erosion in Courtown. There followed a discussion of planned schemes and public education re dunes in Courtown.

Eimear Kennedy presented on the economic benefit of the Fleadh Ceoil to County Wexford. She is responsible mainly for Volunteer recruitment. Today is presenting on the economic benefit of the Fleadh Ceoil to the County at large. 500,000 attendees expected from other counties and countries.

The Fleadh in Derry in 2013 was worth 50m euro to the local economy with growth since that event. At least 25% are international.

Ballpark average spend per both local, domestic and international visitors are estimated at €200 per day. Average night stay is 2.5 to 2 for international and domestic.

Eimear concluded her presentation and took any questions. The Chair enquired about a report being made available after the first year and if the municipal districts will have the opportunity to advertise fringe events.

Ernest Levingston enquired about the fringe fleadh, asking about reporting on Fleadh economic benefits from around the country. Liz Hore responded that reporting will be made available. The municipal district managers have plans in place for the Fringe events which Liz Hore asked to be shared with the councillors.

Liz Hore announced key towns don't get to apply for town and village funding. Vacant heritage buildings need to be brought back in use. Revive funding is being applied for in relation to Gorey market house with strong local support for the project.

If this process is successful, funding will be requested for Wexford and Enniscorthy.

Ernest Levingston asked for details of the plan for market house.

Regarding a query on the advanced factory in New Ross, it was noted that there was a 2nd large scale expression of interest with a second interested party.

Ernest Levingstone also queried about the Greenway progress. It was stated that Kilkenny County Council are in negotiations with landowners at the present time.

AOB: Thanks from the Chair to the executive and contributors.

Liz Hore thanked Chair for his tenure and stated that LEO is in top 3 for job creation in Ireland, thanks to SPC for support.

Rosslare Europort is booming with an extension for offshore wind pending. Angela Lawless was studying offshore wind projects in UK. She led the LECP.

End.

Approved *fm* *8/10*
DATE 26.5.2025

Proposed by:
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Secured by
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