

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Wednesday 21st February 2018

Time: 2.30pm

Location: Council Chamber, Wexford County Council

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Mr Ernest Levingstone; Ms Clair Walsh; Ms Mary B O'Leary; Mr Dan Kennedy

In Attendance: Mr Diarmuid Heuston, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Mr Brian Galvin, WCC; Ms Sinead Casey, WCC; Ms Liz Hore, WCC; Ms Siobhan Gethings, WCC; Ms Edwina Colfer, WCC

Apologies: Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr John Hegarty; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Keith Doyle; Cllr Frank Staples; Mr Senan O'Reilly Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Ms Carolyne Godkin, WCC;

Cllr Michael Sheehan was delayed so Cllr Martin Murphy took the Chair until his arrival.

Cllr Martin Murphy welcomed the new Social Inclusion Representative from the PPN to the group, Ms Mary B O'Leary.

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting which was held on the 28th November 2017 were proposed by Cllr Johnny Mythen and seconded by Dan Kennedy.

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to note.

3. Special Projects Update

Brian Galvin, Head of Special Projects circulated an informative report to the group on the projects currently being undertaken.

Projects include:

- **Wexford Quays**
- **Trinity Wharf**
- **Templeshannon Regeneration** (copy of plans circulated)
- **Enniscorthy Technology Park** (copy of plans circulated)
- **New Ross Business**
- **Gorey Market House** (copy of plans circulated)
- **Carrigfoyle Activity Centre**
- **Enniscorthy Tourism Project**
- **Greenways:**
 - Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway
 - New Ross Red Bridge Greenway and Walking Trail
 - Greenway Regional Strategy

A discussion took place on whether it could be possible to keep ensure that construction workers on the various projects could be kept local. Brian Galvin informed the group that Wexford County Council are bound by EU procurement requirements but that a lot of the main contractors sub contract to local people. Potential job numbers that will be created on a project by project basis are to be circulated at the next meeting.

4. Bypass Strategy – New Ross & Enniscorthy

Sinead Casey, New Ross Municipal District Manager and Liz Hore, Enniscorthy Municipal District Manager gave presentations to the group on what is going on at present and what is planned for each of the districts.

Plans for New Ross include:

- Flood Relief Scheme
- Public Realm Plan for the Town
- Signage along the new bypass
- Broadband
- Natural Gas
- New Primary School
- New Ross Port being taken over by Wexford County Council in 2018
- Oil Tanks to be demolished and new amenity to be introduced
- Advance Factory Units
- Greenway/Blueway (Unlocking the Barrow)

A discussion took place around New Ross and what else could be done in the town. It was suggested looked at more Marine Tourism along the Barrow.

Plans for Enniscorthy include:

- Enniscorthy Flood Relief Scheme
- Templeshannon Regeneration Plan to include pedestrian bridge linking both sides of the town
- Technology Park
- Tourism Project
- Building on the Festivals already taking place
- County Wexford Food Tourism Strategy
- New Park under construction
- Phase 2 of the Sports Hub

A discussion took place around Enniscorthy and what else could be done in the town. It was agreed that the rail line is an important factor to the growing of the town.

5. Economic Development & Enterprise Unit Update

Economic Development

No Update

Local Enterprise Office

Tom Banville circulated the Key Performance Metrics 2017 for the Local Enterprise Office for information. Tom informed the group that the Student Enterprise Awards will be taking place on Thursday 22nd March in the National Opera House.

Tourism

- Norma Quinsey has moved on from her position as Destination Marketing Manager.
- A new Visit Wexford website is being developed and it is hoped to go live with it before the start of the season.

- Wexford County Council commissioned drone footage of various attractions etc around the county. A plan is being put together on how to get this footage out to the wider public. It was suggested using some of the footage in the cinemas.
- County Wexford Tourism Strategy – A number of consultation workshops will be taking place in the coming weeks. It is hoped to have the launch of the strategy in May/June and it will be for duration of 5 years.

6. Bucanier Project

Siobhan Gethings the BUCANIER Project Officer gave an informative presentation on BUCANIER. The Project will be officially launched on Friday 23rd March 2018. A discussion took place on the project. It was noted that Social Enterprises won't be specifically targeted under the project but are welcome to make an application.

7. AOB

- Ernest Levingstone queried if there was any update into providing tablets to the non elected members of the SPC. This is still being looked into.
- Cllr Johnny Mythen proposed that that the IDA be requested to submit quarterly reports on job creation in the County. This was seconded by Cllr Michael Sheehan.
- A report outlining vacant commercial properties in the urban areas is to be brought to the next meeting. Included in the report are to be properties used by Charities.

The next meeting of the SPC will take place on Wednesday 23rd May at 2.30pm.