

**Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 3rd February 2015 at 2:30pm,
at Holmestown Recycling Facility, Barntown, Co Wexford**

In Attendance

Chairman: Cllr Fergie Kehoe

Elected Representatives: Cllr. David Hynes; Cllr. Anthony Kelly; Cllr. Joe Sullivan;
Cllr. John Fleming; Cllr. Mary Farrell; Cllr. Oliver Walsh

Apologies: Cllr. Ger Carthy; Cllr John O'Rourke; Cllr. Fionntan
O'Suilleabhain; Mr Alan Poole

Wexford County Council:

John Carley, Director of Services; Liz Hore, SEO; Gerry Forde
ASE; Ger Mackey, AO; Hugh Maguire AO; Tadgh O'Corcora S
EE; Sean Meyer EE

Sean Meyler, Executive Engineer, conducted a tour of the Holmestown Facility with regard to the current use of the landfill and recycling facility.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the previous SC meeting held 11th December 2014 were agreed.

Proposed by Cllr. John Fleming: Seconded by Cllr. Davy Hynes

**1) Report on the Regional Waste Management Plans 2015-2021
Southern Waste Plan**

Tadgh O'Corcora, Senior Executive Engineer gave a presentation on the Waste Plan. The main points were:

1. Following 'Putting People First' the CCMA has agreed on 3 Waste Management Regions in line with the Regional Assemblies. Wexford falls under the Southern Region.
2. The Region will implement EU and national waste and related environmental policy, legislation and codes for practice. Each Region must put forward a waste management plan.
3. Wexford County Council has made a submission
4. The regulations and policy are hoped to be in place by July 2015 upon the implementation of the plan. Time should be given for customers to become accustomed to the 'pay by weight' system.
5. Targets – Hoped to reduce household waste by 7% over following 6 years; recycle even more currently from 40% to 50%; landfill – to reduce to 0% the direct disposal of unprocessed residual municipal waste.

It is established that approximately 65% of households have signed up to a waste provider but the balance is currently 'unmanaged' and will require future attention.

Discussion followed regarding use of incinerators and success of same in other EU countries. The Director stated that there were no planned incinerators in this part of the country.

Proposed by: Cllr Davy Hynes

Seconded by: Cllr John Fleming

2) Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Ger Mackey, Administrative Officer, gave an update on the Local Economic and Community Plan(LECP). The members agreed at the February Council meeting to set up an Advisory Steering Group. This will allow for the preparatory stage of the LECP over the next 12 months.

Information drawn from socio-economic analysis, identified areas that are weak and working groups have been established:

Working Groups

Education: To consult with the education sector in Co. Wexford

Community Development: To consult with Community Development Stakeholders in the county and to utilise same.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The County Plenary of the PPN took place in December 2014 and established the County Secretariat of the PPN. This is made up of ten members, four of which are nominated from each Municipal District, and two representatives from the three Electoral Colleges of the PPN. A resource worker will be appointed to facilitate the PPN network.

Playgrounds

The Chairman proposed we look at and carry out a review/survey of playgrounds around the county.

The Director stated that it would require an additional resource to inspect playgrounds, recommending maintenance and repairs. There should be close liaison with Municipal Districts regarding recreational spaces. The SPC will agree on a policy and strategy, regarding playgrounds and adult outdoor fitness areas, going forward.

3) Housing Update

Tenant Purchase or Incremental Purchase Scheme

Liz Hore informed the SPC that a new incremental purchase scheme was due to be in place in 2015. The scheme will replace the Tenant purchase scheme which facilitated tenants to purchase their own homes.

National Rent Scheme 2015

Wexford County Council has not been informed of a date for the commencement of this scheme. In the meantime the Housing Department has been analysing the impact of the proposed draft scheme on the Differential Rent Scheme in County Wexford.

Energy Efficiency

Liz Hore informed the committee that the Energy Efficiency Programme will continue in 2015. It is intended that this programme, will be completed this year with the entire housing stock insulated thus creating warmer homes and reducing fuel poverty for tenants.

4) A.O.B

It was decided that the next SPC would be held on 14th April rather than 7th April, 2015 due to Easter Holidays at Kilmore Quay, in the Stella Maris Centre with a tour of the marina.

The Chairman thanked Sean Meyler, EE and Staff, for the informative talk and tour of the Holmestown Facility.

Signed: _____
Cllr. F Kehoe, Chairman

Date: _____

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Friday 5th June 2015 at 2:00 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance

Chairman: Cllr Fergie Kehoe

Elected Representatives:

Cllr. David Hynes	Cllr. Anthony Kelly
Cllr. Joe Sullivan	Cllr. Mary Farrell
Cllr. John O'Rourke	Cllr. John Fleming
Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin	Cllr. Oliver Walsh

Sectoral Representatives:

Wexford County Council:

John Carley, Director of Services	Gerry Forde, A/Sen Eng
Liz Hore, SEO Hsg & Community	Shay Howell, Sen Ex Arch
Ger Mackey, AO Community	E Morrissey, Sen Ex Librarian
Fran Ronan, Sports Partnership	

Apologies:

Cllr. Ger Carthy	Fionnuala Hanrahan, Co. Librarian
Ciaran Scallan, SIPTU	
James Brennan, Farming Group	

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of SPC meeting held on 14th April, 2015 at Stella Maris Hall, Kilmore Quay, and minutes of Special SPC meeting held on 29th April, 2015 in Council Chamber, County Hall, were both agreed. There were no matters arising.

Proposed by Cllr. John O'Rourke

Seconded by Cllr. Anthony Kelly

1)Housing Update

Liz Hore, SEO Housing & Community presented a report on Social Housing Strategy 2020, proposed exchequer funding to the committee. This funding was expected to become available imminently. Capital construction, is approved for €5 million for the following schemes:

Riverchapel, Gorey -	10 units	-	Currently under construction
Shanna Court, Wexford -	8 units	-	Currently under construction
Francis Street, Wexford -	1 unit		
Baile Eoghain, Gorey -	9 units		
Kileens, Wexford -	10 units		

Return of Vacant Stock – Wexford County Council has few voids, comparable with other counties. This is mainly due to housing maintenance and estate management policies of quick turn around of vacant stock. Of the small number of voids, 9 were identified and funding is sought and granted for €219,000 to bring the units up to rental standards.

Wexford County Council is continuing its successful energy efficiency programme and has secured funding of €415,851 which should see completion of the programme for local authority stock this year.

The total funding allocated in respect of the Grant packages for 2015 is just over €1.5 million with 20 % being made available from WCC.

Capital Assistance Scheme – WCC submitted 8 proposals under CAS to the Department by closing date of 30th April 2015. Confirmation of approval, once received, will be submitted on the Municipal District reports and the members of the SPC will also be notified of same.

Shay Howell, Senior Executive Architect, distributed a Housing Construction Status Report.

Construction Projects

Riverchapel 10 units– is now 45% complete with the anticipated finishing date to be circa end of October/ early November 2015. The build is going well.

Shana Court 8 units – is now 40% complete with similar expected completion time to Riverchapel. It too is progressing well.

Extensions

There are currently 10 extensions being examined. 7 are currently are with the relevant Area Housing Officer for consideration , as often a transfer could be a more cost effective solution. Of the remaining 3, 2 extensions are about to commence and 1 is due to be completed by the end of June.

Pre Tender Projects

Proposed schemes for Taghmon and Baile Eoghain are at pre tender stage. There are still ongoing discussions with the Department and it is hoped that both schemes will go out to tender in last quarter of this year.

Under Part V lands - small scheme of sheltered housing at Kileens, Wexford, is being designed for pre-planning.

Infill development – proposal for 2 special needs units at Oylegate, Marconi Park and 8 units at Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy.

Voluntaries

Rathangan scheme of 7 units – funding has been approved by the Department and the builder has been appointed so work should get underway.

Kilenerin scheme of 6 units - is completed and occupied.

Ard Aoibhinn 2 units – is in build stage.

Radon

WCC is at the end of 5 year countywide programme and will test all houses not tested in old Urban Council areas. The programmed identified that 7% of homes need to be rectified.

NAMA

The Housing Agency are progressing with the purchase of 10 units and we are still awaiting word from this agency.

The Director of Service(s) informed the committee that there are new Part V regulations due this year and he will inform the members of same once they become available.

2)Right to Read Literacy Campaign

Eileen Morrissey, Senior Executive Librarian gave a presentation to the committee on Supporting Literacy in the Local Authority.

County Wexford has a lower than national average in educational attainment. The third level education rate is third lowest in the state. Over one quarter of secondary school students attend DEIS schools.

The right to read literacy campaign was launched in July 2014. It supports and advances literacy skills in communities through local government. The four areas identified where the local authority can provide literacy support are:

- Providing support for pre school children
- Fostering enjoyment of reading
- Support family literacy
- Target children and young people in need of help with reading well

A 'ready to read' pilot in early literacy has commenced with parents and children in the Templeshannon area. It is hoped to run this countywide following its success.

2,500 children were 'gifted' books and library information to help instill a lifelong love of books and learning. For those children requiring help with reading, there is a targeted promotion of Summer reading challenge, through partnership with relevant bodies such as DEIS schools, NEPS & ETP and assisted technology workshops to help parents of children with reading difficulties.

3)Environment

Gerry Forde A/Senior Engineer, updated to the committee on the following Environmental issues:

Beaches

There are now currently 5 Blue Flag Beaches in the County with Ballinsesker receiving the final blue flag.

There are currently 8 Green Coast Beaches; Ballymoney, Cahore, Old Bawn, Culletons Gap, St. Helens, Booley Strand, Ballyhealy & Grange Fethard.

Farm Inspections

The EPA requires Local Authorities carry out Farm Inspections and report to the Department of Agriculture. The inspections will take place in different parts of the county, targeting areas that would have reported water quality issues. On the whole, the inspections are routine in nature, but will also take place in areas in response to slurry complaints or pollution.

Water Quality

WCC is inspecting water quality in the region by taking well samples. WCC has conducted an initial survey and will inform residents in the area of the outcome.

Details of the bravery of two local lifeguards were brought to the attention of the committee, and it was noted that both were nominated for bravery awards.

4)Community Report

Ger Mackey, Administrative Officer, circulated a current Community Report.

Delivery of LEADER interventions

The Wexford LCDC has submitted an expression of interest to be the Wexford Local Action Group(LAG) in the delivery of LEADER interventions. If successful, the LAG with WLD will be invited to develop and submit a LEADER Local Development Strategy(LDS) for approval.

Public Participation Network(PPN)

The PPN elected nominees to the LCDC on 11th May. Pillar positions will now be filled in accordance with the nomination process. However the Environment Seats were not filled as there were not sufficient groups registered. The secretariate will examine ways to fill the Environment seats. The filling of SPC positions from this process will follow the LCDC nominations.

Fran Ronan, Local Sports Partnership Co-ordinator, gave a presentation on the current sporting projects.

Community Sports Hub(CSH)

This is a collective of progressive sports clubs and other local bodies, working together to improve sport in their community. The hubs operate within the existing structure of local sports partnerships(LSP) and can be either area or facility based and must focus on either a rural or urban area.

It is intended that 9 CSH's will be set up countrywide and applications to become a CSH is processed through LSPs. A maximum grant of €90K would be considered per application, which should include personnel and capital costs. The capital element must be a minimum of 60% of the total funding sought.

WCC has put forward an application for CSH based in the Riverchapel Courtown area, and details of successful tenders should be known by the end of June 2015.

Community Coaching

This programme is aimed in assisting unemployed persons to gain employment through coaching, volunteering and further education in the sports sector. The programme will provide practical and theoretical sport related skills. It is also seen as a route to an educational framework with the aim to develop a Sport and Business pathway from this level of attainment. The maximum fund available per year, is €16k per course.

Park Runs

This is an international initiative, partly funded by Hse and Sports Active Wexford. There are weekly free runs to Johnstown Castle with an average of 150 persons taking part. JFK Arboretum has also launched a run, started on 23rd May and this is now averaging 80 participants.

GAA Community Coach Launch

The official launch of the partnership between the GAA community coaching in Wexford with WCC is to be held in the County Hall, Carricklawn on Monday 8th June, where the All Ireland GAA cups, Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy will be on display.

Signed:

Cllr. F Kehoe, Chairman

Date:

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Friday 7th July 2015 at 2:30 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr Fergie Kehoe, Chairman, Cllr. David Hynes, Cllr. Anthony Kelly, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr. Joe O'Sullivan, Cllr. Mary Farrell and Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin

Sectoral Representatives:

Wexford County Council: John Carley, Director of Services, Anthony Bailey, A.O. Ger Mackey, AO Community, Gerry Forde, A/Sen Eng.

SIPTU: Ciaran Scallan

Farming Group: James Brennan

Apologies: Cllr. Oliver Walsh, Liz. Hore, Fionnuala Hanrahan, Fran Ronan and Shay Howell

Secretary: Michele Bridges Carley, SSO

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Special Plenary Meeting on Homelessness held at 11.00 am on the 5th June 2015 and also the minutes of the SPC meeting held also on 5th June 2015 were adopted and signed on the proposal of Cllr. Ger Carthy and seconded by Cllr. John O'Rourke. There were no matters arising.

Community Report

Mr. Ger Mackey, circulated the Community Development Report outlining the the current work flow of the community unit with regard to Third Level Education, Blue Way, Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) Public Participation Network (PPN) and Wexford Age Friendly Programme, Ger Mackey advised the committee that it is hoped to hold further workshops in the Autumn regarding Education (SUSIE), Social Inclusion, Age Friendly and PPN. A general discussed followed and the queries raised were addressed.

Ger Mackey undertook to invite the SICAP (WLD) Implementor to make a presentation to the committee on the SICAP programme at the next meeting.

Ger Mackey outlined to the committee community projects currently underway in the Courtown/Riverchapel area which include the Riverchapel Sports Complex which represent an investment of nearly €1 million, and the Youth Cafe which is expected to open in the Autumn.

Housing Report

Mr. Anthony Bailey circulated the Housing Report which gave an overview to the committee in relation to Traveller Inter-Agency Process, Tenant Purchase Scheme and other policy areas. The committee had a general discussion on the housing report and raised a number of issues including, general maintenances, heating systems in local authority houses, capital spending, house purchases, homelessness and B & B costs involved. Queries were addressed by Mr John Carley and the Housing staff in attendance.

John Carley will bring to the attention of the Joint Policing Committee the concerns expressed by Cllr. Farrell regarding antisocial/crime activity in the Courtown/Riverchapel area.

Anthony Bailey will revert with an update regarding the situation of 2 derelict houses in Bride Street which was raised by Cllr. Davy Hynes.

Anthony Bailey will revert with an update on what council properties remain to be radon tested when he has spoken to the engineer which was raised by Cllr. O'Suilleabháin

Environment Report

Gerry Forde advised the committee of the work was now completed on the beach at Courtown.

Gerry Forde circulated the Environment Report to the committee outlining the current activity in the area regarding Water Quality Air & Noise, Waste Activities, Litter Management, Animal Control, Environmental Education, Public Conveniences and the operation and works under Coastal Activities. Gerry Forde also advised the committee that there was a pilot scheme in operation regarding allowing wheelchair access to Curracloe and Rosslare beach for people with a disability. The committee had a general discussion on the report.

Any other Business

Correspondence Received – Heating Systems in L.A. houses.

The committee had a general discussion on the provision of heating systems as it was felt that some of our tenants could not afford oil and perhaps alternative heating systems i.e. stoves could be considered. John Carley advised the committee that he would review the current practice with the housing engineer and will then revert to the committee.

Correspondence Received – Wilful damage to L.A. properties by tenant.

The committee discussed the issue of wilful damage by tenants of their L.A. dwelling and the best approach to dealing with the issue. John Carley advised the committee that he will discuss same with Eliz. Hore S.E.O. upon her return to work. Eliz. Hore will then report back to the committee at their next meeting.

Cllr. Kelly queried the possibility of holding a meeting of the committee in the Rosslare Europort. Michele Bridges Carley will check out this possibility and revert to the committee.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1st September 2015

Signed:

Fergie Kehoe
Cllr. F Kehoe, Chairman

Date:

1/9/15

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 1st September 2015 at 2:30 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr Fergie Kehoe, Chairman, Cllr. David Hynes, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr. Joe O'Sullivan, Cllr, Mary Farrell and Cllr Oliver Walsh.

Sectoral Representatives: James Brennan, Farming Pillar; Ciaran Scallan, Trade Union Representative; Frances Ryan, Community & Voluntary Sector; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social Inclusion Pillar.

Wexford County Council: John Carley, Director of Services, Elizabeth Hore, S.E.O. Ger Mackey, AO Community, Gerry Forde, A/Sen Eng, Michael Doyle, Ex Eng.

Apologies: Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr. Anthony Kelly

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Special Plenary Meeting on Homelessness, the minutes of the SPC meeting both held on 5th June 2015 and also the minutes of the SPC meeting held on 7th July 2015 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Davy Hynes

Seconded by: Cllr. John Fleming

Condolences: The Committee expressed its sympathy on the recent passing of Chris Wilson

Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Ms Clare Ryan from Wexford Local Development (WLD) gave a presentation on the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP). Following a tendering process, the SICAP contract was awarded to WLD by WCC and Wexford Local Community Development Committee. The programme commenced April 2015 and engages with the most difficult to reach in the priority disadvantaged areas of the county.

A discussion was held by the members on the high indicators of deprivation and the need to target resources through SICAP to improve the current position.

Community Report

The Community Development Report was circulated by Ger Mackey outlining the current work programme.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

The preparation process is now moved to stage 2, public consultation which should take approx 6 weeks and finish on 22nd September. It is expected that the plan will be completed in the first quarter of 2016.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

An information meeting as part of the election process was held for all members of the PPN. Positions for the Community, Voluntary and Social Inclusion seats on the Council committees were filled. The Environmental Pillar still remains to be filled in November. Information regarding the application for PPN membership for next year will be available mid September and all interested parties will need to register.

Local Community Development Community (LCDC)

It is proposed to increase the size of the LCDC from 17 to 19 Members. The HSE and Trade Unions have expressed an interest in joining the LCDC.

Rural Economic Development Zone REDZ

An Application has been made under the REDZ Pilot initiative for a Food Lab to be located in Bunclody. This application is a partnership between Wexford and Carlow County Councils, with Wexford County Council as the lead partner.

Dormant Accounts

The LCDC has coordinated two applications under the Dormant Accounts call for funding. Ferns Diocesan Youth Services (FDYS) applied under Measure 1 as part of an inter agency approach to the provision of a "Fab Lab" in New Ross. Chevron Training have made an application under Measure 2 Youth Training.

LEADER

The DECLG has accepted the LCDC expression of interest to be the Local Action Group (LAG) for LEADER. It is expected that LEADER funding will roll out in the 1st Quarter of 2016.

SICAP

SICAP is being implemented by Wexford Local Development on behalf of the LCDC. The midterm review of the programme will commence in September.

Wexford Age Friendly County Programme

This programme has been established to oversee the development and roll out of the Age Friendly Strategy for County Wexford, which is part of a National Age Friendly Programme and consultation meetings will commence in the New Ross Municipal District.

Public Parks

Cllr Kehoe, Chairman requested that the issue of Public Parks maintenance be addressed. John Carley, Director of Services (DOS) indicated that the Redmond Park in Wexford Town would be first to be reviewed under a Parks maintenance programme.

Community Sports Hub (CSH)

Wexford Sports Active & Wexford County Council (WCC) were successful as one of nine national hubs to receive funding under the Irish Sports Council dormant accounts measure. Funding will target capital works and a part time worker. Congratulations were extended by all the committee on this achievement.

Housing Report

Ms. Liz Hore, SEO, circulated the Housing report.

National Rent Framework

The committee was informed that a recent circular was issued informing local authorities that the National Rent Framework would not commence in July 2015. In the meantime local authorities are to continue to charge rent in accordance with their current differential rent schemes. WCC will now begin a process of reviewing its existing differential rent scheme having regard to for the new administrative areas of the former town councils.

Capital Assistance Programmes

The Taobh na Coille Housing scheme providing 6 units for the elderly with Kilanerin Sheltered Housing Association was funded under the Capital Assistance Programme is now completed and the units are occupied. The official opening by Minister Brendan Howlin is to take place on Friday 11th September. The group have been shortlisted under the Irish Council for Social Housing Awards.

Housing Supply

The report outlined the progress of the Housing & Community Department in prioritising housing solutions to meet the needs of families in County Wexford across a range of measures.

Housing Maintenance

A housing maintenance report was circulated to the committee, highlighting the significant increase in stock as a result of the amalgamation of the old town councils. The additional stock presents budget challenges which require certain remedial measures in the last quarter of the year. The housing maintenance section continues to be busy attending to a total of 4,262 repair calls January – August 2015.

Homelessness

Homelessness, similar to national trends, is on the increase in County Wexford. This has been a significant challenge for the housing authority with pressure on the private rented sector. Due to the rise of homeless cases and following on from the recent plenary session on the issue, WCC has secured additional section 10 Homelessness funding from the DECLG.

Environment Report

Gerry Forde, A/Senior Engineer circulated the Environment Report.

Water Quality and Air Noise

The 2015 programme commenced in April with 55 septic tank inspections completed to date. Discharge licences are currently being reviewed. Air quality monitoring is currently being carried out, complaints about noise have increased.

It is proposed to implement a countywide ban for coal burning; a report will be circulated at the Housing, Community & Environment SPC.

Waste Activities

Pay by weight and weight collection permits will have immediate impact on enforcement personnel as the introduction of fixed payment notices (FPN)s for specific producer responsibility initiative (PRI) offences commence 31st August. On the spot fines (FPN's) have been introduced as a way of streamlining the enforcement system. These will be less costly than initiating court proceedings.

Litter Management

WCC has engaged a CCTV contractor in using mobile cameras at litter black-spots with significant success. A number of prosecutions have ensued.

Coastal Activities

All the water quality results for our blue flag, green coast and identified bathing waters have been compliant for this Summer.

Any other Business

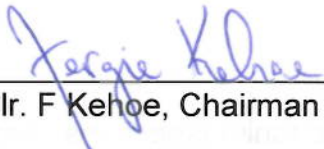
The committee wished to compliment the RNLI in the recent rescue operations in Kilmore Quay and to offer its sympathies to the families of the bereaved.

The committee wished to congratulate Caroline Horan and Staff for the introduction of the beach buggies.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 3rd November 2015

Signed:


Cllr. F Kehoe, Chairman

Date: 3/11/15

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 at 2:30 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr Fergie Kehoe, Chairman, Cllr. Anthony Kelly, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr, Mary Farrell, Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin,

Sectoral Representatives: James Brennan, Farming Pillar; Frances Ryan, Community & Voluntary Sector; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social Inclusion Pillar.

Wexford County Council: John Carley, Director of Services, Elizabeth Hore, S.E.O. Ger Mackey, AO Community, Gerry Forde, A/Sen Eng, Hugh Maguire, A.O. Environment, Anthony Bailey A.O. Housing, Sinead O'Gorman, Sen Ex Librarian.

Apologies: Cllr. David Hynes, Cllr. Joe O'Sullivan, Cllr. John O'Rourke and Cllr Oliver Walsh.

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the SPC held on 1st September 2015 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Mary Farrell

Seconded by: Cllr. Ger Carthy

There were no matters arising.

Environment Report

Mr Gerry Forde, A/Senior Engineer circulated the Environment Report.

Water Framework Directive

This directive establishes a framework for the protection of all waters including rivers, lakes and coastal waters. There are new governance arrangements being put in place and these are made up of three tiers. Tier 1 is led by the DECLG involving the responsibility for policy. Tier 2 is lead by the EPA which has responsibilities for environmental objectives. Tier 3 is led by a lead co-ordinating local authority.

Southern Waste Plan

Cork County Council has been nominated as the lead authority to co-ordinate enforcement activity of all local authorities in the region. This will entail reviewing inspection plans, monitoring outcomes of inspection and ensuring similar enforcement practices throughout the region.

Health & Safety

Wexford County Council made a submission to the National Irish Safety Organisation in relation to 'Managing Health and Safety on Coastal Work Activities'. WCC won a distinction award reflecting the commitment of the Environment Section. John Carley, Director of Services commended the staff working in the coastal and beach section. The Committee thanked and acknowledged the efforts of staff in recognition of this award.

Coastal Protection

The OPW requires a risk management study for any future coastal protection schemes. Mr G Forde outlined that a cost benefit analysis would be costly if carried out on each study. It is likely that parts of the coastline would be lost to erosion. A general review of the vulnerable areas would be carried out to determine risk assessment.

Litter Management

Mr G Forde informed the committee that a draft Litter Management Plan is being prepared and will be presented at the January SPC. He updated the committee on the success of the CCTV project in spotting illegal dumping and littering currently resulting in 6 cases being brought to court.

Animal Control

From 31st March 2016, dog micro-chipping regulations will require all dogs to be micro-chipped. WCC are promoting dog micro-chipping through the ISPCA as well as awarding a discount towards chipping and neutering costs when re-homing dogs.

Library Update - Wexford Business Information Service

Ms Sinead O’Gorman, Senior Executive Librarian gave an update on the Wexford Business Information Service from its launch in November 2014 to date. This service was launched following the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the National Library Development plan “Opportunities for All” which has emphasis on job creation and supporting and nurturing local enterprise.

This service was extensively promoted, through local media and by presentations at breakfast meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and Business Network International. The service works in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and the Economic Development Unit of WCC. LEO uses the Library to source speakers, panel discussion, run clinics and uses its training rooms for IT courses.

In support of information requirements of business and job seekers the library has purchased additional books, newspapers, trade and business journals. The library also facilitates research on companies, industry sectors and markets.

Further training is required for staff to develop competencies in the area of research and programme development. It is hoped to develop a dedicated area in Gorey Library to facilitate mentoring by the LEO and Chamber of Commerce.

Housing Update

Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015

Mr Anthony Bailey, AO gave a presentation on the changes and implications of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

Under Part V housing supply stream, the main changes involve the prioritisation of faster delivery of social housing, by frontloading the obligation on developers to negotiate with Housing Authorities. Since 1st September 2015, local authorities can seek agreement for the delivery of units and through transfers or leasing options. The percentage obligation is reduced from 20% to 10% and the liability only applies to developments with 10 or more units.

New Part V arrangements can be applied retrospectively to developments thus removing any barriers to old Part V agreements. This is intended to as an incentive to restart development.

Then followed a question and answer session regarding social housing provision.

Ms Liz Hore informed the committee that with regard to traveller accommodation, WCC had made a submission to the Department for property acquisition and in doing so had highlighted the demand for traveller accommodation and nominated suitable properties for purchase.

She also commented on the up and coming NAMA auction of properties due to be held in Gorey and stated that WCC would not be bidding on same as it was understood that the Voluntary Housing Bodies would be making bids. Voluntary Housing Bodies allocate tenancies from WCC's housing list. Cllr John Fleming declared his interest as acting on behalf of the vendors.

Ms Hore further discussed WCC's policy on the Leasing and RAS programmes. She stated that WCC's acquisitions for 2015 were in the main urban areas as that is the area of highest demand.

The committee extended sympathy to the families connected with the recent Carrickmines fire tragedy.

Tenant & Tenant Maintenance Handbook

A draft copy of both Tenant Handbook and Tenant Maintenance Handbook were circulated at the meeting. The committee was invited to submit feedback to Ms S. Lynn, by 16th November 2015.

ECO Kids

The Housing & Community Department hosted an *Eco Kids Expo* to encourage young people to foster a sense of pride and youth civic participation within the Wexford County Council Local Authority Housing Estates. The committee commended the day's event as a great success. Ms Hore hoped that this would transpire into an annual event.

The event featured a number of stands on the day and young people have been given a booklet to complete as part of a competition (copy enclosed).

Community Report

The Community Development Report was circulated by Mr Ger Mackey, AO Community Section.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

On 2nd November 2015, the advisory steering group approved the revised Socio Economic Statement (SES), for the LECP. Stage 3 of the Plan involves developing the objectives and actions by early Spring 2016.

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Wexford PPN is currently holding the PPN Municipal District Plenary meetings in each of the four districts. The municipal representative from the secretariat will present a progress report to the members of each area and facilitates an open forum for discussion of local issues.

Groups are again invited to register with the Wexford PPN and existing groups are invited to re-register for 2016.

Rural Economic Development Zone REDZ

Application for the development of a Food Lab has been approved with an allocation of €50,000 or 75% of the project cost. This is part of a REDZ Pilot initiative submitted by WCC with the support of Carlow County Council.

LEADER

The LEADER Development Strategy will be submitted to the Department for approval in November. It is expected that LEADER funding will roll out in the 1st Quarter of 2016.

Wexford Age Friendly County Programme

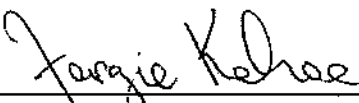
The Age Friendly consultations are currently taking place across the New Ross area, to be followed by the Wexford area. Consultation should be completed by February 2016.

The Committee complimented Ms Jacqui Eydt on her work during the year in setting up and facilitating the PPN.

Any other Business

- Congratulations were extended to the recent official opening of South End Family Resource Centre which has gone from strength to strength since its inception under the RAPID programme. Kathleen Fitzpatrick SPC rep was asked to send the best wishes from the SPC to the group.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12th January 2016 with a visit to the Europort, Rosslare Harbour arranged prior to the meeting.

Signed:


Cllr. F Kehoe, Chairman

Date:

