

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 12th January 2016 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. Joe Sullivan, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr, Mary Farrell, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Oliver Walsh.

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

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, Eileen Morrissey, A/County Librarian.

Apologies: Cllr. Anthony Kelly, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Ciaran Scallan SIPTU, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social inclusion.

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the SPC held on 3rd November 2015 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Mary Farrell

Seconded by: Frances Ryan

There were no matters arising.

The Chairman Cllr Fergie Kehoe extended his thanks to John Lynch, Manager of Rosslare Europort and to Capt. Phil Murphy, for their informative tour of the Rosslare Europort earlier that day.

Electronic Resources in the Libraries

Ms Eileen Morrissey, A/Librarian gave a presentation on the electronic resources in the Libraries. Within the next six weeks, E-books will be available to all library members. E-books and E-audio books can be downloaded onto a PC/Laptop via the website or on a mobile device via the borrowbox app. The loan period will be for 3 weeks after which point the item will disappear, there are over 5,000 items available to download. The library service is now involved in the integration of physical and the digital book.

Other services available online, include a wide range of courses such as Yoga, digital photography, computer basics for excel and accounting & bookkeeping. Instructors will be assigned to the course learners. There is also an online language learning service through conversations and films in over 60 languages.

Also available are online magazines and newspapers. There will be unlimited digital access to all types of magazines. And an instant online access to today's newspapers, local, national and international.

Community Report

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

LEADER

The LEADER Development Strategy has been submitted to the Department for approval with an anticipated response due in February 2016

SICAP

The end of year review of SICAP has commenced with the programme implementer Wexford Local Development (WLD).

Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Secretariat is currently formulating a Work Plan for the PPN for 2016. They will arrange to have the vacant Environmental College seats on the LCDC and SPC's filled. The election of these seats will take place in the near future.

Frances Ryan, Community & Voluntary Sectors gave an update of the current status of the PPN to the committee. In particular, she highlighted issues relating to the community sector following a meeting in New Ross. Mr Ger Mackey agreed to follow up with Frances and WLD to put in place SICAP supports.

Wexford Age Friendly County Programme

The Wexford Area consultations commenced in December are currently in progress through January. Carlow I.T. Students and some members of the Age Friendly Steering group act as facilitators at these consultations and their participation contributes to the success of the programme.

LCDC Annual Report

The Annual report of the LCDC is on the agenda of the January Council meeting for adoption.

Rural Economic Development Zone REDZ

Wexford & Carlow local authorities have collaborated to successfully secure €50K of funding from the Dept of Agriculture, Food & the Marine to pilot a REDZ initiative in Bunclody. This project links in with Ireland's progressive food industry and the Bunclody REDZ is exploring the economic viability of developing a 'food hub' in the town.

The region is best placed in promoting not only food but beverage industry, and Wexford County Council intends to work closely with all players in the Tourism industry in 2016 in advance of Fáilte Ireland's launch of the Ancient East Trail.

Great North Haven Housing Review – Age Friendly Ireland

Ms Aisling Costello, Age Friendly Ireland gave a presentation on "Housing for Older People, Future Prospectives".

The SLIOTAR (Sustainable Living Integrating Older Adults with Technological Advancements) project, aims to review the effectiveness of assisted living technologies with social interventions. The project examined National and EU models for older people and evaluated facts that contribute to good outcomes. In particular the project looked at the Great North Haven complex in Dundalk with regard to design, technology and social interventions. This complex was developed with concept of 'age in place', enabling older adults to remain in their homes or community rather than moving to long term care institution.

Housing Update

Ms Liz Hore, SEO Housing & Community circulated the Housing Report.

Incremental Purchase Scheme

This scheme has been recently announced as the new tenant purchase scheme and has become operational on 1st January 2016. The scheme will provide discounts for eligible purchasers linked to household income. The Loans Section of Wexford County Council will be in a position to provide mortgages to loan applicants who satisfy their eligibility under the scheme. A meeting has been called nationally at the end of the month to clarify queries in relation to the scheme.

Differential Rents

The DECLG notified local authorities in 2015 of rent policy directions for Local Authority Rent Charging in circular 26/2015. The National Rents Scheme has been deferred until further notification and Housing authorities have been advised to proceed with differential rent schemes for 2016.

Wexford County Council in 2016 will implement a countywide rents scheme. The scheme will be consistent throughout the county and will commence from June this year. A copy of the differential rents scheme 2016 was circulated at the meeting.

Housing Capital Programme

Wexford County Council purchased 14 additional properties to its housing stock programme and this will create homes for 14 new families at the beginning of 2016 with funding of €1.6m.

The remaining items on the report were taken as read and deferred for discussion at the next SPC meeting.

Environment Report

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

Waste Activities

Civic Amenity sites reported significant increase up to 50% over the Christmas period. In New Ross, plans are in being prepared to relocate the Irishtown Bring Centre and to provide a Bring Centre in Rosbercon.

Public Conveniences

The preliminary review of automated public conveniences in Wexford Town has been completed.

Environmental Education

With the passing of the Southern Waste Plan, in 2016 there will be a strong emphasis on the promotions of waste prevention and reduction.

Coastal Protection

Piers & Harbours

Preliminary investigations and inspections revealed that there was no serious damage done to the County's piers and harbours following the winter storms.

Coastline

While assessments are still being carried out, inspections have revealed that large sections of unprotected sand coastline were impacted in the recent storms.

Litter Management

Mr Hugh Maguire, A.O. Environment Section circulated a report on littering and illegal dumping in Co. Wexford 2015.

Monitoring System

Local Authorities use GIS maps and a computerised data base to generate potential litter locations, where litter is likely to occur. Over 120 locations are surveyed annually to measure the extent of litter in the County. Since 2004 the % litter free is steadily increasing.

Prevention & Control

Wexford County Council carries out street sweeping and bin emptying in the 4 main towns and larger villages. A summer beach cleaning litter patrol crew is employed at 6 designated bathing beaches and Kilmore Quay Marina.

Education & Awareness

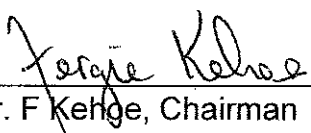
The focus is to create and foster awareness of problems caused by littering and illegal dumping. The council employs many initiatives to promote education including; Green Schools Programme; National Spring Clean; Keep Wexford Beautiful competition; promotion of Green Dog Walker campaign.

Enforcement

Prosecutions and convictions were carried out in 2015. The Environment Section operates a 'hotline' for reporting of illegal dumping. New regulations in 2016 will require householders to have property waste management arrangements in place.

The Council's Environment Section will focus on the adoption of a new litter management plan towards the end of Q2 2016. The draft plan will be put to the next SPC for consideration.

Signed:


Cllr. F Kehoe, Chairman

Date: 1/3/16

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 1st March 2016 at 2:30 p.m.
At The Council Chamber, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr Fergie Kehoe, Chairman, Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr, Mary Farrell, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin,

Sectoral Representatives: Ciarán Scallan, SIPTU Representative; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social Inclusion Sector.

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

Apologies: Cllr. Anthony Kelly, Cllr. David Hynes.

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the SPC held on 12th January 2016 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. John O'Rourke

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Sullivan

There were no matters arising.

Water Framework Presentation

Gerry Forde, A/Senior Engineer & Brendan Cooney, Senior Executive Scientist presented to the SPC and overview of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

The European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, placed new obligations on the local authorities in co-ordinating the catchment management and public participation elements of the WFD.

The new governance arrangements concerning the implementation of the directive will include a 3 Tier structure with the local authority's responsibility at the working level of implementing the directive. This will require the appointment of a Community Water Officer, to be funded by the DECLG, who will oversee the community involvement of the directive.

Samples of the success of community involvement potential were outlined.

Environment and food security areas are top of the list of important causes for companies to support and invest. Consumers are now more socially conscious and proven areas of good water quality have an economic advantage.

The Director of Services, John Carley stated that the implementation of the directive is a long term project, concentrating on rivers at the most risk first, with continuing monitoring and inspecting rivers that currently have good water quality.

Environment Report

Gerry Forde A/Sen Engineer circulated a report from the Environment Section

Water Quality

There are 18 sub catchments of rivers in the county. Focus will be on working on those at most risk. The work will involve inspections by the Council, working with local stakeholders in farming and agricultural industry sectors.

Noise

Consultants are being appointed to carry out noise surveys of selected wind farms where there are noise issues reported.

Waste Activities

Pay by Weight (PBW) is being introduced at civic amenity sites and for kerbside collections with effect from 1st July 2016.

Coastal Activities

Following a complete assessment of of the entire Wexford coastline a coastline strategy will be carried out.

Housing Report

Incremental Purchase Tenant Scheme (IPTS)

Liz Hore, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Community gave a presentation on the Incremental Purchase Scheme. The scheme has been signed into effect since January 2016. The broad parameters of the scheme and eligibility were outlined.

All tenants of properties which are eligible will be written to advising them of the scheme and of loan finance that maybe available from LA's should they meet credit policy criteria. Roadshow Clinics will also be held during April to facilitate future applicants and provide information on the scheme.

Differential Rents Scheme 2016

The Housing Team have commenced the rent review with 5,000 rent accounts and a copy of the Differential Rents Scheme 2016, will be circulated to the members of Wexford County Council at their next meeting.

Expressions of Interest

Wexford County Council in developing the County Wexford Housing Strategy 2020 is currently identifying and prioritising housing programmes for delivery.

As part of a range of housing solutions the Housing Authority has advertised in the local press and e-tenders seeking expressions of interest from private developers/building contractors and approved housing bodies interested in delivering social housing units within the County.

Housing Construction

The DECLG announced in February this year an allocation of over €5 million to Wexford County Council for the construction of 37 new homes under the Social Housing Strategy 2020.

The Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Brendan Howlin, T.D. performed the official opening of the Shanna Court, Coolcotts 8 house group scheme joined by Councillor Ger Carthy, his Worship the Mayor and Councillor Tony Dempsey, Chairman, Wexford County Council and local residents on Tuesday 9th February 2016.

Approved Housing Bodies (AHB's)

The latest allocation of units by AHB's has been the 19 units from NAMA at Clonattin and construction of 6 units nearing completion as part of a 38 unit scheme at Hunters Green.

Housing & Disability Steering Group

The group met in January this year and hosted the National Disability Co-ordinator from the Housing Agency Claire Feeney. A copy of the presentation was circulated to the SPC. Currently the Housing team are developing a housing strategy which will be presented at the next SPC meeting. The group have set up a subgroup with the HSE and WCC to prepare the programme for accommodating people with disabilities from congregated settings that require medium to low support

Cllr John O'Rourke excused himself and left the meeting.

The committee requested a list of property acquisitions to be circulated.

Community Report

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

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC have approved the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) end of year review and 2016 Annual Plan. The headline indicators, budgets and targets were outlined in the report.

Traveller Interagency Group (TIG)

This group is to be re-established. The first meeting to be held 7th March 2016 with a representative from the Department of Justice in attendance.

LEADER

It is expected that the LEADER Development Strategy (LDS) will be approved by the National Review Panel and that a LEADER contract will issue thereafter. Once this is in place, under the three main goals, advertisements will be placed seeking expressions of interest to apply for LEADER funding. Wexford Local Development will evaluate proposals and the LCDC will have final approval. Groups should be made aware that LEADER funding is paid retrospectively and that 5% of the budget must be borne by own resources. The max allowed per project is €150,000.

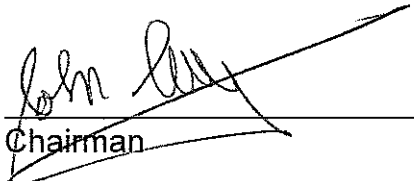
Library Service Report

Sinead O’Gorman, Senior Executive Librarian gave a presentation on the Mobile Library Service. There are currently two mobile library vehicles serving 112 stops and providing 85 hours per week to the public.

It is now proposed to update the Library fleet of vehicles. It is proposed to extend the services currently provided by the mobile libraries to include delivery of a new ‘housebound’ service to nursing and day care centres, further develop and deliver literacy outreach programmes and link in with the Customer Service unit to bring Council Services locally.

The committee requested a schedule of services to be circulated to the SPC members.

The Chairman Cllr Fergie Kehoe, wished everyone a very happy Easter.

Signed: 
#1 Chairman

Date: 3rd May 2016.

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 3rd May 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr David Hynes, Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr, Mary Farrell, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Oisín O'Connell

Sectoral Representatives: James Brennan, Farming Group; Frances Ryan, Community & Voluntary Sector.

Wexford County Council: John Carley, Director of Services, Elizabeth Hore, S.E.O. Ger Mackey, AO Community, Gerry Forde, A/Sen Eng, Shay Howell, Sen Ex Architect, Hugh Maguire, AO Environment, Sean Meyler Executive Engineer, Brendan Cooney Senior Executive Scientist, Aisling Doyle, Area Housing Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Anthony Kelly, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cllr Fiontán O'Sulleabháin, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social Inclusion.

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

John Carley, Director of Services notified the committee that he was advised by the County Secretary to chair the meeting until the official appointment by the Council of a replacement for the late SPC Chairman Cllr. Fergie Kehoe.

The Committee observed a minutes silence in respect of the Chairman of the SPC, Cllr. Fergie Kehoe and in respect of John Forde the brother of A/Sen Engineer Gerry Forde.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the SPC held on 1st March 2016 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Sullivan

Seconded by: Cllr. Mary Farrell

There were no matters arising.

The committee extended its best wishes to Cllr. Anthony Kelly on his recovery from recent illness.

Water Framework Presentation

Mr Fran Igoe, Local Authorities Water & Community Office (LAWCO) presented to the SPC an overview of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Its objective is to protect and restore clean water, ensuring long term sustainable use and to achieve good ecological status in all the country's waters.

The European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, placed new obligations on the local authorities in co-ordinating the catchment management and public participation elements of the WFD.

The new governance arrangements concerning the implementation of the directive will include a 3 Tier structure with the local authority's responsibility at the working level of implementing the directive. This will require the appointment of a Community Water Officer, to be funded by the DECLG, who will oversee the community involvement of the directive.

Proposal to introduce Residual Waste Service to Civic Amenity (C.A.) Sites

Sean Meyler, Executive Engineer gave a presentation on the introduction of a Residual Waste Service at C.A. Sites. Holmestown is the only site offering a residual waste (black bag) service. This is gap in the service offered at the other C.A. Sites. The pay by weight for kerbside and PTU compactors will commence with effect from July 1st 2016.

It is proposed to introduce a residual waste service using PTU compactors which have an integral weight charging system, automatic payment system and charge per kilo to be standard at all C.A. Sites.

This would create a small revenue stream and would reduce the overall cost of the sites by 21%. It would fill the gap in our current service and the gap in service should any of the PTU's close.

The Introduction of Residual Waste Service to Civic Amenity Sites was:

Proposed by: Cllr John O'Rourke

Seconded by:

Cllr Joe Sullivan

Introduction of Entry Charge at C.A. Sites

Currently all C.A. Sites are free to enter, there are charges at Holmestown for residual, bulky, garden, timber wastes. The C.A. Sites are operating at a deficit of €320K in 2015 and given the level of activity this figure should rise in 2016.

Following the introduction of Pay by Weight it is anticipated that there will be a likely swing of customers seeking to avail of the free facilities at the C.A. Sites. Thus causing addition pressure on the capacity, cost and management of the Sites.

Other local authorities in the region have an entry charge to their C.A. Sites. It is proposed to introduce a €2 charge at all sites. It is hoped that the charge would control the user numbers at the sites to manageable levels, address the perceived imbalance with kerbside collection who must charge for food/recyclables by weight and help reduce the current operation costs.

Housing Report

Wexford Social Housing Strategy 2020

Liz Hore, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Community gave a presentation on the Social Housing Strategy 2020. Wexford County Council's Housing ethos is supplying sustainable housing for Wexford Communities, by building, buying, renting, leasing and regenerating properties.

The population in the county has increased since the last census. The current social housing demand has risen to 4,012, Wexford and Gorey municipal districts have the highest support need.

Within the National Housing Policy Context, housing solutions will be available under 3 new finance models:

- Supply – Provision of new social housing by reinstating a building programme to local authorities
- Support – Providing housing support through Private Rented Market via Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) and the new Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)
- Reform – Creating more flexible and responsive social housing supports

Liz Hore informed the committee that she would be making a presentation on the Social Housing Strategy 2020 to all up and coming Municipal District Meetings in May and would schedule another SPC meeting prior to the September Council Meeting.

Wexford Housing & Disability Steering Group

Aisling Doyle, Area Housing Officer gave a presentation to the committee on the Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with a Disability. The principal stake holders include housing authority, HSE, TUSLA, Approved Housing Bodies.

The main aim is accommodating people with disabilities from congregated settings that require medium to low support using delivery mechanisms through the local authority, approved housing bodies and other supports through the private sector.

Community Report

LEADER.

The LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) has been approved by the Department. The LDS was screened by POBAL and considered by an expert evaluation committee established by the DECLG. Discussions will take place in May with regard to putting in place a contract between LEADER and the LCDC, acting as the Local Action Group (LAG).

Traveller Interagency Group TIG

The TIG have agreed the following actions.

- Traveller participation
- Terms of reference to be drafted
- An audit of current traveller activities
- ROMA inclusion needs to be clarified
- Gaps in TIG participation and structure identified and addressed

E.U. LIFE Funding Application

At a recent LIFE information event held in Dublin it was indicated that an application for the development LIFE project at the Lagoons at Our lady's Island and Tachumshane would be eligible for consideration as a LIFE Project.

LCDC LOGO

The DECLG have designed a National logo for the LCDC, this logo will now be used on all future communications and publications

Bunclody REDZ

It is proposed to launch the Bunclody REDZ Report at an event in Bunclody. It is also proposed to commence the development of a Community Action Plan (CAP) for Bunclody at this event.

PPN

The Municipal District Plenary meetings are currently in progress throughout the County and will be completed by the end of April. A fulltime Resource worker was recently advertised and interview will be held shortly to fill this position. The elections for Environmental positions on the SPC's and the LCDC will take place before the summer.

Age Friendly

The Age Friendly County Program is in progress throughout the County. The Age Friendly Alliance will be meeting in May. It is hoped that the draft Age Friendly Strategy for Wexford will be presented to them and actions plans will then be formulated. The Strategy and Plans are expected to be finalised in September this year.

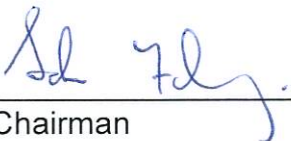
Blueway

A steering group has been established to progress the development of a coordinated approach to the development of the 3 Counties Blueway and related Interreg projects under the Ireland Wales Programme.

A.O.B.

An issue was raised by the New Ross Municipal District meeting regarding policy on Fire Service Fees for false alarms. This matter will be discussed at the next SPC.

Signed:



Chairman

Date:

29/8/2016

Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 29th August 2016 at 2:15 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr David Hynes, Cllr. Ger Carthy, Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Cllr Lisa McDonald.

Sectoral Representatives: Ciaran Scallan, SIPTU Representative; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social Inclusion

Wexford County Council: John Carley, Director of Services, Elizabeth Hore, S.E.O., Gerry Forde, Sen Eng, Shay Howell, Sen Ex Architect, Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian; Paul L'Estrange, Chief Fire Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Anthony Kelly, Cllr, Mary Farrell, James Brennan, Farming Group; Frances Ryan, Community & Voluntary Sector.

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

John Carley, Director of Services welcomed the new chairman of the committee Cllr. John Fleming.

Cllr. Fleming reminded the committee in the event of conflict of interest, members must declare to the committee and absent themselves from the meeting, for that part of the discussion.

The Committee welcomed Cllr. Lisa McDonald who replaced the late Cllr. Fergie Kehoe

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the SPC held on 3rd May 2016 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. Joe Sullivan
There were no matters arising.

Seconded by: Cllr. David Hynes

ENVIRONMENT

SEAI Partnership

Jane Wickham, Energy Engineer from Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency gave a presentation on SEAI Partnership and Energy Map. There is a commitment by the public sector to achieve a reduction of energy consumption by a third by 2020. Wexford County Council has signed partnership with SEAI to meet this commitment.

The partnership process involves preparing and implementing an action plan, reviewing annually on progress to the SEAI and seeking energy efficiency when procuring. Internally WCC has established an energy team with representative from all departments. The aim is to make savings on energy consumption by 3%pa from 2009-2020. (see attached presentation)

Paddy Phelan, Manager from Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency, gave a presentation on the Covenant of Mayors (COM). The COM is a European initiative, for Climate & Energy which brings together local and regional authorities voluntarily committed to implementing EU climate and energy objectives in their locality. This covenant is county wide and translates across all sectors including the Public Sector and is responsible for delivering a Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP).

Participation allows for international recognition and visibility of local authority actions and provides financial opportunities for local climate and energy projects.

The target set under the National Energy Efficiency Plan (NEEAP) is to reduce CO2 emissions by a third by 2030. The SECAP should set out the priority areas of action, provide a baseline emission inventory outlining the current position of energy consumption and CO2 emissions, and provide a comprehensive set of actions detailing proposals.

Environment Report

Water Air & Noise Quality

Under the Water Framework Directive the focus will be on working on water catchments deemed at risk in order to achieve good water quality status for our rivers. Work has commenced in Ramsgrange/Duncannon area.

Comprehensive noise surveys are being carried out countywide on selected wind farms.

Waste Activities

The Department has advised that the Minister has deferred the introduction of pay by weight until July 2017. Since July 2016, kerbside collection of bagged waste is prohibited. The introduction of charges is being considered at Civic Amenity sites.

Coastal Activities

WCC is on target to complete the works programme for piers and harbours 2016.

Emergency coastal protection at Dunaghmore is on going. OPW have applied for funding at this site WCC are prioritising the road and graveyard.

The committee raised questions concerning the quality of bathing at Ardcavan, Wexford, Mr Gerry Forde will ask the Water Safety Officer to examine suitability at this location.

The committee highlighted the lack of refuse collection options for holiday makers. Mr Gerry Forde will examine the option of employing P.T.U.'s as a refuse collection option for transient visitors

Cllr. Ger Carthy joined the meeting

Fire Service Fees

Paul L'Estrange, Chief Fire Officer (CFO) gave a presentation on Fire Service Fees and Waivers. He stated that the 'No Charge' and Waiver policies are similar to other local authorities.

Mr Ciaran Scallan, SIPTU representative raised query regarding the efficiency of Fire Charges. Mr John Carley, Director of Services explained that all local authority charges are introduced by executive order. The committee proposed that the concerns of the members be raised with the Chief Executive when preparing 2017 budget and charges.

The CFO explained that there is a review ongoing currently in all areas of Fire Services and he would take on board the committees comments and report on same.

HOUSING

Housing Municipal District Consultation Meetings

Ms Liz Hore, Senior Executive Officer, Housing & Community gave a presentation outlining the issues in relation to housing from the consultative process with the Municipal Districts. In addition, an update was provided on the activity of the housing capital program.

Mr Shay Howell, Senior Ex Architect distributed a report updating the committee on the various housing construction projects.

Ms Hore informed the members that a business case proposal in respect of a €3 million loan to acquire land for housing had been approved. This was welcomed by the members (presentation attached).

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

HAP is due to go live in Wexford on 1st December 2016. Rent Supplement will not be offered to new applicants from that date, must apply for HAP.

The Return of Vacant Stock to Use

WCC will examine the delivery of units through this initiative in Louth & South Dublin Councils as a supply option of existing infrastructure.

Rent Review 2016

The differential rent review 2016 is now completed with the assessment of over 5,000 rent accounts. Ms Hore complimented the Rents Team in the Housing Department

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2016

The HNA is currently taking place, 4,000 applicants were invited to return their housing needs assessment forms. In order to facilitate the process, provide information and assistance to applicants, the housing section has organised a roadshow in each of the municipal districts.

Housing Mobility & Older Persons Grants

The budget of €1.6 million has now been committed. It was agreed any further approvals for the Housing Aid for older Persons Grant be deferred until 2017.

Incremental Purchase Scheme

The new incremental purchase scheme has been circulated to eligible applicants and implementation is underway.

Social Work

A new social worker has recently joined the housing team in response to current demand for service. Ann Marie Nolan is primarily based in the Enniscorthy & Wexford Districts.

Correspondence

A submission from the Gorey Municipal District outlining concerns in relation to the ratio of housing allocations with the other 3 districts and the number of vacant houses highlighted in

ordinate a response with the Chairman for the next Gorey M.D. meeting.

LIBRARIES

Ms Eileen Morrissey gave a presentation on the current position in relation to the Wexford Library Services. In previous years, Wexford Libraries were the 3rd most visited services outside the city authorities. E-books has been and continues to be a huge success, with 2,000 books and e-audio book borrowed since the launch in June.

There is currently a twice weekly delivery service, which means that customers have access to hundreds of items of stock in other counties.

The 1916 commemoration programme and publications are running in tandem with the commemorations for the 1st World War.

5 Year Library Development Plan

This plan is aligned with the Local Economic Community Plan LECP, County Development Plan CDP and the Corporate Plan and has undergone a consultative process involving the Public Participation Network PPN.

20% of the population are regular users but this service needs to increase usage by targeting Young people - Travellers - Immigrants/refugees - People with disabilities - Rurally isolated citizens.

Written and online submissions are currently being sought. In relation to the 5 year plan, members of the public, Wexford County Council staff and elected members will be invited also to complete online survey available from 5th September. There will be public consultation meetings countywide in the coming weeks.

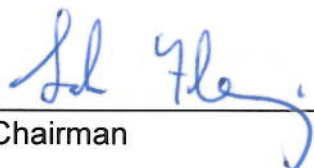
Community Report

The Community Report was circulated to the committee members and deferred to the next SPC meeting due to time constraints.

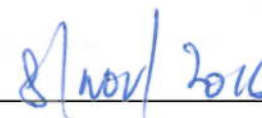
A.O.B.

The committee congratulated Ms Eileen Morrissey on her appointment to the position of County Librarian.

Signed:


Chairman

Date:



Housing, Community & Environment SPC
Minutes of Meeting Held on Tuesday 8th November 2016 at 2:15 p.m.
At Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council, County Hall

In Attendance:

Elected Representatives: Cllr David Hynes, Cllr Anthony Kelly, Cllr. Joe Sullivan, Cllr. John Fleming, Cllr. John O'Rourke, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Cllr, Mary Farrell.

Sectoral Representatives: James Brennan, Farming Group

Wexford County Council: John Carley, Director of Services, Elizabeth Hore, S.E.O., Gerry Forde, Sen Eng, Shay Howell, Sen Ex Architect, Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian; Paul L'Estrange, Chief Fire Officer, Liz Burns, Arts Officer, Ger Mackey AO Community Section.

Apologies: Cllr. Fionntán O'Suilleabháin; Ciaran Scallan, SIPTU Representative; Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Social Inclusion Frances Ryan, Community & Voluntary Sector.

Secretary: Siobhán Lynn, ASO Housing

The Committee welcomed the new Arts Officer, Ms Liz Burns and congratulated her on her new appointment.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the SPC held on 29th August 2016 were adopted.

Proposed by: Cllr. David Hynes
There were no matters arising.

Seconded by: Cllr. Joe Sullivan

1. LIBRARIES AND ARTS UPDATE

Arts Update

Ms Liz Burns, Arts Officers gave presentation to the committee. The Arts Programme reflects social inclusion and promotes accessibility. The Arts Department will support community initiatives with Wexford Public Participation Network (WPPN) to engage with artists in promoting social inclusion.

The Arts & Disability programme is 50% co-funded with the HSE. The 'Arts Ability' arts programme, the aim is also to promote social inclusion & quality art experiences for people with disabilities.

The Arts Office also promotes bursaries including emerging visual artists award and COW House Studios, providing 6 week residency programme.

Libraries Update

Ms Eileen Morrissey gave a presentation to the committee on 'My Open Library'. The Director of Service hoped that the committee would get a clear idea of what this initiative involved.

My Open Library allows for additional opening hours for libraries over and above their regular staffed hours. Registered members can access the library using their library card and pin 8am until 10pm 7 days per week. There is no reduction in staffed hours. It gives users and communities better choice in when they can visit their library. They can continue to seek the expert help of staff during the staffed hours.

Pilot projects of this initiative have been successful in Sligo and Offaly and it is now hoped to roll out the Open Library countrywide. Wexford is hoping to roll out initially in Gorey as this location is found to be suitable in building layout, facilities and demographics.

2. COMMUNITY REPORT

Mr Ger Mackey circulated and discussed the Community Report.

Ireland Wales 2014 -2020 Co-operation Programme Celtic Routes

WCC is participating in a joint project, to examine the feasibility of cross boarder tourism trails, bringing together coastal communities on both sides of the Irish Sea. The Irish and Welsh counties involved are Camarthenshire (lead authority), Ceredigion County Council & Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Waterford City & County Council, Wicklow County Council & Wexford County Council

Local Economic and Community Plan. (LECP)

The Minister for Housing Planning Community and Local Government Simon Coveney T.D. launched the LECPs at the Ploughing Championship on the 20th September. It is anticipated the local launch of the Wexford LECP will take place in December 2016.

LEADER

It is expected that Expressions of Interest (EOIs) will be sought for project proposals under the targeted calls for proposals roll out of the LEADER program 2014-2020. Over 400 people attended the four information events arranged by the programme implementer Wexford Local Development (WLD)

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN)

Ms Annette Dupuy joined as PPN Support Officer on 29th August 2016. She is conducting an initial review of progress and activity to date as a first step to developing a work plan for 2017. It is hoped that Ms Dupuy will update the committee on the PPN at the next SPC.

3. Housing Assistance Payment (HAP)

Ms Elizabeth Hore, SEO gave a presentation on what HAP means for housing applicants in County Wexford. It is a social housing support with the flexibility of the private rental market, providing a greater support than rent supplement. HAP is co-ordinated by a single agency as a point of contact.

The scheme takes account of individuals who access employment as a labour market incentive removing the barrier of a poverty trap. The scheme expands choice to single persons and other cohorts in areas not well served by social housing stock and allows for sharing of accommodation.

4. Housing Report

Ms Elizabeth Hore circulated the Housing Report

Housing Supply Funding Announcement

Wexford County Council has been awarded further funding of just under €11 million for the delivery of 70 units in support of its capital supply programme

The Minister recently announced two measures which will support Wexford County Council's strategy to return existing housing units to productive use, Repair & Leasing Scheme & Buy & Renew Initiative. WCC and Approved Housing Bodies can approach owners of vacant, privately owned houses in need of repair/remediation, with the option to either lease/repair the housing unit, or to buy and repair/remediate the unit.

Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) 2016

The initial outcome from the HNA shows a decrease in numbers of about 25% to 3,000. These numbers are expected to alter as further forms trickle in and as a result of the termination of rent supplement payment. A more detailed report will be available for the next SPC when the HNA beds down.

Infrastructure Fund

The Department announced funding under the Local Infrastructure Activation Fund for projects that could fast track social housing if funding was available to put in place key infrastructure as identified in the Rebuilding Ireland Action plan.

The housing department worked on an inter departmental submission with planning and roads in the submission of a project to provide road access infrastructure.

Refugee Resettlement Programme

Wexford County Council is one of 8 local authorities that will resettle refugee families from Syria in 2017. The inter agency co-ordinating group has been established to provide a holistic approach to resettlement working in co-operation with the Department of Justice & Equality. Funding will be provided in year one for a designated support worker to assist with integration of families in Wexford. Housing is the lead Department on the initiative on behalf of Wexford County Council.

Construction Projects

The Housing department currently have 254 project units within the housing work programme.

5. ENVIRONMENT REPORT

Water Quality Air & Noise

WCC is working with farmers in the Curraghmore River catchment area to identify any and reduce risks of pollution which directly effects the bathing and water quality at Duncannon beach.

Septic tank inspections is continuing with a target of 130 for the year.

A Noise survey has been carried out on 4 wind farms in the county and a report will be available at the next SPC meeting.

Waste

The Department as advised that the decision to charge by refuse by weight has been deferred.

Due to increasing costs at the Civic Amenity Sites, it has been decided to introduce a flat charge of €2 from 2017. This will be included in schedule of charges at the budget meeting in November 2016.

6. LITTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr Hugh Maguire circulated the draft Litter Management Plan 2017-2019

It costs Wexford County Council over €2.5m to deal with the effects of litter each year, litter can be harmful to wildlife and it may become a health hazard in some circumstances.

Under Section 10(1) of the Litter Pollution Act 1997 (as amended) ("the Act") a local authority shall "make and implement a litter management plan in respect of its functional area".

Wexford County Council now intends to make and implement a Litter Management Plan for the period 2017-2019.

It was proposed to present the draft Litter Management Plan at the next Council meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Joe Sullivan

Seconded: Cllr Mary Farrell

7. A.O.B.

It was agreed that the following SPC meetings would take place on the first Wednesday bi monthly in 2017. Schedule will be circulated with the minutes.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____