

Housing, Community & Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting 6th February, 2018

In the Chair: Cllr John Fleming

Present: Mr James Brennan, Cllr Ger Carthy, Cllr Mary Farrell, Cllr Tom Forde, Cllr David Hynes, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Joe Sullivan, Ms Ann Walsh, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Ms Liz Burns, Arts Officer, Ms Michele Bridges-Carley SSO, Ms Caroline Creane SSO, Ms Aisling Doyle AHO, Mr Gerry Forde SE, Mr Ger Mackey a/SEO, Mr Hugh Maguire AO, Ms Eileen Morrissey Co Librarian, Mr Padraig, O'Gorman, a/Director of Service and Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Sustainable Energy Communities Programme

Apologies: Ms Kathleen Fitzpatrick

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 1st November, 2017 were discussed and it was noted that the panel of Occupational Therapists (OT) is currently being reviewed, on the proposal of Cllr Mary Farrell and seconded by Cllr David Hynes the Acting Director agreed to put a timeframe for the receipt of OT reports at tender stage.

On the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Mary Farrell the minutes of the SPC meeting held on the 1st November, 2017 were approved by the members.

Cllr Tom Forde was formally welcomed to the meeting.

Housing Report

The Acting Director of Services outlined the progress of the Social Housing Supply Programme 2017-2019 at the 31st December, 2017 (Year 1). He also outlined the number of capital projects which are progressing to construction stage. It was noted the Refugee Resettlement Programme is now commencing in Gorey as families have already moved into their homes in the 3 other towns.

The meeting was informed about the Affordable Mortgage Scheme and it was noted that as a first time buyer a Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan can be applied for to purchase a new or second-hand property, or to build your own home. This initiative introduces long term fixed mortgages, at very affordable rates. Borrowers will be able to avail of finance, at 2% over 25 years or 2.25% over 30 years. Funding for up to 90% of the cost is available, a discussion took place about the applicants finding the 10% and it was noted that the final market value of the property must be within County area limits for the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan. In relation to applicants who own their own site it was noted that the scheme outlines that 100% of the construction cost can be applied for.

Community Report

The Community AO outlined the work of the Community Section. The meeting was informed of the success of the Bunclody REDZ project and associated works which were carried out from January to December 2017. The Bridgetown Community Hub will open in March 2018. Healthy

Ireland is progressing well and all actions should be completed by March 2018. A total of €1,614,716 was approved by the Wexford LCDC acting as the Local Action Group (LAG) for LEADER.

On 16th January, 2018 the inaugural meeting of Co Wexford Older People's Council took place and elections were held to elect 14 representatives to sit on an Executive Committee. This committee will monitor the progress of the Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan in County Wexford.

The meeting was informed that Wexford County Council in partnership with FDYS will commence the Traveller Community Development Project in March, 2018 and is funded through a grant of €112,000 from the Department of Justice and Equality. The Community AO was asked if the traveller reps could be used contact people for other issues arising, and it was noted that they could as they have a good working relationship with Community staff.

Vacant Homes

The Housing Senior Staff Officer outlined the County Wexford Vacant Homes Strategy and Action Plan 2018-2021. The meeting was informed that the information contained in the Strategy was obtained from the Census 2016, AIRO reports and the Geodirectory. The aim of the strategy is reduce the number of vacant homes in Co Wexford by utilisation of the vacant units and bring them back into use for social housing purposes.

It was noted that additional staff are being assigned to implement this strategy a Staff Officer and two Clerk of Works. The process will commence in 4 pilot areas Ferns, Kilcomb, Fethard and Enniscorthy town as these have a high number of vacant houses and there is strong PPN presence that may provide key information and local knowledge on these properties.

Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

The Wexford Area Housing Officer outlined the Wexford County Council Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy 2018-2024. The meeting was informed that an Anti-Social Behaviour team has been set up within Housing Department and will meet once a month. A lengthy discussion took place about the contents of the Strategy including Garda vetting, domestic violence, recording of a complaint and the confidentiality of the complainant. It was agreed to amend the Strategy to ensure that the complainant's details are kept confidential and that Wexford County Council will investigate anonymous complaints. The Strategy was approved on the proposal of Cllr Mary Farrell and seconded by Cllr Lisa McDonald.

Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities

The Wexford Area Housing Officer outlined the Strategic Plan for Housing Persons with Disabilities 2016-2020. This vision of the plan is to facilitate access for people with disabilities, to the appropriate range of housing and related support services, delivered in an integrated and sustainable manner, which promotes equal opportunity and individual choice. The Strategic Plan was approved on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr David Hynes.

Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC)

Ms Fiona O'Loughlin, Sustainable Energy Communities Programme outlined to the meeting that a Sustainable Energy Community is one where people work together to develop and implement a sustainable energy plan for their community. The benefits would include access funding and

support, share knowledge, achieve energy transition, lower energy bills, create more comfortable local buildings, build energy knowledge and skills and contribute to national energy reduction targets. She informed the meeting the different groups that could become an SEC namely Tidy Towns committees, Parish committees, Community/Sports Facility or any community group with members from a variety of local sectors. This initiative is being supported by SEAI.

Litter Management Plan

The Environment Administrative Officer presented a report on the implementation of the Litter Management Plan 2017-2019. The meeting was informed that fly tipping in rural areas is a problem. The roll-out of an Environmental cleanup crew in each of the 4 districts should alleviate the illegal dumping. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the use of plastics, dog fouling and dumping from Local Authority tenants. It was noted that the court process is too slow. Operation Feachaint cleaned up 5 problematic sites and removed around 3 tonnes of waste. Wexford County Council in conjunction with Waterford County Council launched a cinema advertising campaign on Food Waste Prevention using a cartoon character. In March 2018 a new vehicle litter campaign "All Roads Lead Home" will be launched in 3 counties Wexford / Waterford / Kilkenny.


Library Report

The County Librarian outlined the County Wexford Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018-2022 which was launched in December 2016. A Culture team has been established to co-ordinate cultural services and contribute to the Creative Ireland Programme. She outlined that the vision is to ensure that Co Wexford's reputation as a cultural county is built upon and that it is known nationally and internationally as a centre of design and creativity. Five recommended strategic priorities were noted, Cultural Engagement, Economy and Culture, Our place / Our identity, Learning and Wellbeing.

Arts Report

The Arts Officer informed the meeting that a Music Generation Co-ordinator has been appointed. It was noted that there could be employment opportunities for music tutors / teachers. The Small Arts Festival / Experimental Event grants were advertised recently, the total fund available is €20,000 and grants will be awarded between €1,000 - €3,000. In relation to public art the meeting was informed that the closing date for expressions of interest for the New Ross Bypass – Per Cent for Art Commission is 2nd February, 2018. The refurbishment model of the sculpture in Ferrybank will be installed in late February. In relation to the Enniscorthy Bypass a brief is currently been written for same. Wexford is the lead partner with Fingal and Dublin Arts and Biodiversity offices for the Invitation to collaboration scheme. The meeting was informed that Ms Josepha Madigan TD, Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht will officially launch the Arts Plan on 12th March, 2018.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: 
Chairman

Dated: 04/04/18

Housing, Community & Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting 4th April, 2018

In the Chair: Cllr John Fleming

Present: Mr James Brennan, Cllr Mary Farrell, Cllr Tom Forde, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Joe Sullivan, Ms Ann Walsh, Ms Michele Bridges-Carley SSO, Ms Caroline Creane SSO, Ms Martina Donoghue AO, Mr Michael Drea AO, Mr Gerry Forde SE, Mr Michael Sweeney SSO, Mr Hugh Maguire AO, Ms Helen Meehan SSO, Mr Padraig, O'Gorman, SEO and Ms Hazel Percival SE Librarian.

Apologies: Ms Kathleen Fitzpatrick.

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of meeting dated 6th February, 2018 were discussed and it was noted that work on identifying vacant houses in the 4 pilot areas will be completed by the end of April. The meeting was informed that the Anti-Social behaviour team meets on a monthly basis.

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 6th February, 2018 were approved on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Joe Sullivan.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

The Finance AO addressed the meeting on the new Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan scheme which has caused some confusion due to incorrect information nationally. This new scheme replaced the old scheme and the main changes are that the applicant must have 10% deposit and 3% of that deposit must come from the applicants own resources. The maximum an applicant can borrow is 90% of the construction/acquisition cost. A person can apply for 100% if it is a site is owned by the applicant but they still can only borrow 90%.

The meeting was informed that this home loan only applies to first time buyers. The interest rate is 2% fixed over a period of 25 years or 2.5% fixed over a period of 30 years. It was noted that there is a slower uptake than expected and the main concern was the 10% deposit with 3 refusals alone this year due to same. It was noted that there is €200 million nationally available under this home loan scheme and each Local Authority can apply for same. Cllr Mary Farrell proposed that a motion be drafted with the concerns of the members and it was agreed that the SEO, Director, Chairperson and the Finance AO draft a motion for the May meeting of WCC that in cases whereby the applicant owned their own site with no debt that they should be able to borrow up to 100% of the construction cost.

Housing Report

1. County Wexford Private Rental Sector Implementation Plan 2018-2021

The Housing SSO presented the County Wexford Private Rental Sector Implementation Plan 2018-2021. It was noted that there is a 6 point implementation action plan and that there is an increase in the annual targets set by the Dept for the next 4 years for inspections in the private rental sector to ensure compliance with Housing (Standards for Rented Houses) Regs 2008-2017. These targets were set based on the % of registered tenancies of 8,489 with the

Residential Tenancies Board. The meeting was informed that WCC receive €100 per inspection, €100 for a re-inspection and €50 for a final inspection. The SEO informed the meeting that the team is being expanded with the commencement of 2 extra Clerks of Work. As the targets will significantly increase over the next few years some of the inspections may be outsourced. The main issues arising from these inspections are fire safety and ventilation. Most landlords will carry out the necessary work if they are given time.

Concerns were raised that tenants are fearful of evictions and they are worried about rent hikes. It was noted that there is an increase in the number of house being sold and removed from the private rental sector. The plan was approved by the members present on the proposal of Cllr Joe Sullivan and seconded by Cllr John O'Rourke.

2. Tenant / Maintenance Handbook

A discussion took place about the Tenant and Maintenance handbooks a section is to be inserted regarding the nZEB houses. It was noted that some Council owned houses are being used for business purposes such as pop-up shops and car repair business. It was agreed to add a sentence "your home should not be used as a business without the consent of the Council". The handbooks were approved on the proposal of Cllr Joe Sullivan and seconded by Cllr John O'Rourke.

3. Homeless Protocol

The Housing AO outlined the protocols for Managing Homeless Presentations 2018 in County Wexford. A discussion took place regarding same and it was agreed to make a few additions as follows:-

- *No 21 - "A concession may be considered if the client is incurring extraordinary or exceptional expenses by reason of his/her placement."*
- *No 28 - "...who cannot change that decision without first consulting with the area housing team who made the original decision."*
- *No 29 - "Wexford County Council reserves the right to deal with each individual case on its merits"*

The protocol was approved by the members present on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Joe Sullivan.

4. Assessment Policies

The Housing AO outlined a number of assessment policies which are Wexford County Council's interpretation of the housing acts and regulations:-

Alternative Accommodation - If the applicant realises a profit of €40,000 or more from the proceeds of the sale of a property, Wexford County Council deems them ineligible for Social Housing Support.

Outstanding Rent Arrears - Wexford County Council deems the following to constitute 'substantial compliance' a lump sum payment of, at least, 50% of total overall arrears or evidence of 6 months repayments of, at least, 50% of total overall arrears. This applies in all cases, including homelessness.

Surrender - Social Housing Supports applications will be accepted from previous tenants after 12 months from the date of surrender of tenancy, where there are no arrears left on the tenancy.

Abandonment/Eviction - Social Housing Supports applications will be accepted from previous tenants after 3 years from the date of abandonment/eviction, where there are no arrears left on the tenancy.

Transfer Applications - Applications for housing transfers will only be approved for reason of Overcrowding, Under occupancy or Exceptional Medical Circumstances

Housing Needs Assessment - If an applicant doesn't return a SSHA form within a period of three months, from date of issue, the file will be closed.

Following a brief discussion the above assessment policies were approved by the members on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Joe Sullivan.

5. Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

The SEO outlined a proposed amendment to the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 which went to public consultation in October 2017 and it was noted that no submissions were received. The proposed amendment was approved by the members present on the proposal of Cllr Mary Farrell and seconded by Joe Sullivan.

6. Housing Turnkey Projects

The SEO informed the meeting of 2 turnkey projects one in Wexford for 35 units worth €8 million and one in Gorey for 22 units worth €5 million. There have been more expressions of interest in the Gorey area.

Community Report

The Community Senior Staff Officer outlined the Community Report a SICAP contract for the period 2018-2022 was signed on 26th March 2018 between Wexford Local Development and WCC which is worth €10million. Work is continuing with other initiatives Healthy Ireland, Town and Village Renewal Scheme, Celtic Routes, Blueway and Bridgetown Community Hub. The inaugural meeting of the Older People's Council took place recently and this set out a plan for the year ahead in terms of the Age Friendly Action Plan.

Environment Report

The Environment Senior Engineer and Administrative Officer gave a presentation to the meeting regarding Environment Dept's response to litter management. WCC received circa 2,600 calls regarding illegal dumping/littering in 2017 and spent approx. €2.8million on same. In response to the increases in illegal dumping an expansion to the Rapid Response crew saw two new staff being employed. This will ensure that there will be one two-man crew in each Municipal District Area and these will work closely with community wardens and tidy towns groups. A brief discussion took place about the annual Spring Clean initiative whereby community groups collect 60-70 tons of litter throughout the county. They are supplied with gloves, litter picks and bags by WCC.

A short discussion took place about the Wexford to Curracloe greenway which will link Wexford town to Curracloe over a 10.7km route. Part of the Greenway will run through the Slob and this section will be closed from 15th September to 15th April each year to protect the wintering Greenland white-fronted geese.


Library Report

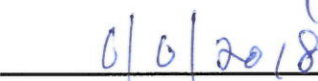
The Senior Executive Librarian informed the meeting of the upcoming official commemoration of the death of John Redmond which will take place on Sunday 15th April and will be attended by President Michael D. Higgins. Wexford library is currently hosting an exhibition on the life and legacy of John Redmond. A brief discussion took place about the Talking History Wexford initiative which tells the Redmond story by way of smart phone technology, you swipe your smart phone on the purple plaque and accept the link and your phone will ring and you can accept a call which outlines the history of the site. Three sites have been given the gift of speech the bust of Major Willie Redmond in Redmond Park, The Redmond family monument in Redmond Square and the mausoleum in St John's Graveyard.

The meeting was informed that a new mobile library was launched in February 2018. Other core actions this year are Sprint into Storytime, Cruinniu nOg, Children's book festival, Science Week and the Right to Read initiative.

The chairman noted that Library / Arts are always on the Agenda last and it was agreed that they will be listed first for the next meeting of the SPC.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  _____
Chairman

Dated:  _____

Housing, Community & Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting 6th June, 2018

In the Chair: Cllr John Fleming

Present: Cllr Mary Farrell, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Joe Sullivan, Cllr David Hynes, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Ms Liz Burns, Arts Officer, Mr John Carley, DOS, Ms Caroline Creane SSO, Mr Gerry Forde SE, Mr Hugh Maguire AO, Mr Ger Mackey AO, Mr Pdraig, O'Gorman, SEO and Ms Nicola McGrath SE Librarian.

Apologies: Cllr Ger Carthy, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Cllr Fionntán O' Suilleabháin and Ms Ann Walsh

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 4th April, 2018 were approved on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Joe Sullivan.

Music Generation

The Arts Officer updated the meeting on the Music Generation Programme. Five counties have been selected for funding from 2018-2020 to develop music education from 0-18 yrs. A Music Generation Co-ordinator has been appointed and interviews are pending for an Administrator and Musician Tutors. A map was circulated showing all the schools throughout the County that responded to the Music Generation Survey in 2017 and it was noted that it was great to see a lot of rural schools interested in the programme.

Library - Work Matters

The Senior Executive Librarian outlined the Work Matters at the Library programme which provides services for business and employment. Wexford and Gorey libraries are the pilots in County Wexford. Both libraries provide work matters spaces for the business and community sector and have hot desk spaces. Self Service printing and scanning is available and also training rooms. The following services are free to use by library users:-

- Vision.net – to look up company details (similar to CreditSafe)
- Business.ie – look at competitors and compare services
- Mintel – this is a global company for market research, consumer and brand research

Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018

The meeting was informed that the recent amendment to the Traveller Accommodation Programme was withdrawn as the family circumstance has changed for the traveller family concerned. A housing solution will be found from existing housing stock. It was noted that traveller families in Marconi Park and Bunclody are being racist towards the African Community and the SEO agreed to bring this to the TIC and LTAAC. The Director informed the meeting that any anti-social case takes time and the team are working on a solution.

Rebuilding Ireland Programme 2014-2018

A discussion took place regarding the letter from Minister Eoghan Murphy TD to the Chief Executive regarding the Rebuilding Ireland Programme, it was noted that Wexford should exceed the 2018 targets set out within same. The members are getting a lot of queries regarding Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) landlords say they are selling their properties so as to evict the tenants and then they don't sell. The meeting was informed that Wexford County Council is only a facilitator for HAP and that Limerick County Council processes the payments.

Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan

On the proposal of Cllr Mary Farrell and seconded by Cllr David Hynes the SPC members present agreed that the Chairman would put forward the following motion to the July Council meeting:-

"That this Council calls on the Minister, to review the loan to value ratio of 90% under the Rebuilding Ireland Home Loan, for construction loans where the applicant(s) owns their own unencumbered site. This Council believes, such applicants should be considered for a maximum of 100% of the construction costs subject to meeting the affordability and eligibility criteria, as the site would represent a minimum of 10% equity."

Housing Report

The SEO presented the Housing report, it was noted that the Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Damien English TD officially opened two specially designed family homes in Oylegate on 11th May, 2018. He outlined the housing supply programme and noted that currently there are 42 houses under construction and many more at various stages of the process.

Community Report

The Community AO circulated the Draft Wexford Health County Plan 2018-2020, the plan prioritises 6 strategies priorities Physical Activity, Health Weight, Tobacco Free, Sexual Health, Prevention and reduction of alcohol-related harm and Mental Health. The plan was approved on the proposal of Cllr Mary Farrell and seconded by Cllr John O'Rourke. The AO informed the meeting that there is a National Make Way Day scheduled on 26th September, 2018 supporting people with disabilities, the Director is to send an email to the Access Officer to follow up.

Waste Presentation Bye-Laws

The Environment Senior Engineer informed the meeting that new Waste Presentation Bye-Laws are currently being drafted and he would circulate them to the SPC members next week. He outlined what will be included in the new Bye-Laws. The meeting was informed that Environment staff meets the waste collectors on a regular basis and they will bring up any queries that arise. It was noted that some people do not know what items can go in the recycle bin, and not all people use websites, most people react to visuals eg leaflets or posters.


River Basin Management Plan

The Director outlined The River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and presented a powerpoint presentation to the members on same. This included the Water Framework Directive and River Basin management planning. He outlined the lessons learnt from past experience and a new approach going forward. The meeting was informed of the priority Areas of Action in Wexford and the expected outcomes for the period of the plan.

Environment Report

The Environment Senior Engineer advised the meeting that WCC currently have a total of 9 Blue Flags which includes two marinas, this has risen from 4 to 7 in the past 3 years. In 2018 Carne received a blue flag for the first time.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  _____
Chairman

Dated: 5/9/2018

Housing, Community & Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting 5th September, 2018

In the Chair: Cllr John Fleming

Present: Cllr Ger Carthy, Cllr Mary Farrell, Cllr Tom Forde, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Joe Sullivan, Cllr David Hynes, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Mr John Carley, DOS, Ms Caroline Creane SSO, Mr Gerry Forde SE, Mr Ger Mackey A/SEO, Mr Niall McCabe AO, Ms Michele Bridges-Carley SSO, and Ms Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian.

Apologies: Mr Padraig, O'Gorman, SEO and Cllr John O'Rourke

Minutes & Matters Arising

The members expressed sympathies to Chairman Keith Doyle on the recent passing of his mother Eileen and to Cllr Oliver Walsh and the Bishop family on their recent bereavement.

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 6th June, 2018 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr Joe Sullivan. A short discussion took place about the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 and the Director informed the meeting that a department circular has been received and that a review will commence in Wexford in due course in line with same.

Housing Report

The Housing AO presented the Housing Report which was circulated to the members he outlined the Refugee Resettlement Programme and informed the meeting that a Wexford based family met Pope Francis at a function in Dublin Castle recently. The meeting was informed that Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Damien English TD will officially open 8 houses in Cherry Orchard, Enniscorthy on Monday, 10th September, 2018.

The Housing SSO outlined the Report on Vacant Homes Pilot Project. The meeting was informed that the 4 study areas for the pilot project were Ferns, Kilcomb, Fethard and part of Enniscorthy town. It was noted that there was significant variance between the number of vacant homes as stated by the CSO and the Eircode data from GeoDirectory. A total of 81 homes were surveyed as part of the pilot project and only 28 were deemed 'possibility for future use' which require a more in-depth analysis. A discussion took place about the Vacant Homes app and its future use for capturing data.

Library Report

The County Librarian presented a PowerPoint presentation on Wexford Library service and how the strategy Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities will be implemented in Wexford. The priorities will be to invest in library infrastructure and increase space in Enniscorthy and New Ross libraries. The meeting was informed that there are plans to increase library opening hours and to remove fines which are seen to discourage disadvantaged families from joining the library. A grant of €250,000 has been received from the Dept to upgrade IT and implement self-service.

It was noted that Gorey library will become a pilot under the My Open Library initiative within the next couple of months. This initiative will see the opening hours increase from 47 hours to 98 hours per week. The County Librarian urged all members present to promote the use and services of the library when dealing with the public.

Arts Report

The County Librarian presented the Arts Department's report to the SPC. It was noted that a lot of work has begun on promoting the Music Generation Programme. Ms Katherine Atkinson, Development Officer has commenced the first phase of a singing programme involving 14 primary schools throughout the county. A team of 11 musicians have been hired a tutors and a full time office administrator has also been recruited.

A discussion took place about public art, in particular the 'Per Cent for Art' commissions on the public road network and how the scheme works.

Community Report

The Community A/SEO outlined the work of the Community Department in particular the Three Counties Blueway, Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018, Pride of Place, Cultural Companions, Celtic Routes, Outdoor Recreation Grants, Science Week 2018 and Wexford PPN. A short discussion took place about how the town and village renewal applications were decided, the meeting was informed that the Municipal District Managers had the final say. It was noted that the members present felt that the Municipal District elected members should have the final say.

The meeting was informed of the work of the Wexford Sports Active section namely Safeguarding Courses (child protection), Wexford Parkrun, Slaneyside Super Stars summer camp, Communities Integration Fund 2018, Doras Community Picnic, Belvedere Youth Services visit, Pride of Place Bunclody and Healthy Woodlands. The annual Fun in the Sun summer camps attracted 724 participants at 8 locations across the county. Wexford town has been selected as the 2018 Pfizer Healthy Town and the CEO of Pfizer attended the launch last night. The Director agreed to forward on details of the Healthy Town events to all the SPC members.

Environment Report

The Environment Senior Engineer informed the meeting that the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws are currently at public consultation stage and WCC will consider any submissions made in writing up to 12th October, 2018. It is envisaged that the Bye-Laws will go to the November Council meeting. The Senior Engineer will visit all four Municipal District meetings to brief the members on the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws in the coming weeks. He outlined the Waste Priorities for 2019.

A short discussion took place about the Wind Farm Noise Monitoring Programme and the meeting was informed that the draft report will be available in Q1 2019. The meeting was informed that the Greenway from Wexford to Curracloe is with An Bord Pleanála for decision.

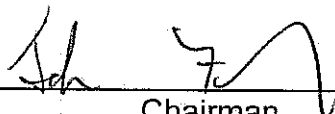
The Beach Bye-Laws were adopted in 2005 which covers 26 beaches throughout the County and it was noted that they need updating. Due to the good weather over the summer there were a lot of issues with unauthorised camping, illegal dumping and access to the beaches by emergency services. A discussion took place about the issues that the Fire Brigade had trying

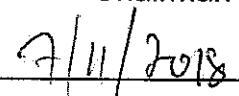
to gain access to Morriscastle and Curracloe beaches in particular. It was noted that there were no litter pickers on Carne Beach this summer but this was an oversight as they had recently achieved the blue flag. The water quality on beaches was briefly discussed.

Any other Business

- **Phone Queries** – The meeting was informed that telephone queries are being answered by staff by saying they are 'too busy'. The Director agreed to look into this.
- **Housing Assistance Payment (HAP):** A discussion took place about HAP and in particular the limits for Wexford and Gorey, it was noted that they are not high enough based on the rents charged. It has been listed for a question for the Minister's visit next week.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:  _____
Chairman

Dated:  _____

Housing, Community & Environment SPC

Minutes of Meeting 7th November, 2018

In the Chair: Cllr John Fleming

Present: Mr James Brennan, Cllr Ger Carthy, Cllr Mary Farrell, Cllr Lisa McDonald, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Cllr Joe Sullivan, Cllr Oliver Walsh, Ms Ann Walsh, Mr John Carley, DOS, Ms Padraig O'Gorman SEO, Ms Caroline Creane SSO, Mr Gerry Forde SE, Mr Ger Mackey A/SEO, Ms Liz Burns, Arts Officer and Ms Eileen Morrissey, County Librarian.

Apologies: Cllr Tom Forde

Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 5th September, 2018 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Oliver Walsh and seconded by Cllr Mary Farrell.

Correspondence

Two items of correspondence were received and discussed, a letter from the PPN advising of the resignation of the Social Inclusion Rep Ms Kathleen Fitzpatrick and a letter from the Local Authority Waters Programme advising about a public meeting for the Sow River.

Library Report

The County Librarian informed the meeting about upcoming WEXSCI (Wexford Science Festival) which will run from 11th to 18th November, 2018 in conjunction with the Community Section. There will be a Saturday showcase day on 17th November in County Hall with many interactive science demonstrations on the day. BEAT FM will be present on the day. It is hoped to get up to 2,000 participants throughout the week. It was noted that Wexford is one of 12 festivals throughout the country part funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

The Library Service has developed a public history research project 'Wexford Great War Dead' which aims to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1. The aim of this project is to engage with the public online to tell unique stories and to commemorate the loss of Wexford men and woman who lost their lives as a result of the war. To date a list of 868 names have been compiled. This project is funded by the Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Arts Report

The Arts Officer informed the meeting of the new Creative Hub at Bullring Mall, Wexford town which will support over 50 arts and craft makers and young musicians at subsidised rates. The space will be leased by WCC with the day-to-day running managed by Wexford Arts Centre.

An update was given about the Music Generation Programme, a team of 11 musicians from Wexford have been hired as tutors and a full time office administrator has been appointed. The

first phase of programmes have commenced and are overseen by Ms Katherine Atkinson, Music Generation Development Officer

The meeting was informed that the Culture Night on Friday, 21st September, 2018 was very successful it was the biggest ever in Wexford with over 50 events the Arts Office hired a co-ordinator for the event. A short discussion took place about the Public Art – M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy PPP Scheme and the Arts in Health Care / Art Ability – New Music Exploration Programme.

Housing Report

The SEO presented the Housing Report which was circulated to the members. He outlined the Refugee Resettlement Programme which is the most successful in the country there is only 1 more family to be allocated in Gorey. WCC have met all their targets it is hoped to extend the support services which are due to cease in December.

It was noted that we have exceeded our targets under the Rebuilding Ireland WCC Housing Programme. A rent review is currently ongoing and circa 5,000 tenants were written to update their circumstances. A short discussion took place about HAP and people's perception that they are 'off the housing list' this was clarified by the SEO. The Vacant Homes initiative is very slow, it was noted that of the 150 properties inspected only 30 are likely to come back into the Repair & Leasing or Leasing schemes.

The SEO informed the meeting of the Housing First Initiative which will target rough sleepers it is a housing led service in conjunction with Focus. It is a 2-year programme WCC will provide 1-bed or small 2-bed units. It will focus mainly in Wexford town near services. It is envisaged that this will commence in February 2019. It was noted that WCC will have to provide 4 (1-bed or small 2-bed units) or apartments in 2019 and additional 4 units being provided by Focus.

The meeting was informed that WCC must prepare and adopt a Traveller Accommodation Programme for the 5 year period 2019-2024. It was noted that the travellers who are illegally camped in Park, Wexford will be dealt with as part of TAP.

Community Report

The Community A/SEO outlined the work of the Community Department it was noted that 12 locations across the county will benefit from funding under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018 for a wide variety of community led projects. He also informed the members present of the Celtic Routes project, Age Friendly Alliance, Cultural Companions and the Healthy Ireland Fund. The Community Section was successful in 7 applications for funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

The meeting was informed of the work of the Wexford Sports Active section namely Safeguarding Courses (child protection), Sporting Programme with CAHMS Wexford, Wexford Cricket Programme, Urban Adventure Hub Bunclody, Healthy Town (Wexford), Sports Leadership, Community Coaching and the Regional Tobacco Positive Messaging Campaign 2018.

Three Sea Blueway

The Community A/SEO informed the meeting that €600,000 is the total investment in the Three Sea Blueway (Wexford, Wicklow and Waterford) with 75% coming from LEADER from Bray to Dungarvan along the coast, this is a joined up approach which will integrate water, land and support services.

Environment Report

The Environment Senior Engineer presented the Final Draft 4.1 Wexford County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2018 to the meeting these were proposed by Cllr Mary Farrell and seconded by Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin.

A short discussion took place about the Implementation of the Litter Pollution Acts and it was noted that WCC are not allowed to publish offender's names on the website due to GDPR. The expansion of the Environment Clean-up crews was discussed there will be Rapid Response crew in each of the 4 Municipal District areas. All complaints will be logged at the Customer Service Unit. The Environmental Awards are on next week and the Senior Engineer invited all SPC members to the event.

The meeting was informed that planning permission for the Greenway from Wexford to Curracloe has been refused.

Meeting Schedule

The SPC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every second month, the following dates were agreed for 2019:-

6 th February	3 th April	5 th June
4 th Sept	6 th Nov	

Any other Business

- **SPC Agenda** – The members informed the Chairperson that they would like to receive the SPC Agenda and report items in advance of the meeting so they can be familiar with same. This was agreed.
- **Bonfires** – A discussion took place about Halloween and bonfires, Environment Section have been removing items from housing estates to prevent bonfires but they are replaced as quickly. Housing and Environment will have a co-ordinated approach to try prevent as many as possible.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____


Chairman

Dated: _____

