

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Time: 10am

Location: Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council

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

In Attendance: Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Martina Furlong, WCC; Mr Billy Byrne, WCC; Mr Brian Galvin, WCC; Ms Edwina Colfer, WCC

Apologies: Cllr John Hegarty; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Paddy Kavanagh; Mr Senan O'Reilly

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on the 28th November were proposed by Mr Dan Kennedy and seconded by Ms Mary B O'Leary.

- There were no matters arising.

2. Economic Development Update

Mr Brian Galvin, Special Projects gave an update to the group on the county wide projects.

Town Centre & Public Realm Revitalisation & Regeneration Projects

- Trinity Wharf – EIA completed in December 2018 with application to An Bord Pleanala to be submitted in February 2019. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured under the URDF (Urban Regeneration and Development Fund) funding.
- Enniscorthy Technology Park – Phase 1 development works awarded to Niall Barry & Co Ltd. Works commenced on site August 2018 to be completed in Q1 2019.
- John Street Building Regeneration Project – Tenders for design, planning and construction management services due in early February. Part VIII process due to commence in Q2 2019 with construction completion planned for Q4 2020.
- Crescent Quay – Contract Awarded to Niall Barry & Co Ltd. Works commenced in January 2019 and are part funded from a grant from ERDF (European Regional Development Fund).
- Templeshannon Regeneration, Enniscorthy – part VIII application was lodged in September 2018 and was rejected by the members at the January 2019 meeting. Procurement of consultants for the preliminary designs, environmental studies and planning documents for the proposed pedestrian bridge is underway with tenders due by the end of January.

Public Building & Public Space Enhancement Projects

- Ballast Office – Tenders for services are due in early February with works expected to commence in late 2019
- Gorey Market House – Invitation to tender closed in May 2018 with one tender submission received being evaluated and assessed. €2m of WCC resources is

available to fund the project with the balance to be secured through RRDF (Rural Regeneration and Development Fund).

- Wexford Arts Centre – Tenders for design, planning and construction management services are due in early February. Part VIII process expected to commence in Q2 2019 with works planned to commence in Q4 2019

Recreational & Amenity Projects

- Min Ryan Park – Park expected to open to the public in September 2019. €500,000 grant aide has been secured from the Department of Rural & Community Development
- Carrigfoyle Activity Centre – Consulting engineers have been appointed for the design and tender of infrastructural work. Construction planned to commence in Q2 2019 with works to be completed by Q1 2020
- Enniscorthy Tourism Project – Services have been procured to prepare a feasibility study to develop Enniscorthy as a long term sustainable tourism destination. Baseline research was presented to Enniscorthy Municipal District at its January 2019 meeting.

Greenways

- New Ross to Waterford – Part VIII complete and a Section 85 agreement has been signed by Wexford, Waterford and Kilkenny County Council, with Wexford being the lead. Application for funding was submitted to the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport in November 2018.
- Rosslare to Waterford City – Draft route selection reports and environmental screening documents now complete. Preparation of EIAR and NATURA Impact report for proposed development underway. Application for funding has been submitted to Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport in November 2018.
- Curraclloe to Wexford – other route options for delivering the greenway are currently being looked at. Application for funding under the RRDF scheme was submitted in September 2018.

A discussion took place around the various projects including the works that will be taking place around Crescent Quay. Works are currently being carried out on the footpaths and surface in Henrietta Street and traffic plans for the quay will be investigated. The feasibility of putting a canopy on the Main Street is being looked into and this will be a Wexford Municipal District project.

A comprehensive report on all the projects is currently being put together which will include images and timelines. This will be brought to the next Council meeting for approval of the €30million commitment.

It was proposed putting signage/hoarding at some of the sites to highlight to the public what is happening, this is to be looked into.

3. Rosslare Port Committee

After a special meeting of Wexford County Council, it was decided to put a Committee together to work on developing plans/policies around the port. The Economic Development Section will be servicing this committee with the committee feeding into the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC. A discussion took place around the key stakeholders who should be consulted by the committee.

4. Chinese New Year Event

To celebrate the Chinese New Year on February 5th Wexford County Council have agreed to light up the building red as part of the China Red initiative. A press release will be issued to inform the public about why the building is being lit up.

5. Economic Development Unit Reports

- Economic Development Unit – Ms Martina Furlong gave a report to the group from Economic Development. A delegation from the Iran-Ireland Parliamentary Friendship Group visited Wexford on Thursday 13th December 2018. The group included members of the Iranian Parliament and Embassy Staff.
- Local Enterprise Office – Tom Banville Head of Enterprise circulated the Metrics 2018 for the Local Enterprise Office for information.
- Tourism – Billy Byrne, Tourism Officer gave a report on Tourism.
 - The Viking Fire Festival is due to taking place on the 28th & 29th September 2019.
 - The Normans are Here – to mark the 850th anniversary of Anglo-Norman forces arriving in Wexford a programme of events are being put together for the County.
 - The Norman Way has been shortlisted as a finalist in the 2019 All Ireland Community & Council Awards presented by IPB Insurance and LAMA in the Best Heritage Project category – winner to be announced on Saturday 9th February 2019.
 - Discover Norman Wexford – a resource pack for 5th and 6th class have been put together and will be circulated to interested schools.
 - Visit Wexford Brochure is currently being worked on.
 - The Travel Channel recorded one of their episodes in the Hook Peninsula. The series will likely air in the US sometime in June/July 2019. It will then be broadcast around the world on The Travel Channel International.
 - The Tourism Strategy will be brought to the Mar/Apr Council meeting for approval.

6. Shop Front Scheme New Ross

A draft pilot scheme is currently being worked on for the New Ross Shop Front Scheme which will be rolled out on certain streets in New Ross town. It was agreed to send this to the New Ross District Meeting for approval.

7. AOB

- A discussion took place around the recent announcement from Salesforce about their planned recruitment drive of 1,500 employees over the next 3-5 years.
- Natural Gas New Ross – A discussion took place on extending the Natural Gas pipeline to New Ross. In order for the pipeline to be extended to New Ross an anchor tenant is required to commit to purchasing an agreed amount of gas for a duration of 7 years, this is proving difficult. Cllr Michael Sheehan and Cllr Martin Murphy are to meet with the relevant parties to try to progress.
- A number of issues were raised in relation to the planning department. Mr Tony Larkin addressed these issues but pointed out that the appropriate place to raise them in the future would be at the Planning SPC. It was suggested holding an information meeting to update architects on changes in planning legislation etc.
- A query was raised in relation to the plans to put a Nuclear Power Plant in Wales and how to inform the public about applications like this in the future. It was agreed to include any future applications similar to this in the Monthly Report.

- A discussion took place around the Green Link Inter Connector which is to be installed at Baginbun Head.

The next meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is due to take place on Wednesday 6th March at 10am.

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Monday 4th March 2019

Time: 2.30pm

Location: Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr. Keith Doyle; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr Johnny Mythen; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Ms Mary B O'Leary; Mr Dan Kennedy; Mr Senan O'Reilly

In Attendance: Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Martina Furlong, WCC;

Apologies: Mr Ernest Levingstone;

8. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on the 23rd January were proposed by Cllr. Martin Murphy and seconded by Mr. Dan Kennedy.

- There were no matters arising.

9. Strategic Property Report

Mr. Tony Larkin introduced the Economic Development Programme 2019-24.

- In 2014, Economic Development was prioritized by the council.
- The strategy adopted was to pursue the development of property solutions to attract companies and grow existing companies.
- The report was circulated, a discussion took place and the strategy was proposed by Cllr. George Lawlor and seconded by Cllr. Barbara Anne Murphy.

10. County Wexford Tourism Strategy

Mr. Tom Banville introduced the tourism strategy for County Wexford and advised it had been updated.

- It is a diversification strategy – need to target other markets like the US, France & Germany.
- Very reliant on the GB market – currently approximately 50%

A discussion took place on the strategy which was then proposed by Cllr. Johnny Mythen and seconded by Ms. Mary B O'Leary.

11. Tradebridge Update

Mr. Tom Banville circulated an update on the Tradebridge project. The pilot took place in order to build trade relations and create new business opportunities between Wexford and Savannah. The project has been successful with a number of contracts already in place. The initial 8 month pilot has been extended until April 15th 2019. A number of regional companies are interested in getting involved and the Tradebridge project is examining a potential regional development fund to continue the project for a 2/3 year timeframe.

12. LECP Update (Economic Objectives)

A brief update was given on Goals 3, 4 and 5 of the LECP.

- Goal 3 – Continue to Develop and Promote County Wexford as a great place to live, work and visit,
- Goal 4 – Develop and market Co Wexford as an outstanding business environment for starting, growing and attracting business,
- Goal 5 – Continue to protect and enhance our infrastructure and promote efficiency in order to create the right conditions for long term growth.

A discussion took place on Broadband and an update on Broadband was requested for the next meeting.

13. LEO Strategic Plan for 2019

LEO Performance Metrics for 2018 and 2019 were circulated. A discussion took place particularly around the supports provided for Brexit.

14. AOB

- New Ross Fire Station will be decommissioned in 2 years. A discussion followed on its possible use as a training centre.
- A query was raised in relation to the use of Jet Ski's at our beaches and what byelaws are in place.
- Bunclody Golf & Fishing Club will host the Irish PGA Championships in August.

The next meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC is proposed for Tuesday 26th March at 4.30pm (TBC).

Economic Development and Enterprise SPC

Date: Tuesday 26th March 2019

Time: 4pm

Location: Members Canteen, 3rd Floor, Block A, Wexford County Council

Committee Members Present: Cllr Michael Sheehan, Chairman; Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr. Keith Doyle; Cllr Paddy Kavanagh; Mr Karl Fitzpatrick; Mr Ernest Levingstone; Ms Mary B O’Leary; Mr Dan Kennedy;

In Attendance: Mr Tony Larkin, WCC; Mr Tom Banville, WCC; Ms Martina Furlong, WCC; Mr Billy Byrne, WCC; Mr Ger Mackey, WCC

Apologies: Cllr John Hegarty; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr Martin Murphy; Mr Senan O’Reilly

15. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on the 4th March were proposed by Cllr George Lawlor and seconded by Mr Dan Kennedy.

- There were no matters arising.

16. Community Action Plans

Mr Ger Mackey, Community Development gave an update to the group on the proposed Community Action Plans that will be carried out in Enniscorthy and New Ross. The aim of the plan is that all agencies work together to deliver services and to map what services are available and to identify any duplications of services. It is envisaged having a person in place to lead this in June and to form an interagency group to work on the plan. A discussion took place on this.

17. Broadband Update

No update given

18. County Wexford Tourism Strategy – observations/comments

A number of observations/comments were received around the County Wexford Tourism Strategy. These were circulated to the group for information and after an in depth discussion they will be included in the strategy where possible. The strategy will be a guiding document on what Wexford County Council hopes to do for the next 5 years and is not set in stone. The key message is that the focus will be change from Domestic to International visitors.

It was proposed to approve the strategy for 5 years with a review to take place in mid 2022. This was approved by Ernest Levingston and seconded by Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan.

The County Wexford Tourism Strategy will be brought to the April Council meeting for approval.

19. AOB

- Project Updates
 - New Ross Bypass is due to be completed in September 2019
 - Enniscorthy Bypass to be completed in July 2019
 - Advance Factory New Ross – new planning application by an investor to be submitted next month with an expectation that building will commence in current year. Announcement to be made when planning has been approved
 - John Street – hope to close the sale in the next month. Project will take 3 – 5 years for completion. Another building is to be acquired in the interim to house an Enterprise Centre in New Ross
 - New Ross Port Transfer – ongoing
 - Greenways – Application submitted for €10million with a decision due in July
 - Templeshannon – waiting till bypass is opened to see what traffic plan needs to be put in place and to review plans
- Georgia Southern University have announced they are opening a campus in Wexford located in the Old County Hall. This will be their first international presence and will be ready by summer 2019. The project has great potential for Wexford as it may encourage parents of the American students to visit the town.