

## Economic Development and Enterprise SPC Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday 21st January 2020

**Time:** 2.30pm

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

**In the Chair:** Cllr Michael Whelan

**Committee Members Present:** Cllr. Kathleen Codd-Nolan; Cllr Cathal Byrne; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr John Fleming; Mr Senan O'Reilly; Mr Ernest Levingston; Mr Niall Slattery; Mr Seamus Murphy; Mr Dave Morris;

**WCC Officials In Attendance:** Mr Tony Larkin, Ms Elizabeth Hore, Ms Breege Cosgrave, Mr Billy Byrne, Mr Brian Galvin, Mr Fintan Ryan, Ms Martina Furlong.

**Apologies:** Ms Mary B O'Leary; Cllr Aidan Browne

### **1. Welcome from the Chair**

Cllr Michael Whelan, Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the SPC in 2020. A brief introduction was given by all present.

### **2. Minutes & Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting which was held on the 26th March were proposed by Cllr. Kathleen Codd Nolan and seconded by Mr. Ernest Levingston.

There were no matters arising.

An update was requested on projects in Section 5. AOB.

- **Advance Factory New Ross**
  - Previous negotiations weren't successful
  - Now in further discussions
  - Hope construction will commence in Q2 2020
- **John St New Ross**
  - Negotiations in Progress
  - Not gone to signed contracts, may proceed by CPO
- **New Ross Port**
  - Ownership transferred to WCC
  - May transfer to Management Agent
  - Managed by Environment staff currently
- **Georgia Southern University – International Learning Hub**
  - Officially opened in November 2019

### **3. Centre of Excellence High performance buildings**

A presentation was given outlining the plans to create an NZEB Center of Excellence in Enniscorthy, the objectives of the center and an outline schedule of next steps.

#### 4. Enterprise Ireland Funding

- Initium
- Incrementum
- Green for Micro
- Tradebridge

An update and handouts were given on the above Enterprise Ireland Funding initiatives.

**Initium** is designed for start-up and pre-startup companies. A 2 day boot camp will be held in The Hatch Lab in March where participants will be guided through applications for state funding.

**Incrementum** is a business development programme for LEO portfolio clients with over 10 employees.

**Green for Business Breakfast seminar** will be held in the Ferrycarrig Hotel on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 8am – 9.30am. The aim of the event is to raise green awareness among SME's.

**Tradebridge** received funding of just under €250,000 which will provide SME's in the south east region the opportunity to explore new markets in Savannah, Georgia and the wider area.

#### 5. Local Enterprise Office Update

The LEO Training programme for 2020 has been finalized and a brochure was distributed at the meeting. National Enterprise Week takes place from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March and a number of events have been scheduled throughout the county.

Social Innovation Fund information brochures were distributed and a local launch will take place in February. LEO Wexford has 3 companies, Jumbleink, Wild Herb Elixirs and Grainne Kenny Design exhibiting at Showcase - Ireland's International Creative Expo.

#### 6. Economic Plan Update 2020

A presentation was given on all categories of projects managed by the Special Projects Team.

A discussion followed which covered clarifications on the commencement of construction at Enniscorthy Technology Park (March 2020 envisaged with a 16 month build), status of the Trinity Wharf planning application with ABP (further information was submitted in October 2019, awaiting decision), role of Greenway Project Officer (to develop economically viable businesses along the greenway, hope to have the role filled by Easter 2020), New Ross Courthouse update (Complete building envelope first and focus on getting tenants).

Mr Senan O'Reilly and Mr Ernest Levingston commended WCC for it's proactivity and scale of developments throughout the county.

## **7. Invest Wexford**

The Invest Wexford brand, website and social media sites were shown. The work of attracting and retaining business in Co Wexford is done under the Invest Wexford brand.

Information was given on upcoming events to promote Co Wexford and to seek help in promoting Co Wexford.

## **8. Tourism Strategy**

A brief overview of the Tourism Strategy was given followed by a presentation of events and other initiatives that are planned.

A discussion took place about the brand Wild Atlantic Way V Ancient East. It was highlighted that Co Wexford has more bed nights than other SE counties, that Co Wexford should really promote that fact that we enjoy more hours of sunshine than any other county.

## **9. Proposed meeting dates for 2020**

- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm
- Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm
- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2.30pm

## **10. AOB**

It was agreed to provide for discussion on the policy formulation role of the SPC as part of the work programme in 2020.

This concluded the business of the meeting

## **Economic Development and Enterprise SPC Minutes**

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Time:** 11.30am

**Location:** Ground Floor Meeting Room, Block A, Wexford County Council through Microsoft Teams

**In the Chair:** Cllr Michael Whelan

**Committee Members present in meeting room:** Cllr Michael Sheehan

**Committee Members on Microsoft Teams:** Cllr John Fleming; Cllr George Lawlor; Mr Ernest Levingston; Mr Dave Morris; Ms Mary B O'Leary

**WCC Officials in Attendance:** Mr Tony Larkin (Teams), Ms Elizabeth Hore, Ms Edwina Colfer

**Apologies:** Cllr Aidan Browne; Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan; Cllr Cathal Byrne; Mr Seamus Murphy

The following committee members had difficulty in joining the Meeting through Microsoft Teams: Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Mr Niall Slattery; Mr Senan O'Reilly

Cllr Michael Whelan, Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

### **3. Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on the 21st of January 2020, were **proposed by Cllr George Lawlor** and **seconded by Mr Ernest Levingston**.

#### **Matters Arising:**

A query was raised in relation to the Curracloe Greenway and what the plans are going forward. An update on the Greenways was covered in Agenda Item 4 Directors Report

### **4. COVID 19 Business Supports**

Ms Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, gave a presentation on the Covid 19 supports that are available through the Economic Development Department and Local Enterprise Office.

- Online Training – 551 participants
- Mentoring – 77 clients
- Business Continuity Voucher – 395 applications with 339 approved with a value of half a million euro
- Micro Finance Loans
- Trading Online Voucher – 242 applications with 106 approved with a value of €250,000
- Restart Grant – 1,236 applications with 850 processed and €2million paid to date

Mr Tony Larkin - DOS, commended the staff of both the Economic Development Department and Local Enterprise Office on the quick turnover of the grants and supports.

Cllr George Lawlor highlighted that working from home might be the preferred option for big companies in the future and therefore emphasis must be put on the availability for good reliable broadband.

## **5. Reopening Wexford**

### **• Tourism Campaign**

Visit Wexford working in partnership with Wexford County Council are launching a new summer campaign with an emphasis on nostalgia with *#best for sun #best for fun* being used throughout the campaign.

Mr Tom Enright has been appointed to the National Tourism Recovery Taskforce with Mr Tony Larkin appointed to the National subcommittee. A Destination Taskforce is being put in place through Fáilte Ireland with a focus on attractions and co-ordination of efforts during covid 19.

Cllr Michael Whelan informed the group that he has received positive comments from the Tourism Industry about the communication received from Wexford County Council and the regular updates from the Tourism Officer, Mr Billy Byrne, throughout the lockdown which has been of great help to them.

### **• Town & Village Accelerated Measures – covid 19**

Ms Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, gave a presentation on the Town & Village Scheme 2020 Accelerated Measures in Response to Covid 19. There will be 2 rounds of funding for the scheme with the closing date for Round 1 projects being the 3<sup>rd</sup> July and the closing date for Round 2 projects the 14<sup>th</sup> August to the department. A maximum of 5 projects will be submitted per round. One project per district has been identified for Round 1 funding and will be submitted to the Department for consideration. The projects were endorsed by the SPC for the decision by the members of the Municipal Districts.

## **6. Directors Report**

Updates as follows:

### **• Technology & Business Infrastructure**

- Trinity Wharf – planning for the masterplan was granted on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020 with a decision to be made on the foreshore application in the coming months. Grant aid of €2.028m has been secured to date for the project
- Enniscorthy Technology Park – Phase 1 works have been substantially completed
- John Street Building Regeneration Project – CPO drawing and schedule is currently being prepared and is to issue in Q2 2020
- Kilmore Quay Link Road – Works expected to commence in August 2020
- New Ross Advance Factory – Expected that contracts will be signed in June on the new building investment project
- Ballast Office – Part 8 planning application has been submitted to renovate the building

- **Town Centre Revitalisation & Regeneration Projects**
  - Crescent Quay – Works substantially completed
  - Templeshannon Regeneration – An application for URDF funding was submitted for the project under the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for funding in May 2020.
- **Public Building & Public Space Enhancement Projects**
  - Gorey Market House – Expressions of Interest/Tender Proposals from private sector investors was advertised in Jan 2020. It is hoped to finalise the tender report in the coming months.
  - Wexford Arts Centre – Works are expected to commence on site in November 2020
  - High Hill New Ross – Tenders for works to be advertised in July and works to commence in Sept/Oct 2020
  - Esmonde Street Gorey – RPS consulting engineers have been appointed to provide design, planning, tendering and construction management services for public realm improvement works. Works to commence on site in Q2 2021.
  - Monck Street Public Realm Works – A design services team will be appointed in July with works planned to commence in early 2021
  - New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1 removal of bulk fuel storage tanks
- **Recreational, Amenity & Tourism Projects**
  - Min Ryan Park – Opened to the public on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Tenders are currently being assessed for a skate park
  - Carrigfoyle Activity Centre – Works have commenced on Phase 1 and are scheduled to be completed by Q3 2020.
  - Gorey Town Park – External works to be completed in August with the building, landscaping and planting works to be completed in November 2020.
  - Enniscorthy Tourism Project – Alan Sherwood & Associates have been appointed to develop a plan that will significantly enhance the tourism experience in Enniscorthy.
  - Wexfordia – Wexford County Council has secured RRDF Funding for the development of a cluster of tourism projects within the County to include Irish National Heritage Park, Hook Lighthouse and New Ross Tourism Projects.
  - Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme – The appointment of an engineering consultancy to undertake this preliminary design is expected in Q3 2020
- **Greenways**
  - South East Greenway (New Ross to Waterford) – It is planned to tender for a works contractor in July 2020
  - Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway – EIAR & Natura Impact reports are scheduled to be substantially completed by mid July 2020 with CPO drawings and schedule to follow
  - Curraclloe to Wexford Greenway – Permission for the development was refused by An Bord Pleanála on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018. A decision on proceeding with a further application is being considered
  - Wexford to Rosslare Greenway – tenders have been received for consultancy services for a feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments

A discussion took place on these projects. A query was raised in relation to whether or not there is follow up on Terms of Compliance with Contractors on Projects – is there a Compliance Officer in Wexford County Council to deal with this. If the project

is totally Wexford County Council the engineering staff of WCC would follow up with the contractors in relation to compliance. For projects like the Enniscorthy Technology Park where it is a private building project, Wexford County Council are only renting the property when it is built so therefore would not have any dealings with the contractors before then.

## **7. AOB**

- nZeb – Company is being set up and offices will be temporarily located in the Wexford County Council offices on Old Dublin Road. They will move into the new offices in the Technology Park when complete in about 1 ½ - 2 years. Manager will be recruited in the coming months.
- Tradebridge – Business links have been ongoing. The project is not only looking at Wexford but expanded to the South East region.
- Film & Audio Visual Sector – A report from the Economic Development Section and the Arts Department will be brought to the next meeting about plans to develop the Film & Audio Visual Sector in the County. It is planned to hire a Film Development Officer.
- Cllr Michael Sheehan proposed inviting third level academic to inform SPC on research data and economic themes to inform the committee. This action will be reviewed for future SPC meeting.

This concluded the business of the meeting and next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 2.30pm

## **Economic Development and Enterprise SPC Minutes**

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Time:** 2.30pm

**Location:** via **Microsoft Teams**

**In the Chair:** Cllr Michael Whelan

**Committee Members:** Cllr John Fleming; Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy; Cllr George Lawlor; Cllr Kathleen Codd-Nolan; Mr Niall Slattery; Mr Ernest Levingston; Ms Mary B O'Leary; Mr Senan O'Reilly; Mr Seamus Murphy

**WCC Officials in Attendance:** Mr Tony Larkin, Ms Elizabeth Hore, Ms Breege Cosgrave; Mr Billy Byrne; Ms Edwina Colfer

**Apologies:** Cllr Cathal Byrne;

Cllr Michael Whelan, Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

### **8. Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting, which was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, were proposed by Ms Mary B O'Leary and seconded by Cllr John Fleming.

There were no matters arising.

### **9. COVID 19 Business Supports**

Ms Liz Hore, Head of Enterprise, gave a presentation on the Covid 19 Business Supports that are available through the Economic Department and Local Enterprise Office.

Wexford Local Enterprise Office carried out an online Survey with their clients in June 2020 to gain an understanding of the impact of covid 19 and what supports are required to respond to local business needs. The key support requested was access to finance.

An update of funding to Wexford SME's impacted by covid 19 with a decrease in turnover was provided to the members illustrating the significant increased demand for services.

- €13.6million has been approved in the past 6 months across all measures
- 4,106 grant applications have been received
- 3,276 micro enterprises received grant assistance
- Adapted work practices, refocused from Brexit to Covid 19 support, all training moved online
- Trading Online Vouchers – 284 SME's Grant aided €650,000
- Business Continuity Voucher – 339 enterprises approved with grant aid of €500,000 – LEOs remit was extended to work with SME's with 10 – 50 employees across all sectors
- Training – 1,037 participants



- Mentoring – 134 clients
- New Micro Enterprise Scheme with a grant of €1000 announced for businesses who could not avail of any other grants
- Restart Grants –
  - Original Restart Grant was closed on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July and replaced with the Restart Grant Plus – changes to the scheme included the following: increase in the number of employees from 50 max to 250 max; increase of turnover from €5million max to €25 million max; grant thresholds increased to min €4000 and max €25,000; inclusion of rateable sporting premises
  - 3,384 applications received with 2,813 approved (83%)
  - €11.5million grant aid paid out with €15.2 million funding allocated
  - New top up of 40% announced for pubs, bars and nightclubs that have not opened due to the restrictions
  - Non rated B&Bs can apply to Fáilte Ireland for a Restart Grant
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme – Accelerated Economic Measures total €187,500 for 7 initiatives as follows:
  - Round 1 - €112,500
    - County Wexford Towns & Villages Marketing Cluster €40,000
    - Gorey Public Realm & Destination Marketing €25,000
    - New Ross Walls Mural Project €25,000
    - Bunclody / Ferns e-Commerce platform €22,500
  - Round 2 - €75,000
    - Castlebridge – collective branding of Castlebridge as birthplace of the Guinness Book of Records €25,000
    - Gorey District Village Network – scheme to support shops and businesses in 5 North Wexford Villages €25,000
    - Our Ladys Island & Tacumshane – Heritage Environment Exhibition €25,000
  - Round 3 – Criteria was amended to facilitate inclusion of towns with a population over 10,000 so Wexford and Enniscorthy Towns included in applications submitted on 28<sup>th</sup> August awaiting decision.

Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan raised the issue of some businesses that will not reopen due to the impact of Covid and others that are thinking of closing for good and suggested offering supports to these businesses to enable them to keep going.

## **10. Film & Development Programme**

A copy of the TV & Film Production Development In Wexford Report and an update on the Film & Development Programme was circulated to the group for information.

One of the recommendations in the report was to contract a Film Development Officer for the County. Linda Curtin has now been appointed and commenced in the role on the 15<sup>th</sup> September. The main roles of the position included:

- Promote Wexford as a Film Friendly County nationally and internationally
- Act as liaison in the development of indigenous film and TV production and attracting national and international co-productions.
- Devise a Wexford Film Development Plan for Wexford County Council in close consultation with Wexford County Council, the Film Steering committee and other key stakeholders.

- Devise skills training programmes to support job creation opportunities in the sector and collaborate with education and training providers
- Tailor filming permits – to facilitate different types of film productions companies
- Marketing and building 'Film Wexford' website, with database of film locations, local film crew & cast, catering, accommodation, transport, upcoming Film Funding & Training Opportunities.

It is hoped that some of the training will commence in November in collaboration with Screen Ireland.

There are only 4-5 Film Development Officers Nationally so Wexford are in a good position to lead out in the South East region. The Film Development Officer is to be invited to a future SPC meeting to give an update when they have made progress in the role.

## 11. Reopening Wexford

- **Tourism Campaign**

Jean O'Connell, O'Connell Marketing has been appointed the marketing contract by Visit Wexford for Tourism for the County. Jean gave a presentation on the marketing campaign to date and future plans. Main points as follows:

- Summer Campaign with graphics designed to showcase what Wexford has to offer
- PR Value from June – August €528,094.64 incl Today FM, 2FM, RTÉ, Sunday World, Irish Times, Sunday Times, Telegraph, VIP
- Total Social Media Impressions incl Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, TikTok 4,424,347
- Travel Tuesday Blogs 348,798 people reached with 10,972 reactions, comments & shares
- Website session 161,695 up +224.08% on same period in 2019
- Wexford had the Highest Occupancy for July/August 80% comparative to national average occupancy levels of 47%

Building on the momentum of the Summer Campaign the Autumn Campaign will feature more outdoor, trails, activities, sports, cultural, food and relaxing. Target Markets include: Couples, Solo Travellers, Adventure, Spa, Golf, Sport, Food, Over 50s and families and friends reconnecting.

Following on from the successful photo competition that was run in 2019 it was agreed to host a competition in 2020 with a closing date of the 13<sup>th</sup> November. These photos will be used to promote the County and will be available to all the industry. It was suggested getting in touch with the Brian McDonald, the administrator on the Facebook Page "Images from Wexford" to see if these images could be used for promotion also.

The focus on the Summer Campaign was mainly Dublin based but this will need to be relooked at for the Autumn Campaign due to the announcements of Dublin moving to Level 3 of the Living with Covid Plan.

Visit Wexford and O'Connell Marketing was commended for the work that has taken place so far and presentation.

Local Link are hoping to include a map in all of their timetables on which they wish to mark the main tourism attractions on each of the routes and were wondering if Visit Wexford would have a map that they could use.

A query was raised around the number of people who were coming from other counties to use the walking trails and was there any way of tracking this. Billy Byrne informed the group that counters were being installed at 10 of the walking trails around the County which would help get these figures. Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan suggested that the Walking Trails could link in with small pubs or coffee shops on or around their routes to help promote them.

- **Town & Village Accelerated Measures**

Wexford were successful in Round 1 of the Town & Village Accelerated Measures for a project that will focus on providing essential and high impact industry tools, training and marketing resources to help drive tourism to rural parts of County Wexford in connecting them together. To help showcase the diversity of the adventures, outdoor attractions and hospitality along the rural highlights of Wexford. The following resources will be implemented for the project:

- Develop itineraries for tourists, tour operators and press
- Photograph 20 attractions/businesses/rural spots along the edge of the county
- Develop 3 different videos showing 3 different itineraries for different market segments
- Develop an industry content pool resource on Visit Wexford website for industry, tour operators and press
- One to one workshops with rural tourism businesses on how to list their business on Tourism websites
- Design and develop a self guided virtual map to run on desktop and mobile through Taste Wexford website (linked to Visit Wexford)

## **12. Directors Report**

A copy of the Directors Report was circulated to the group for information which outlined progress of special projects key infrastructure initiatives for Wexford County Council.. Main updates as follows:

### **Technology & Business Infrastructure**

- Trinity Wharf – The detailed design of the access road and new automated railway level crossing is substantially completed and will be tendered the end of September, early October with works expected to commence in early 2021
- Enniscorthy Technology Park – Construction will commence in Quarter 3 /4 2020.
- John Street Building Regeneration Project –The building has been purchased by agreement and a CPO is being arranged for the last part
- New Ross Advanced Factory – it is planned to meet with the developers in the coming weeks

### **Town Centre Revitalisation & Regeneration Projects**

- Templeshannon Regeneration – A site investigation contractor has now been approved and the ground investigation works are scheduled to commence in

Sept/Oct. The preliminary design and bridge options report will be issued on completion of the site investigation works reports.

- Ballast Office – Part 8 planning permission is to be presented to the members for the Wexford Municipal District on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Public Building & Public Space Enhancement Projects**

- Gorey Market House
- Wexford Arts Centre
- High Hill New Ross
- Esmonde Street Gorey
- Monck Street Public Realm Works –
- New Ross Public Realm

### **Recreational, Amenity & Tourism Projects**

- Min Ryan Park
- Carrigfoyle Activity Centre
- Gorey Town Park
- Enniscorthy Tourism Project
- Wexfordia Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme

### **Greenways**

- South East Greenway (New Ross to Waterford) – Pre-construction rail and sleeper lifting contract has been signed and works have commenced on site. The detailed design of the main works is progressing well and tender documents are expected to be completed in Nov 2020 for DTTAS review. Tendering for works is programmed to be completed by Feb 2021 with works to commence in March/April 2021.
- Rosslare to Waterford City Greenway – Preliminary design and the preparation of the EIAR & NATURA Impact reports were delayed due to CoVId19 and amendments to the preferred route and these items are now scheduled to be substantially completed later this month. The application for planning consents is expected to be finalised in October.
- Wexford to Rosslare Greenway – A design team was appointed in to prepare the feasibility study, route selection, preliminary design and environmental assessments for the development of this project.

A discussion took place around the Enniscorthy Tourism Project and the timelines for planning etc. As the Castle is a protected structure the planning phase will be very complex and could take 8 months to 1 year to get approval.

The SPC complimented the plans for investment and requested a representative from Special Projects is to be asked to attend the SPC going forward to give updates on the various projects.

## **13. AOB**

- Cllr Michael Whelan queried when the Greenway Development Officer would be recruited. This is in the HR System for Recruitment along with the Heritage Officer which were paused with covid 19.
- Local Link has increased their Carrig on Bannow to Wexford service to 7 days a week. A new Gorey to Wexford route is being developed to take in The Ballagh, Oulart, Monamolin and Ballycanew.

This concluded the business of the meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 2.30pm.

# Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

## Minutes

12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Microsoft Teams

**Attendance:** Cllr Michael Whelan – Chair, Cllr John Fleming, Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy, Cllr Michael Sheehan, Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan, Cllr Cathal Byrne, Niall Slattery – Business/Commercial Sector, Ernest Levingstone – Business/Commercial Sector, Dave Morris – Trade Union Sector, Ms Mary B O’Leary – Social Inclusion Sector, Mr Senan O’Reilly – Environmental Sector, Mr Seamus Murphy – Community/Voluntary Sector

**In Attendance:** Mr Tony Larkin – Director of Services; Ms Elizabeth Hore – Head of Enterprise; Ms Angela Lawless – Local Enterprise Office; Mr Brian Galvin – Special Projects; Edwina Colfer- Economic Development

**Apologies:** none to note

### 1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The Minutes of the previous meeting which took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> September were proposed by Cllr Kathleen Codd Nolan and seconded by Cllr Barbara Anne Murphy.

### 2. Economic Infrastructure Update – Special Projects

Mr Brian Galvin Special Projects gave a progress report on the economic infrastructure projects for County Wexford. Items to note include the following:

#### Technology & Business Infrastructure

- Trinity Wharf – Works expected to commence in early 2021
- Enniscorthy Technology Park – Snagging works due to be completed by end of Jan 2021
- John Street Building Regeneration Project – A CPO drawing and schedule is currently being prepared by Estates and is to issue in Q3/4 2020
- Kilmore Link Road – Contract awarded in late October and works contractor (Road Stone) commenced on site this week
- Old Dublin Road Business Park – new project. This is an existing area where lands have potential to be enhanced. No identified source of funding for this project at the moment.

#### Town Centre Revitalisation & Regeneration Projects

- Crescent Quay – Works completed
- Templeshannon Regeneration – Brief for services for the master plan was advertised in October and tenders are due on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

#### Public Building & Public Space Enhancement Projects

- Gorey Market House – Tender assessment process delayed by the Covid 19 restrictions but is now advancing
- Wexford Arts Centre – Works expected to commence on site Jan/Feb 2021.

- High Hill New Ross – Tender for contractors advertised in August and tender assessment completed without award of contract. Works to be re-tendered with a proposed commencement date for works in March 2021.
- Esmonde Street Gorey – Detailed design and tender documents programmed to be completed by Q3 2021 with works commencing on site in Q4 2021 subject to funding.
- Monck Street Public Realm Works Wexford – A design services team has been appointed and a proposals for the project to be presented to Wexford Municipal District with a view to commencing works on site in Q2 2021.
- New Ross Public Realm – Phase 1 Removal of Bulk Fuel Storage Tanks – Works contractor is to be appointed by end of November with works due to start on site in early 2021. Part 8 application for the public realm works for this are to be advertised in Jan 2021.

#### Recreational, Amenity & Tourism Projects

- Min Ryan Park – Contract for the skate-park and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) has been awarded and works on site will commence in March 2021
- Carrigfoyle Activity Centre – Draft design drawings for Activity Centre building have been prepared and draft planning drawings (Part VIII) will be presented to the Wexford MDC in November
- Gorey Town Park – External works expected to be completed in December with building works to be completed in Jan 2021. Tenders for playground equipment have been received with installation to commence in Feb 2021.
- Enniscorthy Tourism Project – Brief for the next stage of the project is currently being prepared and will be advertised in early 2021.
- Wexfordia – Hook Lighthouse, Irish National Heritage Park and New Ross. Appointment of design services teams for both the Hook Lighthouse and the INHP have been impacted by the Covid restrictions (UK Consultants) and these contracts are now expected to be put in place in Q4 2020. A design team has been appointed to prepare a preliminary interpretative plan for the Norman Centre in New Ross which will be completed in December 2020.
- Courtown Coastal Protection & Beach Nourishment Scheme – Tender to be advertised later this month with an appointment by Feb/March 2021.
- Wexford Flood Relief Scheme – OPW approval then design team will be appointed
- Enniscorthy Sports Hub – Tender documents for the details design, procurement of works contractor and construction management of the Sports Hub building will be advertising late this month with an appointment expected by Feb 2021. If funding allows a shot cage/throwing area might be looked at also. It was suggested putting a bus stop at the Sports Hub for transport to and from the site.

#### Greenways

- South East Greenway (New Ross to Waterford) – tendering for works is programmed to be completed by Feb 2021 with works contractor to commence in March/April 2021.
- Rosslare to Waterford City – Final documents, environmental reports and application for planning consents will be completed later this month and the application submitted to An Bord Pleanala.

- Wexford to Rosslare – An application to ABP is programmed to be submitted in Q3 2021.

A discussion took place around the information provided.

Cllr Michael Whelan thanked Brian for his update.

### **3. Directors Report**

Mr Tony Larkin gave a report to the group on projects that are currently being worked on in Economic Development, details as follows:

- CSC Global has announced 75 jobs with the setting up of its European Centre of Excellence in the M11 Business Campus.
- Abodoo have been contracted to carry out Talent Mapping to show the skills set we have in the County
- High Performance Building Alliance – branding for the centre has been completed and the HPBA headquarters, located in the Enniscorthy Area Office, Old Dublin Road, plans are progressing for branding and refurbishment. Recruitment of the Chief Executive will take place in early 2021 with a view to having the centre operational in early 2021.
- Ballast Office – approved for Part 8 planning at the Council meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> November.
- Congratulations were extended to New Ross on winning the Bank of Ireland Begin Together Award for the Kick Starting New Ross Initiative. The town received €10,000 in recognition of the strong economic initiatives within the town.
- Screen Wexford – Linda Curtin has been appointed as the Film & TV Co-ordinator in September, a joint collaboration between the Arts and Economic Development departments of Wexford County Council.

### **4. COVID 19 Business Support Measures Update**

Liz Hore gave an update on the Covid 19 Economic Measures.

- €22.7 million approved during the pandemic across all measures
- 4,946 grant applications received
- 4,384 micro enterprises received grant assistance

#### Restart Grant

- Closing date was 31st October
- 3,916 applications received
- 3,606 approved
- €19.7million grant aid paid out
- €22 million total funding allocated to Wexford
- 624 RG1 appeals with a value of €2.2million

#### Local Enterprise Office

- Training for 1,425 businesses
- Mentoring for 165 businesses
- Micro Enterprise Fund scheme 14 applications received – this is for anyone who did not qualify for a Restart Grant – closing date this Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November.



- Trading Online Scheme – 469 Applications, 377 SME's grant aided total €863,366
- LEO grant aid €619,740 increased by one third in 2020
- Weekly Newsletter

## 5. Reopening Wexford

### a. Wexford Welcomes You Safely Campaign

Angela Lawless gave an overview to the group about the new “Wexford Welcomes you Safely” campaign. This scheme is a joint initiative between Wexford County Council and the Local Enterprise Office. The initiative has been designed to support local shops and protect local shoppers by ensuring the highest possible levels of staff training and Covid 19 safety standards. Retailers are encouraged to sign up to the Free Online Training. This is available to one or more staff and the first session is scheduled to take place on 27<sup>th</sup> November. When the business completes the training they will be issued with a merchandising kit which includes window stickers, floor graphics, till wobblers and more in store merchandise. The scheme was launched on South East Radio on the 11<sup>th</sup> November and advertising will be run for the next few weeks encouraging people to sign up. A landing page has been developed with all the information required for the retailers – [www.wexfordwelcomesyou.ie](http://www.wexfordwelcomesyou.ie)

There are 2 parts to the campaign as follows:

1. Encourage retailers to sign up for the training
2. Promote to consumers that these businesses have gone the extra mile to make you feel safe when shopping in their premises

### b. Town & Village accelerated measures

Ms Liz Hore gave a brief update to the group on the Town & Village accelerated measures.

- 13 initiatives around the county have been granted €382,500
- Round 1 €112,500
- Round 2 €75,000
- Round 3 €195,000
- Under Round 3 of Covid 19 economic measures, the towns of Wexford and Enniscorthy with a population of 10,000 plus were deemed eligible under the scheme due to the impact of Covid 19 on towns
- Round 1 & 2 need to be completed by the end of November 2020
- Round 3 to be completed by end February 2021

## 6. Brexit

Ms Liz Hore gave an update on Brexit and what is planned going forward. A new Campaign titled “Change is Coming” will be rolled out over the next few weeks to promote awareness of Brexit to smaller businesses. A Panel of Brexit Advisors (Mentors) have been put in place to assist businesses with the change. Training programmes are being developed with a lot of these programmes focusing on Customs. A new grant has been announced from Enterprise Ireland to assist with this. Rosslare Europort is very much to the forefront now and it is planned to run an information seminar in Wexford with the Port in 2021. A Brexit document

highlighting the key issues for SME's will inform the work of the Local Enterprise Office going forward..

**7. AOB**

- 27<sup>th</sup> November Female Entrepreneurs Network is being launched
- 10<sup>th</sup> December Virtual Market Place for Christmas is going live