

Housing & Community SPC

Minutes of Meeting 5th February 2020

In the Chair: Cllr Joe Sullivan

Present: Mr William Considine, Ms Alice Doyle, Cllr David Hynes, Cllr John O'Rourke, Cllr Fionntán O'Suilleabháin, Ms Breda O'Sullivan, Cllr Frank Staples, Mr Niall McCabe A/SEO Housing, Ms Carolyne Godkin A/Director of Service, Ms Amanda Byrne SEO Community, Ms Caroline Creane SSO Housing, Ms Helen Meehan SSO Housing, Ms Eileen Morrissey County Librarian and Mr Michael Sweeney SSO Community.

The Chairperson welcomed all members to the meeting. It was noted that this was the first SPC meeting for some new members so all present introduced themselves.

Minutes

The minutes of the SPC meeting dated 6th November, 2019 were approved on the proposal of Cllr Frank Staples and seconded by Mr William Considine.

Library Service

Library Development Plan

The County Librarian presented the Library Development Plan 2020-2025 to the meeting and outlined the 5 Key objectives of same. The meeting was informed of the services provided by the Library Service. It was noted that there are 31,000 active users of the service that consists of either computer users or people who have borrowed a book. E-books are very popular in Wexford and one of the priorities is to develop the IT to ensure that there is a high speed broadband in every library.

A lengthy discussion took place about the Development Plan and as some of the elected members are teachers, it was suggested that their schools could be used for pilot programmes under the new plan. The Library Development Plan 2020-2025 was approved on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr David Hynes.

The County Librarian informed the meeting that over the next few years the Library Service would be looking at energy consumption and their carbon footprint to ensure energy efficiency throughout the libraries. A short discussion took place about 'My Open Library' in Gorey and the 'Age Friendly' library in New Ross. It was noted that there are over 500 active users of the 'My Open Library' and it will be rolled out to New Ross library next. There is an increase in demand for quiet spaces for students in the libraries. The online music service was discussed and the availability of sheet music for library users.

Commemoration Programme Framework

The County Librarian outlined the Commemoration Programme 2020-2023 to the meeting. This is broken down 4 strands ie State Ceremonial, Historical, Community and Creative Imagination. This is the second phase of the programme Decade of Centenaries 2018-2023. At this stage no funding has been finalised by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Community Department

Burial Ground Bye-Laws 2019

The Community SSO outlined the Draft Bye-laws of Wexford County Council for the regulation of all open burial grounds within the jurisdiction of Wexford County Council. It was noted that the Bye-laws were presented to the SPC on 7th November, 2019 and the amendments discussed were included. The document has been legally reviewed. Once approved by the SPC the document will be advertised for public consultation. The draft Bye-laws were approved by the members on the proposal of Cllr John O'Rourke and seconded by Cllr Frank Staples with one amendment. Section 9.4 to be amended to include the words "made of stone material".

Annual Service Delivery Plan

The Community SEO outlined the Community Development Annual Service Delivery Plan to the members present. The Community Department will manage and support community development across the Municipal Districts in 2020. It was noted that the work programme is broken down into 6 themes and a brief discussion took place about same.

Regulation and Control of Consumption of Intoxication Liquor

A brief discussion took place about the upcoming Draft Wexford County Council (Regulation and Control of the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places) Bye-Laws 2020. The Bye-Laws will apply to all public places in the functional area of Wexford County Council. They will be presented to the Municipal District meetings and the next meeting of the SPC for discussion and approval.

Housing Grants

The Housing SSO informed the meeting that a new application form for Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability has been introduced by the DHPLG. The new form replaces the previous 3 separate forms. It was noted that the month of January 2020 would be considered the transitional period during which WCC will implement the changes associated with the revised single application form and guidance. A short discussion took place about private grants and the priority category for same.

Any other business

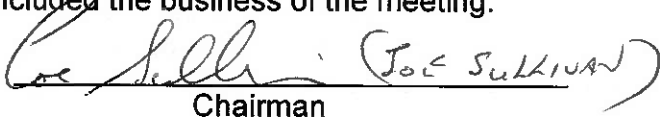
A brief discussion took place about the quality of council owned houses and the amount of vacant houses throughout the county. A short discussion took place about homelessness. A homeless unit has been set up in County Hall and accepts presentations from 10am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4pm daily. This unit deals with all homeless cases throughout the County.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, 1st April 2020 at 2.15pm

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:

 (JOE SUKHIVAN)
Chairman

Dated:

3.12.2020