

Planning & Building Control SPC Minutes of Meeting of 10th March 2022

In the Chair: Cllr John Hegarty

Present: Cllr Bridin Murphy, Mr. Tony Larkin, Mr. Tom Banville, Mr. Anthony Neville, Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Ms. Pauline Moore

Present online: Ms Deirdre Kearns, Mr. Tom Doyle, Mr. Zeno Winkens

Minutes and Matters Arising

Mr. Anthony Neville mentioned that the CIF had sent in a submission on the draft taking in charge policy.

Mr. Tom Banville replied that an update would be provided at the next SPC meeting and it would be put on the agenda.

County Development Plan Update

Ms Deirdre Kearns gave an update on the plan and outlined that the CDP had been held up due to the failure of the SEA consultants to produce the required assessment. The Strategic Environmental Assessment will be available for the next meeting as the original consultants are now on board. It is expected that the SEA and AA will be considered on the 28th March at the Council meeting and the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan will be approved to go on display.

Local Area Plans

Cllr John Hegarty asked for time frames for Local Area Plans

Ms Deirdre Kearns stated that the Wexford and Enniscorthy plan will commence in 2022, the New Ross plan will be reviewed in 2023. The Gorey plan is being considered for extension.

A discussion ensued on the outsourcing of reports, lack of staff in Local Authorities and the number of projects such as LRD's, Marine Plans, Town Centre Regeneration etc. which will require action in the near future.

Pre-Planning

The delay with pre-planning was discussed. Mr. Tony Larkin outlined the process required to take on new staff. Wexford County Council has lost five planners through promotion. Cllr John Hegarty requested that the website should say how long pre-planning will take, to inform the public. Mr Tom Banville stated that there is already a

message on the website to say pre-planning was delayed. The discussion continued on how the situation could be improved.

Town Centre First Policy

The Town Centre First policy was discussed. Ms. Deirdre Kearns stated a Town Regeneration Officer is to be appointed in each Local Authority. Work already carried out on the Enniscorthy plan would align with the Town Centre First policy.

Heritage/Biodiversity Update

Ms. Catherine McLoughlin gave a presentation on heritage in County Wexford. The Council had been very successful in obtaining grants for structures within the County in 2021. There are plans to set up a County Heritage Forum in the Summer.

AOB

A discussion was held on the possibility of a longer term for County Development and Local Area plans. The problem with zoning of lands which may never be developed was discussed, as was the issue with tax on zoned lands.

It was agreed that the date for the next SPC will be 19th May 2022.

Cllr. John Hegarty took the opportunity to voice his respect and appreciation of the contribution to the County Council of Mr. Tony Larkin who will soon be retiring. He stated that Tony was leaving the County in a far better place than he found it.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: John Hegarty Dated: 31/6/22