

Planning & Building Control SPC **Minutes of Meeting of 1st June 2022**

In the Chair: Cllr John Hegarty

Present: Cllr Garry Laffan, Mr Anthony Neville, Ms Liz Hore, Mr Diarmuid Houston, Mr. Tom Banville, Ms Deirdre Kearns, Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Mr Craig Innes, Ms. Roberta Gordon

Present online: Cllr Anthony Donohoe

Apologies: Mr Zeno Winkens, Mr Tom Doyle

Minutes and Matters Arising

Cllr John Hegarty sent his congratulations to Cllr Bridin Murphy on the birth of her child. He also congratulated Ms Liz Hore on her appointment as Director of Service for Planning.

Director's Introduction

Ms Liz Hore about the key areas in Planning; the new County Development Plan, planning's statutory functions, planning enforcement and a new policy, Town Centre First. Cllr John Hegarty enquired about staffing levels in Planning. Ms Liz Hore advised that an Executive Planner and an Assistant Planner had been appointed.

County Development Plan Update

Ms Deirdre Kearns advised that proposed material alterations to the plan have been on display and the Chief Executive's Report on the submissions received is due to be submitted to the Members. The Members will then consider the report and make the plan with or without the proposed material alterations (subject to minor modification). A discussion ensued regarding the Office of the Planning Regulator's submission. Ms Deirdre Kearns noted that the Office of Planning may recommend to the Minister that the Council would be obliged to give effect to such a Direction (following the appropriate procedure). Mr Anthony Neville raised queries in relation to zoning and densities, Mr Diarmuid Houston informed him that these issues are addressed in the plan and will be covered in more detail under the Local Area Plans.

Pre-Planning

Ms Liz Hore informed the meeting that the number awaiting preplanning meetings had reduced and that the primary focus was on planning applications. Mr Diarmuid Houston said Planning are now dealing with preplanning for LRD's (Large Scale Residential Developments), Major Preplanning and One-off housing. Cllr John Hegarty asked what the solution was to the preplanning wait times. Mr Diarmuid

Houston said we would train Agents and Staff on the new County Development Plan and improve communications between both parties.
Mr Deirdre Kearns excused herself from the meeting.

Access to Planning Information

Mr Diarmuid Houston advised that the first point of contact for Councillors should be Planning CSU who can pass a query to the relevant person in the department. He encouraged any Member of the Council with a query to phone the department. Cllr Garry Laffan advised that this issue should be revisited when staffing levels increase.

County Wexford Heritage Forum

Ms. Catherine McLoughlin was seeking a nomination from the SPC to join the Heritage Forum. There are 25 members, and they meet four times a year. Cllr Anthony Donohoe proposed the Chairman Cllr John Hegarty and Cllr Garry Laffan seconded it.

Taking In Charge

Mr Tom Banville gave a presentation on the draft Taking In Charge policy. Mr Craig Innes thanked Mr Anthony Neville for bringing the draft policy to the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) who made some valid observations. A discussion ensued regarding the policy and the details contained within. A few points were noted in relation to footpaths, public lighting and carpark spaces so Mr Tom Banville was to liaise with Mr Anthony Neville and it was suggested that someone from the Roads Department attend the next meeting

AOB

Dates for the next two meetings were proposed for Wednesday 14th September 2022 and Wednesday 30th November 2022.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: John Hegarty Dated: 29/9/22