Planning & Building Control SPC
Minutes of Meeting of 19th January 2023

In the Chair: Cllr John Hegarty

Present: Cllr Garry Laffan, Cllr. Anthony Donohoe, Ms. Liz Hore, Mr. Tom Banville, Mr. Diarmuid Houston, Ms. Deirdre Kearns, Ms. Catherine McLoughlin, Ms. Fionnuala Callery, Mr. Vincent Gallagher, Mr. Tim Murphy, Ms. Rachael Jordan, Ms. Pauline Moore

Remote: Cllr. Bridin Murphy, Mr. Zeno Winkens, Ms. Verona Murphy TD, Ms. Geraldine Carty

Apologies: Craig Innes

Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting, which took place on the 29th of September 2022, were proposed by Cllr. Garry Laffan and seconded by Cllr. Anthony Donohoe.

Cllr John Hegarty offered the sympathy of the SPC to Mr. Tom Banville on the passing of his father-in-law.

Cllr John Hegarty welcomed the appointment of Mr. Mick McCormack as the Town Regeneration Officer and the appointment of Ms. Rachael Jordan as Senior Staff Officer in planning. He also congratulated Ms. Pauline Moore, Staff Officer on her approaching retirement.

Heritage and Biodiversity

Ms. Catherine McLoughlin gave an update on the Heritage Forum, Biodiversity Grant Scheme, and plans for National Biodiversity Week. Heritage Week in 2022 had been a success. It is a hope to bring a community focus to Heritage Week 2023.

Draft Taking in Charge Policy

Mr. Tom Banville brought the draft policy before the SPC for the third time. A discussion ensued. Mr. Tim Murphy proposed an amendment to the Roads section, regarding road width. Cllr. Garry Laffan asked about Vesting. Ms. Fionnuala Callery advised of the Professional Indemnity level of 2.6 million required by Uisce Eireann/Irish Water.

The Chair proposed that all amendments in red in the draft before the SPC be accepted and that the draft should be brought back before the SPC for further discussion before being brought to the full Council.

The draft TIC policy is to be sent to Wexford County Councils legal agents for review and comment before the next meeting of the SPC.

E-Planning Update

Mr. Tom Banville presented a powerpoint presentation on E-planning. It is proposed to rollout E-planning to more Local Authorities in 2023. Wexford Planning is expected to come online in Quarter 2.

Cllrs asked if drawings will be available on the website? will E-Planning speed up the process? will the old system still be available for hardcopy applications? The answer to these questions was yes.

Local Area Plans

Ms. Deirdre Kearns spoke about the Wexford Plan, it is hoped to hold workshops in February 2023. With regard to Local Transport Plan, consultants are about to be appointed.
The proposed new planning bill may mean that local area plans will not be seperate from the County Development Plan in the future. It is proposed that CDP's will be for 10yrs.
Mr. Diarmuid Houston said it is better for town plans to be seperate from the CDP to encourage public consultation.
Ms. Liz Hore said that preparatory work can continue on Local Area Plans while awaiting the adoption of the Bill.

Preplanning

Mr. Diarmuid Houston said there was still a backlog on pre-planning. He gave a number of statistics to illustrate the amount of work which had been undertaking with regard to pre-planning in recent months.
The Chair acknowledged that a substantial amount of work on pre-planning had already been carried out.
A dicussion ensued on preplanning with various ideas being put forward to speed up the process and the problems with staff resources being explained.
The Chair asked that a short report on pre-planning be prepared for the next meeting, including the details which Mr. Diarmuid Houston had presented today.
Cllr Garry Laffan stated that clients are prepared to wait for pre-planning but 12 weeks is too long.

Proposed dates for Planning SPC in 2023

The following dates were proposed for the SPC in 2023: 20th April, 21st September and 23rd November

AOB

The proposed date for the next meeting is Thursday 20th of April 2023 at 3.30pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.