

**MINUTE OF THE PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC
POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 20th July 2020, AT CLERMONT COLLEGE
CLERMONT RATHNEW AT
3 P.M.**

PRESENT: Cllr. Sylvester Bourke, Chairman
Ms. Joan Campbell
Cllr. Patsy Glennon
Cllr. Edward Timmins
Cllr. Shay Cullen
Cllr Gerry O'Neill

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms. Breege Kilkenny Director of Service
Ms. Sorcha Walsh, Senior Planner
Ms. Theresa O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer
Mr. Fergal Keogh, Senior Engineer

APOLOGIES Mr. Conor McCarthy, Arklow Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Jim Woods, CIF
Mr. Michael Byrne Agriculture/Farming Community

Item 1: Adoption of minutes of meeting held on 19th November 2019.

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th November 2019 were proposed by Cllr Shay Cullen and seconded Cllr Sylvester Bourke

Item 2: Forward planning update

Ms. S. Walsh advised that the 1st stage of the review of the County Development Plan is now complete and the report on the submissions (156 in total) received was issued to the Elected Members for their consideration, a number of workshops were being held with the members of the council and the forward planning team at the moment.

The following documents were circulated to the members

- Proposed Introduction
- Proposed Core Strategy
- Proposed recommendations and policies

Ms Walsh outlined some of the main areas rising out of the submissions as:

- Green infrastructure
- Climate change
- Life balance
- Communities
- Protect environment

A general discussion took place around the review of the plan and the following items were raised by the members

- population targets
- Energy Strategy: national guidelines Wind energy strategy
- remote working - Digi hubs
- Settlement population targets
- West Wicklow fairing very badly
- Infrastructure in West Wicklow not up to scratch - economy follow infrastructure so west Wicklow losing out and need to be prioritised
- green agenda: heat pumps, solar pumps
- fear that all allocations in west Wicklow will be taken up if housing goes ahead in County Kildare

The item closed with the following information

- The First Chief Executive's Report was issued to the Elected Members on Friday 12th June 2020. This Report forms part of the statutory procedure for the review of the existing plan and the preparation of the new plan. Its purpose is to report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process and to set out the Chief Executive's opinion on the issues raised in the submissions received.
- The Members, following consideration of the report, may issue directions to the Chief Executive regarding the preparation of the Draft Development Plan.
- There will be an item on the agenda for the September meeting of Wicklow County Council to consider the First Chief Executive's Report prepared under Section 11 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) regarding the review of the County Development Plan and to consider any directions regarding the preparation of the Draft County Development Plan 2021 – 2027 proposed by the members under Section 11(4)(d) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Item 3: To discuss Data Consent Forms

Cllr Bourke advised that he had asked for this item to be put on the agenda

Theresa O'Brien advised the members that the following report outlined the history and process with regard to Data Consent Forms

At council meeting 12th June 2017, the elected members agreed new protocol for data protection procedures for the local authority. This included access to offices and files.

With regard to the data consent forms, **Written permission is required from all relevant planning applicants** indicating that representations may be made on their behalf by a named elected member or members and that they can view the personal data (including reports) on the file. (Elected Members cannot view or be advised of progress on files without the written consent of the planning applicants.)

Therefore the driver in this procedure is the applicant.

It was agreed that this can be facilitated in a number of ways:

- The architect/agent acting on behalf of the applicant can submit a letter signed by the applicant naming the Councillor(s) they wish to have access to their file. This can be sent in, with the application, by email or by letter after the application has been received. It can also be sent in at a later date by the architect/agent. - This will alleviate the need to get signature of the Councillor

A Councillor can submit an email attaching a letter from the planning applicant, granting access to their file to that Councillor - This will alleviate the need to get signature of the Councillor

The applicant can submit a signed letter stating the name(s) of the Councillor(s) that they wish to have access to their information - This will alleviate the need to get signature of the Councillor

OR

Consent forms can continue to be submitted via the applicant, Councillor, or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, by email (including a photograph of the form from smart phone), by post or in person.

The above also relates to other data held by the section, e.g. pre-planning advice extended to person, or other data of a personal/sensitive nature.

At any stage, the Council Official dealing with the representation is entitled to contact the Data Subject to ensure that they have agreed to the elected member making representations on their behalf.

It was agreed that this report would be circulated to the members of the SPC

Item 4 To discuss Development Contribution Scheme

Cllr Bourke advised that he had asked that this item be added to the agenda as he had spoken to a developer who claimed that if he went to Gorey he would only pay a fraction of development levies that he was being asked to pay in County Wicklow.

A general discussion took place around the Development Contribution Scheme where the following was raised

- Park & ride facilities should be exempt from levies or should be at a reduced rate to encourage more of them within the County
- W & S levies no longer come to Wicklow County Council – IW charge through connection policy and implement their own charges
- Cllr Timmins enquired as to when the scheme was due to be reviewed and was advised that there was no statutory timeframe for renewal
- Fergal Keogh advised the meeting that there were two rates in County Wicklow for commercial activity €43.00 and €44.00 and urged caution saying that this was a balancing act for the members and not a race to bottom
- Cllr Glennon asked does the levies have to be same throughout all the County and was advised that the charges are based on a list of projects for the whole County and all monies go into a county wide pot, it was also advised that the relevant spending directorates control the spending
- Cllr Cullen said given the level of rural area houses being constructed and he wished to query where are the contributions going?

It was agreed that a report on the directorate spend of development contributions would be presented to the SPC as soon as it was available.

Item 5: To set dates for the SPC for the remainder of 2020

It was decided by the committee to continue with the schedule of meetings already adopted for 2020 and therefore the next meeting of the Planning Development and Environment SPC will take place on 14th September 2020, venue to be decided closer to the date and circulated

Item 6: Any Other Business

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Date: _____