

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 10th SEPTEMBER, IN COUNTY
BUILDINGS**

Present: Cllr. Shay Cullen, Cllr. Nicola Lawless, Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin, Cllr. Brendan Thornhill, Irene Sweeney, John Mullen, Gertie Salley and Cllr Jim Ruttle (Chair)

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson, Martina Byrne, Andrew McBride, Jenny Sherwin, Caroline Fox, Maire Halvey, Thomas Daly and Barbara Mason.

Apologies: Cllr. Miriam Murphy and Cllr. Pat Kennedy.

1. Adoption of the Minutes

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 18th June was proposed by Cllr. Nicola Lawless and seconded by Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matter arising.

3 Updates on the following:

Playgrounds 2018 – Caroline Fox reported the following –

Greystones – the Greystones Playground has opened and is very successful. There is still a small section not completed and open yet due to the lack of grass as the weather was so hot and it is expected to be completed by the end of September with the official opening expected at the beginning of October. The Director said that the members of the SPC will be invited to the official opening.

Roundwood, Laragh and Annacurragh – the successful tenderer for each area has been notified and work is expected to begin shortly.

Newtownmountkennedy – Plans for a second facility in Newtown on hold pending consultation with community groups in the area.

Celtic Routes Interreg Project

The Director reported that Blue Sail Consultants were awarded the contracts for the first 2 pieces of work which involve mapping and research. There will be some stakeholder meetings in Wexford in November.

CLÁR Grants 2018

Funding of €130,590 has been approved for projects in Ballinacor and Knockananna.

Cllr. Cullen asked if there was any way to extend the CLÁR area in the county. The Director agreed to check with the Department.

Healthy Ireland Grants 2018.

Andrew McBride reported that Wicklow LCDC has been awarded €75,000 from the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 2 of which €21,000 was allocated to LSP projects. From this funding the Accessible Beach Wheelchair was purchased. This wheelchair is located at Brittas Bay beach since August, where it has been used about 8 times and it is becoming a popular piece of equipment. A full report Sports Partnership was handed out to the members on the committee.

Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2018.

The 2018 projects put forward have not been approved as yet. There is a good spread across the county of the applications. John Mullen felt that the timeline was very tight last year but that there is an improvement this year. He thanked the CCSD staff for all the advice given to people interested in applying for grants.

Avondale Forest Park Project.

The Director reported on this project and said it would be hoped that the planning application would have been lodged already but it was being tweaked and that hopefully it would be lodged soon.

Fáilte Ireland Festival Grants 2018.

Maire Halvey reported that Fáilte Ireland agreed to provide €13,000 to WCC with the Council having discretion to disperse the funds to best drive the economic contribution of tourism. Six festivals were awarded funding. The final festival is the Delgany Golf Club Ryder Cup Celebration which will take place in September, after which the remaining claim will be submitted for payment.

Ronnie Delany Sculpture, Arklow.

This has gone through procurement and the successful tenderer is Paul Ferriter who is a renowned sculpture. Ronnie Delany is delighted with the choice. Contracts are due to be exchanged soon. The budget is €100,000 including the plinth etc.

Arklow Pottery Museum

The Director reported that work has been ongoing on this project for the last couple of years and that hopefully the plans for the final agreed design would be signed off soon and then the Planning process could begin.

Creative Ireland Programme.

Jenny Sherwin gave a report on the Creative Ireland Programme and handed her report to the members. She told the meeting that there were 39 applicants for Creative Ireland funding. The Creative Ireland Strategy, 2018 to 2022, will be launched on 12th September 2018.

Community CCTV Scheme

The Director reported that the Arklow application which was lead by the Arklow Town Team has been approved. He stated that it is anticipated that Wicklow Town and Greystones will make an application in the coming

years. While Arklow is ready to go, there is a delay due to concerns countrywide, regarding the GDPR aspect of the video stored. He explained that Wicklow Co. Co. are not concerned as the CCTV will only be recording, it will not be manned and will only be accessed by Gardai, upon written request, should they need to view any incident which occurs.

Katie Taylor Bursary

Andrew McBride reported on this and told the meeting that the applications will close on Friday 14th September. Cllr. McLoughlin asked about the possible change of name from Katie Taylor to LSP Bursary as it was felt that people thought the funding was only for the sport of boxing. This had gone to protocol but had been rejected. The Director agreed to bring it back to the Protocol committee again. Following questions by Irene Sweeney, Andrew explained that it was for students going into 1st year in university/college and was for 3 years but that if they were doing a 4 year course, they could apply for funding for the 4th year. The Director explained that it was to enable students to continue sport while attending college.

Pride of Place 2018.

Caroline Fox explained that the three nominations, in the three separate categories (The Courthouse Arts Centre in Tinahely, Rathdrum in the category for their town size and the Wicklow Hospice) have all been judged and she feels that these nominations are a very high standard.

4. Tourism Projects Fund (€10,000 per district)

Maire Halvey supplied a handout for the member and she gave the report, stating that 5 projects have been submitted for consideration, one from each Municipal District. The members discussed the projects as it was felt some of the submissions covered more than one project. Cllr. Cullen felt that the MDs should stick to the projects agreed previously and that they should be reminded that there was supposed to be one project only. Cllr. Lawless felt that Baltinglass MD was two separated projects. It was agreed to approve the projects for this year but Cllr. Cullen said he wanted it noted in the minutes that when there is an agreed policy in place, we should adhere to it rigidly.

5. People of the Year Awards 2018.

Caroline Fox reported on the progress of the awards and read out a list of the people chosen and the categories they were chosen under and agreed to send out the list by email to the members. She explained that the judging panel consisted of herself, the People Newspapers and The Wicklow Hospice Foundation. There were over 50 applications.

6. Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee Update.

The Director advised that the WORC meets every 6 weeks and that many of the issues discussed by that committee. Cross over with SPC issues. He advised that a new Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy was being developed by consultants and that the committee would have been heavily involved in the applications under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure scheme.

7. Details of 2 New Funding Schemes 2018.

1. **Community enhancement Programme 2018** which includes Men's Sheds Application. This scheme replaces the Communities Facilities Scheme and the re-cast RAPID programme. Also there is additional funding for the Men's Sheds. These are currently being assessed and will go forward to the LCDC meeting.
2. **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme 2018** – nothing to report as yet.

8. Library Update

In Brendan Martin's absence, the Director distributed the Library report and gave an update on the mobile library. It is now 14 years old and a new one will cost in the region of €225,000. Following the tender process, the successful tenderer should have it on the road by summer of 2019. The new vehicle will have wheelchair access and a solar panel battery charging system.

Co. Wicklow libraries have the 5th highest national usage per head.

9. Local Sports Partnership Update

Andrew McBride circulated his report and spoke from it about –

- The Beach Wheelchair introduced on Brittas Bay Beach in August.
- Go for Life (Older Adults)
- Children's Cancer Unit 32 (CCU32)
- Cruinniu Na nÓg – Russborough parkrun & children's family morning
- Regatta Festival (Children & teens, general population)
- Baltinglass Couch to 5K (women in sport/general population)
- Community Coaching Programme Wicklow Town (disadvantage communities)
- Katie Taylor Bursary
- Safe guarding programme – mandatory
- Future programmes

10. Leisure Centres in Arklow and Wicklow

Caroline Fox informed the meeting that following last year's feasibility study on the condition of the two facilities, refurbishment of both is required. The Council will need to seek funding for these works.

11. Wicklow Gaol

Caroline Fox updated the meeting that the Wicklow Gaol had made a successful application under the Irelands Ancient East Storytelling programme, which this project will include an interactive wall/virtual wall being developed.

Cllr. McLoughlin said she felt their website is very poor and unacceptable and that they need to invest in updating this. She said the SPC should send a letter to ask that they do work on it – she suggested they could possibly apply to LEADER for funding to do this.

12. Greenways in the County

The Director gave an update on the greenways –

Blessington: Is the most advanced of the three greenways. It's gone through planning and is shovel-ready. A new funding stream is now available and applications have to be lodged by the end of November 2018. The Council will be submitting one application for the Blessington Greenway.

Arklow to Shillelagh -There are 42 landowners along the route of this greenway. Discussions are continuing with landowners in an effort to reach agreement for access and avoid having to acquire land. The SPC members expressed their concerns about the use of the CPO procedure as it could be detrimental to all Greenway projects. Cullen requested that this issue be kept on the agenda.

Greystones to Wicklow: Being progressed , but is someway behind the other 2.

13. Development Schemes

1. Urban Regeneration and Development Fund
2. Rural Regeneration and development Fund

The Director Circulated a report which outlined the schemes - €2 billion to Urban Regeneration available nationally over 10 years and €1 billion for Rural Reneration. The Council had submitted applications under both of these schemes.

14. Any other business

The Director circulated a copy of a letter received by the CEO from the National Transport Authority with an update on services on routes being supplied

Cllr. Cullen spoke about the need to advertise bus timetables on social media.

Gertie Salley gave a report from the PPNs and circulated information. She spoke about the success of the first PPN Training Fair which took place on Saturday 8th September. She outlined the PPN programme for the Autumn and went through the 2017 report, which is also available on their Website. John Mullen said he felt it would be a good idea for the Council to have a general stand at next year's Training Fair. The Director said that the PPNs do tremendous work.

Cllr. Cullen asked about LEADER and the Director said that approved projects to date have reached €700,000. He also said that with so many programmes/schemes coming on stream all the time, and so much money being made available under these other schemes, the LEADER programme may suffer.


There was a discussion about how complicated the LEADER application is, and the Director indicated that the staff of County Wicklow Partnership are available to go through any application with any interested group.

Cllr. Thornhill enquired about the possibility of erecting a plaque of some sort on the new Mulvey walk in Bray and whether this came under the remit of the CCSD SPC. The director agreed to discuss this further with cllr. Thornhill and Bray MD. Cllr. Thornhill undertook to agree the inscription for the plaque in the meantime.

15. Date for the next meeting

The next meeting was arranged for 10th December 2018.

Signed:



CLLR JIM RUTTLE
CHAIR

Date:

