

**Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 1<sup>ST</sup> October, 2018 in the Wurzburg Room, County Buildings, Wicklow.**

Present : Councillor Gerry Walsh Chair  
Councillor John Ryan  
Councillor Tom Fortune  
Mr. Pat O Suilleabhain  
Councillor Jennifer Whitmore  
Councillor Gail Dunne  
Mr. Killian McGreal

In Attendance: Mr. Tom Murphy, Director of Services  
Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt, A/Head of Enterprise  
Ms. Susan Nichols, Administrative Officer

Apologies Mr. Michael Allen,  
Ms. Kate Duggan  
Councillor Oliver O Brien  
Councillor Irene Winters  
Mr. Michael Allen  
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield.

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**Expression of sympathy:** At the outset of the meeting the Chair expressed the condolences of the committee to Ms. C. Flood on the recent passing of her brother Mr. Tony Murphy.

**ITEM 1**

**Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 (copy circulated).**

On the proposal of Cllr. John Ryan, seconded by Mr Pat O Suilleabhain the minutes of SPC meeting held on Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, 2018 as circulated were agreed.

**ITEM2**

**Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Item 3**

**Update LECP Process**

Mr. T. Murphy DOS gave an update on the LECP process to date in that there are 10 high level goals, 21 objectives and some 100 actions to be implemented over the lifetime of the plan in respect of which an implementation plan has been prepared up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of

December, 2017 overseen by an Advisory committee (jointly chaired by Cllr. G. Walsh and Cllr. G. McLoughlin).

He advised that the Advisory Committee had met on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September last and that Ms. C. Flood will report on the implementation of these goals via the update on the CWETT implementation of actions and that Ms. Vibeke Delahunt would report on Item Number 9 the Enterprise Ireland application for a Screen Industry Hub at Wicklow County Council.

In relation to the lands in the ownership of Wicklow County Council at Greystones adjacent to the IDA owned lands he reported that the Chief Executive had made contact with the property department of the IDA with a view to progressing the strategy of developing the Council owned land with the adjacent portion of the IDA owned lands. He advised that discussion are still ongoing in relation to the adoption of a joint approach.

#### **Item 4**

##### **Update: County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT): Implementation stage**

Ms C. Flood updated the committee in relation to the Implementation stage of the CWETT Actions and circulated the following report:-

##### **Report to the Economic Development and Enterprise Support 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018**

**FILM :** Members of the Enterprise Team, The CE and the Head of Finance were invited to make a presentation to a panel appointed by Enterprise Ireland in conjunction with the application for Regional Enterprise Development Funding (REDF) for a Screen Content Enterprise Hub. The development of a vision statement for Wicklow County Campus will recommence when the outcome of the REDF Application is known.

**RETAIL: Progression of the Florentine Project:** Work continues on the Florentine Site with a view to having it completed by December 2019. Bray MD has produced a guide to doing business in Bray aimed at attracting new business to the town. This will be rolled out to other towns via the Town Teams

**TOWN TEAMS:** Four County Wicklow Towns; Arklow, Bray, Roundwood and Wicklow participated in the Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Competition. The Towns were visited by the judges on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September. This was an excellent opportunity for the towns to showcase their enterprising spirit and passion for each town and to show off a mix of commercial and social enterprises and to demonstrate the great community spirit and talent that exists in our towns.

#### **TOURISM STRATEGY & WORKPLAN 2017 – 2022:**

##### **Priorities**

- Quality visitor experience and product

- Development of key towns as destinations
- Development of accommodation
- Glendalough is the hero product

Next steps implementation – the original CWETT Tourism Team and Wicklow Tourism will work together to establish an implementation team

**Links with China:** We continue to engage with Hainan, The Chinese Embassy in Dublin and with the Chinese Community. Wicklow County Council supported the Autumn Festival event held in Bray last Monday this was publicised throughout China via the Chinese Embassy and Chinese media. The Cathaoirleach and the CE represented WCC at the Autumn Festival event in the Chinese Embassy. We anticipate a visit from a group of Chinese investors to Wicklow in the coming weeks. Next steps to establish a Wicklow China partnership group.

**MARITIME:** The blue economy is an important pillar of Wicklow's economic development strategy. The Wicklow Maritime Statement of Strategy is due to go to tender in the coming weeks, this will build on the baseline study and will provide a blueprint for the development of our harbours and coastal amenities.

The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government is developing a National Maritime Planning Framework and is engaging in public consultation at present, details of dates and venues will be circulated. The closing date for receipt of written submissions is 14<sup>th</sup> December at midday.

SSE Ireland made a presentation to WCC at the September meeting on plans to progress the development of a 520 megawatt Arklow Bank Windfarm similar to the Beatrice Windfarm off Wick in Scotland.

The Maritime Business Development Group has formed an aquaculture sub group with a view to reinvigorating aquaculture off our coast.

**COMMUTER SURVEY:** Census 2016 indicated that 21,000 Wicklow residents commute outwards from the County to work each day and consequently we wish to identify opportunities to reverse this outward commuting trend in the County and encourage businesses to relocate to Wicklow where they can recruit from a highly skilled, well educated and experienced local workforce.

Following a procurement process Wicklow County Council has appointed Gamma Limited to carry out the Commuter Survey. A desk based survey and analysis of CSO data has been carried out. Questionnaires and publicity materials are being finalised. The survey will commence within the coming weeks.

**End.**

Cllr. J. Ryan highlighted the need for a pedestrian access from the Centre to the Quinnsboro road and asked if this could be examined.

With regard to the Commuter Survey it was also mentioned that IBEC highlighted in the media information they have in this regard which might feed into the commuter survey.

**Grant aid to Wicklow Gaol:** L. Gallagher advised that Failte Ireland had approved a tourism development grant to Wicklow Gaol of €200,000 and that the grant aid will be used to develop a virtual reality story telling experience at Wicklow Gaol and build on the existing product. A call for creative content writers and developers has recently gone to public procurement tender.

The committee had a discussion around the impact and the value of the Ireland Ancient East brand and its impact on driving tourism to this part of the Country. Following this discussion it was agreed to invite Mr. Derek Dolan to meet with the Tourism Strategy Group.

**Enterprise Town Awards – Judges Visit:** Ms. S. Nichols updated the committee on the recent Judges visit to the towns of Wicklow, Bray and Arklow and Roundwood on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of September. She described in detail the presentations made by the various community and business groups and the places visited by the Judges over the 2 days. Killian McGreal advised that he would share the actions that can be improved which he received from the Judges last year when they visited Blessington.

#### **Item 5**

##### **Urban and Rural Regeneration Development Fund**

Ms. C. Flood referred to the Appendix 1 of report of Ms. D. Whitfield which outlined the projects submitted under the Urban and Rural Regeneration Fund, totally 12, 3 application under Rural and 9 under urban.

Following a broad discussion on the matter it was recommended that the Council develop with the Municipal Districts, a suite/pipeline of projects that can be ready to be submitted for grant aid under various streams of funding at the calls for submissions for funding are made by various agencies.

#### **Item 6**

##### **Update Proposed Blessington Greenway**

T. Murphy, DOS advised that the Blessington Greenway Project was at an advanced stage and that the Community, Cultural and Social Development Department are working with the team in Blessington. The length of the greenway is approximately 45kms, representing some €5m investment with only one landowner the ESB. The input for the business community of Blessington was acknowledged.

Mr. C. Flood updated the committee on the status of the proposed Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway and the Coast Route Wicklow to Greystones.

#### **Item 7**

**Update (a) LEADER/LAG (b) SICAP (c) REDZ and (d) CLAR**

#### **Item 8**

**Update: Town and Village Renewal Scheme, 2017/2018**

In the absence of Ms. D. Whitfield the Committee noted the contents of Ms. Whitfield's report as circulated.

#### **Item 9**

**Update: Wicklow County Campus: EI Funding application**

Ms. V. Delahunt, Acting Head of IS updated the committee on the current position in relation to Wicklow County Council application to Enterprise Ireland under the Regional Enterprise Development Fund 2017 – 2020, being the development of a content creation enterprise hub at Wicklow County Campus, providing specialised supports to drive start-up to the content creation industry

She advised of the 3 elements to the project being the

- 1) Development of the courtyard
- 2) Refurbishment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Wicklow County Campus building into high end office space
- 3) Redevelopment of the Chapel to facilitate a multi-purpose conference/networking and screening facility

The committee noted that the Chief Executive, Members of the Enterprise Team and the Head of Finance presented on the project to a panel appointed by Enterprise Ireland on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September. Ms. Delahunt advised that there were 65 applications and it was anticipated that only 20 would be grant aided.

#### **Item 10**

**Update: County Wicklow Tourism Strategy**

C. Flood advised that Mr. Frank Curran, Chief Executive Wicklow County Council is the newly appointed Chairman of Wicklow County Tourism Ltd. which will be beneficial in implementing the objectives of the Tourism Strategy and building on synergies between the Company and Wicklow County Council. She advised that the Tourism Group set up under the auspices of CWETT will be instrumental in this work and that it is proposed to invite interested persons from the industry to come on board and drive the four objectives:

1. Quality visitor experience and product
2. Development of key towns as destinations
3. Development of accommodation
4. Glendalough is the hero product

This was noted and welcomed by the Committee.

**Item 11**

**Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2016 – 2017: Mid East Region – Review process**

Ms. V. Delahunty updated the committee on the Regional Action Plan for Jobs which will run from 2018 to 2020. She advised that the Implementation committee had met a couple of times during the summer and that the following strategy has been adopted by the committee: County Meath will concentrate on the development of food hub, County Kildare will focus on creating a network of Technology hubs and that Wicklow will focus on growing the audio visual/screen content sector. Each County has been asked to prepare a 2 page document detailing 7 actions.

Following a brief discussion on the matter concern was expressed on adopting a strategy that places 'all the eggs in one basket' in terms of each county focussing on one sector only.

Mr. T. Murphy advised in relation to the background to the Regional Action Plan for Jobs and the Monitoring and Implementation Committee chaired by the MD of Intel and the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council. He advised that there have been two progress reports published to date with the 3<sup>rd</sup> report for the second half of 2017 current in progress. He advised that the South East Creative Corridor has received funding. He advised that the review process is underway and he will keep the members advised. It was noted that the Monitoring and Implementation committee had not met for some time.

**Item 12**

**Correspondence**

L. Gallagher advised of email received from Mr. Martin Burke advising of his resignation from the ED&ES SPC due to his impending retirement. This was noted by the Committee who expressed appreciation to Martin Burke for his contribution to the work of the committee.

Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2018 commencing at the later time of 11.00 a.m. at Wicklow County Campus, followed by Christmas lunch.

Signed:



Cllr. Gerry Walsh

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date

