

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 11th December 2017, at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Present : Councillor Gerry Walsh Chair
Councillor John Ryan
Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor Tom Fortune
Mr. Killian McGreal
Mr. Michael Allen
Mr. Pat O Suilleabhain
Ms. Kate Duggan

In Attendance: Mr. Tom Murphy, Director of Services
Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Niamh Drain, Administrative Officer, Economic Development

Apologies Ms. Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise
Councillor Jennifer Whitmore
Councillor Oliver O Brien
Councillor Irene Winters
Mr. Martin Burke

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 18th September, 2017 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Mr. Pat O Suilleabhain, seconded by Cllr. Gail Dunne, the minutes of SPC meeting held on Monday the 18th of September, 2017 as circulated were agreed with the amendment of a name type in the second paragraph

ITEM2

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3

Update: Proposed Blessington Greenway Project

T. Murphy updated the committee in relation to the Proposed Blessington Greenway Project in that the Part 8 Planning provision had been passed by the elected members of Wicklow County Council at Council meeting held in July. A judicial review was lodged in August in respect of two landowners and discussions are ongoing regarding the issues involved. He advised that it was hoped that the issues could be addressed outside of the courts process. Mr Kilian McGreal advised also that it was his understanding that letters

had issued and that agreement could be reached. He said that next step would be to secure funding and that if funding was announced in 2018, drawdown wouldn't happen until 2019. A general discussion ensued wherein the committee discussed proposals being discussed locally for other areas of the County such as Wicklow, Arklow/Tinahely and Greystones.

Item 4

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 31st 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 not met in December prior to the SPC meeting as it had been hoped and that the next meeting is scheduled for January. He advised that reports later in the meeting under CWETT and the Regional Action Plan for Jobs would cover this item also.

He referred to Council owned land zoned town centre and measuring approximately 12 acres adjoining the landbank in the ownership of the IDA at Greystones. He advised that the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council is in discussion with the IDA in relation to how best both organisations can approach the development of the land in conjunction with each other and that he would keep the SPC informed of developments.

Item 5

Update County Wicklow Tourism Strategy

Ms. C. Flood updated the committee and advised that following a procurement process Wicklow County Council has appointed Bluesail Consultants to develop a Tourism Strategy for the County and referred to page 6 of the report circulated which set out the detail of the proposal. Ms. Flood advised that the first workshop with members of the Tourism Strategy Group was held on the 29th of November, and that Bluesail is in the process of engaging with various tourism providers and stakeholders currently. The committee expressed the following views:

- A Tourism Strategy for Council Wicklow is welcome, requested that a representative from West Wicklow be involved
- Success criteria measurement should be included. Priorities should be identified and new destinations.
- Reference made to a strategy prepared a number of years back which might be useful to make available to BlueSail so that work is not duplicated.
- Reference made to the Brand 'Ireland's Ancient East' and how County Wicklow can embrace it

ITEM 6: Update County Wicklow Economic Think Tank (CWETT) Implementation Stage

Ms. C. Flood circulated her report to the meeting in relation to the implementation stages of CWETT covering the following areas:-

- Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2022
- Economic Goals – Actions delivered in 2017
- Next steps
- Brand
- Film
- Retail
- Progression of the Florentine Project
- Town Teams
- Town Team Projects
- Web Portal Project
- Tourism Statement of Strategy & Workplan 2017 – 2022
- Visit to China 14th to 22nd November 2017
- Opportunities arising out of the visit – Next Steps
- Maritime.

Blessington was congratulated on winning the Bank of Ireland Most Enterprising Town in Leinster in the 3,000 – 7,000 population category and the work of the Blessington & District Forum and Baltinglass MD commended in achieving this award. The Committee noted the award for Greystones, runner up in the Leinster Region in the over 7,000 population category and for the hard work put in by the Arklow Team in their category.

Web Portal: Ms. Niamh Drain gave an update to the committee in relation to the status of the new Web Portal for Wicklow County Council.

- Following a procurement process late last year Wicklow County Council appointed the successful Tenderer 'INVENTISE' to Design, Develop and Host the new Web Portal in January 2017.
- When completed the Web Portal will play a key role in communicating the new 'Wicklow' brand which encapsulates what Wicklow has to offer across multiple dimensions: start and grow a business, live and work, visit and stay.
- To this end the Web Portal will have three key elements organised under the primary navigation headings of: VISIT, LIVING and BUSINESS
- This is a vast project involving a huge amount of existing data on the current website and also intensive research around new areas for inclusion. There are up to 40 staff engaged in content migration, whereby existing content is reviewed and updated, this is sent to Niamh and then passed on to a professional copywriter prior to loading it on the new portal.
- It is anticipated that the page will be officially launched towards the end of January 2018

At the conclusion of the discussion it was suggested that the Council move away from a 'regulatory' tone to a more 'friendly' tone.

Item 6 Update (a) LEADER/LAG, (b) SICAP, (c) REDZ and (d) CLAR
Item 7 Update Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2017

Report prepared by Ms. Deirdre Whitfield was circulated to the committee and Mr. T. Murphy reported on same in Ms. Whitfield's absence

- Blessington Greenway Project
- LEADER/LAG; SICAP; REDZ AND CLAR
- Clar Projects funded
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme – Projects funded 2016 and 2017
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Fund 2017
- 2018 Planning for next year
- Funding schemes

ITEM 9:

Update: Regional Action Plan for Jobs 2016 – 2017 (Mid East Region)

Mr. T. Murphy in giving the apologies of Ms. Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise, advised in relation to the Mid East Regional Action Plan for Jobs, where there is a Monitoring and Implementation committee in place chaired by the MD of Intel and the Chief Executive of Wicklow County Council and the Head of Enterprise LEO sit on the implementation committee. He advised that there are a number of actions contained within the RAPJ, mentioning the South Eastern Creative Corridor and also highlighted the call for funding under the Regional Competitive Fund, and that the implementation committee had only met once.

It was suggested that the Council should examine ways of developing large co-working spaces with state of the art accommodation to create a working environment for start ups to flourish and connect with business start-ups to alleviate in some way the number of persons commuting to Dublin on a daily basis.

Item 12

To note the Regulation of Lobby Act, 2015 – Transparency Code

L. Gallagher advised that the committee had been circulated with the Transparency Code received from DoPER prepared in accordance with Section 5 (7) of the Regulations of Lobbying Act, 2015. The Committee were advised that the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015 commenced on the 1st of September 2015 and that nothing had changed since the circulation of the transparency code to the committee last December. She drew the committee's attention the relevant provision of the Act regarding communications between a 'a relevant body' appointed by a Minister or a public service body to examine or evaluate

public policy (task forces, working groups, consultative committees etc. ...) which are adhering to the Transparency Code. In brief if a body comprising of external stakeholders and at least one DPO (Designated Public Official) is discussing matters (for example the SPC) that might be considered lobbying for the purposes of the Act, the body may adhere to the Transparency code by publishing on the public body's website its terms of reference, membership agendas and minutes of meetings. If the transparency code is adhered to the external stakeholders do not have to register those communications as lobbying. It was noted by the committee that Wicklow County Council adheres to the Transparency code as set out as advised by the Designated official for the Lobbying Act, 2015, of Wicklow County Council Ms. Helen Purcell.

Item 11. Correspondence

No correspondence

Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Monday the 26th March, 2018, commencing at 10.00 a.m. The Chairman thanked the committee for their contribution throughout the year and wished all a happy Christmas.

Signed:



Cliff. Gerry Walsh

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date

26/3/2018