

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 25TH March, 2019 in the Board Room, Clermont House, Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Present : Councillor Gerry Walsh Chair
Councillor John Ryan
Councillor Tom Fortune
Mr. Pat O Suilleabhain
Mr. Killian McGreal
Ms. Huw O Toole
Mr. Michael Allen

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
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield

Apologies Councillor Oliver O Brien
Councillor Irene Winters
Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor Jennifer Whitmore
Mr. Jack O Connor

Welcome

At the outset of the meeting the Chair welcomed Mr. Huw O Toole the PPN representative nominated to replace Ms. Kate Duggan.

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 10th of December, 2018 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Mr. Pat O Suilleabhain, seconded by Mr. Michael Allen the minutes of SPC meeting held on Monday the 10th of December, 2018 as circulated were agreed.

ITEM2

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3

Update LECP Process

Mr. T. Murphy, DOS, updated the committee on the LECP process advising that the Advisory group, jointly chaired by Cllr. G. Walsh and Cllr. G. McLoughlin had met the previous Thursday to monitor progress which would be reported under CWETT at item 4. He said that a lot of progress had been made in relation to the implementation of the actions of the LECP, mentioning the development of a Tourism Strategy for County Wicklow, and the Tourism Strategy Development Group. He also mentioned the progress in the areas of Film, Branding and retail set out in the CWETT report circulated.

IDA lands and WCC lands, Greystones: In relation to the IDA lands at Greystones he indicated that a meeting had taken place between a delegation of Wicklow Officials lead by the Chief Executive F. Curran and the CEO of the IDA, to discuss the future development of the IDA lands at Greystones. He advised that the IDA were at an advance stage with negotiations with a 3rd party and that the IDA hoped to be in a position to make a positive announcement in the near future in relation to the development of the lands.

Mr. T. Murphy also updated the Committee on the progress on the development of the Florentine Centre Bray advising that it was progressing well and that it is anticipated that the Cinema will be a 'Stella Bray' Cinema similar to the Stella cinema in Rathmines which is extremely successful.

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 report covering the areas set out hereunder dated the 25th of March, 2019 and responded to queries raised:-

- Film
- Retail
- Town Teams
- URDF Funding
- Tourism Strategy and work Plan 2017 – 2022
- Maritime
- Commuter Survey
- Food and Beverage Strategy

Item 5

Update Proposed Blessington Greenway

Mr. Killian McGreal updated the Committee on the current status of the Blessington Greenway Project advising that a plan had been submitted outlining how the scheme will progress and that it is expected that an announcement will be made on the 31st of May. He

said that the presentation made to the assessment committee was an incredible combined effort between the Council and the community group and that they are hopeful of a positive announcement.

Item 6

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

Item 7

Update: Town and Village Renewal Scheme, 2017/2018

Ms. Deirdre Whitfield, CCSD circulated report dated 25th March, 2019 (set out hereunder) and updated the committee on the progress under Item 6 and 7.

Report to Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC meeting 25th March 2019

Goal 1

Goal 1: Develop Community Capacity in Disadvantaged Communities and Engage in Urban Regeneration and Rural Development

See attached timetable for new schemes.

- CLAR 2019 has been announced
- Closing date April 25th
- Restricted areas are Knockananna and Rathcoyle
- Project development team set up as per 2018
- Workshops on funding schemes to be held (WCC and LEADER):

Tuesday 19 th March – Tinahely – 7pm

Wednesday 20 th March- Glenview Hotel – 7pm
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Saturday 23 rd March – Blessington – Tidy Towns Groups Networking event
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Wednesday 3 rd April – Brockagh Centre – 7pm with guest speaker on Smart Towns/Villages
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Goal 2

Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship Underpinned by Good Governance and Participation in Decision Making

Age Friendly

- Focus on Arklow and ensuring businesses sign up to Age friendly. 46 businesses visited and bridgewater approached.

- Primary care centre meetings have taken place in Naas and hoping to embed age friendly into all future builds
- Fridge magnet project for Arklow underway
- Care and repair meeting taking place on Monday 11th 2019 with a view to incorporating carbon monoxide alarms on a pilot project basis

Comhairle na nÓg

- Comhairle na nÓg are prizewinners at the Garda awards being presented on the 8th March 2019

PPN

- PPN to make a presentation at this meeting

Goal 3

Goal 3: Develop High Quality Integrated Services Available to all Communities - in Particular Disadvantaged Communities and Vulnerable Groups

- Healthy Ireland Strategy – launched Monday 4th March - programmes progressing on schedule and within budget. Preparations underway for next funding call
- Social Enterprise Development Strategy (CWP lead) – launched 6th March including a social enterprise funding call
- County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – to be launched 8th April – invites to follow
- Digital Strategy – Citizen Smart subgroup - underway
- Migrant Integration Strategy – LCDC subgroup to meet at 3pm 17th April 2019 (before next LCDC meeting)
- Climate Adaptation Strategy is underway led by the Environment Section Wicklow County Council – at early stages.

National Community Day – The Big Hello - PPN & Streetfeast incorporating Playday

- From Monday 11th March the grant scheme will be advertised - online
- Advertise that Co Wicklow PPN will help groups with online difficulties
- Deadline for application is Tuesday 9th April
- Sub group (Reps from LCDC, PPN, WCC) should meet Mon 15, Tue 16, We 17 (morning) to assess applications
- LCDC approve application Wed 17 April

Ms. Whitfield updated the committee in relation to the current status of the LEADER programme in terms of projects in the pipeline and funding opportunities. She outlined the public consultation/information sessions that were taking place throughout the County mentioning Blessington and the focus Bio Diversity. She circulated the Indicative Schedule of 2019 Announcements in relation to the Department of Rural and Community Development, Project Ireland 2040 rural Regeneration Programmes and advise in relation to the status of CLAR in County Wicklow. In relation to the URDF funding Ms. Whitfield

advised that representatives of Wicklow County Council attended a debriefing of the RRDF applications and explained that the Department are seeking coherent projects and if for example a public realm project is being submitted the Department are interested to see how that projects fits in to the holistic regeneration the area/town.

Ms. Whitfield mentioned the Social Enterprise Strategy recently developed by the PPN and gave examples of social enterprise projects in rural towns and villages that are being developed mentioning the redevelopment of the school house in Lacken as an Ice cream parlour and Cafe in anticipation of business from the proposed Blessington Greenway.

Item 8

Update: Wicklow County Campus: EI Funding application

Item 9

Update: Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2020.

Ms. Vibeke Delahunt Head of Enterprise updated the committee on Item 9 and 8 as follows.

In relation to item 9, Ms. Delahunt advised that the Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan 2020 had recently been launched in Naas and recapped on the areas of focus but not exclusively being Technology for Kildare, Food for Meath and the development of the Film and Audio visual Sector for Wicklow. She advised that Mr. Conor Sweeney, newly appointed Programme Manager for Kildare, Meath and Wicklow under the Regional Action Plan for Jobs who was introduced to the committee at the previous meeting and works 1 day a week for each of the three Counties and the other two days on the implementation of the Plan

In relation to item 8: The Wicklow County Campus EI Funding application, the Ms. Delahunt advised that a huge amount of work went into the preparation of the application and that 21 out of 77 submissions had received funding, one of them being the Boyne Valley food hub in Meath. She said that feedback was received from Mr. Michael Brougham, EI, as to how the application can be improved and strengthened and that it was intended to resubmit the application for RDF funding as well as other streams of funding where appropriate. She advised that the development of a brief to get a Film Development Strategy for County Wicklow in place was currently being worked on.

Item 10:

Update: 2019 Business Breakfast Briefing

Mr. T. Murphy updated the committee on the 3rd Business Breakfast Briefing which was held by Wicklow county council on the 1st of February, last in Druids Glen, Co. Wicklow and that it was very well attended by business interests and stakeholders around the County. He advised that one of the recommendation/suggestions that had come out of the Breakfast Briefing was the setting up of a Business Council. He advised that the first meeting of the Business Council consisting of Business Leaders throughout the County was convened by the Chief Executive and that it was proposed to carry out a debrief of the event to decide on next steps.

Item 12
Correspondence

Cllr. G. Walsh, Chair of the committee advised that a review of the actions of the LECP will take place in 2019.

Next meeting

In relation to the next meeting Cllr. Walsh advised that the local elections will be taking place on the 24th of May next, following which there will be a reconstitution of the committees including the SPCs. He thanked the SPC for all of the work to date and particularly Cllr. J. Ryan, for his contribution to the entire process and wished him well in the future as he would be retiring from local politics.

Mr. T. Murphy advised on the process in relation to the reconstitution of the committees post the local elections in that the SPC scheme will go out for public consultation and will be ratified by the CPG following which there will be a call for sectoral representation in accordance with the guidelines received from the Department and that it was not expected to have another meeting until September/October, 2019.

Signed:

Cllr. Gerry Walsh
Chair
Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date
