

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 27th March, 2017, at Wicklow County Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Present : Councillor Gerry Walsh Chair
Councillor John Ryan
Councillor Jennifer Whitmore
Mr. Killian MCGreal

In Attendance: Mr. Bryan Dole, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council
Mr. Tom Murphy, Director of Services
Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise
Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick, Head of IS
Ms. Niamh Drain, Administrative Officer, Economic Development

Apologies Councillor Tom Fortune
Councillor Oliver O'Brien
Councillor Gail Dunne
Councillor Irene Winters
Mr. Martin Burke
Mr. Pat O'Suilleabhain
Ms. Sarah Franklyn
Mr. Declan O'Neill
Mr. Michael Allen

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 12th of December, 2016 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Cllr John Ryan seconded by Cllr Gerry Walsh, the minutes of SPC meeting held on the 12th of December, 2016 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:-

He advised that there were 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 outlined that the challenge was to engage with all stakeholders to ensure that the actions are delivered upon. He advised that a large number of the actions contained within the LECP are contained within CWETT which gave the process a kick start and likewise some of the actions are contained within the Regional Action Plan for Jobs. He referred to letter dated the 19th of January, 2017 from the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly to the CE of WCC and the E&MRA Review Report on LECPs which sets out what had worked in the LECP process, key lessons learned and what could be improved. It was noted that further guidance will issue.

Item 4

Update on County Wicklow Economic Think Tank: Implementation stage

The Committee were circulated with an update on the CWETT implementation process reported on by Ms. C. Flood and under the following areas.

Key Areas:

- Brand
- Communications and Marketing
- Film
- Retail
- Industry and Infrastructure
- Tourism

Main Areas of Activity in 2017

RETAIL

Progression of the Florentine Project - expected to commence procurement for development partners in April/May – subject to EU procurement directives.

Town Teams

Key Areas

- Business Development
- Marketing and Promotion
- Infrastructure and Public Realm
- Festivals and Events
- Heritage
- Security

WEB PORTAL PROJECT:

- Following a procurement process late last year Wicklow County Council appointed the successful Tenderer 'INVENTISE' to Design, Develop and Host our 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: covering tourism, with links to www.visitwicklow.ie and the Irelands Ancient East Initiative
 - LIVING: the arena for traditional day to day Local Authority administrative matters
 - BUSINESS: a new aspect aimed at existing business and those wishing to establish or develop a business in Wicklow

OTHER

The Maritime Business Development Group Continues to meet approximately every 6 weeks It has initiated contacts with harbours on the east coast to address dredging issues. The MBDG will engage in further developing our maritime strategy and developing plans for each of our harbours. Also examining the feasibility of aquaculture: Initiated applications for funding under the FLAGS scheme (fisheries local action groups)

Ms. Flood and CWETT Team congratulated on the process and achievements to date. View expressed that the Council needs to identify a way of updating the citizens of County Wicklow in relation to progress to date and future targets. It was considered important that the Council build on a sense of confidence that work is being done and objectives are being met.

Mr. Kilian McGreal referred to the very active forum in West Wicklow and while there isn't a formal chamber unit in place the business community is represented via the forums that are set up. He said that he would like to see more effort put into West Wicklow. Ms. C. Flood advised that the Forums were being reached out to and that she would be very happy to link into this connection.

Mr. Liam Fitzpatrick, Head of IS made a presentation to the committee on Broadband in County Wicklow which was circulated to the committee and covered the following areas:-

- Broadband
- The National Broadband Plan
- MAN – Metropolitan Area Networks
- Phase 1 and Phase 2 locations
- Intervention Strategy updated December, 2015

- Delivering a connected society
- Connecting Communities – Strategy and the next steps
- Broadband action groups
- Prioritisation Strategy

ITEM 5: Town and Village renewal scheme 2016

Mr. T. Murphy advised that Ms. D. Whitfield had provided a report and update in relation to the Town and Village renewal Scheme 2016 as follows:-

All projects are progressing. It is expected that a new town and village scheme for 2017 will be announced for 2017, in the near future. It is also expected that this will be a competitive process where areas apply to be involved. Town and village health checks will be important here as they will provide a roadmap for town and village renewal. The health check for Wicklow town is being tendered for at present. Kilcoole's health check is nearly complete. CC&SD ring fenced €50,000 of the community grants fund to fund health checks. This application process will close on 30th March and was advertised widely alongside the traditional community grants.

Mr. T. Murphy reminded the committee again of the grants that had been awarded to the various projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

Grants have been awarded to the following Projects under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme:

1. Rathdangan Playground Equipment (€48,000)
2. Kilcoole Enhancement works and Health Check (€44,200)
3. Dunlavin looped walk (€72,250)
4. Shillelagh Stick project (€17,000)
5. Rathdrum enhancement works (€100,000)
6. Wicklow town enhancement works and health check (€26,000)
7. Carnew playground equipment (€85,353)

ITEM 6: Update: Wicklow County Council Statement of Tourism Strategy and Work Programme 2017 – 2017 (copy circulated.)

Ms. C. Flood gave an update on the preparation of the WCC Tourism Strategy and Work programme, 2017 as circulated and outlined the CWETT report also circulated: -

- One of the actions contained in the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Action Plan for Tourism 2016 – 2018 is the requirement that each Local Authority produces a Statement of Tourism Strategy and Work Programme for the period 2017 – 2022.

- Minister of State for Tourism Patrick O'Donovan is to launch these documents at a Tourism Conference this Wednesday & Thursday 29th / 30th March.
- The Statement of Tourism Strategy & Work Programme 2017-2022 for Wicklow County Council sets out the Vision & Goals of Wicklow County Council in relation to Tourism in the County and the resultant key actions for this period.
- This Strategy Document was produced by the CWETT Tourism Working Group which was inaugurated in January of this year in order to promote and direct the Tourism Development of the County in accordance with stated CWETT and LECP objectives.
- This Group comprises a varied membership which is representative of both Local Government and the existing Tourist Industry within the County. The Group is working together to develop a full Tourism Strategy for County Wicklow.
- It is important to note that the document for launch this week is a Statement of the Guiding Principles of Tourism Strategy within the County.
- It is the first step towards formulating a comprehensive Tourism Strategy and it is envisaged that WCC will be engaging consultant expertise in order to engage with Stakeholders and develop a comprehensive Strategy and Marketing Plan going forwards.
- A copy of the Statement of Tourism Strategy & Work Programme has been circulated and contains details of:
 - Our Vision for Tourism
 - Goals, Objectives & Key Actions
 - Destination Unique Selling Points
 - Major Projects upcoming
 - Regional Collaboration
 - Bespoke Initiatives
- Wicklow offers an unspoilt environment of stunning scenery and a wide range of outdoor, cultural and heritage experiences and it is our intention to make it a number one choice for domestic and international visitors.

Mr. Killian McGreal advised of the work that is currently being undertaken with regard to the Blessington Greenway Project and that he would like to see the project given the elevated status which he felt it deserved within the Strategy. Ms. Flood advised that the Blessington Greenway Project was top priority and that Wicklow County Council has submitted it for funding to Failte Ireland. As there were a large number of projects of this nature submitted across the country FI had referred same to the NTA and it is understood that Blessington was at an advanced stage in terms of planning and in terms of the fact that the land was in one individual ownership. It was agreed that the Council would write a letter signifying the importance of the Blessington Greenway to FI

Item 7

Update on proposed Blessington Greenway Project

The Committee noted as per previous discussion the status of the Blessington Greenway Project which has a proposed capital investment value of €3,177,000 and that there may be a small delay in grant funding pending the outcome of the development of a national strategy for Greenways. The Part 8 Planning for the scheme has been advertised by the Council and it is expected to come before the Council July.

ITEM 7: Update (a) LEADER/LAG (b) SICAP and (C) REDZ

Mr. T. Murphy advised in relation to the report prepared by Ms. D. Whitfield in these matters:-

REDZ : The REDZ project in Arklow is progressing. The committee is preparing for the design stage of the heritage/pottery centre. Deirdre Burns has come on to the committee as an advisor regarding heritage and museum good practice. The health check and REDZ plan for Arklow has been tendered for and it is hoped a contract will be in place in the next month.

CLAR : The three CLAR projects are progressing. The tender process is underway.

Grants have been awarded under the CLAR scheme

1. Knockananna Village - €20,000
2. Askanagap Village - €2,000
3. Knockananna Multi Use Games Area (beside playground) - €48,000 plus match funding €12,000 by the local authority

Communities Facilities Capital Scheme

This is a new funding scheme that has just been announced by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. CC&SD will be advertising this scheme in April.

ITEM 9:

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

Ms Sheelagh Daly, Head of Enterprise updated the committee on the status of the Regional Action Plan for Jobs as follows:-

- The APJ for the Mid East Regional covers Counties Kildare Meath and Wicklow.
- The actions contained within the plan extend to the end of 2017.

- There is an implementation committee chaired by Eamon Sinnott, MD of Intel and County Wicklow's representatives on the committee are Mr. B Doyle Chief Executive and the Head of Enterprise, Ms. Sheelagh Daly
- There were some 163 actions contained within the plan Wicklow the focus being the development of the film industry.
- Draft second programme report on the Actions to end 2016 has been submitted to the Department for approval
- Creative Corridor Symposium held In October last year followed by bootcamp, 70 participants (30 from Wicklow),
- 2 Training sessions held one to one and peer to peer. Participants now compete for €100,000 funding
- Awaiting the call for Regional Development Initiative to support major collaborate and innovative initiatives that can make a significant impact on indigenous enterprise development in the region.
- Budget of some €40m over three years – three streams: Major Investment of €2 - €5m, Major change projects €2m in capital costs and stream 3, investment up to €250,000 per project to deliver more jobs and start-ups.
- A meeting has taken place with regional colleagues however the initiative is at an early stage and the detail of the call is not available as yet.

Ms. Daly concluded by giving an update of the work of the LEO and its achievements in 2016 around company start ups, jobs created, measures of assistance provided, recent Open day Stats and the success of the participants from County Wicklow in the Young Entrepreneurs competition.

Item 10


Correspondence

No Correspondence.

Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Monday 26th June, 2017 commencing 10.00 a.m.

Signed:


 Cllr. Gerry Walsh
 Chair of Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date

26/6/2017