

MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2020 IN CLERMONT CAMPUS, RATHNEW.

Present: Irene Sweeney, Kevin Mann, Gertie Salley, Cllr Gail Dunne (Chairman), Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Melanie Corrigan,

Apologies: Cllr Anne Ferris, Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cllr John Mullen.

In Attendance: Brendan Martin, Máire Halvey, Caroline Fox, Mary Tuite.

A Progress Report was circulated prior to the meeting detailing the following work programmes -

- Food Poverty Research
- Digital Poverty
- Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020
- County Library Service
- Social Inclusion Activation Programme
- Wicklow Sports and Recreation Partnership
- Community Enhancement Programme 2020
- Pride of Place 2020
- Wicklow Arts Office

{1} Adoption of the Minutes

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 29th June was proposed by Cllr Vincent Blake and seconded by Irene Sweeney.

{2} Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

{3} Covid Update

Brendan Martin informed the meeting that apologies had been received from Cllr Anne Ferris and Cllr Miriam Murphy with a request that zoom meetings be held rather than actual meetings.

The Community Call Helpline continued to operate and meetings of the oversight committee were held fortnightly to review the operation. The issue of Food and Digital Poverty had been particularly highlighted.

All staff in CCSD section including Library staff had now returned to their offices.

{4} Presentation by Rural Recreation Officer - Apologies had been received from the RRO and Caroline Fox circulated the draft County Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy which is expected to be launched before Christmas.

{5} Presentation by Disability Officer

Apologies also received from the Disability Officer and she indicated that an update would be circulated at a later date.

{6} Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates

CLÁR - Update circulated to members. Cllr Vincent Blake requested that a strong representation be made to the Department to increase the CLÁR areas in Co. Wicklow.

Town and Village Renewal – Update circulated. Irene Winters enquired about the application process. Caroline informed her projects are put forward by WCC but that staff liaise with local community groups and hold workshops to inform communities about the grants available and to try to get the community on board.

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme - Caroline provided an update on the nine submitted under this scheme. Further applications to be placed this year. Irene Winters enquired about putting Arklow Marsh forward but Caroline indicated that the feasibility study needed to be updated so it would not be ready in time for this year. She suggested that the RRO needed to meet with the group to progress the project.

Irene suggested that all walks in Wicklow should be included on Irish Trails with no need for a specific Wicklow Trails website but Caroline indicated that Wicklow Trails can include walks that do not meet the specification for inclusion on Irish Trails.

Brendan suggested that Fred Verdier be invited to next meeting to discuss.

Healthy Ireland – a new co-ordinator had been appointed and the Chairman suggested she be invited to the next meeting.

URDF – libraries can submit an application for funding?

{7} Strategy Updates

Greenway Strategy - Feasibility Study on Wicklow to Greystones being undertaken. No funding available as present – estimated cost €1million.

Arklow to Shillelagh – route has been identified – planning permission going to An Bord Pleneala October 2020. Some issues with landowners. Expected start 2022.

Blessington – consultants appointed, route agreed with ESB. Trial section Vallemount to Ballyknockan using internal workforce. Full scheme needs further environmental studies – some areas need rock armour due to erosion issues. May need a further Part 8. €5m funding secured, WCC to meet balance. Expected completion end 2022/2023.

Play and Recreation – no new playgrounds, maintenance only at present. Leisure centres struggling. Irene suggested that an area be marked out on Arklow seafront for traditional games. Máire to liaise with Irene on this. LSP have some funding available for Arklow.

Migrant Integration – 190 families resettled in the county.

{9} Any Other Business

Allotments – Municipal District looking a possible sites.

{10} Next meeting

Monday 14th December at 11 a.m.

Signed:


CLLR/GAIL DUNNE

Date:

14/12/20