

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 6TH DECEMBER IN
WICKLOW GAOL.**

Present: Irene Sweeney, Kevin Mann, Celine O'Neill, Gertie Salley, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cllr John Mullen.

Apologies: Cllr Anne Ferris, Cllr Miriam Murphy.

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson, Caroline Fox, Máire Halvey, Brendan Martin, Jenny Sherwin, Mary Tuite, Carol Kinsella, Carmel O'Connor.

{1} Adoption of the Minutes

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 24th October, 2019 was proposed by Cllr John Mullen and seconded by Cllr Vincent Blake.

{2} Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

{3} Consideration and adoption of the Arts Plan 2020-2025

Jenny Sherwin, Arts Officer, presented the final draft of the Arts Plan 2020-2025. She explained that this was the eight draft of the plan which was a result of public consultation and expert advice. The aim of the plan was to consolidate and strengthen the arts offering in the County and to position arts at the forefront of service delivery in the County.

In response to questions from members, Jenny indicated –

Reaching out to young people – there is policy in place covering three key areas –

- Children with complex needs
- Residencies
- Music Generation

Film – JS sits on the Economic SPC subgroup for film. which has a five year strategic plan in place for film. Under a Part 8 workshop facilities will be made available in Clermont. Funding for this has been sought from Enterprise Ireland.

Members congratulated Jenny on a very readable document and the plan was approved by members to go to publication.

{4} Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration

Programme Updates

CLÁR 2019

Approved project works being undertaken by the Municipal Districts.

TOWN AND VILLAGE 2019

Five schemes had received funding under this scheme and while the amounts allocated to the county were smaller than other counties, this was due to the projects in Wicklow being properly costed, and this was welcomed by the Department.

ORIS 2019

Measure 1 – 5 projects successful and being managed by CWP

Measure 2---No word yet on successful applications

Measure 3 – No word yet on successful applications

CEP SCHME 2019

€140,000 in funding received. 30 groups awarded grants plus funding put aside for twenty bus shelters which would be installed by the Municipal District staff. Even though this was not under CCSD remit, it did come in under the Age Friendly initiatives and climate change initiatives in the county. In response to a question for Cllr Blake, MN responded that Hollywood could not be considered for a bus stop because it was not an official stop. He suggested that the Roads Department could be asked to designate it as an official stop and it could then be funded in 2020.

RRDF Update

Three applications submitted –Glendalough, Blessington Greenway and Baltinglass Hub, Funding of €3.5m awarded for projects in the Baltinglass area. Of this total, €600k will go towards restoration and conservation works in the courthouse building. Members congratulated staff on this successful application.

Cllr Mullen expressed disappointment over the below average awards made to County Wicklow under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. MN responded that the Department looked at the overall funding under the various schemes and if the Baltinglass funding was included, Wicklow would reach the national average. He also indicated that late announcement of funding caused problems for project implementation at Municipal District level. The only response was to try to pick projects that are easily implemented.

{6} Strategy Updates

Healthy Wicklow Strategy -

Applications submitted for Round 3 Healthy Ireland Funding.

Approval received to appoint a Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator on a two year contract.

Food and Beverage Strategy

Branding for Food and Beverage Strategy completed.

Migrant Integration Strategy

Consultants will have to be procured to prepare this strategy, which each county is obliged to do.

Greenway Strategy

Blessington – consultant appointed - expected to go to tender 2020 and route completed by 2021. Expected economic benefit to Blessington and Health Check being undertaken in preparation.

Greystones to Wicklow

Sand dune survey currently being undertaken. Various problems on the Newcastle to Greystones section of the route. Cllr Dunne suggested there would be merit in developing the Wicklow to Newcastle section as there were no ongoing problems with this section of the route. MN indicated that he would speak to Christine Flood about this. CF said there would be funding coming on stream from the Department for Feasibility Studies which might suit this walk.

Arklow to Shillelagh

Arklow to Woodenbridge section could be straightforward to do and an ORIS 2019 application is still awaiting a decision. There are still some issues on the section from Woodenbridge to Shillelagh. Entire route subject to special planning procedure which is needed to secure funding. Once planning is complete, an application can then be made for Greenway funding.

Play and Recreation Strategy

New playground at Iaragh is complete and open for use. Roundwood is almost complete. Both playgrounds will be officially opened in January. From a playground provision perspective, the emphasis going forward is going to be on refurbishing the older play facilities in the County, rather than providing new facilities, the exception being Enniskerry, where a play facility is being planned in conjunction with the newly formed Bogmeadow group.

{7} Library Update

Brendan Martin circulated an update to members covering –

- Wicklow Library & Archives
- Rathdrum Library
- Baltinglass Courthouse and Library
- My First Library Card
- Budget 2020

Following discussion, Cllr John Mullen requested that the drawings for the courthouse refurbishment in Baltinglass be displayed for the public.

Following discussion about the Open Library, BM informed members that the roll out of the Arklow MOL project has proved very successful and it is proposed to roll this out in the new Wicklow Library. Cost is approximately €50k per library. Wicklow Library will also have a dedicated Archive section. MN indicated that plans had not been finalised for the top floor but he did not propose to put in a café as this would affect local café owners but it would most likely be used for events i.e. art exhibitions, official openings etc. It was agreed that the musical instruments lending facility needs to be better advertised and that a review was needed to make sure that the instruments were still relevant.

{8} Local Sports Partnership Update

Aisling Hubbard circulated an update from the LSP which covered the Dormant Account funding, Sports Capital Investment and Wicklow Sports Awards. In reply to question she indicated that workshops are provided to support groups who wish to apply for grant funding.

{9} Other Business – Letter from Bray Area Partnership re Disability Network
MN read out a letter from BrayArea Partnership *requesting that Wicklow County Council include a question in application forms for the various grant schemes the council runs for voluntary organisations, asking applicants how they ensure that their service is inclusive of, and accessible to, people with disabilities.*

Members agreed by consensus that this request be adhered to and a letter to that effect be issued to Bray Area Partnership.

The meeting concluded and the date for the next meeting had already been set for Monday 16th March. Venue to be decided, but the Chairman indicated his wish to have the meetings at different venues across the County.

Signed:



CLLR/GAIL DUNNE
CHAIRMAN

Date:

22/6/20