

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE  
ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2022 AT 2.30 PM**

**Present:** Cllr. Vincent Blake, Cllr. Gail Dunne, Cllr. John Mullen, Cllr. Miriam Murphy (remote), Carina Holmes (CH), Irene Sweeney (IS), Niamh Wogan (NW), Aisling Hubbard (AH), Brendan Martin (BM), Caroline Fox (CF), Máire Halvey (MH), Meadhbh Cahill (MC), Michael Nicholson (MN).

**Apologies:** Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Anne Ferris, Kevin Mann, Mai Quaid, Clara Jenkinson, Clodagh Whelan, Deirdre Whitfield, Jenny Sherwin, Patricia Reilly, Sandra Dunne, Sheena Hubbard.

**In Attendance:** Ashley Wynne, Lisa Mc Mahon.

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Cllr. Blake opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Cllr. Blake gave the list of apologies.

Cllr. Blake welcomed Carina Holmes as a new PPN representative.

**{1} Adoption of the Minutes**

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> March was proposed by Cllr. Mullen and seconded by IS.

**{2} Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**{3} Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates**

- **CLÁR**

Clodagh Whelan sent her apologies. An update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

MN advised that three projects have been submitted for 2022 in the region of approx. €200k.

- **Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)**

Deirdre Whitefield sent her apologies.

MN advised that Wicklow County Council has purchased four new properties. Carnew property is in good condition. Ashford property is in very bad condition but is in an ideal location. Delgany property is in a good location. Members will be updated on the outcome.

In response to NW's query, MN advised that the properties would be a mix of community centres and working hubs. In response to Cllr. Dunne's query, MN advised that the location in Ashford could be utilised for something other than a community centre.

CH noted that the hope for the Delgany property is to create a heritage and bio diversity site (twinning with the bio diversity centre in Ballina) that recognises Éamon de Buitléar (possible name for the centre).

- **Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)**

CF advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. Seven applications have been submitted for ORIS 2022. Measure 1 funding has been increased from €20k to €30k. The update circulated outlines the projects. The projects work to cover the East and West of Wicklow.

Wicklow County Council has been very successful in recent years and has built a great relationship with Coillte and the hope is to build on this. CF hopes to hear the outcome by the end of this year.

- **Community Enhancement Programme 2021 (CEP)**

MH advised that the CEP applications have been assessed and letters have been issued to applicants today. Wicklow received €280k funding and payments will be processed shortly. There has been no announcement for 2022 funding yet. Cllr. Mullen congratulated the team on the work done on this grant.

- **Community Awards Scheme 2022**

MH advised that this scheme is funded by Wicklow County Council. Letters were issued to applicants last week and payments will be processed shortly.

In response to Cllr. Blake's query, MH advised that the awards would not be presented at an in-person event due to Covid but that this could be done next year. MN concurred due to current safety concerns around rising Covid cases.

- **Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF)**

Deirdre Whitefield sent her apologies.

MN advised that there has been no word yet on funding and previous applications (Arklow Harbour) will be resubmitted when applications are open. IS suggested the town team give local input so as to improve the applications and to portray local passion for the projects. MN agreed as it may bring more success this year. Cllr. Murphy and Cllr. Blake agreed and noted that it is a learning process that we can all benefit from.

In response to CH's query, MN advised that a lot of clarity is provided from the department about applications in the form of online information sessions, examples and feedback. CF also advised that guidelines are provided every year and the department are very approachable however, there is a lot of competition with other councils for this funding. MN advised these are large projects (€10 million funding) that require a lot of work to put together applications.

- **Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF)**

Deirdre Whitefield sent her apologies. No update provided.

#### {4} Strategy Updates

- **Food & Beverage Strategy**

Deirdre Whitefield sent her apologies. No update provided.

- **Greenway Strategy**

##### **Blessington eGreenway**

CF advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. The planning application is with An Bord Pleanála. A total number of 293 submissions were received by the Bord by the deadline of the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022. AECOM Consultant is going through these submissions at the moment. The traffic lights on bridges are the main issue. The Bord's decision on the application is due on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022. It is envisaged that there will be an Oral Hearing for this project.

Landowners are currently being met with.

Cllr. Mullen enquired if a website could be set up to incorporate the greenways and advised that in the engagement with landowners, maps are not detailed enough. CF advised this can be looked at but that maps are only an indication so unsure how much detail is available.

#### **Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway**

CF advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. A route has been identified, ecological surveys are completed and documents are being prepared for An Bord Pleanála. However, a funding call is needed for this under the Greenway Strategy.

Cllr. Murphy noted concerns over the route changes. CF advised that engineers are looking at issues and noted that any changes will push the application to An Bord Pleanála further down the line if reports need to be updated.

IS noted that it is important to consider public consultation for this route.

#### **Wicklow to Greystones Greenway**

CF advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. A brief for the procurement of consultants is underway. The specific scope of works and required deliverables within each of the phases will be set out in the brief. Specific reference will be made to the TII Project Appraisal Guidelines requirements and the more recently published TII 'Code of Best Practise for National and Regional Greenways'. Input is required from external consultants regarding the environmental requirements for the brief.

- **Play & Recreation Strategy**

#### **Playgrounds**

No update provided.

#### **Leisure Centres**

CF advised that the Rest Centre in Arklow is now closed and the leisure centre activities will resume from 20<sup>th</sup> June. In response to Cllr. Murphy's query, CF advised that the three businesses affected by Rest Centre are now due to reopen.

There is great demand for swimming in leisure centres and membership numbers are up. Infrastructure upgrades are due to be carried out with the Sports Capital Funding that was secured. CH enquired if the centres are run by Wicklow County Council. CF advised that Coral Leisure (Wicklow and Arklow) have a 10 year licence for management, whereas Shoreline Leisure are standalone CLG's.

#### **Maintenance of Playgrounds**

MH advised that work is being done to gather reports on this. Cllr. Blake noted that this maintenance is necessary. MN noted that there are 30+ playgrounds in the county.

- **Age Friendly Strategy**

Clodagh Whelan sent her apologies. An update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

MN advised that the development of the new Age Friendly Strategy 2023- 2025 is underway. The stakeholder and public consultation process has been completed and the response rates were very good. A draft of the goals and actions will be presented to the next meeting of the Age Friendly Alliance in September.

- **Arts Strategy**

Jenny Sherwin sent her apologies. An update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

- **Creative Ireland Strategy**

Jenny Sherwin sent her apologies. An update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

- **Library Strategy**

BM advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. The Treaty exhibition in Wicklow Town Library opened on 25<sup>th</sup> April and was very successful. Rathdrum Library's official opening took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April. The new Aughrim Library is now due to be submitted for Part 8 approval.

CH noted that the proposals for Aughrim Library look great and queried how the council manage contracts with current inflation. MN advised that the council tries to secure fixed price contracts but that this is a challenging situation and is being monitored.

- **Migrant Integration Strategy**

Deirdre Whitefield sent her apologies. No update provided.

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## {5} Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Updates

- **Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership**

AH advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

The Pilot GAA & Irish Sign Language Project is due to launch on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Videos will be available on the LSP website. This was a 9-month project and is great to get it over the line.

A multi-sport activity camp is being developed for young Ukrainian's in the county.

Bike Week 2022 took place in May with over €8k attendees and 59 new groups availing of grants. There was a mix of activities in schools and the local community.

A Covid fund of €40k is available to provide support to sports clubs and community groups.

European Week of Sport is taking place at the end of September. LSP are working with Visit Wicklow to enhance these events.

- **Healthy Ireland & Healthy Wicklow**

MC advised that an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities launch took place in Ballywaltrim Community Centre and was attended by an array of community stakeholders from the local authority, HSE and community services. General feedback on the launch has been very positive.

The costs for the Enhancement Fund in Bray are coming in much higher leading to a reallocation of funds. Tenders are being done this week.

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## {6} Disability Inclusion Steering Committee Update

Clodagh Whelan sent her apologies. An update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting.

MN advised that the new disability strategy is in development. A consultant has been appointed and the consultation process is now underway, with six public consultation workshop scheduled in June. Cllr. Murphy noted that there was a low turnout to public consultations last week as the public are still wary of going out. Cllr. Murphy requested the online survey link be circulated.

#### **{7} Pride of Place Update**

CF advised an update was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. This award recognises the work of volunteer groups in the community. Kiltegan won a special award in their category. This will support the Town & Village application for Kiltegan. Cllr. Blake agreed this is a great win for Kiltegan.

For the 2022 competition, three entries are being submitted; An Tochar GAA and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Irish Sign Language Project, Wicklow and Arklow Ukrainian Hubs and, An Garda Síochána's Chatting benches.

#### **{8} Local Economic & Community Plan Update**

MN advised that the public consultation phase is complete and a draft plan is now being compiled. It is a large body of work and the new census report will feed into this. MN noted that there was a low turnout for in-person consultations. The main issues arising are climate change, cost of living and housing.

#### **{9} Any other business**

- MN advised that the Avondale Beyond the Trees attraction will be open to the public on 21<sup>st</sup> June and will be officially opened by President Higgins on 6<sup>th</sup> July. It is the first age friendly tourist attraction in Ireland. A walkability study is due to take place next week. Cllr. Murphy noted the fabulous work done for this project and NW agreed it is a fantastic amenity.
- Cllr. Mullen noted that there is not provision for Outdoor Motor Sports in the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy. MN advised that a formal submission will be made to the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee. AH noted that it could be included in the national strategy and will check this. Cllr. Murphy suggested Wicklow County Council look at how other counties have managed this. MN advised that sports groups were asked to see how other counties managed this but have not heard back yet. NW noted that it would make sense to have a designated site for this sport for safety reasons, as it is happening regardless.
- Cllr. Blake requested an invite be sent to Carol Coad (Wicklow County Partnership) to attend the next meeting to give an update on projects.
- BM advised that My Open Library is back open in Arklow and Wicklow for students but is quieter now as exams are finished. Cllr. Blake enquired if this facility could be feasible in any other library sites. BM advised that there are cost implications (security). MN noted it could be possible in Blessington, Bray and Greystones.

#### **{10} Date for future meetings**

- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> September, 11am in the Council Chamber, County Buildings.
- Mon 12<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Signed: 

Date: 12-12-2022