

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC
POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER/(HYBRID) HELD ON TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 2.30PM**

Present: Cllr. Caroline Winstanley, Michael Nicholson, Máire Halvey, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr Warren O Toole, Cllr. Miriam Murphy (Hybrid), Mai Quaid, Niamh Wogan (Hybrid), Irene Sweeney.

Apologies: Cllr. Ned Whelan

In Attendance: Patricia Carmody, Anne Marie Kelly, Lia Reynolds, Lorraine Dunne, Sarah McElroy, Lorraine Horan, Iseult Kinsella, Diarmuid O' Keeffe, Fionnuala Curry, Mary Millet, Susanne Hall (Hybrid).

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- Chairperson Cllr. Caroline Winstanley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Item 1. Adoption of the minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 28th of July 2025 were approved, proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and seconded by Irene Sweeney.

Item 2. Matters Arising

Actions from last Meeting.

No matters arising.

Item 3. Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates

The chair welcomed the speakers.

- Fionnuala Curry, Co-Ordinator, CYPSC
- Mary Millet, Co-Ordinator, Croi Rath Naoi CDP

- Fionnuala Curry gave a presentation on Co. Wicklow CYPSC

Q's & A's

Cllr Miriam Murphy queried the lack of resources and the shortfall of therapists in the County. Fionnuala acknowledged her frustration and noted that HSE or Tusla colleagues would be best placed to advise regarding the number of therapists. She also noted that there are multiple factors at play other than funding, e.g. there are not enough therapists graduating from these fields in the first place, and we need more training of staff, and Fionnuala also noted additional funding/money is not always the solution.

The chair gave her insight based on her own work as a Speech & Language therapist. She outlined changes regarding the AON (assessment of needs) process and hopes this new model will be effective.

The chair thanked Fionnuala for her presentation and asked if there are things that we can support, to improve direction & strategy, to start the conversation, Fionnuala noted that she can advise, and the committee would be happy to work together to do so.

- Mary Millet gave a presentation on Social Inclusion Network Group (SING)

Q's & A's

Cllr Melanie Corrigan commended the work that's being done by SING, particularly the confidential nature of the meetings, she noted people feel it is a safe space.

Michael Nicholson thanked Fionnuala and Mary for their presentations and for the brilliant work that's being done in the Community. Mary Millet also thanked Sarah McElroy for her administration work.

Item 4. Other Updates

CLÁR (Patricia Carmody)

Patricia Carmody noted there will hopefully be an announcement in October regarding further CLÁR funding.

Community Recognition Fund (CRF)

Michael addressed a question from the last meeting in terms of how the CRF funding was split, was it proportional to amount of IPAS applicants? After analysing the figures, he noted there have been 3 rounds of funding thus far and the funding has been in proportion to the number of new arrivals welcomed, e.g. Baltinglass MD received almost €900k, and they are the district with the greatest number of new arrivals.

Question from the chair regarding the status of Arklow Care & Repair.

Michael confirmed that €50k has been secured for the purchase of a Vehicle. Michael added that unfortunately funding for staffing was not approved, however, purchase of the vehicle is underway, and he will keep the members posted, and the timeframe will hopefully be by the end of the year.

Item 5: Programme and Strategy Updates

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

Patricia Carmody gave an update on the LCSP. She noted they are currently working on forming the partnership, and there will be a max of 30 members. This will include 7 elected members, of which we have had nominations already from most of the districts. There will be representatives from Gardai, Tulsa and the HSE. She added there will be PPN nominations, and this closed yesterday 22nd Sept.

The Partnership will initially be 26. They will then nominate a further 4 members as they see fit, when the committee is formed. There will be a minimum of 6 meetings a year.

Irene Sweeney queried what format would this committee take what format will it take?

Michael outlined how much wider this will work versus the JPC. The public will design the 3-year plan.

The chair queried if there be a youth seat and emphasised how crucial she feels it is to have a youth voice on the committee. Michael and Trish confirmed that there is every intention to ensure a youth representative participates in the partnership, whether that be on the main committee of working groups.

Item 6: 5 Year Workplan for the SPC.

The chair outlined her ideas following the feedback through the survey circulated to the committee members:

- Grants' roadshow - Grants calendar – to better knowledge of our grants available.
- Every other meeting the committee go on a road trip to each MD to visit different projects, we can get speakers in between etc.
- Youth roadshow: Invite young people to hear about things that are happening in their communities.

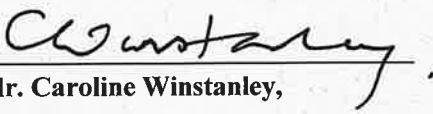
Niamh Wogan suggested in relation to a grant's roadshow, that this should link in with the PPN.

Item 7: Any other business.

The chair suggested we have the next SPC meeting in early December in the Council Chamber and then start the roadshow at Arklow MD office in the New Year.

The chair noted that there were no other issues to discuss and thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed:


Cllr. Caroline Winstanley,
Chairperson.

Date:

16/12/2025