
Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC meeting held on Monday 30TH May, Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew Co. Wicklow @ 10am.

Present: Councillor Tom Fortune Chair
Councillor Avril Cronin
Councillor Gerry Walsh
Councillor Mary Kavanagh
Mr. Huw O'Toole

In Attendance: Ms. Lorraine Gallagher, Director of Service
Ms. Susan Nichols, Administrative Officer
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield, Administrative Officer
Mr. John Powderly, Administrative Officer
Ms. Caroline Cullimore, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Patrice O'Toole, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise
Mr. Killian McGreal
Ms. Muireann Dalton
Ms. Ruth Donnelly

Before the meeting commenced Mr. Huw O'Toole asked about the recording of items raised at the meetings and what should be included in the minutes. It was advised that the minutes were not written verbatim but are a general record and it was suggested that if an individual specifically wanted something noted in the Minutes they should request it at the time.

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 14th March, 2022

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 14th March, 2022 as circulated were proposed by Cllr Gerry Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Mary Kavanagh and agreed.

ITEM 2

Matters arising

There were no matters arising

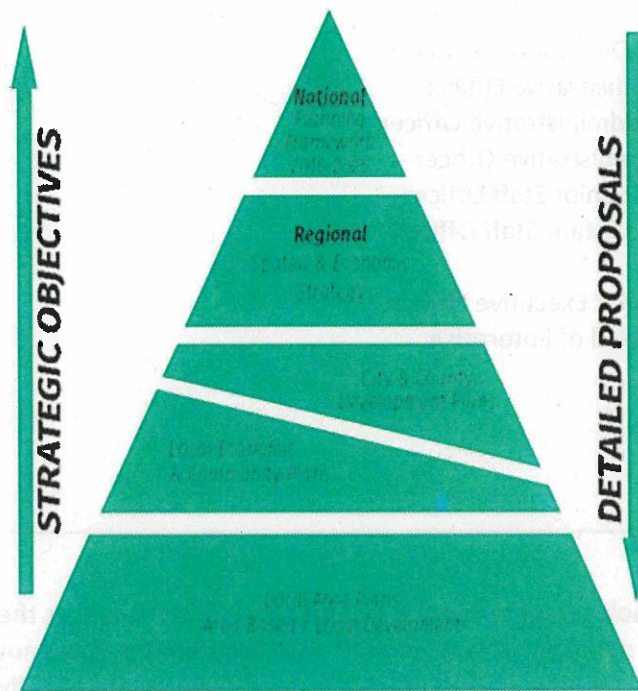
ITEM 3

To receive update on the preparation of a Local Economic and Community Plan

Ms. Deirdre Whitfield delivered a presentation to the members on the LECP

WHAT IS THE LECP

The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a joint plan being prepared by the Local Authority and the LCDC. The economic element of the plan will be developed by the Local Authority through the SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise Support and the community element will be prepared by the LCDC. The two elements of the plan will be linked at all stages and integrated into the final plan.



Source: Action Plan for Jobs 2015

COMMUNITY ELEMENT OF THE LECP

The community elements of the LECP will promote community development and can include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Improved quality and increased frequency of community based services available to tackle social inclusion and poverty
- Physical social economic and environmental regeneration of urban and rural communities
- Community building to support sustainable communities e.g. provision of appropriate supports for new housing
- Enhance education and training infrastructure
- Creation of new jobs especially in the low carbo and green economy
- Increased access to and use of high quality information and communication technology
- Community involvement in addressing climate change through mitigation and adaptation and inclusion of climate change considerations in actions targeted at other outcomes

- A reputation as a hub for the film industry, the region has excellent capacity for large-scale film production
- Impact of covid-19 has been felt across all sectors of the Mid-East – employment in the region dropped from 345,100 at Q4 2019 to a low of 310,800 Q2 2020 - a decline of 34,300
- Since 2015, 65,500 more people are in employment in the region in Q3 2021 relative to Q1 2015. This is an increase of 22.2 percent, while the unemployment rate also fell from 9.5% to 6.2% over the same period
- Commitment to embracing the challenge of climate action and digitalisation

Actions relative to Wicklow

SO 1 Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs

Action 1.3 The development of a food incubation development hub in Co. Wicklow

SO 2 develop the Mid-East as a hub for the screen content creation sector

Action 2.1 Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus

Action 2.2 Establish a Crew Development Hub to develop and nurture new and diverse talent from across the region

Action 2.3 Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region

SO 4 Ensure the Mid-East Region accelerates the transition to a low carbon economy

Action 4.1 Conduct a feasibility study for the development of a regional green technology enterprise hub

Action 4.3 the establishment of a Marine Enterprise Facilities in the Mid-East

Action 4.4 The establishment of a Marine Education and Training Facility for the Mid-East

Action 4.5 The creation of a circular economy cluster for the Mid-East Region

SO 5 – Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East

Action 5.1 Deliver on multi stakeholder initiatives that will support start-ups, SMEs and microbusinesses

Action 5.2 Commission a regional strategy that will adopt an evidence based approach to co-working hub and innovation space development and investment for the Mid-East

Sees emerging opportunities and challenges as:

- Brexit
- COVID-19 pandemic impacts and regional shocks requiring joined up responses – enabling recovery and building enterprise resilience
- Remote working opportunity for regions

ECONOMIC ELEMENT OF THE LECP

The economic elements of the LECP will promote economic development and can include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Attracting investment and new enterprise with employment income and growth potential
- Sustaining/expanding existing enterprise
- Improving quality & diversity of employment
- Remote working hubs in accordance with an agreed strategy
- Digital connectivity
- Economic transformation/regeneration of urban centres affected by economic decline
- Strengthening the economic fabric of smaller towns/villages and their capacity to advance rural economic regeneration
- Economic development objectives in the local/community development programmes
- Economic objectives in relevant national, regional, sub-regional and city/county level plans and strategies
- Mitigating the climate change impact of enterprises and commercial activity
- Developing the green economy including circular economy
- Developing a workforce with the skills necessary to sustain and be in demand in the emerging economy

Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

5 key objectives:

1. Position the Mid-East as the primary location for the development of agri food hubs
2. Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus
3. Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across the Mid-East
4. Develop key projects that facilitates the job creation opportunities that result in the transition to a low carbon economy
5. Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Mid-East

County Wicklow Strengths and Opportunities

- Proximity to capital city gives opportunity to capitalise on the shift to more flexible working model while remaining closely connected to our key routes
- High quality road networks
- Well-educated and innovative workforce
- Well-established and growing concentrations of activity among multinational and indigenous companies in sectors such as Internationally Traded Services and High Tech manufacturing
- A competitive advantage in its excellent connectivity and access – an asset for enterprise development as well as facilitating tourism and infrastructure-dependent sectors such as distribution and logistics
- A strong and diverse agri-food sector encompassing micro-enterprises, companies of significant scale, in addition to food technology and innovation facilities
- Proximity to many of the State's universities
- Strong assets to support tourism, leisure and recreation, including some of the country's most significant and heritage assets and an internationally renowned horse sport tradition

- Climate action/just transition
- Twin transition imperative for enterprise to digitalise and contribute to a carbon neutral economy
- Improving competitiveness through effective placemaking
- Capitalising on existing and emerging sectoral strengths and capabilities through smart specialisation

LECP 2016 – 2022 High Level Goals

High Level Objectives
Community Capacity and Urban Regeneration and Rural Development
Support active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making
Targeted and integrated supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups
Support local communities in innovation, entrepreneurship, micro-enterprise and social innovation
Training, education and lifelong learning based in analysis of employment trends and the skill needs of employers
Infrastructure and measures that are positive and supportive to investment, enterprise, innovation and knowledge creation
Sustain existing enterprise and develop quality employment and income opportunities for the wide range of employment needs in the county, with possibilities for reversing commuting patterns
Capitalise on Wicklow's unique attributes: proximity to the Dublin market; excellent quality of life; human capital; tourism; landscape; marine; agricultural and forestry resources
Low carbon and climate resilient economic activity, reducing energy dependence, and the sustainable use of resource, and leading in the smart economy
Harness efficiently the full resources of the county and promote interagency collaboration

PART 2 Workshop

- What are the unique characteristics of County Wicklow that need to be taken into account?
- What does County Wicklow do well – Strengths
- What could County Wicklow do to better perform economically – Weaknesses/Opportunities
- What do we need to plan for in the next 6 years – Threats/Opportunities

What are the top **priorities** for economic development in County Wicklow in the next three years?

What steps could be taken to address those priorities bearing in mind the questions below?

What is the issue and why is it important
Is it in the scope of the LECP – see Guidelines
Is it a problem now or likely to be one in the future
How strong is the evidence/how do we gather the evidence
What does the evidence show about the impact of the problem – can that be captured
What are the lessons that have been learned to date about addressing this issue
Are there other organisations that should be involved – if so who are they

Following the presentation the following discussion/queries were raised:

- DW reported that the community consultation process is under way with 2 written submissions received. A consultant is being engaged to help us build capacity.
- New vacant property funding has been announced and applications are to be made through Wicklow County Council.
- A new streetscape scheme had been announced but no details were available yet.
- It was suggested that a list of available funding be compiled with a brief description attached.
- Reports are provided at each meeting on the progress of actions contained in the LECP.
- LECP format has changed this time around. Actions/Implementation plans will be reviewed every 2 years as things change within the life of the plan and Department know that plans have to be flexible.
- We will set goals and measure objectives and then review actions every 2 years.
- It will be important to have green economy and circular economy stalwarts of the next plan.
- SPC feeds into LECP by developing our plan based on the national plans. SPC signs off before the plan goes to council. After that we monitor for implementation.
- It was agreed that we need to simplify and improve on last plan.

Tourism

- The general view was that people visit County Wicklow but do not stay here. The question was raised 'what do we do well in County Wicklow compared to other counties'?
- Wicklow needs to improve the Brand/Marketing as a whole and to spread visitors around the county.
- A perceived East Wicklow / West Wicklow divide was noted
- A suggestion was made to have a Camino style walk tying the East and West of the County.
- It was suggested that County Wicklow should have small pockets of accommodation dispersed around the county e.g. farms etc. rather than large accommodation in urban areas.
- Remote Working Hubs needed
- Proposals for a Mountain to Sea Greenway were noted.

Farm diversification

- Farmers need a new direction. Some are interested in allowing their land to become biodiversity rich – 'Farming for Nature'. Wicklow Naturally has secured funding for farm to fork trails.
- The need for pre-planning meetings was raised.
- AIRE's Parks/camper vans facilities suggested for the county.
- Goals/actions from the current plan which are not achieved will not automatically be included in the new plan. They may be unachievable for a variety of reasons.
- Focus on biodiversity.
- Heritage, Tourism, Biodiversity, Small Business Development, Farm Development are all important areas for Wicklow.

Goals

Goals need to be less wordy, more active. Economic Development will draft High Level Goals for the upcoming LECP workshop. It was suggested that the High Level Goals would be:

- Tourism
- Film
- Offshore Renewable Energy

- Food
- Need to prioritise environment

It was noted that to support future funding applications it is important that LECP covers all goals of importance to County Wicklow.

A date of Monday 18th July, 2022 was set to hold a workshop to develop the High Level Goals before the next meeting of the SPC. Deirdre Whitfield was appointed the key contact for any ideas.

ITEM 4

To receive and consider updates on:

- **LECP: LCDC and Community Activities**
- **LECP: Economic Activities**

It was agreed that we would take the reports submitted and circulated as read:

LECP Report: LCDC and Community Activities May 2022

Consultation process so far:

- Social Inclusion Women's Network – 60 participants
- Breakfast Briefing – approx. 100 participants
- Comhairle na nÓg – approx. 100 participants
- Wicklow MD
- Greystones MD
- Baltinglass MD
- Arklow MD
- Bray MD
- Online consultation
- 2 written submissions
- Online survey

Engagement with Marginalised Communities

County Wicklow has been selected as one of four pilot projects to develop and test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation. The project aims to develop toolkits that can be adapted and used by local authorities and other state agencies to enable better engagement with hard to reach groups.

Following an expressions of interest process administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, funding of up to €40,000 has been approved for each of 4 LCDCs.

Clare, Fingal, Galway City and Wicklow will undertake pilot programmes to support participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) process which is currently underway in each local authority area. The process will take six months and in Co. Wicklow's case involves both participation and capacity building.

Core Aims & Actions

- Through the networks available – to members of the LCDC, WCC & Co Wicklow PPN, key community leaders and service providers within/working with the target groups will be identified and encouraged to undertake training that will support them to understand the background & context for developing the VCWB & the LECP as well as providing them with the facilitation skills & tools needed for them to run this process of consultation in their communities & those they work with.
- This will extend the reach of the consultations and engage with those groups which are harder to reach.
- The facilitators will also be trained to support the data analysis process that will inform and develop the VCWB as well as the LECP.
- This in-depth consultation should also provide direction and help prioritise some of the actions within the LECP.
- Collaborating with key agencies in this process should also result in cohesive & complimentary local plans, work plans and strategies e.g. SICAP and LEADER plans.
- Record and report on the learning from this process

Town & Village 2021

Three County Wicklow projects are to benefit from funding of €310,000 under the Government's Town and Village Renewal Scheme as part of Our Rural Future which focuses on initiatives to bring town centres back to life. They are Wicklow town, Ballinaclash and Donard.

Funding of €221,000 has been awarded for a project to link Wicklow town centre to the port through its laneways. The aim of the project is to reanimate and revitalise the important links between the harbour, the Main Street and the Market Square while at the same time highlighting Wicklow's heritage.

Ballinaclash has a vision of developing into a vibrant and attractive village and has been awarded funding of €63,000 to renovate and repurpose the community centre to meet the needs of the community, both present and future and to make sure that the centre is inclusive to people of all abilities. This funding will enable the centre to offer remote working facilities and improved community activities for all.

West Wicklow also benefitted from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Funding is awarded to the Donard community who have identified an opportunity to revitalise their village through developing a coffee shop in the community centre for visitors and residents. The positive social impacts would be immediate as "the Meeting Place" will provide an essential hub not just for the town residents and the surrounding environs but also to the tourists who enjoy staying at the nearby caravan park and those involved in outdoor trails.

Town and Village 2022 will be launched on 27th May 2022.

RRDF

Two applications were submitted to the RRDF Cat 2 call for proposals, on April 29th. They are Baltinglass and Rathdrum.

CLAR

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd Riachtanais) or Funding for Small-Scale Rural Projects is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small-scale - infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered the greatest levels of population decline.

The 2022 CLÁR Scheme closed recently on May 6th 2022

The Measures being funded under the 2022 CLÁR Programme are:

Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities

Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport

Measure 3: "Our Islands"

Community Centre Investment Fund

This is a new capital fund of €15 million which will provide funding for the improvement and refurbishment of existing community centres in both urban and rural areas. Application is through the DRCD.

ITEM 5

Report of Head of Enterprise, LEO supports

The report submitted and circulated was taken as read:

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE (LEO) WICKLOW

LEO Objectives			
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Promotion of the enterprise message at local level.- Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship.- Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs.- Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises.- Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland- Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral			
METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Grants Approved (number/ value)	- 33/ €641,745	- Meet Demand	-8/ € 232,935
- Measure 1	- 4 / €6,594	- Meet Demand	-6/ € 11,021
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters			

NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO

METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	77	64	29
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	105	75	72
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	994	900	301
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	10	4

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
Number of new clients added to database *criteria have been amended for this metric	849	750	156
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor and Brexit 1-1	530	500	153

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2022/2023	Year to Date 21-22
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	864

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review
Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2021	2022	Year to Date 2022
Trading Online Vouchers	135 Total value: € 279,127.40	70 Depending on budget and demand	21

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	11

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2021	2022	2022
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	7	10	2

APRIL / MAY 2022 Activities

- Fornightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- Loreto Bray student Alanna Demel won The Most Creative Use of Social Media award at the National Student Enterprise National Awards 2022 for her business @chandracrystals.
- The Wicklow County final of the Student Enterprise Programme took place virtually on 22nd March 2022. 864 Students have participated in the programme over the past academic year and have learned how to set up and run a mini business. The Winners will represent Wicklow in the Junior and Senior category of the National Final which takes place on 18th May in Dublin.
- The Dutch Ambassador Adrian Palm and a delegation of maritime trade visited County Wicklow in partnership with the Coddling Wind Park and LEO team attended this event.
- Connected Hubs Funding Call: an application for conference AV equipment, a security system for the BCP and a pod cast studio was submitted under this funding call.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Spring/Summer 2022 business skills training programme is underway with courses now open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-

- 27th April: Effective Use of SM - Intermediate Level
- 5th May: Start Your Own Business
- 10th May: Driving Your Own PR Campaign

Preparations for the Autumn/Winter training programme will commence in June for publication in August 2022.

ITEM 6

Wicklow County Campus, Content Creation Hub update

The report submitted and circulated was taken as read.

Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

Strategic Objective 1: position the Mid East as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs.

Action 1.3: The development of a food incubation development unit in County Wicklow.

A Priming Grant application was submitted for funding under the Regional Enterprise Innovation Scoping Scheme, towards the appointment of an Architect Led Design Team to prepare detailed drawings of a Food Incubation Development Hub at Wicklow County Campus, to apply for Part 8 and project manage the construction phase of the Hub.

Strategic Objective 2:

Action 2.1 Develop and operate a Content Creation Enterprise Hub at Wicklow County Campus, Rathew

- Good progress on the construction of the Hub overall.
- The project has been delayed by a number of weeks due to COVID closure of site and a number of Site Manager and Project Manager changes.
- A new Programme has been received from Cumnor and overall completion date is November 2022.
- Project costs subject to construction inflation. An EI REDF funding application is prepared to apply for additional funding for the Hub to address cost shortfall.

Next steps:

- Promotion and marketing of facilities to commence, Q2 2022
- Recruitment of Centre Manager Q2 2022. Advertisement and Job Spec in preparation.
- Foul drainage system: route has been decided and an application to IW to be submitted. Larry Roe and John Powderly are taking lead on this campus wide project.

Action 2.2 Establish a Film and TV Crew Academy to develop and nurture new talent across the region

- Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG has been approved a funding application for €300,000 funding for screen skills training courses and work placements under the Film & TV Crew Academy East Initiative at Screen Ireland.
- A strategic workplan with budget breakdown and timelines have been agreed with Screen Ireland.
- Recruitment for a Manager of the Film & TV Crew Academy has taken place and the new Manager Jade Travers has taken up the position.
- Steering Group representing all stakeholders in the industry and key education providers, is in place and due to meet in 3 weeks. Steering Group to sign off on detailed work plan and budget.

Action 2.3: Implement the Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy to support the growth of the industry across the region.

Rationale:

Through the development of a screen sector strategy Wicklow County Council wants to ensure that the county and wider region is fully prepared to avail of the projected growth in Ireland's audiovisual sector over the next five years. According to the Olsberg SPI report, Ireland's audiovisual sector could double employment in film, television and animation to over 24,000 full time equivalents (FTEs) and a gross value added of nearly €1.4 bn.

Consultants, Saffery Champness Ireland, were appointed to develop this strategy which sets out a number of actions to match the ambitious growth for the industry.

Action Outcome:

The strategy will focus on delivering upon its remit across a number of key areas.

- Specify how the Film sector can position itself as a key sustainable economic driver and employer for the county.

- Consider opportunities to develop regional relationships across the film industry, with a specific focus on the Mid-East and South-East
- Outline key actions that will continue to attract and secure future foreign direct investment into the film sector in Wicklow
- Propose the most appropriate method of funding apparatus to aid in the development of filmmakers in the county
- Identify actions that will support the promotion and communication of the positive attributes of the film industry in Wicklow to a wider audience, with a particular focus on screen tourism

By highlighting the recommendations and actions required the outputs will drive economic growth within this and associated sectors and create sustainable employment. This will in turn aid of the continued success of the screen industry in the Mid-East.

Update on Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy 2022 - 2026

The final strategy was noted at the full Council meeting on 4th April 2022.

The Strategy contains 35 recommendations over the following six headings:

- Content Creation Enterprise Hub
- Screen Wicklow
- Skills Development & Training
- Domestic Screen Content Creation
- Foreign Direct Investment
- Screen Tourism

Actions underway:

Screen Wicklow

- Rebranding of the Film Office to reflect a wider range of screen activities now available.
- Consultant has completed draft of new film section for www.wicklow.ie. Currently in discussion with WCC web developer Inventise to add new content to web.
- Working with Screen Ireland to mirror their location database for County Wicklow to the film section of www.wicklow.ie
- System now in place to capture annual public filming data within the County.

Domestic Screen Content Creation

- Currently preparing to seek quotes from Social Media companies to manage Website and Social Media presence for Screen Wicklow

Screen Tourism

- Permission received from Netflix to use promotional material for “Valhalla” the new Viking series which will show case County Wicklow to the world.

LECP

6.2 Support and develop Wicklow County Campus to allow it to reach its full potential as a centre of learning and innovation in the County

Engaging with IT Carlow now SETU

- I.T. Carlow has merged with Waterford I.T. to become the South Eastern Technical University (SETU).
- The new president of South Eastern Technical University, Prof. Veronica Campbell, made a short informal visit to Clermont on 13th May and met with John Powderly on site. Meeting to be arranged with senior management in the coming weeks.

Supporting campus companies

- Work ongoing to identify tenants for the new hub.

Developing a masterplan for the campus to focus on the screen sector, food and renewable energy

- Work ongoing on preparation of tender for masterplan.

Broadband Connection Point

A BCP room has been fitted out at the campus. Awaiting IT equipment and staffing solution. In November the BCP will move into the Enterprise Hub space.

Strategic Objective 4: Ensure that the Mid East Region accelerates the transition to a low carbon economy.

Action 4.4 The establishment of a Marine Education and Training Facility for the Mid East
A Skills and Training event is organised for Friday 24th June called: From Green Skills to Green Skills. The event aims to bring together key growth sectors in the county (Food, Screen, Maritime/Renewable Energy) and education and training providers to address skills gaps and discuss next steps.

ITEM 7

Update on Greenways in Co. Wicklow

The report submitted and circulated was taken as read

Arklow Shillelagh Greenway:

Route has been identified and the ecological surveys are completed. Planning Documents and NIS are prepared. The options are being revisited for 2 sections. Best efforts to make the project compliant with the published Code of Best Practice for Greenways, in light of the project's advanced stage, are currently underway.

Wicklow Greystones Greenway:

Feasibility Report complete with emerging preferred route identified. Additional funding of €350,000 has been secured to undertake ecological surveys and prepare planning documents for the scheme. WCC is in the process of preparing the tender documents, with input from a number of consultants. Because of the environmental and ecological sensitivity, this requires further input from a number of disciplines. We will then proceed to carry out a detailed environmental survey of the option arising from the Feasibility Report.

Blessington Greenway:

Route has been identified and letters of consent have been received from landowners. Planning documents under Section 177AE of the Planning and Development Act were lodged with An Bord Pleanála with the end date - 4th March 2022. Decision not received yet and likely oral hearing will be required by ABP.

ITEM 8

Correspondence

There was no correspondence that had to be dealt with.

ITEM 9

Set date and time for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC will take place on Monday 12th September, 2022 at 10am in the Boardroom, Clermont Campus, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

19/9/2022