

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC
POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER/(HYBRID) HELD ON TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2025 AT 2.30PM**

Present: Cllr. Caroline Winstanley, Michael Nicholson, Máire Halvey, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr John Snell, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr Warren O Toole, Cllr. Ned Whelan, Mai Quaid.

Apologies: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Irene Sweeney, Niamh Wogan, Colm Moules.

In Attendance: Susanne Hall, Patricia Carmody, Anne Marie Kelly, Marion Van der Wel, Patricia Rielly, Lia Reynolds, Lorraine Dunne, Sarah McElroy, Iseult Kinsella, Diarmuid O' Keeffe, Oscar O' Broin.

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- The chair Cllr. Caroline Winstanley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

The chair welcomed Oscar O' Broin, Housing & Accommodation Officer with Bray Travellers Group (BTG), who delivered a presentation on traveller housing accommodation in the Bray area, following which Oscar answered questions from the SPC.

Cllr. John Snell commented that tremendous work is being done for members of the traveling community in North Co Wicklow. He added now that funding is secured for this position in Bray Travellers Group, it would be very beneficial for this to be rolled out to the South and West of County Wicklow.

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan noted that if she can do anything in the Bray area to assist, Oscar can contact her.
Cllr. Ned Whelan commended the great work being done by BTG and thanked Oscar for his work.

The chair added that it was a useful presentation, and she noted when the Community SPC roadshow visits the different MD areas, it could be a good opportunity as a committee to link in with Bray Travellers Group. The chair suggested that it could be beneficial to have a future presentation or workshops focusing on how to be better at supporting the travelling community.

Item 1. Adoption of the minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 23rd of September 2025 were approved, proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and seconded by Mai Quaid.

Item 2. Matters Arising

Actions from last Meeting.
No matters arising.

Item 3. Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates

- CLÁR (Patricia Carmody)
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme – pre 2023 (Patricia Carmody)
- Local Enhancement Programme (Susanne Hall)
- Community Awards Scheme (Susanne Hall)
- Community Recognition Fund (Máire Halvey)

Cllr. Snell had a question regarding the Large Scale Sport Infrastructure Fund (LSSIF), regarding how these groups are chosen. Michael Nicholson replied that we get 40% funding from the Government, and we must match this with 60% of the funding. He added we must choose them carefully, we would generally apply a ranking based on what's

most likely to go ahead, two were previously approved, being the athletics track in Greystones and Coral Leisure in Wicklow town. The meeting was also advised that there is no indication of when the LSSIF will be announced again.

Cllr. Snell asked a question regarding the Community Recognition Fund (CRF), was it possible to send out a copy of all the successful groups from the CRF, Máire Halvey replied that she will circulate details. Michael noted that the CRF funding is based on the number of refugees around the parts of the County, and the MDs that have the biggest numbers of new arrivals got the most funding.

Item 4. Other Updates

Programme and Strategy Updates

- Age Friendly Strategy (Sarah McElroy)
- Comhairle na nÓg (Sarah McElroy)
- Disability & Inclusion Strategy (Sarah McElroy)
- Healthy Ireland / Healthy Wicklow (Lorraine Dunne)
- Healthy Communities Programme (SHCP) (Izzie Kinsella)
- Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Marion Van der Wel)
- Children & Young People's Services Committee (Michael Nicholson)
- Local Community Safety Partnership (Patricia Carmody)
- Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) (Méadhbh Quinn/Clara Jenkinson)
- Pride of Place 2025 (Máire Halvey)

The chair gave an update on Comhairle na nÓg (CNN), including the recent annual Youth summit in November 2025. Almost 100 people attended from around the County, from different communities. The chair added that 18 young people have signed up join the committee, which is great news. The chair stated that a big issue with the youth is public transport, in terms of buses etc. The chair added that Comhairle na nÓg has a steering group, and if members know who a good point of contact for transport would be, to have appropriate expertise to draw from.

Cllr. Snell posed a question on the Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (HAFH). Cllr Snell stated that 55 participants are awaiting a visit, and he asked could it be possible to get more funding and staff for the HAFH, and he asked how many visits are carried out per week. Marion van Der Wel replied with thanks for acknowledging the HAFH programme, she noted she does a minimum of 7 visits per week and added that Meath County Council coordinates the programme and there are no plans at the moment to increase staffing for the programme.

Cllr. Snell posed a question on the Comhairle na nÓg, he commented that the NOAC report was not positive in terms of CNN, as it was not active for a period of time. The chair confirmed that the previous CNN coordinator had left and the tender went out and no one applied for it, so it is only back up and running since she took over the role.

Mai Quaid commented that a meet up between the Older Peoples Council and the CNN should be arranged, to learn from each other and hear their voice. The chair agreed that this would be beneficial as there would be a lot of crossovers with issues, such as transport.

Cllr. Snell posed a question on Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) workshop. He commented that the One Stop Shop workshop was a great initiative, however he added that it had a very low turnout of people, he asked what about smaller workshops at the local MDs.

Michael Nicholson noted he was at the event, and the size of the hall was limited, they had asked for reps from groups. He added that more localised events in the MDs could be the way to go in the future but added there was great interaction and engagement at the workshop, and the Minister and Tánaiste were in attendance. Cllr. Corrigan noted that plenty of people turned up to the workshop, and it was a good event, and we should have more events in the future for the LAIT.

Item 5: 5 Year Workplan for the SPC.

The chair noted that in the new year, the SPC roadshow will visit Arklow MD first. The first SPC meeting of 2026 will be in February, and Máire Halvey will circulate the date.

Item 6: Any other business.

Cllr. Snell commented on the format of the Community SPC meetings, that he finds it frustrating, he asked about having expansion and more presentations. The chair commented that she did send out a questionnaire regards the SPC, but there was a very low response so far. Cllr. Corrigan asked if the questionnaire could be resent, the chair replied she will send the questionnaire out again and we can discuss in the February SPC meeting.

The chair noted that the Community and Social Development SPC is hoping to have a new format in the new year and added we must have something as a group that motivates us, and the SPC roadshows could help with direction and strategy. Michael Nicholson added that we have only had one year of this new 5-year SPC committee, and also noted that this committee had lost a lot of its strategy designing functions since the restructuring of the Directorates in Wicklow County Council but stated that he agrees with the chair and hopes the MD roadshows will provide food for thought on Community SPC strategy. The chair asked the SPC to send us emails to raise any issues you have.

The chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and noted we will see you in the New Year and closed the meeting.

Signed: Caroline Winstanley
Cllr. Caroline Winstanley,
Chairperson.

Date: 26-02-2026