

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER/(HYBRID) HELD ON MONDAY 28th July 2025 at 11.00am

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

Apologies: Cllr. Miriam Murphy, Niamh Wogan, Mai Quaid, Colm Moules.

In Attendance: Susanne Hall, Lia Reynolds, Sarah McElroy, Stephanie Lang, Clara Jenkinson, Diarmuid O' Keeffe

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 19th of May 2025 were approved – proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and seconded by Cllr. John Snell.

Item 2. Matters arising

The chair confirmed that the Workplan Questionnaire will be distributed to all members today and that it will give the opportunity for the committee to outline topics for discussion, strategic issues, speakers & people they wish to invite etc, and form more of a programme going forward for SPC meetings.

Cllr. John Snell requested that the SING committee and the CYPSC committee would present at future meetings to update the members on the work being carried out by those committees and this was agreed on the proposal of Niamh Wogan and seconded by the Chair.

Item 3. Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates

CLÁR

In relation to CLÁR, Irene Sweeney noted areas in the county where populations are on the increase, and she wondered if it was time to review the CLAR areas. The Director confirmed that the Department are constantly reviewing the CLAR areas but have no plans for change at the moment, but he would update the members of any changes which would only arise after the next Census in 2027.

CRF

Responding to queries from a number of members, it was confirmed that the CRF funding scheme was extensively advertised and the MDs consulted and the number of refugees in each MD were taken into account when examining all applications. Maire agreed to summarise the CRF grants per MD and circulate to the members of the committee. Máire stated that projects must be eligible projects as per the Department criteria and some of the applications did not qualify. There is no confirmation that the CRF funding would continue but it is hoped that it would.

Item 4. Other Updates

Age Friendly Alliance

Replying to queries from the Chair, Stephanie confirmed that attendance and engagement at the meetings was generally very good and that the traffic light system developed to track progress on the objectives in the age friendly strategy was working well. The Director confirmed that most of the meetings concentrated on the strategy itself.

DISC

The chair gave an update on DISC; There was a recent campaign launch on dog fouling, focussing on wheelchair users talking about how it affects them. Two campaigns are run each year; posters were created by local school children in Wicklow town. This will be rolled out to the whole county to 'high fouling' zones. The chair stated that it was encouraging to see young people involved.

Comhairle Na nÓg

The chair gave an update on Comhairle Na nÓg and stated there will be an annual youth summit on the 4th of November 2025. 140 young people will be taking part from Wicklow, and there will be full day of discussions and young people will come up with suggestions, and this event will also serve as a recruitment drive. The chair noted we need to have an image change for Comhairle Na nÓg as it's not appealing to young people. We need to ensure that there's a diverse range of voices, not just school council members. The chair added that if anyone would like to attend the summit – all are welcome. Also, the chair noted that two young people will attend Seanad Na nÓg, with opportunity to debate in the Seanad.

Pride of Place

Cllr Melanie Corrigan thanked Máire Halvey & Lia Reynolds on coordinating a successful 2 days of judging for the 2025 Pride of Place competition where there were fantastic presentations and projects, and Wicklow has 4 strong nominees, and they are all winners in Wicklow's eyes, regardless of the outcome at the final awards ceremony in November. The Director added his own thanks to everyone involved in the 2 judging days and he added that Cllr Corrigan in her role as Cathaoirleach attended both days and the MDs and local councillors were in good attendance. He added Wicklow is a County where there is a lot of work being done at community level and this competition acknowledges this.

Local Community Safety Partnership.

The Director gave an update on the Local Community Safety Partnership. He stated a lot has happened since the last meeting and that most of the work is now concentrating on the various nominations for the new committee with the intention of holding the first meeting of the new committee before the end of the year. He also confirmed that the staff were now fully in place. The chair asked that Patricia Carmody would present at the next meeting on the LCSP

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

In a reply to Cllr Snell's queries it was confirmed that the programme is well established in Wicklow and Marion is achieving good numbers compared to other counties and that it is hoped that additional resources will be allocated to those counties with higher numbers.

Care and Repair

In a reply to Cllr Snell's queries about the proposed Care and repair scheme for Arklow, the Director confirmed that CRF funding application was successful and that funds were now in place to secure a van and that other sources of funding were being examined to fund the other elements of the programme, so that a programme similar to the one in Bray can be introduced. Various options were being considered to staff the programme, including TUS schemes, CEP schemes and Men's sheds.

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)

Clara Jenkinson updated the SPC in relation to the LAIT, Clara noted that the LAIT are working in collaboration with the Sports Partnership team, at providing summer camps for the IPAS centres. Clara noted they have secured funding of €20k for these summer camps from CYPSC Wicklow, and are targeting 4–12-year-olds in the IPAS centres.

CAS 2025 & LEP 2025 Grants

Susanne Hall noted the payments made to date for each scheme. She added we are trying to get the payments out as a sense of urgency, and the majority was paid out last week.

Item 5: 5 Year Workplan for the SPC

The chair reminded the meeting that the Questionnaire will form the basis for the Workplan, and she encouraged the committee to send back the questionnaire as soon as possible., we will find out who people would like to see speaking, presentations etc and that while not all SPCs are doing this, she was keen on adopting this approach for her SPC.

Item 6: Any other business.

Máire Halvey noted we need to look at a time and date that suits all members for the next SPC meeting. The chair agreed, and that the next meeting will be around the end of September, but we will make sure it suits as many people as possible

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

Signed:



Date:

23/09/2025

**Cllr. Caroline Winstanley,
Chairperson.**

