

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24TH OCTOBER, 2019 IN COUNTY BUILDINGS.

Present: Irene Sweeney, Kevin Mann, Celine O'Neill, Gertie Salley, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Melanie Corrigan; Cllr Miriam Murphy; Cllr John Mullen.

Apologies: Cllr Anne Ferris

Present: Michael Nicholson, Caroline Fox, Carol Kinsella, Mary Tuite, Aisling Hubbard.

Michael Nicholson welcomed all the members and introduced the new Cathaoirleach of the SPC, Cllr Gail Dunne and wished them all every success in their 5 year term.

{1} Appointment of Leas Cathaoirleach

Following a discussion Irene Sweeney was elected Leas Cathaoirleach by consensus.

{2} Adoption of the Minutes

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 11th March, 2019 was proposed by Gertie Salley and seconded by Irene Sweeney and agreed.

{3} Welcome and introduction

Michael Nicholson welcomed members to the first meeting of the reconstituted SPC and staff and members introduced themselves and their roles.

{4} Background to the SPC system – roles and responsibilities

Michael Nicholson outlined the roles and responsibilities of each member in assisting the Council in the formulation, development and review of policies formulated by the Directorate. He indicated that it is proposed to hold future meetings in local community halls and community facilities in line with SPC guidelines. The Chairman had requested that the December meeting take place in Wicklow's Historic Gaol to give members an opportunity to experience the new tourist attraction "The Gates of Hell" at the Gaol. This would be followed by Christmas Lunch.

{5} Schedule of Meetings

Michael indicated that the recommended number of meetings was four per year and that these would take place in March, June, September and December. Usually on the third Monday of each month at 10a.m. Because of the Christmas period the December meeting would take place on 9th December, 2019.

{6} Agenda Template

An Agenda template was circulated to give members an idea of topical items that would be included on the Agenda. This would normally include updates on the various projects being undertaken, grant funding received and policies being prepared.

{7} Staff Presentation on the work of the Community, Cultural and Social Development Directorate (CCSD)

Staff outlined the work currently being undertaken – some of the major projects/plans highlighted included:

- New Arts Plan for 2020 – 2025.
- The multi-euro project at Avondale which is to commence in 2020.
- The Blessington Greenway Project – a €10 million euro project.
- Bray to Dungarvan Blueway, involving Wicklow, Wexford and Waterford Councils.

Other issues which arose from these discussions which needed to be addressed by the section included:

- CLÁR – members wished to put this down as an Agenda item for next meeting. They felt that a request that the areas in Wicklow be extended should be sent to the Department with a recommendation from the SPC of identified areas in the county.
- Planning Gain – Council needs to be made aware of and allow for the cost involved in the on-going maintenance of facilities provided by developers. The need to address the issue of developers not completing estates and therefore not providing the facilities stipulated in the planning permission. A recommendation being that developers would have to provide facilities on a step by step basis. It was recommended that this be put forward as an Agenda item for further discussion.
- Private playgrounds to be opened up for public use. Saturation point reached with new playgrounds but refurbishment of older playgrounds required.
- Wicklow Gaol – license up for renewal for coming 3 years. Funding of €250k had been received from Fáilte Ireland with matched funding from WCC for a new interactive project.
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- Nominations to be sought in the new year for Pride of Place 2020

{8} Wicklow County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

Submissions were invited for consideration in the preparation of the plan.

{9} Corporate Plan for CCSD

Members were invited to review, in particular, the CCSD element of the Corporate Plan and to feed back any comments.

{10} Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the staff and the Director of Services for the great work undertaken by the section and added that he looked forward to chairing the SPC for the next few years.

Signed:


CLLR GAIL DUNNE
CHAIRMAN

Date: 9th December 2019