

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER/ (MICROSOFT
TEAMS/HYBRID) HELD ON MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2024 AT 11AM**

Present: Cllr. Caroline Winstanley, Michael Nicholson, Máire Halvey, Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr. Warren O' Toole, Niamh Wogan, Mai Quaid (Hybrid)

Apologies: Irene Sweeney, Patricia Carmody, Lorraine Dunne, Stephanie Lang, Issie Kinsella,

In Attendance: Lia Reynolds, Marion Van Der Wel, Diarmuid O' Keeffe, Eilidh Dunlop, Niamh Finucane (Family Carers Ireland)

Chairperson Cllr. Caroline Winstanley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.
Maire Halvey gave the list of apologies.

(1) Adoption of the minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 23rd of October 2024 were noted.

(2) Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

(3) Presentation by Niamh Finucane (Family Carers Ireland)

The chair welcomed Niamh Finucane from Family Carers Ireland who gave a presentation on family carers and young carers, which was highly informative. Please see Niamh's PowerPoint Presentation that was circulated by email from Lia Reynolds after the SPC Meeting.

The chair asked Niamh Finucane if there are specific asks from Family Carers Ireland to the Council that they want support for. Niamh stated that the desired outcome is awareness of young carers which feeds into all the work done by the Council in terms of policies.

(4) Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates:

The chair mentioned the reports on CLÁR, Town & Village Renewal Scheme, LEP and CAS and invited the committee to comment.

Responding to the queries on the CAS scheme, Michael stated that there are usually around 250 applications and around €80,000 in funding with around €300 allocated to each group. He noted that there is now other funding available to Men's and Women's Shed's, Tidy Towns groups and Christmas Lights Groups so they will no longer be applying for funding under the CAS Scheme

The chair referred to the reports on the Community Recognition Fund (CRF) and invited comment. Máire Halvey stated that expressions of interest are welcomed for phase 3 of the CRF. There was a Q&A online session the previous week where groups could ask questions. There is still €890,000 available in the fund to be allocated. Máire Halvey said to contact herself or Lia Reynolds if anyone had questions regarding the CRF. The deadline for applications is 10th January 2025 and the deadline for sending the applications to the Department is 31st January 2025.

(5) Strategy Updates

- **Age Friendly Strategy**

The chair referred to the Age Friendly Strategy and asked if there is a traffic lights system in place for it, and if so, she would like to see it to see the progress as they are halfway through the strategy. Michael agreed to follow this up.

- **Disability & Inclusion Strategy**

The chair referred to the report on the Disability and Inclusion Strategy and suggested that the report does not show all the work done and proposed that the chair of the DISC attends or gives a report.

She noted that there is an EU directive whereby Local Authorities must have an accessibility statement on their website by a certain time next year or face fines. And that the chair of the DISC is getting someone to do this. Training should also be organised for staff for accessibility and plain English etc.

The chair also requested that the traffic light system for DISC be circulated.

(6) Updates

- **Pride of Place 2024**

The chair noted the report on the Pride of Place. Mai Quaid (Hybrid) complimented Tearmann Community Gardens who won a prize and added that they have a good committee in Baltinglass, and it was a great win.

- **Comhairle na nÓg & Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHCP)**

The chair referred to the report on Comhairle na nÓg and Sláintecare Healthy Communities. Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy asked when the results of the feasibility study that Bray Family Resource Centre worked on would be available to the SPC. There are plenty of stakeholders and a real interest from the community, and a new committee needs to be formed. Máire Halvey said the results of the study are being finalised and she will get dates for it. The chair added that the findings will help with the discretionary fund discussions.

- **Healthy Age Friendly Homes Programme (Marion Van der Wel)**

The chair referred to the report on the Healthy Age Friendly Homes and noted that the report was very comprehensive which is appreciated. Cllr. Pat Kennedy thanked Marion van der Wel for her work and noted how great it is to have someone trusted in the community that people welcome to their homes.

- **Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC)**

The chair raised the issue of the CYPSC. Michael stated that Planet Youth has been launched by the Cathaoirleach and this involves surveying young people on substance use and abuse with actions to follow based on the results of the survey which will be in the New Year. It is an Icelandic model that is being rolled out here, partnering with Kilkenny County. There is a budget next year for the actions. Through a partnership with Dun Laoghaire partnership, funding has been received for FACES, a child poverty pilot programme. Consultants are engaged to do a survey on child poverty in North Wicklow and report back to the LCDC and SPC. There will be more news on this in the New Year.

- **Local Community Safety Partnership**

The chair brought up the Local Community Safety Partnership. Michael explained that this is a replacement of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC). Interviews have been held for the chairperson and it will have two members of staff and seven elected members. In the New Year, the two members of staff roles will be filled, and it will possibly be the end of quarter one before it is up and running as regulations need to be signed.

(7) To consider dates for 2025 meetings.

The chair raised the question of dates for the meetings in 2025 and suggested a meeting every two months. Máire Halvey suggested the end of January, March, May, July, etc. Michael suggested they organise the next six months initially.

(8) Any other Business.

Niamh Wogan asked if there was a work plan for the SPC. The chair added that she was keen to set up a work plan for the group so that there is more of a focus on the workplan. It would be on the next SPC agenda as an item. Mai Quaid queried the need of AOB on the agenda, and the chair suggested that everyone should have the option to bring things up and that it is her responsibility as chair to manage that.

Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy noted she had raised training for the SPC members, and she wanted space on the agenda to discuss matters such as the CAS and further in-depth discussions. The chair noted that the work plan would be discussed in the January meeting, along with considering presentations from different speakers and groups.

- The chair thanked those in attendance and wished everyone the compliments of the season.

Signed: Ch Winstanley

Date: 27/01/25

**Cllr. Caroline Winstanley,
Chairperson.**