

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE ZOOM MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 12TH JULY AT 11 A.M.**

Present: Irene Sweeney, Gertie Salley, Cllr Gail Dunne, Cllr Anne Ferris, Cllr John Mullen, Kevin Mann, Cllr. Vincent Blake, Cllr Melanie Corrigan

Apologies: Cllr Miriam Murphy, Jenny Sherwin, Martina Byrne, Anne Gregory

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson, Brendan Martin, Máire Halvey, Caroline Fox, Aisling Hubbard, Richella Wood, Deirdre Whitfield and Lynda Doherty.

Cllr Gail Dunne opened the meeting and welcomed everyone..

{1} Adoption of the Minutes

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 12^h March, 2020 was proposed by Cllr Anne Ferris and seconded by Irene Sweeney.

{2} Matter Arising

Kevin Mann noted that in the minutes of the previous meeting he is down as not attending, however he was there. The minutes of March 12th have been clarified to reflect this.

{3} Covid Update

Michael Nicholson gave an update on services being provided by Wicklow County Council i.e. Community Call. The Community Call has been switched through to the main switch now. MN is hopeful that staff will be back working in-house from September; however this is dependent on the Delta variant and advice from NEPHET. Currently 18 members of the library service are involved in helping out in the Vaccination Centres. Cllr Anne Ferris sent her thanks and good wishes to all LA staff who have worked during the Covid crisis; she said feedback from the public is very positive.

{4} Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates

Richella Wood spoke on **CLAR**. 6 applications have been submitted, we should hear back as to whether they are successful by the end of July. In relation to Town and Village applications are due to be submitted by July 16th. WCC are submitting 7 applications which range from €500,000 to €100,000.

Cllr. Vincent Blake suggested that the criteria for applying for this funding was too narrow and many local communities are unable to avail of it. He asked could the council look into this issue. Equally could eligibility for CLAR be looked at so that a lot of West Wicklow could be included. MN explained that CLAR was only awarded to areas that suffered from depopulation as a means to entice people back. In relation to CLAR WCC is at the mercy of the Dept regarding eligibility.

Caroline Fox gave an update on **ORIS**. WCC had 2 openings in June. The Samuel Hayes Bridge in Rathdrum and the St Kevin's Way upgrade in Glendalough. Both openings were

very successful and were mindful of the Covid restrictions. CF clarified that although there are steps at the foot of the bridge WCC are awaiting an environmental report and hopefully after some a ramp will be installed to further enhance accessibility. 10 new applications for ORIS funding have been submitted to the Dept.

Irene Sweeny is to speak to CF in relation to a project under ORIS that she would like to propose

MN will inform all members of any funding we are awarded.

Máire Halvey gave an update on the **Community Enhancement Programme** €141,000 has been approved for awarding. This year the eligibility criteria have been expanded to allow groups/ organisations to apply for funding towards utility bills. Projects will be adjudicated in the next week. But this year in a departure from previous years the LCDC and the Dept will have sight of the awards before the groups themselves are informed.

Aisling Hubbard gave an update on **Healthy Ireland**. An extension has been given to applications for Level 3. WCC has applied for funding for a number of initiatives to target the most vulnerable and isolated in our society. At the ends of the year WCC will apply for the next stream of funding.

Michael Nicholson stated that there were no announcements yet on the **URDF** or **RRDF** funding. Bray was awarded last year. Wicklow and Arklow are going to re-apply and hopefully be successful this year. JM feels that smaller towns are missing out on funding, is there any way they can apply? MN has said that this issue has been raised at higher level.

{5} Strategy Updates

Greenways – Caroline Fox provided an update.

- **Wicklow to Greystones** – Environmental Impact Report to go out to the members.
- **Arklow to Shillelagh** – progressing. Planning in place should have land access by 2022, hopefully completed by 2024. Needs another call on funding/
- **Blessington** - €15m in secured funding, planning required, plan is to submit a robust planning application to alleviate the need for further information from ABP. Hopefully work will start next year.

Creative Ireland - Jenny Sherwin forwarded a PowerPoint presentation, unfortunately it was too large to send electronically so will issue by post to members. .

Play and Recreation – Funding has been sought for upgrade works for playground in Bog Meadow and Seaview Ave., Arklow. Wicklow Leisure Centre and the running track in Greystones have received funding. Hopefully work will start by the end of the year. Cllr JM asked about funding for repairs to playgrounds. MN stated that the Co. Co. draft a list and the 10 worst playgrounds get fixed. JM to submit a list of playgrounds in need of repair in his area. Cllr AF asked if there was funding to extend the playground at the People's Park in Bray. MN referred question to Bray MD. IS asked if wheelchair swings can be introduced in all playgrounds. RW stated that this is an ongoing process. Cllr GD stated that there were 2

expressions of interest for playgrounds in Glenealy. The question was raised if Wicklow Co. Co. could provide a dedicated parks team to oversee and manage all playgrounds in the county. MN agreed in theory, next year's budget to be looked at in relation to same.

Age Friendly – Richella Wood said that the consultant has been appointed for the County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy. Rathcoran estate in Baltinglass will be the first age friendly estate in County Wicklow. Befriending service is starting in Arklow.

Arts - PowerPoint presentation to go out to members by post. Sent 16/07/2021

Migrant Integration Strategy - Implementation to happen .

Library Strategy – BM said that Wicklow library is almost finished. Minister O' Brien will open on August 30th. There is an issue with the electricity supply to Rathdrum library. Hopefully they will open in September. Library Development Plan has been passed. Ballywaltrim Project has gone out to architects. Baltinglass courthouse is looking for Part 8 approval. It is a shovel ready project. KM wanted to know if there will be a public consultation process for Aughrim library. BM said no as we own the site, but public opinions will be taken on board, there will be 10 public parking spaces. JM asked about the Baltinglass development, the Forum have a few ideas will they be consulted. BM stated that yes there will be an information meeting for locals.

{6} Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership Update

An update on all the activities circulated prior to the meeting. WSRP received €79,000 in Dormant A/C funding. This will be used to fund Arklow Sports Hub, Sports Inclusion Disability Projects, Volunteer Supports & Leadership Supports. National Play Day was a great success. Club and Community Support Scheme can award €55,000 to applications across 3 areas: Club Support Scheme, Women in Sport Participation Scheme and Covid 19 Community Support Scheme.

Arklow Sports hub was launched, video shown to the members.

{7} Ronnie Delany statue update

The sculpture is now completed. Everything held up by Covid, Statue and plinth will be outside the Bridgewater Centre. Invitation extended to President Higgins however he could not make the dates suggested. We are going back to the Scheduling Office with a choice of alternative dates in September and October. There is a committee in Arklow set up to oversee the event.

{8} Any other business

KM of the PPN asked if any member of the SPC group could meet with the PPN and discuss what it is that the SPC do and how it works. This was agreed for September or October.

THE PPN them this year is National Action Plan about Racism. People don't know how or where to report incidents of racism. Could the council/libraries put up posters on how to report incidents?

BM has no issue with putting up posters as it is a National Policy.

{9} Date for future meetings

Date set for September 20th @ 11am; hopefully it will be in person.

Signed:



CLLR GAIL DUNNE

Date:

23/3/22