

**Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC
Meeting held on Tuesday 17th December, 2024 in the
The Boardroom, Clermont House, Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow at 3:00pm**

Present: Cllr. Tom Fortune – Chair (TF)
Cllr. Ian Neary (IN)
Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy (AFK)
Cllr. Louise Felon Gaskin (LFG)
Cllr. Peir Leonard (PL)
Mr. Huw O’Toole (HOT)
Ms. Margaret Coughlan (MC)
Mr. Gerry Ginty (GG)
Mr. T.J. Foley (TJF)

In Attendance: Ms. Leonora Earls (LE)
Ms. Susan Nichols (SN)
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt (VD)
Mr. Fred Verdier (FV)
Ms. Caroline Cullimore (CC)
Mr. John Powderly (JP)

Apologies: Mr. Killian McGreal (KMCG)
Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)
Mr. Chris Fox (CF)
Ms. Jean Kinsella (JK)
Ms. Patrice O’Toole (POT)

Welcome and introductions

The 2nd meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC took place on Tuesday 17th December, 2024. Cllr. Tom Fortune (Chair) welcomed everybody, and wished everyone a happy Christmas and a great New Year.

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support (EDES) SPC held on Tuesday 15th October, 2024

The minutes of the EDES SPC which took place on 15th October 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Ian Neary and seconded by Cllr. Louise Felon Gaskin.

ITEM 2

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3

Guest Speaker from the Firefly Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow speaking on Tourism Accommodation

John Duggan joined the meeting to inform the SPC of how his staffless hotel, the Firefly, in Bray operates. The SPC agreed it is a great model which may be of interest to developers in the county. TF thanked John Duggan and Mr. Duggan left the meeting.

ITEM 4

Update on the County Wicklow Skills Strategy

TF gave the SPC some background to the Skills Strategy which contains a lot of actions that will be very good for the county.

SN reviewed the report and gave an update on the County Wicklow Skills Strategy and advised that the Skills Taskforce met recently and reviewed two of the sectors in detail (Screen and Content Creation, Agri-Food and Forestry) and will review the other two at the next meeting in February. All providers on the Taskforce are all actively working in the provision of training and skills. There was great engagement from all providers at the Taskforce meeting.

ITEM 5

To agree a template for reporting on the Local Economic and Community Plan 2024-2029

SN presented a template for future SPC reporting to the group and advised that the LECP is a very high level strategic document so this template shows where small tasks are working towards higher goals. The SPC agreed to use this template for future meetings, with a request from AFK that timelines be added in wherever possible. TF requested that any more ideas for reporting be submitted for consideration.

ITEM 6

To consider updates from each group: Economic Development, Head of Enterprise, Content Creation Hub and Wicklow County Campus, and Tourism Officer

All reports were taken as read and questions invited. FV showed the group the Best of Wicklow video content that the Tourism Office commissioned showcasing the best of Wicklow and advised that the money spent creating the content was small compared to the exposure it brings.

ITEM 7

Correspondence

There was no correspondence to consider. SN asked the group if printed copies of reports should continue to be made available at SPC meetings given attempts to reduce our carbon footprint. The SPC agreed that there would be no further need for printed copies of reports unless specifically requested in advance by someone.

TF reiterated the point that all reports would be taken as read at meetings and members should bring their questions to the meetings for discussion.

ITEM 8

Meetings Schedule

The SPC decided that 6 meetings a year would be appropriate. CC gave a list of suggested dates, avoiding August, and these were accepted with one change due to a conflict with a Council meeting. Meetings will be held at 10am unless otherwise arranged.

Meeting dates for 2025 will be:

17th February, 14th April, 9th June, 28th July, 13th October, 15th December.

Any Other Business

The SPC decided to invite Fáilte Ireland to the next SPC meeting to talk about the DEDP and their Accommodation Audit. They will be asked to include specific action for Wicklow and what the SPC can do to facilitate progress.

TF thanked all attendees and the meeting concluded.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

