

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC meeting held on Monday 13th December 2021 via Zoom.

- Present:**
- Councillor Gerry Walsh Chair
 - Councillor Pat Kennedy
 - Councillor Tom Fortune
 - Councillor Avril Cronin
 - Councillor Mary Kavanagh
 - Mr. Killian McGreal
 - Mr Huw O'Toole
- In Attendance:**
- Ms. Christine Flood, Senior Executive Officer
 - Ms. Vibeke Delahunt, Head of Enterprise
 - Ms. Susan Nichols, Administrative Officer
 - Ms. Helen Purcell, Senior Executive Officer
 - Ms. Mary Cahill, Climate Action Officer
 - Councillor Lourda Scott
- Apologies:**
- Ms Lorraine Gallagher
 - Ms Deirdre Whitfield

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 13th September 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development & Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 13th September 2021 as circulated were proposed by Vibeke Delahunt, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed.

ITEM 2

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

ITEM 3

To receive a presentation: Economic Opportunities arising from Climate Change

Ms Mary Cahill, Climate Action Officer delivered a presentation to the members of the SPC.

A project that was highlighted as a good opportunity to bring Economic Development and Climate Action together is with the Decarbonisation Project in Arklow.

- Arklow selected as Pilot town in April 2021
- Consultant RPS commenced work on Data Gathering in October 2021
- Implementation Plan expected to be delivered in quarter 1 of 2022.
- Then expand project to other areas in County taking lessons learned in Arklow into account.

LEO has a support in place for small businesses (micro businesses) which is call 'Green for Micro'. It is an opportunity for businesses to work with a consultant for about two days to Green their business and reduce their Carbon Footprint through consultant recommendations. This is a free support to micro businesses and they can register online.

Sustainable Energy Communities also highlighted as a great way of getting group discounts and should be something that is pursued as people benefit from knowledge and feedback while also the benefit of economies of scale, the more that sign up the cheaper the cost.

Following a query raised, it was noted that any suggestions by a member of the SPC in relation to Climate Action issues should be forwarded to the SPC for consideration and communication to the Climate Action SPC.

ITEM 4

To receive a presentation: Guidelines for the preparation of a Local Economic and Community Plan
In the absence of Ms. D. Whitfield, an update on the preparation of the LECP was provided by Ms. S. Nichols covering the following areas:

- The Department held a briefing session to look at the new guidelines for the preparation of an LECP
- With the volume of participants on the call the Department kept it at a high level introductory level but there will be further smaller training groups in quarter one of next year which will get into more detail.
- The guidelines have been published and have been circulated to all the members of the group.
- The new plan will take account of lessons learned and any issues implementing the last plan are taken forward in the preparation of the new LECP.

Following on from the above mentioned other points highlighted were;

- Stakeholder engagement will need to be creative as it is likely to be problematic due to Covid-19 and it is vital for this engagement to happen.
- The link to the Regional Economic & Spatial Strategy will be important and ensuring the LECP is consistent with our Regional goals and the link with the UN sustainable goals will also be front and centre of the LECP.
- One of the other areas in the LECP is in relation to Renewable Energy Support Scheme and the Community Benefit Fund. Wicklow County Council made a submission that any future Community Benefit Funding generated from the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme be managed at a local community/council level and not by Central Government. The preference in Wicklow is that any Community Benefit funds should be locally managed and proposed that the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) model be used under this proposal.

ITEM 5.1

**To receive and consider update on:
LECP: LCDC and Community Activities**

Report circulated to all members of the SPC which covered the following;

Goal 1: Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

Town & Village Funding Scheme to Revitalise Towns and Villages 2021

The Town and Village Scheme objectives are being refocused to align with commitments within 'Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025'. The 2021 Scheme will prioritise the objectives of this policy such as tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks, etc.

Grant Levels:

For the 2021 Scheme, the minimum grant which is available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000 in respect of one application from each Local Authority. A maximum of €250,000 will apply in respect of 2 applications and €100,000 in respect of 4 applications. **2 applications must be in respect of Towns/Villages that have not previously received funding under the Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme**

Town and Village Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
Kiltegan	Transform a derelict vacant site into a multi purpose community facility. The project aims to purchase the site and renovate the existing building to rehouse the community shop and café, provide community space, rehouse the CE scheme and provide a remote working hub.
Lacken	Refurbish a town centre building into a community shop, café and remote working hub. The project aims to maximise opportunity for economic benefit from the Blessington Greenway and from walkers and cyclists. It also aims to develop a heritage hub and a community space to create a resilient and socially cohesive community, using the Smart Village Model
Wicklow	This is a placemaking project to reconnect Wicklow centre to the port area by reanimating and revitalising the network of laneways with creative lighting, murals, riverside seating with canopy and parklet planting
Hollywood	Placemaking project to create a quality and environmentally friendly public space. This project aims to transform an underutilised space which is close to woodland so lends itself to a natural approach to designing a pocket park with associated walkway and car parking.
Ballinaclash	Renovate the community hall to revitalise the village by providing access to remote working facilities and community activities to the community and possible new residents. This includes the replacing a dividing wall with a movable divider, fitout of remote working space and insulation works to the building
Coolboy	A placemaking project to improve public space in Coolboy and maximise social and economic benefits to the area. It will rejuvenate the village green by resurfacing and upgrading existing paths to make them more accessible and age friendly and reconnect a small

	underused annex area. It will also see the addition of picnic benches, a bandstand and an area of planting and landscaping, improving the biodiversity of the area.
Donard	Rejuvenation of community hall to develop a community café and to provide remote working spaces.

Announcement of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Category 2

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, on May 12th, announced the third call for Category 2 applications to the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This fund is for projects that will drive economic growth and footfall, combat dereliction, regenerate town centre and heritage buildings, develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces and make rural towns more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

The €1 billion Fund is also part of the Department's Rural Development Investment Programme, which is funded under Project Ireland 2040. Projects that will be funded under Category 2 are those that require significant development before they reach the stage of being shovel ready.

RRDF Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
South West Wicklow – Shillelagh, Tinahely, Carnew	Reimagining South West Wicklow 1. Maximise all opportunities for the area, arising from significant planned infrastructural investment and development of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway. 2. Revitalise Rural Towns in Southwest Wicklow to become vibrant sustainable SMART centres of commerce and attractive places to work, live and recreate in harmony with the natural environment 3. Maximise all economic & social opportunities arising from the Coollattin Footprint in line with the Irelands Ancient East brand 4. Maximise economic, social and environmental benefits from the critical mass of 'National Walking Loop Trails' already developed in the area.
Blessington	Regeneration of Blessington Renovation of the town centre and public space and significant development works to Russborough House to enhance visitor experience and maximise economic opportunities arising from the Blessington Greenway development.

CLAR 2021 – funded projects

Area	Project	Funding
Askanagap	Astro turf	50,000
Knockananna	MUGA floodlights	22,510.13
Knockananna	Community garden	9,747

Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

Wicklow County Council continues to support strong structures for participation in decision making processes in the county. The three main structures are:

The PPN – a report is included separately

Age Friendly Programme

County Wicklow has begun the consultation process for the development of a new Age Friendly Strategy.

The Arklow Age Friendly Befriending Service is to launch soon following the final garda vetting process. This will be of huge benefit to the population of Arklow.

Regarding housing, Work is underway into making Rathcoran Estates in Baltinglass an Age Friendly Estate. It was built by and will be run by Respond.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, held their annual Youth Summit recently with consultations on the issues important to young people. Cathaoirleach of Wicklow County Council Cllr Shay Cullen, speaking to the young people at the Youth Summit said “Whether you’re 15 or 50, you have hopes and dreams for the future, make them come true.”

Mai Quaid, Chair of the Older Person’s Council also gave advice to the young people “Keep thinking young no matter what age you are and to hell with everyone else” She followed that with “Always ask questions. Never accept what people are saying to you. Question everything”.

The Comhairle is undertaking a survey on youth attitudes towards drugs.

Goal 3: Strategic Direction – Develop high quality integrated services, available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31st December 2021 has been granted.

Planning has begun for Round 4 of the programme for Q2 2022

2. Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme

The Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme is a new initiative led by Slaintecare and Healthy Ireland in partnership with Wicklow Local Community Development Committee and other local stakeholders. The goal of the programme is to improve the long term health and wellbeing of people living in the most disadvantaged communities in Ireland. The programme is based in the Bray area of Wicklow. This is a holistic approach to health and wellbeing incorporating the physical and social determinants of health, that is, the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age, and the wider set of forces and systems that shape the conditions of daily life. The programme will implement targeted initiatives to tackle these challenges from within these communities. This will be achieved through the provision of dedicated services to build sustainable improvements in the health and wellbeing of all those living in those communities.

A local implementation team will be formed in each area led by a SHCP Local Development Officer to be employed by Wicklow County Council.

3. County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy – Food Poverty and Sustainability

The County Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy contains aims and objectives to tackle food poverty and food sustainability in the county. This is a long term issue but was highlighted through the work of the Community Response Forum during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A subgroup has been formed to work on this issue. Research has already been undertaken to establish the extent and nature of food poverty and the responses to this. Further research is now ongoing with a view to the development of a working plan going forward.

Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

Social Enterprise Grant Scheme

Minister Humphreys launched on 6th of September 2021 a €1 million fund to be allocated nationally to the Dormant Accounts Fund Social Enterprise Capital Grants Scheme 2021. There were 12 applications to this scheme. 6 were deemed eligible as a social enterprise and were recommended to DRCD for funding. They were:

Glencree Armoury Café	Eikon High Speed oven for café	4081
Lakers	relaunch card making enterprise signage, lawnmower. Fencing for compost heap	4091 5000
Tinahely Recycling Centre	relaunch of SE	5000
BAP/CARA SE	drum mower & hay turner	4910
Bee Sanctuary	essential roof repairs on centre	5000
Signal Arts		28082

Bray Area Partnership and County Wicklow Partnership continue to implement this element of the LECP in their support programmes for social enterprise.

ITEM 5.2

To receive and consider update on:

LECP: Economic Activities

Ms. C. Flood provided a report to the meeting and copy circulated which covered the following;

The Economic Development Unit of the Enterprise and Corporate Services Directorate is charged with implementing the economic actions in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

This month new guidelines have been launched for the preparation of LECPs. LECPs detail how Local Authorities will support economic and community development in their areas over the next six years. The new guidelines will assist with the development of the plans for local areas, with a key focus on sustainability, consultation and engagement with local communities and business.

The guidelines will require the Council to consider housing needs when formulating both the economic and community elements of the LECPs. The guidelines are timely as the current LECP finishes in 2022. The new plan will take account of lessons learned and the changing needs of communities. The guidelines reinforce the important role of communities in determining the needs and priorities of their local area.

LECP Economic Objectives

6.1	<i>Support inward investment and promote the creation and expansion of new and existing employment opportunities in the County to drive economic development within the County</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland • Supporting investment by offshore wind energy companies • Developing Masterplans and the property portfolio for Blessington, Greystones, Wicklow County Campus and Rathdrum
6.2	<i>Support and develop Wicklow County Campus to allow it to reach its full potential as a centre of learning and innovation in the County</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging with IT Carlow • Development of the Screen Hub and Screen Training • Supporting campus companies • Developing a masterplan for the campus to focus on the screen sector, food and renewable energy • Broadband Connection Point
6.3	<i>Support the provision of high quality infrastructure throughout the County that will facilitate and support economic expansion</i>	<p>Urban Regeneration Development Funding Projects in Bray Wicklow and Arklow and future projects in Wicklow and Arklow</p> <p>Broadband delivered to Wicklow County Campus</p> <p>Continuing to work with other departments to support infrastructure development for Transport, Harbours, Water and Waste Water and tourism infrastructure</p>
6.4	<i>Enhance the attractiveness of town centres and retail premises across the County</i>	<p>Working with MDs & Town Teams</p> <p>URDF RRDF applications</p> <p>Streetscape Funding</p> <p>Masterplan applications</p> <p>Placemaking</p> <p>Outdoor dining</p>

		<p>Destination Town Projects</p> <p>Public Realm enhancements</p> <p>Health Checks and Public Realm Plans</p>
7.1	<p><i>Stimulate and support the development and expansion of micro-enterprises and SME's, facilitating the growth of economic activities, development of innovative sectors, promotion of business engagement and the creation of new employment opportunities, decent jobs and sustainable, meaningful livelihoods</i></p>	<p>Working with LEO, Community Cultural and Social Development, County Wicklow Partnership across a range of sectors including food, crafts and tourism</p>
7.2	<p><i>Harness the County's existing assets and encourage collaborative opportunities and business engagement amongst sectors to develop new markets and initiatives, maximising opportunities for business development and employment creation</i></p>	<p>Film Strategy in place</p> <p>Maritime Strategic Review carried out</p> <p>Craft Strategy under development</p> <p>New commuter/work survey to be conducted in early 2022 with a focus on opportunities presented by remote working</p>
8.1	<p><i>Promote and direct the tourism development of the County in a sustainable manner that conserves, promotes, protects and enhances the County's natural, built and cultural heritage and derives optimal economic benefit from visitors to the County</i></p>	<p>Tourism Strategy in place</p> <p>Development of the Masterplan for Glendalough and the Wicklow Mountains National Park and the Visitor Orientation Plan for Wicklow underway</p> <p>Destination Town funding for Abbey Grounds secured</p> <p>Accommodation strategy complete – portfolio to be developed</p> <p>Plans for the development of Greenways</p> <p>A range of thematic experiences on offer</p>
8.2	<p><i>Capitalise on the immediate and future economic opportunity in the Film and Television Industry and support the expansion of the sector in the County</i></p>	<p>Screen Enterprise Hub under construction</p> <p>Funding for Crew Skills Hub</p> <p>A record number of films being made</p> <p>Expansion of studio space underway</p>
8.3	<p><i>Realise the potential benefits of the County's maritime assets</i></p>	<p>Arklow and Wicklow confirmed as operations and maintenance bases for the offshore wind energy sector</p> <p>Proposals for development of harbours at Bray, Wicklow and Arklow – seeking URDF funding</p> <p>Proposals to develop marine training and Marine enterprise centres</p> <p>Supporting other marine sectors such as aquaculture, fishing and tourism</p>
8.4	<p><i>Support the rural economy and promote rural economic diversification</i></p>	<p>Establishment of Wicklow Naturally</p>
8.5	<p><i>Maximise the economic development in the County through improved and strategic branding and marketing</i></p>	<p>Development of the website, social media and brands such as Wicklow Outdoors, Wicklow Naturally further work proposed in 2022 on Film and Economic Development</p>
9.1	<p><i>Support the development of renewable energy and a low energy future for Wicklow</i></p>	<p>Climate Action Plan in Place</p> <p>Proposals for the Community Benefit Fund</p> <p>Development of offshore renewable energy</p>

RETAIL

Bray Central

All the main construction work with the Shell and Core are near completion. The tower crane has now been removed from site. Form work within the basement area is complete. Small elements of snag works are ongoing. The reinstatement of the public paving on the Main Street and Florence Road commenced at the beginning of December. The design associated top the main superstructure above ground has been completed. The developer is now in the process of preparing for Practical Completion, scheduled for January 2022.

The scaffold on the Main Street has been removed and the last remaining elements of the façade work associated with these buildings is near completion. Hard landscaping works are approximately 90% complete. These works are ongoing and are scheduled to be completed over the next 3-4 weeks.

TOWN TEAMS

Town Teams in Arklow, Blessington, Bray, Greystones and Wicklow continue to meet virtually where possible to progress various projects. Activity, particularly engagement with stakeholder groups has been curtailed due to Covid restrictions.

Under the Government Policy, Town Centres First, the establishment of town teams is encouraged and we are likely to see more town teams in situ over the coming years.

Most Town Teams in Wicklow have been operating since 2018. It is considered timely to carry out a review of the town teams and with this in mind, Wicklow County Council has appointed Mr Allen McAdam of MCA Consulting to conduct the review. It is proposed to present the results of the review at a plenary meeting of all the town teams to be held in the new year.

Masterplans for Town Centres under 10,000 population

Background

A core objective of the Department of Rural & Community Development is to support the revitalisation of Ireland's towns and villages, ensuring that they are vibrant and attractive places to live, work and socialise.

Town Centre First Policy

Central to this objective is the development of the Town Centre First policy in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage. The policy will provide an overarching framework for the revitalisation of towns and villages, while aligning the funding and other infrastructure necessary at a national level to support delivery at the level of the town / village. The Town Centre First Policy is expected to be finalised before the end of the year and will include key enablers such as:

- The establishment of a collaborative Town Teams involving all community, business, public & private stakeholders to oversee the implementation of TCF approach in a town/village.
- The development of a Town Centre First Masterplan, which provides a vision for the development of the town with a focus on the town centre and immediate surrounds. It will be

action orientated and will identify specific interventions required to meet the objectives of the plan.

- Support for dedicated Town Regeneration Officers in Local Authorities. The role of the Town Regeneration Officer will be to support the establishment and ongoing work of Town Teams, ensuring development and delivery on the Town Centre Master Plan alongside the local champion. They will be a vital link between the Town Teams and the expertise within the Local Authority and other organisations, and facilitate the Town Teams in accessing funding

The Town Centre Masterplan Initiative (Phase 1) will complement the above approach by providing funding to ensure development and delivery of these Master Plans in selected towns to demonstrate the TCF process at an early stage. The delivery of the plans will be done alongside the roll-out of the TCF process and will be linked, in time, to the implementation structures developed for the TCF.

Wicklow has nominated the following towns for consideration for Masterplan Funding

- Blessington
- Rathdrum
- Newtownmountkennedy

The towns have been the subject of RRDF funding applications and substantially meet the criteria

In an announcement made on Thursday 9th December, DRCD have awarded €100,000 to Blessington for the preparation of a Town Centre First Masterplan.

Arklow Town Team

Arklow Town Team have submitted a biodiversity grant application for funding to Environment and Nature Fund 2021, Community Foundation for Ireland for Glenart Forest for a comprehensive biodiversity survey of the woodlands in order to tackle some of the major invasive species issues and other woodland habitat challenges associated with the forest.

Sub-committees have been set up to progress a number of interests and initiatives, including the Arklow Good Store Project and as an interim measure for the Arklow Pottery Museum Project, an online museum cataloguing Arklow Pottery through the years.

The Town Team are also considering potential future projects to benefit the town.

Bray Town Team / Bray Town Recovery Team

The Bray Town Recovery Team will have its inaugural meeting following discussions with the Cathaoirleach of Bray Municipal District. The members of Bray MD have agreed the Terms of Reference.

Blessington Town Team

Blessington Town Team is working closely with Blessington & District Forum and Wicklow Sports & Recreation Partnership to roll out a number of initiatives aimed at making Blessington a healthier place to live. Four permanent road signs were funded under Healthy Wicklow to promote positive Mental Health. The signs are dispersed in different areas of Blessington and include the words; hope, courage, love and faith.

Blessington Town Team continue to work on a number of projects, in conjunction with Baltinglass Municipal District, which has resulted in the provision of Big Belly Bins and new location for bottle banks within Blessington.

Greystones Town Team

Greystones Town Team are growing in strength and confidence following a hugely successful Christmas campaign which involved a streamed Christmas concert featuring Dustin the Turkey, Laura Wood and Anna Daly . Holyhead Santa and his helpers proved an overwhelming success with their drive through the estates of Greystones on a twinkling sleigh with all the bells and whistles. There was a magical feeling in the town and the feedback was amazing.

Congratulations to Cllr. Mags Crean and the Greystones Town Team, Greystones has won a prestigious international Liveable Communities award. The LivCom award is the world's only competition focusing on International Best Practice regarding the management of the local environment and development.

The objective of LivCom Awards is to develop and share International Best Practice, with the further objective of improving the quality of life of individual citizens through the creation of 'liveable communities'. LivCom received over 160 registrations from more than 30 countries for this year's award. Cllr Mags Crean spearheaded the application for Greystones and led the Town Team through the process.

Wicklow Town Team

At a recent meeting of Wicklow Town Team, the Part 8 application for the Abbey Grounds was discussed and it was noted that the closing date for the receipt of submissions was the 19th November. Seven submissions were received, along with a letter of support from Fáilte Ireland, with the Managers Report currently being prepared. This will be considered by the Wicklow Municipal District Members at their meeting of 20th December.

A programme of tours of the Wicklow Town Heritage Trail by local historian John Finlay is expected to commence after St. Patricks Day.

The Tourism working group intend to look at the range of accommodation available in Wicklow and examine as a ways of developing and improving what is currently available as part of the development of the Destinations Town project.

Streetscapes

Wicklow County Council has been allocated €320,000 in Streetscape funding under the Department of Rural and Community Development Town and Village Streetscape Scheme. Six towns/villages in the County have been selected to participate in the Streetscape and Shopfront Enhancement scheme. The areas selected are Arklow, Baltinglass, Blessington, Enniskerry, Kilcoole and Wicklow Town.

The *Streetscape Enhancement Initiative* is a key part of the Government's 'Our Rural Future' and is designed to make our rural towns and villages more attractive colourful and vibrant places to live, work and visit.

Types of projects funded include: refurbishment of traditional shop fronts, artwork, murals, lighting, planting etc. The closing date for completed applications was extended to **14th September with the completion of works deadline also extended from 22nd October to 31st December 2021 with 99 applications received for the measure.** The initial application and promotion and development of the scheme was handled by Enterprise and Corporate Services and the awarding of grants and drawdown of funds is handled by Community Cultural and Social Development.

TOURISM

Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan 2018-2022

The strategy sets out a number of challenging but achievable priorities along with a series of detailed actions to be implemented over the next 5 years

The Key Priorities are:

1. Develop New Accommodation
2. Develop Key Towns as Visitor Hubs
3. Develop a Masterplan for Glendalough
4. Grow Thematic Experiences
5. Market our County by Developing A Common Narrative

Tourism Work-Group:

A hybrid meeting was held at Powerscourt Distillery with the Tourism Work-Work Group which comprised of some of the largest tourism businesses in the County (Hotels, large attractions, etc). Objectives of the meeting was to get some feedback on the season and assess the current situation and to present the various activities Wicklow Tourism and County Council are working on and planning. Those included: website and social media activities, Wicklow Passport updates, Failte Ireland support to attract influencers and organise itineraries, Wicklow Outdoor opportunities especially around EcoTrail and Golf, Wicklow Naturally, Celtic Routes Project, Tourism Information Points, Film Tourism and Sustainable Tourism.

Wicklow Outdoors:

Wicklow Outdoors hosted a press trip which consisted of three journalists from a very popular 'Nature Trail' Magazine and were sent by Tourism Ireland France. They arrived on Friday evening for a first night in Bray. Saturday involved a walk/run from Kilmacanogue to Bray, then on to visit Powerscourt Distillery and on to Laragh for an evening meal and night. Sunday we brought them for a walk/run over the Spinc, over Mullacor, along the Derrybawn ridge and back down to Glendalough. They eventually left to spend the last night in Dublin and back to France on Monday morning. The article should be printed in March of next year, and we are creating a page dedicated to their tour for anyone wishing to do similar itinerary. The whole tour can be done using public transport, which is another great asset to sell Wicklow.

Wicklow Passport:

We now have five display units branded Wicklow Passport. Those small units are being displayed around the County and hopefully beyond, to help promote the Wicklow Passport. The first display was set up at Clissmann's Park over the mid-term break and helped in raising awareness for the passport with many visitors getting their own Passport. The display units will rotate around the County and be displayed at various locations at key attractions and accommodations providers. We are looking at bringing those display units to trade shows such as the Holiday World Shows in Belfast, Cork and Dublin.

EcoTrail Wicklow:

The EcoTrail promotional video has been completed. We are waiting for EcoTrail 2022 registrations to open up later in December to run the video through our social media channels. We are currently talking to various Tourism Ireland offices around the world with the objective to get them to run that video and help promote the race and the overall destination. We are also working with EcoTrail International to help broadcast the video through the EcoTrail 'family' We are currently looking at sponsorship opportunities and talking to various brands and businesses to help grow the profile of the race.

Destination Town Funding: An application to Fáilte Ireland on behalf of Wicklow Town was made in respect of Destination Town Funding and funding has been awarded to develop visitor amenities in the Abbey Grounds. Mosart, a local architect team which specialise in architecture, landscape and urban design, have been appointed to design the Abbey Grounds project with a view to increasing visitor numbers to Wicklow while maintaining this important oasis at the heart of Wicklow town. Part VIII application has been lodged and has been on public display, the closing date for the receipt of submissions was the 19th November and it will now be put before the Wicklow Municipal District Members for their December meeting.

Glendalough Masterplan and Wicklow Visitor Orientation Study

This is a Fáilte Ireland funded project led by FI with strategic partners NPWS, OPW, Coillte and WCC. The Plan covers visitor attractions and activities available in the area and the first stage of stakeholder engagement has been completed. .

The consultant team are now engaging with some of the key landowners to assess the feasibility of developing additional off road trails between Laragh and Glendalough and provision of additional parking. The process has identified a number of issues: congestion at key sites, concerns over security, capacity and quality of car parking and visitor services, issues with local access, and erosion and degradation of the environment.

Visitor Experience Hubs have been identified around the county where there is a particular focus of visitor attractions. Development of these hubs will build capacity, help disperse visitors across the county, encouraging longer stays and greater investment in the area. The team is developing detailed plans for walking, mountain biking, off road family cycling.

Measures have been taken this year to introduce additional temporary parking and to use traffic counters to improve parking management and signage. Toilet facilities have been upgraded.

The consultants have prepared the draft masterplan and this was presented to members of the Laragh/Glendalough Community on the 27th October 2021 and to the members of at the Ordinary Meeting of Wicklow County Council on the 6th December 2021.

Next Steps: Further Consultation, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Economic Appraisal.

Outdoor Dining

Fáilte Ireland earlier this year announced funding for Outdoor Dining:

Part One of the Scheme - *Outdoor Seating and Accessories* - supports individual hospitality businesses with grants of up to €4,000 for seating, tables and outdoor accessories. This scheme which is fully funded by Fáilte Ireland is administered by the Local Authorities. Where the tables and chairs are located in a public space, the business must apply for a Section 254 licence, if the equipment is located on private property, planning permission may be required.

This scheme provided funding of almost €410,000 to 121 businesses throughout Wicklow with the scheme now closed.

All Local Authorities were invited to apply to Fáilte Ireland for funding under Part Two - *Local Authority Weatherproofing & Outdoor Dining Enhancement Scheme* - to develop streets and public spaces to facilitate outdoor dining in urban tourism centres, enabling access to outdoor seating for extended periods throughout the year.

Wicklow County Council applied for and was awarded funding for Outdoor Dining and Weatherproofing for Market Square in Wicklow Town (€119,000) and Abbey Lane in Arklow (€81,000).

RURAL AND URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATIONS

The following applications were submitted under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Grant Scheme for Category 2 Funding;

Shillelagh/Carnew/Tinahely: Developing the villages for the eventual arrival of the Greenway – purchasing some of the old station buildings linking in with the Tinahely Trails and other tourist venues including the Tinahely Farm shop and the Orchard Farm.

Blessington: Redeveloping and resubmitting the proposal to design and develop the Square for when the N81 is re-routed and to make the town greenway ready to be able to cater for the large influx of visitors expected.

An announcement on successful applications is expected in the coming weeks, along with a call for Category 1 (shovel ready) proposals.

URDF: URBAN REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Wicklow Town URDF Project for the development of the library at the old Ulster Bank Building and the redevelopment of Fitzwilliam Square has been completed. Total cost for the development of the Library was €6 million, with €3 million funded via the Department of Housing, Local

Government and Heritage URDF and €1 million from the Department of Rural and Community Development. €2 million matched funding was committed by Wicklow County Council.

The €2m Fitzwilliam Square refurbishment project, funded by an amount of €1.5m under the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government URDF scheme, has created a multi-functional space, improving accessibility and enhancing the presentation and public realm of the Town Centre at Fitzwilliam Square. A new outdoor venue for community events, performances and exhibitions, and outdoor dining is now available. The Halpin monument which was concealed is now made more visible and contributes to tourism and the town's maritime heritage. The newly created space is also now responding to the recent health and safety challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and will go towards helping to support the recovery of the tourism and hospitality sector.

Part 1 of the Arklow URDF Project the refurbishment of the Courthouse and the development of an Enterprise Space in the former Town Council offices. Part 2 of the project the public realm works are currently underway.

BRAY HARBOUR AREA INTEGRATED REGENERATION

Funding of €7.14m has been announced for the Bray Harbour Area Integrated Regeneration Project from the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) and this funding has the capacity to unlock the great potential of Bray Harbour and surrounding area.

RPS Ltd were appointed to further appraise and develop a masterplan for the on shore elements of Bray Harbour following the report by RPS Ltd of the Bray Harbour Improvements Feasibility Study. This work is essential to provide clarity to the overall direction of the Bray Harbour Improvements before progressing to detailed design. Draft options for regeneration of onshore facilities around the harbour that would enhance the public realm and reorganise space to provide for additional water based leisure and commercial activities was presented. Initial discussions took place between the council and some key property owners and leaseholders that would be affected by proposals to relocate their facilities in early October. RPS Ltd have been instructed to follow up with all of the relevant stakeholders to determine the viability of the options being considered. Additionally RPS have been asked to explore an option that does not necessitate relocating existing occupiers but aims to gain space for the public realm and new activities by a combination of reduced parking provision and land reclamation. A foreshore licence will be required for all of the off shore works agreed following the completion and approval of the Bray Harbour Feasibility Study and the Bray Harbour Masterplan. It is hoped that we will be in a position to appoint a consultant for the detailed design of all the works before next summer.

MARITIME

There are a number of Offshore Wind Energy projects proposed off the coast of County Wicklow

- Dublin Array – Bray and Kish Banks
- Cailleach – off Bray Head
- Codling Wind Park between Greystones and Wicklow
- Arklow Bank between Arklow and Wicklow Head
- Shelmalere just south of Arklow

Arklow Bank

SSE Renewables has submitted a planning application to An Bord Pleanála for the development of the landfall for two offshore export circuits underground high voltage connections, a new sub-station and transmission compound along with a 220kV overhead power line connection from Shelton Abbey to the transmission network.

SSER has made an application to Wicklow County Council in respect of the O&M base at Arklow.

Codling Wind Park

The Codling Wind Park has published its Onshore Infrastructure Scoping Report which covers the land-based elements of the Codling Wind Park project, such as the point at which the cables will come ashore (landfall), the routing of onshore cabling and any electricity substation(s) that may be required to connect the project to the national grid. It also describes how the operations and maintenance base for the project, which will be located at a port along the east coast, may be considered in the EIA.

The Codling Wind Park has announced its decision to base its operations and maintenance facility at Wicklow Port. This will provide 75 skilled jobs over the 25 to 30 year lifecycle, plus another 40 jobs during construction. The construction of the windfarm itself will employ 1,000

Offshore Renewable Energy Support Scheme

Under the RESS energy providers bid for connections to the national grid. This is a major milestone for the offshore windfarms. If their bid is not successful the projects will not proceed. The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has opened a consultation on the first auction to supply electricity from offshore wind under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS 1). The aim of this targeted consultation is to engage stakeholders and gather feedback on aspects of the Terms and Conditions to ensure the efficient and economical delivery of renewable electricity projects under ORESS 1.

Key policy objectives of the RESS 1 include:

- increasing energy security, energy sustainability and ensuring the cost effectiveness of energy policy;
- providing for community participation through community benefit funds;
- increasing technology diversity – by broadening the renewable electricity technology mix;
- delivering an ambitious renewable electricity policy to 2030;

The consultation document covers issues such as state consent, bidding independence, grid connections, bidding mechanisms, bid bonds and performance securities and offshore community benefit funds.

Wicklow County Council made a submission by the closing date of 6th December:

Submission in response to the Draft Terms and Conditions of the First Offshore Competition under the Renewable Energy Support Scheme

At the meeting of Wicklow County Council of 6th December 2021 the members suspended standing orders to pass the following Notice of Motion.

"That WCC email the Dept of Environment, Climate and Communications outlining its wishes for any future Community Benefit Funding generated from the Offshore Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (ORESS) be managed at a local community/council level and not by Central Government."

Points made:

The key asks on behalf of the Wicklow Community are:

- *Investment in harbour and port infrastructure*
- *Development of Marine Enterprise Hubs which will not only facilitate the Offshore Renewables Sector but also related marine businesses such as aquaculture, fishing, chandlery and boat repairs, marine tourism etc. These hubs can play a key role in delivering innovative decarbonisation models for the Irish economy.*
- *Support for local businesses to allow them to take part in the supply chains.*
- *Skills and education development from apprenticeships to level 8 qualifications.*

The preference in County Wicklow is that any Community Benefit funds should be locally managed. We would propose that the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) model be used. This has been operating successfully over the last number of years it includes representatives of the wider community and elected members of the local authority. In addition to community organisations represented on the LCDC the education brief could be broadened, the marine sector could be included as well as the IDA and Enterprise Ireland. Energy Agencies and SEAI should also be represented. Wicklow County Council has previous experience of managing community funds through its role in the Ballynagran Landfill Community Fund.

Local Authorities and LCDCs are about to commence development of the Local Economic and Community Plan. Actions identified in the Local Economic Community Plan could be funded through the ORESS Community Benefit Fund. The actions identified in the (LECP) will have gone through stakeholder engagement and consultation.

As well as looking at existing models currently operated for Community Benefit Funds the ORESS Community Benefit Fund could be modelled on the Development Contribution Schemes in operation by the local authorities.

Traditionally, the following categories of projects have been funded through the onshore Community Benefit Fund

- Education, Skills and bursaries
- R&D particularly projects around achieving carbon reduction and enhancing biodiversity.
- Health, safety and wellbeing
- Environment and habitat conservation
- Culture and heritage
- Recreation, sport and social inclusion
- Energy efficiency and sustainability

There should be a link between each local authority's Local Economic and Community Plan, the Climate Action Plans and local energy and decarbonisation planning undertaken for decarbonisation zones and Sustainable Energy Communities.

Scotland is to the forefront in Offshore Renewable Energy. The Good Practice Review from Scotland's Centre of Expertise connecting climate change research and policy on Community Benefits from Offshore Renewables by David Rudolph, Claire Haggett, and Mhairi Aiken of the University of Edinburgh set out some excellent examples and supports Wicklow County Council's view of the importance of buy in from the impacted communities.

It would be helpful if there was an upfront investment in harbours and in education and skills, at the earliest stage possible. This is in line with the IWEA/Carbon Trust recommendations.

Understandably operators are not in a position to make any upfront capital investment until they have obtained the relevant permissions and licenses. This is where the government could make an upfront investment in the necessary infrastructure and recoup the funding. Ireland's net zero goal will require the development of additional technology and innovation to compliment and create balance in energy supply. Offshore wind development should be accompanied by innovation in storage of energy, development of other renewable technologies and conversion to other energy fuels such as hydrogen. R&D funding should be used to encourage the development of synergies that will balance energy supply and make full use of the grid connectivity. Training/retraining for fishers and R&D into various aspects of fishing, aquaculture and marine opportunities.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE STRATEGY

Funding of €175,000 has been secured via the LEADER Food Programme for a Food and Beverage Co-ordinator role for Wicklow Naturally CLG and a tender for the supply of event costs for the period 2021 - 2023 in support of Wicklow Naturally's Promotional Activities Plan. Wicklow Naturally will contribute 5% from subscriptions and it is proposed that Wicklow County Council will contribute €35,000 over the two year life of the project.

Wicklow Naturally were delighted to host a stand at this years 'Gifted', Ireland's premier Craft and Design Fair in the RDS. Some members had their own stands also and it was a great opportunity to display, promote and buy gifts from Wicklow this Christmas.

The following queries were raised;

- Regarding the Glendalough Masterplan have the Visitor Experience Hubs been identified?
- In relation to the Wicklow to Greystones Greenway and the Coastal Protection Study, has it implications on the route?

Responses

- In relation to the Glendalough Masterplan, hubs have not yet been finalised. Suggested areas include Blessington, Roundwood, Rathdrum, Tinahely/Shillelagh. There will be another round of public consultation in the New Year and this is likely to be online.
- Coastal Protection Study proposed will be either beach nourishment or offshore barriers/breakwaters in particular locations and will not affect the preferred route.

ITEM 6

Report of Head of Enterprise, Leo Supports

ITEM 7

Wicklow County Campus, Content Creation Hub

Ms. V. Delahunt provided a report covering Item 6 and 7 (copy circulated) which covered the following;

LEO Objectives	
To foster an enterprise culture and stimulate enterprise at local level by:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotion of the enterprise message at local level. - Working with the relevant stakeholders in the county to foster entrepreneurship. - Delivering appropriate enterprise training and mentoring to entrepreneurs. - Providing funding options to entrepreneurs, early stage promoters and viable businesses to support growth and development of micro enterprises. - Developing a progression pathway for clients to Enterprise Ireland - Acting as a 'First Stop Shop' for business information and referral 	

METRICS: Grants	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
Grants Approved (number/ value)			
- Measure 1	- 27/€663,778.00	- Meet Demand	-29/ €641,745
- Technical Assistance for Micro Exporters	- 3/€3,850	- Meet Demand	-4 / €6,594 (to date)
NB: Ability to meet demand is influenced by the amount of funding allocated to the LEO			
METRICS: Training/ Capacity Building	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
Total No. of All Programmes (Training/Networking/Events/Seminars)	64	60	63
Start Your Own Business Participant numbers (included in total training programmes)	75	75	119
Total No. of all Participants participating in above Programmes	1542	1000	856
Women in Business Network Number of Meetings	10	12	11

METRICS: Business Advice & Mentoring	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021

Number of new clients added to database	1302	1000	713
Number of One to One Business Advice meetings including Businesses assigned a mentor	803	600	444 (Including Brexit 1-1 Mentoring)

METRICS: Student Enterprise Programmes	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020/2021	2021/2022	Year to Date
No. of Secondary Student Participants	953	1000	Recruitment ongoing

METRICS: Irelands Best Young Entrepreneur	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
Academic Year	2020	2021	Year to Date 2021
Number of Applications	Programme review	Programme review	Programme review

Trading Online Voucher	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	
No of Trading Online Vouchers approved	2020	2021	Year to Date 2021
Trading Online Vouchers	430	70	128 Total value: € 268,059

Lean For Micro Project	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
No. of Companies who have undertaken a Lean for Micro Assessment by a Lean Expert	8	11	9

Microfinance Ireland	HISTORICAL	TARGETS	YEAR TO DATE
	2020	2021	2021
No. of Companies who have submitted a MFI loan application through the LEO	21	23	7

November / December 2021 Activities

- Weekly Business advice Clinics will continue through the month of December finishing for the Christmas break on 21st December and resuming on Monday 10th January.
- Fortnightly newsletter continues to be circulated to the LEO client database outlining supports, training courses, events and other relevant information.
- Social media and LEO website updates are carried out a number of times a week to raise awareness and promote the LEO supports.
- The East Region Food Academy Programme led by LEO Wicklow continues with 10 food producers from the east region preparing to Pitch their Products to the Supervalu buying team early in the new year.
- The Student Enterprise Programme is in full swing in second level schools around the county with in class sessions being delivered by the Student Enterprise co-ordination team. Loreto in Bray were the Winning School in the new Idea Generation competition
- The November Network of Entrepreneurial Women network meeting took place via Zoom
- The 'Stimulus' and 'Lean for Micro' consultancy programmes have concluded for 2021, having assisted 39 high-potential LEO client businesses.
- The Owner Manager Development Programme is proceeding well, with 21 participants.
- Minister Damien English visited the LEO Wicklow offices at Wicklow County Campus to engage with the team members, visit the REDF funded Clermont Content Creation Enterprise Hub at the courtyard, and meet with a number of portfolio clients including Reward Catering, The Foley Lab, Hubbcatt and Green Treat in Arklow. The LEO and Economic Development Team delivered a presentation on Thursday 18th November on the various REDF/URDF and RRDF projects in development. The Minister also enjoyed a lunch of Wicklow produce and was presented with a lamp made by craft designer Eoin Hanley of Copperfish.
- The LEO Wicklow Export Development programme run in partnership with LEO Kildare held its final workshop on 11th November in the Tulfarris Hotel, Blessington with very positive feedback from participants. As a result of the course seven Wicklow businesses are now primed to successfully develop new export markets.
- The next meeting of the Evaluations and Approvals Committee takes place on Tue 7th December with 4 funding applications seeking approval from the committee.
- LEO Wicklow staff compliment to return to pre-covid level from January 2021 but with one additional business advisor specialising in Export Supports.

Business Skills and IT skills Training Programme

The Autumn Winter 2021 business skills training programme is nearing completion and work has commenced on developing the Spring Summer 2022 Training Programme with some courses open for bookings through our online portal on www.localenterprise.ie/wicklow.

Business Skills Training Courses recently held:-

- ✚ Content Creation & Copywriting 3rd November (17 participants)
- ✚ Effective use of Social Media, Intermediate level: 11 November 2021 (12 participants)

Business Skills Training Courses available for bookings on our website include:-

- ✚ Customs Queries Answered (One to One) 16th November
- ✚ Data Protection & Security in a Virtual World – 24th November
- ✚ Digital Marketing Advice Clinics (One to One) – 6th December
- ✚ Innovate Wicklow!: A Masterclass in Strategic Design for Innovation and Supports for Innovation, 9th December
- ✚ Start Your Own Business Course – 18th January 2022
- ✚ Trading Online Voucher Seminar – 20th January 2022

Update LECP Economic activities:

Clermont Enterprise Hub development:

- Contracts were signed with the appointed Construction contractor on 25th August, with a photo opportunity to promote the development of the Hub. Contractor to move onsite week 13th September for construction to commence.
- Great progress has been made stripping of the courtyard buildings of old plaster / ceilings / floors and roof for refurbishment. Foundations to go in for the new building. The steps in the main hall have been removed to allow for upgrade of the conference centre. Second floor refurbishment into private office to commence shortly.
- Next Board of Directors meeting scheduled for 16th December 2021.
- REDF advance payment request was approved by the Invest Committee in Enterprise Ireland to assist with keeping the project on track to meet it's milestones. Wicklow County Council transferred funds to cover first three construction invoices (November till January).
- Promotion and marketing of facilities to commence, Q1 2022
- Recruitment of Centre Manager Q1 2022 depending on construction progress.
- Foul drainage system to be developed for the whole campus concurrently. Topographical and CCTV surveys carried out to inform the design.
- Screen Development Strategy for County Wicklow: Roundtable event with industry has been rescheduled for early January 2022. Final Strategy report due shortly.
- Clermont Enterprise Hub CLG has been approved a funding application for €300,000 funding for screen skills training courses and work placements under the East Coast Crew Development Hub Initiative at Screen Ireland. Funding agreement to be agreed by Board of Directors and signed by end 2021.
- Recruitment for a Co-ordinator of the Crew Development Hub to commence in Q1 2022.

Mid East Regional Enterprise Plan 2021-24

The Draft Mid East Regional Enterprise plan has been circulated to the wider steering committee for final feedback and suggestions. The focus on actions around Screen Content Industry and Hub development, Network of Remote working Hubs, renewable energy / Maritime opportunities and Enterprise Hub, Offshore Wind training facility at Wicklow County Campus, as well as a Food Development Incubation Hub in Co.Wicklow.

Plan to be launched in Q1022.

Chairman G. Walsh acknowledged on behalf of the committee the work carried out by LEO in what has been really challenging times for businesses for almost two years now.

Vibeke Delahunt also added an additional Export Advisor has been appointed to help businesses in developing new markets and will be with the LEO office for the next year.

ITEM 8

Blessington Greenway Update

Ms. S. Nichols provided a report to the meeting (copy circulated) regarding all Greenway proposals;

Greystones to Wicklow Greenway

The coastal route is approximately 20km in length, extending between the southern end of the Bray to Greystones cliff walk at Greystones harbour to the Murrough Car Park at Wicklow.

- Status
Currently at phase 1
The Feasibility Study is complete with an emerging preferred route. In summary, it is considered that it is potentially feasible to develop a coastal route through the designated conservation area of the Murrough Wetlands SAC / SPA without impacting on the qualifying interests of the SAC if the route is developed so as to ensure there is no disturbance to birds species nor impact on the sites qualifying interests (i.e. habitats) and features of interest (i.e. species) of the sites. It is considered likely that there will be significant impacts, which have the potential to be mitigated for, on the Annex I (non-qualifying interest) Fixed Dune system which runs alongside the railway line. Alongside this a Coastal Protection Study has been completed between Merrion Gates and the County boundary between Wicklow and Wexford. In order to advance and complete this Coastal Trail Feasibility Study, the preferred route that has been recommended is neutral of any potential Coastal Protection Study recommendation.
- Milestones / Phases expected 2022
Based on the Feasibility Study that has been completed further reports and studies will be required to be submitted as part of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála. It is planned to progress this in 2022, subject to funding and review of the Coastal Protection Study.

Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway

The proposed Greenway will be approximately 33km in length and will commence at Shillelagh village south of County Wicklow. The proposed route will follow the disused Woodenbridge to Shillelagh Railway Line which lies adjacent to the banks of the Derry River, Aughrim River and Avoca River. It will run through villages Tinahely, Aughrim, Woodenbrige eventually connecting to Arklow Town.

- Status
Currently at Phase 1.
Route has been identified. The consultants appointed for the scheme are completing the reports to accompany the Natura Impact Statement planning submission which is planned

be lodged to An Bord Pleanala by Q1/Q2 2022. Land Access procedure (creation of public right of way or Compulsory Purchase Order, with a leaning towards CPO) will be confirmed once planning documents reviewed by Law Dept. This process will take place at the same time as the planning process.

- **Milestones / Phases expected 2022**

It is planned that planning and land access would be in place by mid 2022. Any amendments or modifications would then be incorporated and detailed design complete. Plan to start construction in early 2023 and duration is considered at this stage to be 18-24 months bringing the completion date to late 2024, subject to funding etc.

Blessington Greenway

Wicklow County Council has obtained Part 8 planning permission to construct a Greenway around the lakes of Blessington. The new Greenway will cover approximately 42.4kms of walking and cycling trails mostly through the forest and woodlands. The Greenway will link into the existing 6.5km Greenway to the south of Blessington Town which links the town with Russborough House. The scheme runs through ESB lands and a licence Agreement will be in place for the scheme and lands needed.

- **Status**

Currently at Phase 1

The scope of works for the project was changed during the process of route identification. These project changes triggered the need to review the environmental reports undertaken to date, which has led to the project requiring a NIS and a planning submission to ABP. It is planned to lodge new planning documents end 2021.

- **Milestones / Phases expected 2022**

Plan to start construction Q2 2022 with an 18 months construction period.

It was noted that following the submission of planning documents to An Bord Pleanala, the Blessington eGreenway website would be updated with all the relevant information.

ITEM 9

To note the change in Chairperson of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC, as agreed by the Corporate Policy Group

Outgoing Chairman Cllr. Gerry Walsh thanked all the members for their support, attendance, contribution and thanked the officials also. He wished incoming Chairman Cllr Tom Fortune the best of luck in his term as Chairman.

Cllr Tom Fortune also wanted to say well done on Cllr. G. Walsh's term as chair and he looks forward to getting involved as the Chair in the next meeting and working with the group on an ongoing basis over the next couple of years.

The members of the SPC while welcoming Cllr. Tom Fortune to the role also thanked Cllr. Gerry Walsh for his work as Chairman and his accessibility over the years.

Cllr. Pat Kennedy thanked Cllr. Gerry Walsh for all the work he has done over the last number of years as Chair and his accessibility over this timeframe. He also thanked everyone for their presentations which had a huge amount of information and looks forward to working with Cllr Tom Fortune as the new Chair.

Cllr Mary Kavanagh also extended her thanks for G. Walsh's input over the last 2.5 years and chairing these meetings and the best of luck to incoming Chair in his term.

Christine Flood and Vibeke Delahunt extended their thanks on behalf of the officials to Cllr G. Walsh for steering the committee so well, for his commitment and attention to detail over the last couple of years. They also wished incoming Chair Cllr. Tom Fortune the best of luck and look forward to working with him.

ITEM 10

Correspondence

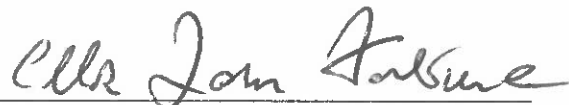
There was no other correspondence that had not already been dealt with during the course of the meeting.

ITEM 11

Date and Time for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC will take place on Monday 14th March 2022 at 10am.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

DATE:

