

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC POLICY
COMMITTEE (SPC) MEETING IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER/ (MICROSOFT
TEAMS/HYBRID) HELD ON MONDAY 19th May 2025 2.30pm**

Present: Cllr. Caroline Winstanley, Caroline Fox, Máire Halvey (Hybrid), Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. John Snell, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr Warren O Toole, Cllr. Miriam Murphy (Hybrid), Niamh Wogan, Mai Quaid.

Apologies: Michael Nicholson, Irene Sweeney, Colm Moules.

In Attendance: Susanne Hall, Clara Jenkinson, Orlagh Hall, Diarmuid O' Keeffe

Chairperson Cllr. Caroline Winstanley opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Item 1. Adoption of the minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 24th of March 2025 were noted and adopted by Mai Quaid and Niamh Wogan. Caroline Fox gave the list of apologies.

The SPC passed a vote of sympathy to Michael Nicholson for his father Michael Nicholson Snr.

Item 2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Item 3. Project Ireland 2040 Rural Regeneration Programme Updates

The Chair asked if there were any issues arising from these Updates:

Cllr. John Snell mentioned that CLAR funding is quite restrictive and only a small number of groups that can apply for it. He asked could a report be emailed on how much funding has been drawdown and breakdown of the funding. Susanne Hall stated she will provide this CLAR funding information from the last 5 years. Maire Halvey noted that the CLAR funding is based on population, Caroline Fox added that the CLAR is for less populated areas, and they do not have other opportunities. Niamh Wogan mentioned that the areas in CLAR have decreased, and the scheme should be reviewed nationally. Caroline Fox added that we must stay in line with Central Government.

Town and Renewal Scheme- pre-2023

In relation to the Ashford Boundary Wall at the GAA pitch, Cllr. Snell mentioned that The Ashford project is still ongoing and is there no deadline for this project. Caroline Fox responded that we could look for an extension from the Department to finish projects and the funding will remain in place.

Community Awards Scheme

Cllr. Snell asked if the Community Awards Scheme need to be seconded and proposed? Máire Halvey replied that the Community Awards were done in conjunction with the District Administrators.

Item 4. Other Updates

The chair asked regarding other issues being raised.

The chair mentioned that Comhairle na nÓg will hold their annual conference in November 2025 and they are doing a recruitment drive as there are only 5 members. Also, they are exploring town twinning activities with Dublin, California, USA. She is looking to create a steering group. Niamh Wogan asked is there going to be a structure in relation to the steering group and will someone represent the young people.

In relation to the Local Community Safety Partnership, Caroline Fox wished Patricia Carmody the best of luck in her appointment as Community Safety Coordinator. Caroline Fox noted that there will be up to 30 members on the Local Community Safety Plan, and there will be a call out for youth representation in relation to this. Cllr. Warren O'Toole asked what was the protocol to going on to the committee for the Youth and what is the age? The chair stated the youth representation are from Secondary School Transition year, and it runs on a two-year cycle, and it will need to be taken to a Council meeting as it requires a standing order.

Cllr Snell welcomed the €10,000 funding for summer activities for the 11 IPAS around Co. Wicklow, but he noted that it is not very much when its spread around the 11 centres. Caroline Fox noted that the IPAS centres can use this funding to set up Summer Camps for the IPAS centres, and she noted that CYPSC are involved. Máire Halvey stated that she will circulate the CYPSC members to the SPC committee. Clara Jenkinson noted that the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) has a challenge of bridging gaps with funding.

The chair enquired with Clara Jenkinson from the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) regards the Integration Policy. The chair noted that it is now a part of our SPC. Clara mentioned that the Policy was released in 2020 and is linked with the National Policy. Clara noted that we are waiting on the National Migration Strategy to be introduced by the Government in the next few months.

The chair mentioned the last strategy was never supported, and no one seemed to take over. She noted the need to make sure it has a proper home. Caroline Fox mentioned that the Covid crisis and the Ukrainian crisis had delayed things, but we were working on it on the ground all the time.

Clara Jenkinson noted that there is a wide remit for the Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT) including Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership, County Wicklow Partnership, and with resident African communities and Polish Communities etc. The chair asked who takes responsibility for this? Caroline Fox replied that National Strategy will govern this across several government departments.

In relation to IPAS centres Cllr. Pat Kennedy mentioned that the Department need to give more warning on what premises are chosen before the deal is made. They need to communicate with the communities in consideration. The chair mentioned she will write a letter to the Department. Cllr. Kennedy asked if the letter could be sent around before it's sent to the Department.

Cllr. Miriam Murphy asked what was happening to the Willow Grove housing in Arklow. Clara replied that the Ukrainians have moved out and they are returning Willow Grove to its original housing purpose.

Item 5: 5 Year Workplan for the SPC

The chair asked to discuss the 5 Year Workplan for the SPC.

The chair mentioned that a year in, and we haven't done any policy work. Caroline Fox replied there will be strategy and policy from time to time within the next 4 years.

Niamh Wogan stated that we should work closely with SING (Social Inclusion Network Group). The chair proposed that both SING and CYPSC should be asked to give a presentation. The chair mentioned that she will do a draft letter and send out to SPC members regarding presentations in the next few weeks. Mai Quaid added that the presentations should be relevant to the SPC.

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan proposed to send a survey out to all members to identify what we want to get from the SPC. The chair will draft a survey, liaise with Máire Halvey and aim to have it out in the next couple of weeks. We can start thinking of key area/ priorities.

The chair mentioned she is hoping to change the SPC and have more strategies / policies created and changed. The survey will hopefully help with this. Cllr Snell asked if all members could give information in relation to the survey? The chair replied she is going to leave the survey broad but is open for anyone to contribute. We can have all the data in before the next meeting.

Item 6: Any other business.

Mai Quaid mentioned that the Age Friendly AGM was postponed until September. €2.9 million has been allocated towards helping older people. Cllr Pat Kennedy noted that these funds help go towards the Housing Adaptation Grants for older people. Susanne Hall also noted you do not have to have a disability to gain access to grant funding.

Mai Quaid also noted that we need better investment in Bus Stops in West Wicklow, there is only one bus stop in West Wicklow, which is a Dublin Bus Stop in Blessington. Caroline Fox noted that we can bring issue of further bus stops to our colleagues in the Roads section.

Cllr Snell mentioned that €500,000 was allocated towards bus stops and bus shelters, but many have not been built yet, he noted that we need these bus shelters for students going to college in Dublin for example. Maire Halvey stated that communities can look for bus stops/shelters through the Transport Directive. Cllr Snell stated that the Council Roads Section should be able to identify where to place bus stops/shelters. Caroline Fox noted this is a discussion for the Transportation section and the National Transport Authority (NTA). Cllr. Snell added that bus shelters are also important for Age Friendly.

The chair added that Age friendly and any disability transport issues raised can be addressed and passed onto the Transportation Section. The chair asked everyone to send a document in relation to bus shelters/ bus stops, and she will forward it on to the road's section engineers.

Mai Quaid noted that the Baltinglass Community Park is officially opening on Monday the 26th of May and wanted to thank Wicklow County Council for all their work.

The chair asked that a vote of sympathy was passed to Cllr. Miriam Murphy on the death of her husband Paul Madigan.

Next SPC Meeting: Monday July 28th 2025

- The chair noted that there were no other issues to discuss, the chair thanked those in attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**Cllr. Caroline Winstanley,
Chairperson.**