

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture
Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on the 18th January, 2017 at 3.00 pm in
Meeting Room 1**

Chairman: Cllr. John Brennan

In Attendance: Cllr. P Dunphy, Cllr. D. Kennedy, J. Burke, M. Brennan, , Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr M. Noonan, P. O'Brien, D. Malone SP, A. M. Walsh SEO, Nicolaas Louw SEP, R. Ryan Community Liaison Officer, B. Strappe ASO,

Apologies: Cllr. P. McKee & Mary Mulholland DOS

Item 1- Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 21st September, 2016 were proposed by Cllr. D. Kennedy, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick and agreed.

Item 2 – Pride of Place Presentation

Ronan Ryan briefed the meeting on Kilkenny County Council's involvement last year in the annual all-island Pride of Place Awards.

Kilkenny County Council put forward three projects, two of which were successful in attaining awards in the competition – Stoneyford Development Association and Piltown Community Enterprise. Ronan Ryan advised the members of the positive role that the Pride of Place Awards plays in promoting and celebrating the best in community development and in the recognition of the selfless efforts of people in making their neighbourhoods better places to live, work and socialise. It is hoped that Kilkenny will expand on its participation in 2017. A discussion followed with contributions made by Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. D. Kennedy & M. Brennan.

Item 3 – Update on Solar Farms

Nicolaas Louw updated the meeting on the status of the solar farms applications to the Planning Authority to date. 10 applications received, 6 granted, 2 refused (both appealed to An Bord Pleanála, one of which the Bord upheld the Planning Authority's decision and the other awaits the decision of the Bord). Nicolaas Louw advised the members of his visit to the first constructed solar farm in Ireland, beside Belfast International Airport. He advised that concerns expressed at previous meetings in regard to glint and glare from solar farms was not an issue at this particular site. A discussion ensued in regard to the drafting of policy in regard to solar farm with contributions being made by Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. D. Kennedy, Cllr. M. Noonan, Cllr. PP. O'Brien, M. Brennan, D. Malone and N. Louw. It was agreed that this item should remain on the agenda for forthcoming meetings.

Item 4 - Forward Planning

- a. Urban Design – Hebron Road, Abbey Creative Quarter
Denis Malone advised the meeting of the Hebron Road Urban Design Strategy which is an objective in the current City & Environs Development Plan. The aim of the strategy is to guide the regeneration and future development of the area as one of the critical approach roads into Kilkenny. The strategy will provide guidance for the

development on the urban form and the public realm. A public meeting and work shop will be take place on 1st February.

Denis Malone advised the members that tenders are being evaluated at the moment on the Abbey Creative Quarter

- b Update LIHAF – Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund
Denis Malone gave a presentation on the Local Infrastructure Housing Application Fund which has become available under the Action Plan for Housing and Homeless ‘**Rebuilding Ireland**’ which was published in July 2016. Kilkenny County Council has submitted 2 proposals for funding (i) a Neighbourhood Park at Aylesbury, Ferrybank and (ii) The Western Environs Planned Neighbourhood. The proposals will be examined by an expert panel in February and the Minister will announce the successful applications and their respective funding in March.

- ‘c. Vacant Site Levy
Denis Malone gave a presentation on the Vacant Site Levy which was introduced under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 to address the housing supply shortage, stimulate increased activity in the construction sector and to contribute to economic recovery. Denis Malone advised the group that, as this will require a substantial amount of administration, Kilkenny County Council will adopt a targeted approach to maximum the output versus the administration cost.

Discussion followed with contributions being made by Cllr. M. Noonan, Cllr. D. Kennedy, Cllr. P. Dunphy, Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick.

Item 5 - Evans Homes, Part 8

This item was noted and the meeting was advised that Part 8 approval for the development of an Art Gallery was given at the January meeting.

Item 6 – Update on application for funding under:-

- a. CLAR Programme
Anne Maria Walsh advised the group that Kilkenny Local Authorities have been granted €223,000 in funding under this programme to cover safety improvement works etc. in 9 villages in the county. These works will be carried out by the area offices.
- b. Town & Village Renewal
€380,000 allocated in November 2016. The Local Authority will re-engage with the communities to agree the works to be undertaken in 4 towns.
- c. Rural Economic Development Zone
€200,000 was allocated in November 2016 for improvement works in Inistioge Village and Woodstock Gardens.

Concerns were raised in regard to funding for villages that do not come under the CLAR programme and it was agreed that SPC3 should write to the Department seeking revision of the criteria for funding under CLAR.

Item 7 – Update on Housing Developments

Anne Maria Walsh gave a presentation on housing developments in the County namely under the headings taking in charge, bonds, National Taking in Charge Initiative, IBRC bonds, enforcement and the National Survey. Cllr. J. Brennan thanked Anne Maria Walsh and all the staff involved on the work done to date on the estates in question.

Item 8 – Any other business

Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick extended the sympathy of the committee to R. Ryan and Cllr. D. Kennedy on their recent bereavements.

Item 9 – Fix date of next meeting

It was agreed that the meetings for 2017 would take place on Wednesday 12th April, Wednesday 12th July and Wednesday 11th October. All meetings will take place in Meeting Room 1, County Hall, John Street. Further meetings to be arranged if required.

That concluded the business of the meeting.