

Chairman's Report of
SPC 1 Meeting of Economic, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and
Development Policy

Held via MS Teams on Thursday 6th October 2022

1. Mr. Denis Malone noted that the preparation of the Masterplan for the HSE's St. Canice's Campus is ongoing. Once a draft plan is available, it will be presented to the Council and HSE before it is placed on public display.
2. Mr. Malone provided an update on the Abbey Quarter regeneration projects, noting that a Part 10 Planning application to An Bord Pleanala was required with regards to the Urban Park and Street. The Urban Park & Street project is currently in detailed design and works will commence on site in Q1 2023 and will be complete in the Autumn 2024. Mr. Malone also provided an update on the North Quays SDZ.
3. Ms Aileen McGrath gave an update on the activities of the Local Enterprise Office, year to date, including information on the upcoming design workshop taking place in the Parade Tower on 18th November.
4. Mr. Malone provided the following update on Tourism activities including the following: Lighting up key buildings along the Medieval Mile, including Johns Bridge, Town Hall, St Canice's Cathedral, the Court House and the Tholsel. Mr. Malone also advised that plans are ongoing for the development of a unified tourism attraction at the Tholsel. Mr. Malone also noted that Smithwick's Experience had now re-opened to the public. Kilkenny Day will take place on the 9th October and will consist of a programme of events across the city and county. It was noted the Team Up to Clean Up initiative was also taking place that day.
5. Mr. Malone advised that the 24km South East Greenway has been awarded in 7 lots with lot 1-3 being now at practical completion. Lot 5 has been divided into two sections of equal length comprising Lot 5a (Ferrybank to Luffany) and Lot 5b (Luffany to Aylwardstown South). Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) have undertaken a final review of the tender documentation for Lot 5a and it is anticipated that the works tender will be advertised in the coming weeks. The review of the design to rock cutting faces for Lot 5b in accordance with TII specifications is ongoing. In a joint initiative Kilkenny County Council with Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and Trail Kilkenny, engaged the services of Punch Consulting Engineers to prepare a Feasibility Study & Route Selection Report to develop a Link between the South East Greenway and Woodstock Estate Inistioge. Works had been progressing over the summer months and it is anticipated that the draft Feasibility Study will be ready over the next few weeks.
6. Ms. McGrath advised that consultants, Turley & Co who have been appointed to assist with the delivery of the 2023-2028 LECP are working on an agreed timeline for project closure by April 2023. Public and stakeholder consultations took place in September and October. In relation to next steps she advised that the, the Advisory Steering group will meet in early November to consider the findings from the public and stakeholder consultations. Following this, it is proposed to organise a joint SPC1 and LCDC meeting to agree the final document. A draft of the socio – economic statement taking into the account the public consultation would

be circulated to all members of these committees in advance of this meeting. The Chairman also suggested that the draft socio – economic statement be presented to the Elected Members at the next suitable Plenary Meeting.

7. Mr. Malone advised that the public consultations for the **Loughmacask masterplan** will be on the 10th and 17th October.
8. The Planning Section have been working in collaboration with the LGMA to introduce e-planning and it is envisaged that e-planning will go live in Kilkenny County Council before the end of Q3 2022. It will then be possible to register as a user and submit planning applications online to Kilkenny County Council.
9. With regards to the Vacant Premises Levy, Mr. Malone advised that this will be replaced by a new tax. This has been trialled in Tipperary.
10. Mr. Malone also went through the following
 - Taking in Charge
 - Conservation Office and Grants Schemes
 - Building Control – noting that 239 valid commencement notices were submitted for the first 8 months of 2022.
11. Cllr. Maria Dollard advised that she had recently visited Boheim in Denmark with Made in Kilkenny group. Cllr. Dollard suggested inviting a member of Made in Kilkenny to the SPC1 Meeting in December.
12. Cllr. Dollard sought clarification on 3 matters – Housing at the Abbey Quarter site, the temporary nature of the Car Park and the valid disability access table which is contained in the progress report. In response, Mr. Malone provided an update on the review of the Masterplan and said that 30% of the site is committed to residential. He re-iterated the importance of quality of life and mobility on the Abbey Quarter Site. Mr. Malone also confirmed that the Car Park is temporary. The table in the progress reports relate to the submission of Disability Access Certs which new developments which have public access must have in place prior to opening to the public. It is a requirement under the Building Control Regulations
13. Cllr. Michael Doyle had a question with regards to the Ministerial Direction on Windfarms, asking if An Bord Pleanala could over rule the City and County Development Plan. Following the adoption of the County Development Plan the OPR made a recommendation to the Minister recommending the Minister issue a Direction to the Council relating to its policy on windfarms. The Minister has yet to decide on the OPR recommendations and there is no time limit on the Minister’s decision.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday 8th December in Council Chambers.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____