



Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 10 September in Áras Chill Dara, Naas.

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Ivan Keatley

Present: Cllr. Pádraig McEvoy, Cllr. Seamie Moore, Cllr Kevin Duffy, Cllr. Peggy O'Dwyer, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Majella O'Keefe, Ms. Evonne Boland

Also Present: Eoghan Ryan, Director of Services; Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Services; Jacqui McNabb, Head of Enterprise; Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Cllr. Robert Power, Cllr Michael Coleman

1. Conflict of Interest Declarations

The Cathaoirleach advised the members that it was a requirement at all strategic policy committee meetings for members to declare any potential conflicts of interest for items under discussion at the meeting.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 9 July 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were proposed by Councillor McEvoy and seconded by Councillor O'Dwyer and duly adopted.

3. To receive an update from the Head of Enterprise

Ms. Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Economic Development gave an update in respect of economic development [see Appendix 1]. She highlighted a number of areas of activity in respect of:

- Economic Support Forum
- Economic Forum
- Local Enterprise Office
- Shop Front & Accessibility Grant Scheme
- Midlands East Regional Innovation Think Space (MERITS)

She noted that there was a high demand for services as a result of Covid-19 and a move to online activity including training and the online voucher scheme. Projects for 2021 included a Vacant Site Initiative. Supports for the tourism sector and specific measures to help the equine industry. She expected that a draft Economic Strategy would be presented to the committee before the end of the year.

Following a discussion, Ms. McNabb added that the Local Enterprise Office was at capacity at present prioritising emergency contacts from the business sector which meant that they were not in a position to get to some areas of work. She highlighted a number of areas:

- Virtual business coffee mornings with one held already.
- Tendering process for the Athy Food Hub design team had commenced.
- Strong uptake on the restart grant.
- Working with entrepreneurs on using vacant premises but conscious not to negatively affect existing business.

She advised that it was intended to bring a Vacant Premises Initiative to the next meeting of the committee.

The Cathaoirleach advised on the importance of consultation with the elected members in respect of any vacant premises initiatives.

4. To receive an update from the Director of Planning and Strategic Development.

The Director of Service, Mr. E Ryan gave an update on the work of the Planning and Public Realm Department. He advised the committee that the level of planning applications was on the increase and noted that well over 2,000 residential units were granted to date in 2020 with significant development approved for Celbridge and Clane

in particular. In addition a number of significant renewable energy projects had recently been granted including a 12 turbine wind farm and two solar farms.

He noted that the Council were in contact with Irish Rail regarding the DART+ project including issues such as park and ride, bridges and level crossings.

In respect of Forward Planning, he highlighted a number of areas of work:

- work had commenced on an Issues Paper for the review of the County Development Plan including energy, open space, infrastructure, housing etc.
- Ongoing work on Local Area Plans with Athy and Naas (with additional supporting reports & assessments) to go on public display before the end of the year. Kildare and Maynooth were prioritised for early 2021.
- Other areas of work include a masterplan for Confey and an Urban Design plan for Millennium Park.

There was a discussion on the issues in respect of the electrification of the rail line to Maynooth and the need to extend the project to Kilcock and work on the Dublin to Monasterevin line.

Councillor McEvoy raised concerns about the strategic housing process and the powers of An Bord Pleanála usurping the powers of the elected members in this regard.

It was agreed that the elected member would bring the matter to full council in respect of the strategic housing process.

5. Formation of Historic Monuments Committee

The chairman advised that the report in respect of nominations to this committee had been circulated to the Committee [Appendix 2]

On the proposal of Councillor Moore and seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was **resolved** to accept the recommendation of the committee as to the membership of the Historic Monuments Committee.

It was agreed that the Committee should report back biannually with an update to the Strategic Policy Committee. It was noted that the Committee had a membership concentrated on the Naas municipal district which should not detract from the countywide focus of the committee.

6. Social Infrastructure Audits

Mr. Edwin O'Meara, Executive Planner, gave a presentation on the above [See Appendix 4]. He highlighted the work in respect of Social Infrastructure Audits, in particular on Education, childcare, Health, Sports and Recreation and Parks/Open Space. He advised that work was completed in respect of Naas and Leixlip and work was ongoing in respect of Athy and Kildare

There was a general discussion on the process with all committee members welcoming the progress in this regard. Councillor McEvoy suggested that the figures should be up to 2031 rather than the lifetime of the local area plans. Ms. Boland said that it would be insightful when the entire county completed.

The importance of continued cooperation with the All-Ireland Research Observatory (AIRO) and the use of GIS was highlighted.

7. Open Space and Recreation Strategy 2021-2031

Ms. Jane O'Reilly, Executive Planner, gave a presentation on the above [Appendix 5]. Ms. O'Reilly outlined the purpose of the proposed strategy and advised the committee that they were now seeking submissions from the public over the next six weeks, after which a strategy would be prepared and brought back to this Committee before approval by full Council.

There was a general discussion on the issues raised and the consultation process was welcomed.

8. Referral from Council Meetings

It was agreed that these would be deferred to the next meeting.

9. To consider a Work Programme

Mr. E. Ryan advised the members that the draft work programme had been circulated and it was agreed to proceed on the basis of the programme as outlined [Appendix 3].

10. Any Other Business

Councillor Moore acknowledged the work of Mr. Michael Kenny, Senior Planner who had recently retired.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 8 October 2020.

The meeting closed.

Councillor Ivan Keatley

Chairman

APPENDIX 1

Report from Ms. Sonya Kavanagh, Director of Economic Development

Economic Development	
Economic Support Forum	<p>In response to the extension of localised lockdown imposed on Kildare and in order to co-ordinate a focused response and support for businesses in the County; Kildare County Council established an Economic Support Forum.</p> <p>The forum is made up of representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, Kildare Failte (Kildare's Tourism Board), the Cathaoirleach, the Local Enterprise Office and other Kildare County Council business support personnel. We have kept the membership to a select, but representative, few in order to oversee a large programme of work in a relatively short timeframe.</p> <p>This forum provides a co-ordinating role to ensure that businesses in the County are supported during this exceptionally difficult and challenging time.</p>
Economic Forum	<p>The draft Economic Strategy is in the process of being amended to take into account the Economic Recovery Campaign (Kildare Open for Business).</p>
LEO	<p>Local restrictions now formally lifted. Service demand is still extremely high. Mentoring continues with now over 500 one to one specialist expertise and mentoring sessions completed</p> <p>Training continues to book out on-line with 2,500 Businesses availing to date.</p> <p>Over 328 Trading on-line vouchers processed circa €1.1 million in state aid provided.</p> <p>A virtual 'Sustaining Business' open day with 7 agency contributions was held on 20 August outlying multi agency supports - 256 businesses logged on.</p> <p>A publicity campaign has been running through all media to ensure businesses are aware of all the funding options available to them.</p> <p>New virtual business coffee morning launched on 7 September. The first guest was Sean Gallaher. 66 businesses tuned in and response has been extremely positive. These Monday leadership talks will continue until the end of 2020.</p> <p>Plans are been developed for additional resources and focus now required to concentrate on getting Kildare based businesses through the next few Months and best placed to meet the challenges of a new deal Brexit.</p>

Shop Front & Accessibility Grant Scheme 2020	Municipal District	Allocated Amount
	Kildare-Newbridge	€33,458
	Athy	€29,942
	Naas	€11,048
	Clane-Maynooth	€6,392
	Celbridge-Leixlip	€1,698
	Total Allocated	€82,538
	<p>MERITS</p> <p>The completion of the MERITS (Mid East Region Innovation Think Space) building in Naas will realise a vision to serve the emerging technology sector by connecting organisations and people and acting as a centre of excellence in supporting innovative companies across the county and wider region.</p> <p>Construction on the site commenced in November 2019 and is expected to be substantially complete by December 2020. This development is being funded by KCC and Enterprise Ireland.</p> <p>Equine Tech Innovation Hub</p> <p>Plans are well progressed to develop an Equine Tech Innovation Hub as a sectoral stimulus to develop an equine innovation hub of enterprise, innovation, applied research, commercialization and learning. Uniquely, it will offer a single access source of equine technical and entrepreneurial innovation. The hub will be located in the Irish National Stud.</p> <p>Athy Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub</p> <p>In 2019 Coca Cola made a contribution of €500,000 towards the development of the old Model School in Athy into a Food, Drink & Skills Innovation Hub. Further funding of circa €476,000 has been secured under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This funding will allow for this project to be brought through planning and detailed design.</p>	
Focus for 2021	<p>Vacant Premises Initiative</p> <p>Supports for the Tourism Industry</p> <p>Supports for the Equine Industry</p> <p>Streamlining the process for LEO grant applicants</p> <p>Delivering a network of hubs across the county</p>	

APPENDIX 2

Report in Respect of Formation of Historic Monuments Committee

Introduction

The Historic Monuments Advisory Committee (HMAC) was established under the National Monuments Act 1930, Section 22. The Monuments Committee has been in existence in Kildare since 1940's. The Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee is one of two remaining Historic Monuments Advisory Committees in the country.

Work of the HMAC

The HMAC was established for the main purpose of providing Kildare County Council with advice and assistance in relation to the preservation and protection of national monuments. The committee provides advice to the Council, Local Authority staff and local community groups on the care of monuments and graveyards and carries out necessary conservation works or general maintenance of monuments in the care of Kildare County Council. The committee liaises with the Historic Monuments section of the Department of Cultural, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding consent for works and agreement on method statements.

The committee also carries out a number of graveyard clean-up programmes and liaises with local groups and caretakers in the maintenance of graveyards and in the sourcing of additional funding to carry out works.

Projects completed in recent years

Grey Abbey

Clane Abbey

Donaghcomper Church Ruins

Tipper Church,

St. Patrick's Chapel Ardrass

Downings Cemetery

The HMAC also arranges a maintenance programme of trimming and spraying of monuments sites to control the impact of vegetation.

Membership of the HMAC

The HMAC is made up of a number of Councillors (2) as well as members of the local community (7) who have practical experience or specialist knowledge of or interest in architecture, archaeology or relevant area and relevant local authority officers including the architect with responsibility for conservation of monuments in Council care. The membership of the Kildare Historic Monuments Advisory Committee was traditionally nominated by the County Council. The committee is supported in their work by a number of local authority staff, including the architect, Local studies librarian, TII, archaeologist, conservation officer and the heritage officer.

Formation of the new Committee

15 No nominations were received for the Historic Monuments advisory Committee, listed below:

Paddy Behan

Killian Brennan

Sean Byrne

John Colgan	Evan Comerford	Hugh Crawford
Noel Dunne	Sharon Greene	Mark A Guernon
Eamonn Kane	Tony Maher	Brian McCabe
Denis McCarthy	Dr Rob O'Hara	Maurice Reidy

The nominations were assessed using the following criteria:

- Representative from each Municipal District
- Special skills/knowledge
- Experience and knowledge of Historic sites/ structures in Kildare
- Previous HMAc experience and knowledge of the work of the committee
- Following assessment, it was agreed to increase the total number of the committee to 7.

Recommendations from the assessment of nominations

The following are the recommendations for the Historic Monuments Committee

- John Colgan Celbridge/Leixlip MD nomination
- Sharon Greene Athy MD nomination
- Mark A Guernon Athy MD nomination
- Paddy Behan Naas MD and former knowledge of HMAc
- Liam Kenny Naas MD*
- Hugh Crawford Naas MD*
- Maurice Reidy Naas MD

The following staff provide support to the committee:

- David Creighton Architects
- Walter Holden Architects
- Kevin Murphy Local Studies
- Noel Dunne TII archaeologist
- Peter Black Conservation Officer
- Bridget Loughlin Heritage Officer
- Barry Kinane Housing/Secretary

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning appointed Cllr Seamie Moore from the SPC and Councillor Tracey O'Dwyer was appointed from full council.

Recommendation

The Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC approve the above nominations.

Appendix 3
Potential Work Programme 2020

No.	Item
1	Economic Development Strategy for the County.
2	Monitoring of National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) and objectives for the Dublin Metropolitan Area Spatial Plan (MASP)
3.	Preparation of the County Development Plan Issues Paper – required in as part of the formal statutory pre-plan consultation process.
4	Referrals from Council:
4.1	Cllr. Feeney: Review Childcare Provision in Maynooth to assess if it meets current and projected demographic growth of the town.
4.2	Cllr. Liston: New measures to ensure highest standards are set for environmental assessment and protection in all planning applications.
4.3	Cllr. Pender: Investigate and implement a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), involving relevant stakeholders and the Gardai
4.4	Cllr. McEvoy: Review policies around public parking in the context of urban renewal, cycling and pedestrian amenity with associated benefits to health and well-being, changing economic models and the transition towards a carbon-neutral societies.
5	Review of the Rural Housing Design Guide/Rural Housing Policy to include a policy/implementation strategy on cluster developments in rural areas.
6.	County Wide Open Space & Recreation Strategy
7.	Kildare Pollinator Plan – Draft proposed to be reviewed/endorsed by SPC prior to going to Full Council.
8.	Public Participation Process – pilot?
Potential Work Programme for 2020-2021	
9.	Review Part 8 Process
10.	Wind/Energy Guidelines (await DHPLG Guidelines).
11.	Consideration of policy towards best practice in design by means of an Annual Awards Scheme.
12.	Signage policy in conjunction with Transportation and Environment SPC
13.	Development Contribution Scheme – Review 2021/22
14.	Taking in Charge – Section 180s (regular ones; awaiting final tic from Council). Operational matter – regular updates prior to MDs – perhaps reinstate. Policy – timelines.
15.	Social Infrastructure Audit/Matrix

APPENDIX 4
Social Infrastructure Audits

APPENDIX 5

Open Space and Recreation Strategy for County Kildare 2021-2031