



Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee
Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 1 December 2022 via Video Conferencing.

Cathaoirleach: Councillor Rob Power

Present: Councillor Michael Coleman, Councillor Kevin Duffy, Councillor Ivan Keatley, Councillor Pádraig McEvoy, Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer, Mr. David Caffrey, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Majella O'Keefe,

Apologies: Councillor O'Dwyer, Councillor Seamie Moore

Also Present: Eoghan Ryan, Director of Services; Marion Higgins, A/Director of Services; Gabriel Conlon, Senior Executive Officer; Amy Granville, Senior Planner; Mark McLoughlin, Administrative Officer, Caroline Talbot, Senior Staff Officer.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed Mr. David Caffrey to the meeting who was approved as the Construction Industry Federation nominee to this strategic policy committee at a meeting of Kildare County Council held on 28 November 2022.

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.

The item was noted.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 29 September 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022 were proposed by **Councillor Duffy**, seconded by **Councillor McEvoy** and duly adopted.

3. To receive a Progress Report from the Director of Service, Economic, Community & Cultural Development

Ms. M. Higgins, Acting Director of Service gave an update on the Directorate [See Appendix 1].

The Director highlighted a number of areas of activity including:

- Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub – funding approved.
- Equine Innovation Centre and equine training programmes
- Retail Window merchandising grant
- Shop local support campaign – five week campaign commenced
- Policies – Kildare Diaspora Strategy and Kildare Remote Hub Strategy

Councillor Duffy asked for clarification on the criteria for the National Just Transition Fund for communities transitioning to a low carbon economy, which did not seem to cover the Kildare-Newbridge municipal district area despite the extensive bogland in parts of these areas. Councillor Power said that it was his understanding that GDP was part of the consideration in addition to the level of bogland. Ms. M. Higgins said that the issue could be raised with the Oireachtas members at their annual briefing.

The report was noted.

Planning

4. To receive a Progress Report from the Director of Planning and Strategic Development

Mr. Eoghan Ryan, Director of Service update the Committee on a number of issues including:

- Planning Agents meeting - held on 15/11/22
- Funding for Biodiversity Officer approved
- GIS capacity review completed

- County Development Plan – meeting to be held on 9/12/22
- Kildare Town LAP – Draft LAP in Quarter 1 20223
- Maynooth LAP – Preparation of CE report ongoing.
- Residential Zoned Land Tax – consultation open until 1/1/23
- Online Planning – Quarter 1 2023
- Public Realm Projects

Barrow Blueway: complete by Quarter 3 2023

St Bridget's Well – Works underway by Parks Department

Curragh Plains Strategy – Consultation closed 15/11/22

Mr. G. Prendergast congratulated the Director on the opening of the Potato Market, Naas.

Councillor Keatley asked about the Steering Group for the Barrow Blueway and if there was a role for the municipal district members in this.

Mr. E. Ryan advised the members that the steering group was a technical committee at the moment only but could be expanded at an appropriate time.

Mr. D. Caffrey asked for further details on the Agents meeting and ePlanning.

Mr. M. McLoughlin advised the Committee that this was the first Agents Meeting in a number of years and it was felt necessary to update members on changes in planning legislation and would anticipate holding further meetings in the future. He said that ePlanning was up and running in six local authorities with a significant number of files being accepted electronically.

5. Taking in Charge Policy and Specifications

Mr Jonathan Hennessy, Senior Executive Engineer gave the members a presentation on the draft policy document in respect of the taking in charge of residential developments and advised the members that the presentation was given to the Transportation SPC also and were looking for feedback before sending the policy to Corporate Policy Group and Full Council for adoption.

Councillor Keatley asked about third parties such as utility service providers.
Councillor Duffy asked about the management of EV chargers.

Councillor McEvoy noted that there was now a requirement to calculate the area of open space being taken in charge to assist in calculating grants for residents associations. He noted that developments with creches put a greater burden of road maintenance on the members of management companies due to the increased number of external customers and that some clarity might be needed around vesting documents etc to reduce the risk of open spaces being absorbed nit private spaces.

Mr. D.Caffrey queried the position in respect of EV charging points and highly landscaped areas.

Ms. M.Higgins noted that the Grants systems for housing estates was now moving towards the area of opens space being taken in charge rather than unit numbers.

Mr. Hennessy said that it was not the Council's intention to take charge of EV charging points as it would put an increased burned on the Council or more highly landscaped areas. He thanked the members for their comments and said that he would review in the final document.

6. Serviced Sites Initiative

The members agreed to hold a separate meeting in respect of the Serviced Sites Initiative on Tuesday 13 December at 3 p.m.

7. Work Programme 2023

There was a short discussion in respect of the Work Programme 2023 and the Directors agreed to review for the first meeting in 2023.

8. Any Other Business

Next meeting scheduled for 13 December 2022. The Calendar of Meetings for 2023 will be circulated when available from Corporate Services.

APPENDIX I

Progress Report – December 2022 Economic, Community and Cultural Development

Economic & Enterprise Development

Actions from Mideast Regional plan County Kildare commitments

Strategic Object 1. Position the Kildare as the primary location for the development of the agri food hubs

Action 1.2 The development of the Athy Food, Drink and Skills Innovation Hub.

Successful in acquiring:

€311,000 under Category 2 RRDF funding (Design & Planning)

€4.2m under RRDF Category 1 funding for construction

Construction to commence in Q2 2023

Enable the development and expansion of equine businesses across Kildare

Action 3.1 Established the first National Equine Innovation Centre in Ireland.

Action 3.2 The development of programmes and training to support the equine sector launch q1 2023

Action 3.3 Secured EI RETS funding and conducted a feasibility study to examine the expansion of the National Equine Innovation Centre.

Ensure that the Kildare accelerates the transition to a low carbon economy

Action 4.2 The development of a Green investment and enterprise zone in Allenwood, County Kildare.

€810,000 secured under Just Transition funding for site expansion works

Support the continued development of a positive enterprise ecosystem in the Kildare

Action 5.1 Deliver upon multi stakeholder initiatives that will support Start-Ups, SMEs and microbusiness across the region.

€180,000 Connected Hubs funding for remote working hubs in Naas, Kildare town, Athy,

Athy Business Centre to now operate under guidance from KCC Enterprise & Economic Dev

€50,000 secured under the Hub Marketing (Campaign to be implemented in 2023)

€250,000 awarded for the purchase of the old Bank of Ireland in Monasterevin to repurpose as a hub

€100,000 approved for Athy for Streetscape Enhancement in 2023

€25,000 secured to support food producers participation at festivals

Retail Window Merchandising Grant

This scheme financially assists and supports independent retail business owners to enhance their window displays or for merchandising. The seasonal window display scheme is designed to enhance the visual streetscape of your town. This scheme covers the cost of doing a seasonal window display for the Autumn/Winter period. A Grant up to a maximum of €500 (ex VAT) or 80% of eligible expenditure was made available. The scheme opened on Wednesday 21st September and closes on the 16th November with 13 businesses availing of the grant to date. Similar grant Scheme will open in Nov to mark Bridget 1500

Shop Local Support Local Campaign

A five week Shop Local Support Local marketing campaign has been launched by Economic Development to actively support and promote local retail businesses on the run up to Christmas. The campaign has been designed to create greater awareness amongst the public around the importance of shopping with local businesses over the Christmas period. The 'Shop Local, Support Local' campaign will include radio and newspaper advertising and active social media promotion of local businesses around the county.

Radio advert campaign and support program for those in business worried about energy costs

"Are you in business and struggling to manage your energy consumption and anxious to understand how to reduce your current Energy costs. "Kildare County Councils Enterprise Office is offering all businesses in the County a confidential one on one mentoring session with an industry expert who will help you understand and reduce energy costs in your business. This important 2 hour mentoring session will give you immediate actions to which you can implement into your business alongside valuable tools to help you reduce your energy consumption and costs. This valuable business support service is available throughout the month of November

Event to Celebrate Kildare's Digital Champions 16th November 2023 MERITS 11- 2pm

In celebration of the brands and businesses that have adapted and engaged with their customers in new and innovative ways. Kildare County Councils Local Enterprise Office acknowledged and promoted those who have developed their digital processes, digital marketing impact and e-commerce presence to enhance their product/service winners were selected for :

- Export Champion

- Experience Champion
- Engagement Champion
- Digitisation Champion

Policy launches 2022

Kildare Remote Hub Strategy

Kildare Diaspora Strategy

Program of work 2023 Actions relating to Kildare 2025 ED Strategy

Pillar 1: Indigenous Industry

1.9: The Future of Work

- Commence construction on Athy Food Drink & Skills Innovation Hub
- Complete construction works on Connected Hubs (Athy CEC, MERITS & NEIC)
- Prepare costings and design for funding application for Monasterevin Hub under TVRS
- Prepare costings and design and identify funding stream for Athy CEC Future Skills Workshop
- Appoint a marketing manager to promote the activity across the K Hub Network
- Conduct a feasibility study relating to proposed Kilcock Business Park
- Conduct an economic and technical feasibility study for Kildare Craft Hub Network
- Consider the NEIC Feasibility expansion report
- Support the operations of MERITS and NEIC
- Active engagement on the board of ACDAL

1.10: Upskilling:

- Work with industry to identify courses that meet their requirement or market needs

1.12: SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

- Support social Enterprise initiation and start-ups through targeted programmes and initiatives.
- Provide tailored training for existing social Enterprises

1.13: PLACEMAKING

Complete project with DataDyne to develop the Innovate Kildare brand and website to position the strengths of Kildare

Pillar 2: Foreign Direct Investment

2.1: Develop an overarching investment value proposition strategy and heightened public-private-community intent and collaboration to attract FDI

2.4 Promote and develop key land banks and business parks in conjunction with IDA and Enterprise Ireland targeting key priority business sector

2.5: Carry out Talent mapping exercise to combine workspace and talent available in a marketing package to potential tenants and FDI leads.

2.6: Create a key panel of experts ready to meet and respond to potential investors enquiries/requirements

2.7 Compile a series of case studies from existing FDI companies outlining why Kildare for website

2.8: Create a dedicated liaison person for each existing company

2.11: Host Annual Industry round table forum with CE & SMT

2.12: Appoint a co-Ordinator to implement the Kildare Diaspora Strategy and Outreach Actions

Pillar 4: Equine Industry

4.3: Introduce Ireland's First Equine Technology Accelerator.

4.7: Submit an EU funding application to ensure benefit is derived from pan European equine connections

Pillar 5: Agri food Sector:

5.4: Develop Athy Food Hub

5.6: Support the Flavours of Kildare Food Network to identify funding streams to implement the actions of the food strategy i.e. Rural Innovation Development Fund

Pillar 7: Retail

7.2: Online Retail Acceleration – Liaise with M1 to ensure conversion from Retail clients to TOV

7.3: Retail incubation programme: 2 X Rev Up Retail programmes for 20 retailers

7.4: Increased Adoption of SFG Grant

- Promotion and Launch of SFG Accessibility & Age Friendly Grant Scheme in February and closing in August

- Seasonal Retail Window Scheme all year round

- St Brigid's Day Retail Window Scheme

7.5: Pride of Premise Competition to take place in February

7.6 & 7.7: Age Friendly Retail Programme to be relaunched in Athy and Ballymore Eustace

7.8: Support a programme focused on emerging sustainable retail practices within the circular economy, tracing the new ways retailers from fashion to food can design sustainability into their business model

7.9: Placemaking:

- Promote and administer the Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme

Retail Support & Promotion:

- Year-Round 'Shop Local Support Local' Campaign Initiatives
- Bundled Retail Supports Package to be promoted directly to retailers and vacant property owners
- Retail specific webinars and once off training programmes

Pillar 8: Climate Action & the Green Economy

8.1: Support the development of the Green Enterprise Zone in Allenwood

Support the development of the green tech hub in Newbridge

8.5: Ensure Kildare retail businesses are availing of the Green for Micro Programme

Other:

- Promote and administer the Industrial Parks Improvement Scheme (100k)
- Identify appropriate EU funding streams for submission i.e. REPOWER
- Support business to identify land banks and premises through the Property Portal
- Support the activity and objectives of the CKCN board

Marian Higgins

A/Director of Service

APPENDIX II

Progress Report – September 2022 Planning and Strategic Projects

1. General Update

1.1 Agents Meeting

An agents meeting (for practitioners in planning and development) took place in the Osprey Hotel on the 15/11/22, with an independent facilitator. The session included presentations on online planning, planning file validation, large scale residential schemes; an update on planning policy, heritage, conservation and biodiversity and on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme. It was well intended and well received.

1.2 Biodiversity Officer

Funding has been approved for the recruitment of a new Biodiversity Officer. 22 Local Authorities applied for the funding and 10 were successful. Positions have to be appointed in 2022. This position has now been advertised.

1.2 GIS Capacity and Capability Review – The completed report was presented to Management Team in November, 2022.

2. Forward Planning

The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Kildare County Development Plan were placed on public display between 28 September and 27 October 2022 during which time 266 submissions were received. A Chief Executive's Report was subsequently prepared which summarised all issues raised and included a response and recommendation from the Chief Executive in relation to same. The Chief Executive's Report was circulated to the Elected Members 14 November for their consideration. Motions from the Elected Members have been invited with a deadline of 12pm on 29 November.

The meeting to consider the material alterations and adoption of the County Development Plan 9 December 2022

Kildare Town Local Area Plan 2023-2029

A workshop took place with the Elected Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District on Wednesday the 16 November 2022 in relation to the upcoming draft Local Area Plan. Work is progressing to publish a Draft LAP in Q1 2023.

Maynooth and Environs Joint Local Area Plan 2024-2030

65 no. submissions were received to the pre-draft consultation for the draft LAP. Work is underway regarding the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report in this regard.

Residential Zoned Land Tax –

The Local Authority were required to prepare Residential Zoned Land Maps and undertake a Public Consultation Process.

The public consultation process on the new Residential Zoned Land Tax was launched on the 1 November 2022 and has invited submissions on 16 maps uploaded on the Council's Consult portal. Submissions are invited up to the 1 January 2023.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax will apply to land which has not been developed for housing but is serviced and zoned for residential development. The tax will be 3% of the market value of the land and it will be collected by Revenue.

3. Development Management

3.3 Planning Applications

1,408 Planning applications received year to date with 741 housing units granted. (October 2022).

3.4 Notable Files – Diageo lodged their planning application 28 October. A decision is due to issue by 22 December.

3.4 Planning Administration System

e-Planning- Briefing held on 27 October for all service departments on the roll out of e-Planning in Kildare at the end of Q1 2023. Overview provided as to what e-planning is and how it will impact on the work processes of reporting sections. Service Departments advised to start considering additional equipment required and orders should be raised within the current financial year. Devices for use on site will be trialled by each section. Delivery of these sample devices expected by the end of November.

Tender documents being prepared for replacement system for iplan.

OPR Review Update- Work advancing on addressing recommendations set out in OPR review.

4. Public Realm Capital Works – Strategic Priorities by Municipal District

URDF

There was a meeting with senior officials from the Department of Housing, Heritage and Local Government on 28/11/22 to discuss our URDF Projects, review where we are in the process and what project elements are likely to proceed.

Call 3 of the URDF Programme is likely to be announced prior to the end of year in December and the expected focus will be on vacancy, dereliction, refurbishment and housing in particular as opposed to public realm and community related projects.

Key Project Updates

1. **Newbridge Cultural Quarter – Phase 1 County Library & Archive** – Part 8 presented to MD on 21/09/22. Final details to Part 8 being resolved re agreement with neighbour and design details with Sustainable Transport team. Feasibility Study completed for the New Sustainability and Climate Action Centre – final edits being reviewed.
2. **St. Bridget's Well** – Works underway within the site by Parks Department.
3. **Kildare Square – Phase 1** – Stage 1 design and consultation completed. Final Design details to be worked out having regard to access requirements for local businesses/residents. Meeting to take place with Cathedral reps. Meeting with Failte Ireland to update on project, date to be agreed.
4. **Kildare Square – Phase 2 & Pedestrian Link from Kildare Village Retail Outlet:** Stage 1 design and consultation completed. RRDF funding of €1.75m for site acquisition and design.

5. **Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 2: Sallins to Clonkeen** – TII will fund subject to different stages/gates in the process being followed. Detailed design underway including topographical and geo-technical surveys. Construction is expected to commence Q2 2023
6. **Rathangan Market Square** – Part 8 Approved. Progressing with detail design/Tender documentation but no funding secured yet to advance to Construction Stage.
7. **Kilcullen Market Square** – Part 8 Approved but no funding secured yet to advance.
8. **Curragh Plains Strategy** – Second Stage of the consultation closed on 15th November 2022. This phase of consultation looks for feedback on the proposed policies for the Conservation Management Plan, which were developed on foot of Phase 1, and for feedback on the draft Interpretation and Wayfinding Plan

Athy MD:

1. **Barrow Blueway** – 32km of the 36km of unbound towpath complete, with the remaining unbound surface due for completion March 2023. The detail design of the necessary upgrade to existing road crossings and public lighting is complete. Tender documents being prepared, tender for works to be advertised w/e 19/11/2022. Detailed design for proposed bridge underway, tender early 2023.
Barrow Blueway Marketing Steering Group met on 9 November with representatives from Waterways Ireland, CKLP, Kildare County Council and Laois County Council in attendance. Excellent Presentation by Meinhardt on the ‘Barrow Blueway Placemaking Plan’ with a range of potential actions under the headings of Access, Safety, Conservation & Environment and Experience. It outlines possible interventions, benefits, priority and timing, indicative costs, key stakeholders, users and location.
2. **Emily Square** Detailed Design Complete, tender documents in progress, tender to be advertised end November 2022. Works to commence Q1 2023.
3. **Shackleton Museum** - – Stage 1 of 2 stage tender process advertised on etenders for expressions of interest for a Works Contractor for Shackleton Museum, with a closing date of 25 November. Only had 2 submissions and we may have to retender.

Celbridge – Leixlip MD

1. **Wonderful Barn** – open day consultation took place on Sunday November 13th. Estimated over 500 people attended. Feedback from consultation currently being collated.
2. **Celbridge Parochial House** – TBD.
3. **Celbridge and Leixlip Town Renewal Masterplans** – Feedback from SPPR and internal departments issued to the design team. Meeting with design team and SPPR on 15 Nov to review feedback in preparation of final draft.

Clane – Maynooth MD

1. **Bawnogues Community Centre** – Fully funded by KCC and was due for completion in October, 2022 but it will likely run into Q1 2023.
2. **Harbourfield Park**– Part 8 approved, but funding shortfall to be addressed, in next round of URDF applications.
3. **Prosperous Gateway Design (Traffic Management)** – Surveys underway.
4. **Kilcock Gateway Design (Traffic Management)** – Surveys underway.

Naas MD

1. **Grand Canal Greenway – Phase 1: From Alymer Bridge to Sallins:** Contractor commenced on site in October with a 12 month delivery programme for this 11km stretch. TII have committed to funding the scheme based on the tender return/€6m.

2. **Naas Library** – Building nearly weather proofed, with works in rear yard commenced. Due for completion end of June/early July, 2023.
3. **Potato Market** – Contractor completed Phase 1 works on 25th November and the Naas Farmers Market commenced operations on Saturday 26th November, 2022. Archaeological license from the Department to complete installation of new electricity infrastructure has been issued. The Market was hugely successful, with the stall holders delighted with the venue. The Potato Market was really well received by elected members, politicians and the public.

4. Heritage & Conservation

Heritage Projects Progress

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

Plans being completed.

MD Biodiversity Grant Scheme

A Biodiversity Grant Scheme for Residents Associations will be launched in Nov (LPT Project).

UNESCO World Heritage Designation -Royal Sites of Ireland – Dun Ailinne, Kilcullen

Royal Sites of Ireland added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites tentative list for Ireland. Works has commenced on mapping and appointment of a co-ordinator for the Royal Sites project.

Community Monuments Fund 2022 (€213,570)

- St Michaels Athy- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Tower Moone Abbey- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Tower Kildare Cathedral

Irish Walled Towns Fund (€15,000)

- Conservation Management Plan for Naas Towns Walls- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Conservation of Castledermot Town Walls- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

Heritage Plan Fund (€36,000)

- Kildare Heritage Awareness Project 2022 -Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- County Kildare Hedgerow Survey 2022- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Geophysical Survey-Old Kilcullen- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

National Biodiversity Action Plan fund (€48,000)

- Control of American Skunk Cabbage - Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Development of a methodology for the control of Himalayan Balsam along Liffey- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Biodiversity Awareness- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- Kildare wetlands Story Book and Publication- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

Creative Ireland (€10,000)

- Holy Wells of Kildare, Photography- Competed. Draw down has commenced.
- recording training- Competed. Draw down has commenced.

1. Planning Referrals / Section 5 / Section 57:

Planning referrals to date: 138

Forward Planning: Review of Kildare Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of Maynooth Architectural Conservation Area, Statement of Character, Review of CDP architectural conservation related submissions.

2. Built Heritage investment Scheme (BHIS): – 15 grants awarded €126,400

BHIS scheme complete. 8 grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €72,328.00.

The grants which were utilized were:

- Harristown House, Brannockstown
- The Firs, Naas
- Thatch Cottage, Nurney
- Naas Town Hall (clock)
- Cathedral Church of St. Brigid, Kildare Town
- Gothic Hall, Thomastown
- Glebe House, Leixlip
- Thatch House, Thomastown

3. Historic Structures Fund (HSF) : - 2 grants awarded

HSF scheme complete. 2 grants proceeded in 2022 to a total value of €100,000.

The grants which were utilized were:

- Abbeylands House, Clane
- St. David's Castle, Naas.

4. Thatched Cottage Grant:

€5,000 granted for rethatching of Rooskey Cottage.

Works now complete.

5. Historic Towns Initiative:

The Council was successful in securing €168,931 for the heritage-led regeneration project at the Potato Market, Naas. This is a collaboration project between Heritage and Conservation. This was increased to a maximum value of €248,931, which requires 20% match funding. Works are due to be complete in coming weeks for use of the Naas Farmers Market on 26th of November.

A Part 8 application is currently being developed in collaboration with Public Realm Team for additional works.

6. Heritage Stewardship Scheme:

The Heritage Council awarded €21,000 for a pilot scheme study of Monasterevin under the Heritage Stewardship Scheme. The application titled, RPS: Reform and Reuse, proposes to update the RPS and to include a record of the level of dereliction and vacancy of each structure. Alison Rea Architects was successful tenderer and the project commenced late July. The scheme is now complete and c.150 structures have been reviewed for the RPS.

7. Town Renewal Masterplan:

Advisory role with Public Realm Team of TRM for Allenwood, Robertstown, Kilmeague and Coill Dubh/Coolearagh.

8. Part 8's:

Ongoing advice on Part 8 applications.

Advisory role in feasibility for Wonderful Barn. Attendance at public consultation open day 13th of November.

9. Infrastructure projects:

Ongoing advice with regard to architectural conservation related issues in essential infrastructure projects.

Eoghan Ryan
Director of Service
Planning and Strategic Projects