

# Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Minutes of meeting held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 22 June 2023, Áras Chill Dara

D/Cathaoirleach: Councillor Pádraig McEvoy

Present: Councillor Michael Coleman, Councillor Peggy O'Dwyer, Councillor Seamie

Moore, Mr. Gerry Prendergast, Ms. Majella O'Keefe

Apologies: Councillor Rob Power, Councillor Kevin Duffy, Councillor Ivan Keatley,

Marian Higgins, Emer Ui Fahartha

Also Present: Alan Dunney, Director of Services; Jacqui Mc Nabb, Head of Enterprise,

Gabriel Conlon, Senior Executive Officer; Amy Granville, Senior Planner, Caroline Talbot, A/Administrative Officer, Caroline O'Donnell, Senior Executive Planner, Bridget Loughlin, Heritage Officer, Dr Méadbh Boylan,

Biodiversity Officer, Ruth Kidney, Architectural Conservation Officer, Susan

Bookle, LCDC Co-ordinator

#### 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 23 March 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 were proposed by **Councillor Coleman**, seconded by **Councillor Moore** and duly adopted.

#### 3. Presentation - Conservation, Heritage & Biodiversity

Ms C O'Donnell introduced the team and outlined the areas of work covered. This was followed with brief presentations and overviews for each area given by Ms B Loughlin, Heritage Officer, Dr M Boylan, Biodiverstiy Officer and Ms R Kidney, Architectural Conservation Officer. [Copy circulated].

The presentation and work to date was positively acknowledged by all Councillors and committee members.

The following points were raised:

- de Burgh woodland was not included in funding for 2023 and suggested that alternative sources of funding be sought.
- Tandys Bridge to be included for works and that RPS protection should be placed on the entire town of Naas.
- Completion date for works at Donaghcumper
- Tree felling at the Bower, Celbridge
- Thatched cottage in Prosperous, in the ownership of Kildare County Council requires attention.
- Community Garden at Jigginstown Castle

These were addressed as follows:

- Parks Department are preparing a Conservation Plan for the de Burgh estate, to identify areas designated for public use.
- Works to Tandys bridge would likely be listed for 2024 and a review of the RPS is not on the Works Programme for 2023.
- Contractors would be on site in July at Donaghcumper, and would email details for Contact details for St John of God's who are responsible for The Bower to be forwarded
- Jigginstown Castle is an architectural site, therefore a community garden is unlikely. Following recent contact with the OPW, some landscaping works are to be completed.

# 4. To receive a presentation on the progress of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Presentation by Ms S Bookle and Ms J McNabb on the preparation and progress to date for the preparation of the new LECP, [Copy Circulated], and request approval of the Draft High Level Goals, [See Appendix 1].

The consultation period for the draft document will be July-September 2023.

The following points were raised and addressed:

- Social inclusion, anti-discrimination
- Make document available in other languages
- Promote reduction of car usage over lifetime of plan
- Must comply with Climate Action 2024

Approval of the Draft High Level Goals was proposed by **Councillor Moore**, and seconded by **Councillor McEvoy**.

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

Ms McNabb, Head of Enterprise, gave an update [See Appendix 2]. A number of areas were highlighted including:

- Climate Action Grant
- Merits launching on 23/06/2023
- 70% filling of permanent offices and daily hot spaces
- Shop Access and Shop Front Grants
- Athy Food Hub
- Industrial Parks Improvement Scheme
- Just Transition

The report was noted.

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

Mr A Dunney, Director of Service gave an update on the Directorate [See Appendix 3]. The Director highlighted a number of areas of activity including:

- Serviced Sites Scheme adopted in May
- Local Area Plans
- ePlanning

The report was noted.

### 7. Any Other Business

The committee members have requested the possibility of a process/policy for taking in charge of industrial estates not in the ownership of Kildare County Council.

Next meeting scheduled for 21 September 2023.

# **APPENDIX 1**

Extract from Co Kildare Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)

Socio Economic Statement and Draft High-level Goals June 2023

The Four Draft High-Level Goals of the Co. Kildare LECP 2023-2029 are as follows:

HLG 1	Co. Kildare, is a <b>PLACE</b> with strong communities where people live full, healthy, integrated, inclusive lives.
HLG 2	Co. Kildare, nurtures its' <b>PEOPLE</b> to reach their full potential to enjoy and live a high quality of life.
HLG 3	Co. Kildare, promotes and prioritises CLIMATE ACTION and SUSTAINABILITY.
HLG 4	Co. Kildare, attracts the <b>INVESTMENT</b> to realise its' vision.

# **APPENDIX 2**





# **Enterprise & Economic Development update**

# SPC 22 June 2023

Client Engagement					
M1 Grant verses	allocation	schedule	€	Spent to date 1.6.23	
Budget allocation	Measure 1	В	388,652	318,713	
	Measure 1	B - TAME	40,000	17,862	
	TOV	D	150,000	56,398	
M1 KPI SET BY EI verses actual		Target 2023	% target achieved	Comment 1.6.23	
actual	Financial Support Packages	50	15 cases i.e. 30%	Pipeline below. 6 live cases targeting to bring t June EVAC. Will bring %target to 42%	
	TOV	45	43 cases i.e. 95.5%	Pipeline 15	
	MFI	13	2 cases i.e. 15%	1 cases submitted – decision awaited. 4 applications in Draft.	
Focus on Innovation	<ul> <li>Hosting Agile Innovation Client Event in partnership with Enterprise Ireland June 22<sup>nd</sup> In MERITS, Event includes:</li> <li>Sean McNulty - Event Moderator and Innovation Practitioner</li> <li>Panel discussion on successful local companies R&amp;D</li> <li>Enterprise Ireland's Company R&amp;D Supports team, detailing the Agile Innovation Fund what it's for, eligibility criteria, the application process and how to access our funding supports.</li> <li>Networking lunch         <ul> <li>Agile clinics</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
Focus on Green Climate action	Business Briefing on the Energy Efficiency Grant Tuesday 20th June 12:30pm - 2pm, at MERITS, Naas including a networking lunch. The Energy Efficiency Grant to aid small businesses on their sustainability journey has been announced by Simon Coveney, T.D. Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.				

We are hosting an in-person briefing to review this new support and how to access it as small businesses seek to invest in technologies and equipment to make their businesses more energy efficient. The grant will be available to companies who through participation in the Green for Micro, GreenStart or SEAI Energy Audit programmes have identified the technology and equipment need and benefits. Keynote tbc We will launch Ireland's First Eco-Entrepreneurship SYOB Procurement / Averian **GREEN FOR MICRO:** We want to ensure that our clients are ahead of the curve on sustainability reporting, are not restricted from future funding opportunities because they do not have an energy efficiency plan. Instead we want to ensure that you have a full and complete energy efficiency plan ready to upload, or a system in place to ensure adequate reporting with minimal cost. 1 day training in MERITS, Naas (requirement to bring/have access to energy, waste, water, and transport data/bills) + SITE VISITS **FUTURE PLANED CLIENTS SUPPORTS & EVENTS:** Energy Efficiency Plan Hairdressers/Barbers Energy Efficiency Plan for Beauticians Energy Efficiency Plan for Hospitality and Caterings **Energy Efficiency Plan for Offices** Energy Efficiency Plan for Retail KHubs Energy Efficiency Plan **Focus on Equine** Applying Lean Management Principles to the Operation of an Equine Business Sustainability LOCATION: Collaboration with NEIC DELIVERY FORMAT: ½ Day remote (26th September) / 1 day in person (3rd October) / individual site visits OUTCOME: 10-15 Lean applications Focus on Women in **NEXT EVENT: 20th June: Business** Masterclass on how to Scale Your Business using E-Commerce Co laboration with Platforms, Benefits of Digital Technology **Network Kildare** Focus on **OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE** Manufacturing 11 manufacturing/engineering companies (>5FTE) selected to participate in this strategic programme is designed to accelerate innovation, adoption of digital systems, and productivity. It also critically includes leadership coaching sessions with an organisational psychologist. 1-1 Export clinics with diagnostic Site Visits / trade show visits.

#### **Focus on Retail**

**INNOVATE IN RETAIL:** Looking to future trends in retail we are developing supports for retail owner/managers facilitated on Mondays in MERITS: 26th June

Staying Profitable with Higher Costs & Increasing Competition Lean

Retail Visit: 4 towns left to visit. Over 50 businesses followed up post visit to provide info on LEO/ED supports

Retail Summit: September summit with Age Friendly, Ruth Larkin, Accessibility and Online sales and marketing guru

Age Friendly: Ballymore Eustace will be the pilot town – to commence over summer

Vacant Unit Advertising for KCC Supports — Press release and photo to be prepared for Launch in June

#### **Focus on Tech**

11/17 Tech/innovative start-ups completed MERTIS Pre-Accelerator by pitching to a panel of funders, investors and entrepreneurs on 31st May in MERITS. The winner will be announced on 22nd June at the El Innovation Event.

#### Focus on Soft Supports KPIS v Targets

	TARGET	ACTUAL	PLAN
Training	1224	748	Autumn training schedule to focus on export and e-commerce (Plan to increase capacity of online courses except)
SYOB	144	94	Continue SYOB Sept + Eco SYOB + 2 x CKLP courses BA/Mentoring to cover summer
MDP	70	45	Advanced MDP target of 20 (increase cost to client to €300/€350)  Scaling Export = 15-20  Lean Equine = 15  MDP survey to M1 to understand needs eg coaching vs mentoring etc
Mentoring	468	266	All autumn mentor-clinics confirmed Additional SYOB mentoring, Pre-Accelerator Mentoring, Scale Up Mentoring
Export	4 x FTEx	tbc	Pilot 1-1 export coaching every month
Digital	7	6	Expect leads from OpEx and NK Mentor Clinic
Lean	18	25	Additional 12 from OpEx Leads from WIB to be converted Lean for Retail 26th June Lean event 6th September Ideas to attract >10s

				Midlands Loa	n Not	twork / webinar 8th June
						nov Craft to be converted
						ogrammes, waiting for dates
	Green	20	18	from consult		ogrammes, waiting for dates
				M1 Green's r		et converted
Capital Programs						
Kildare Courthouse	Survey of n	nans underv	way Initi	al Stakeholder e	nσac	gement complete. One
Craft Hub		•	•			wells unit to be leased as a
				ompletion time		
			-	ith Kildare Villag		
		0 at coa.c			,	· op «p onop
Monasterevin Texti	Initial meet	ting with co	nsultant	s took place on	Wed	nesday 31st May. Visual
les & Design Hub	condition r	eport provid	ded to te	am. Venture Int	terna	tional to provide dates for
(old BOI Bank)	site visit an	d stakehold	ler engag	gement for June	whic	ch will take place
	in Monaste	revin Comn	nunity C	entre. Stakeholo	ler er	ngagement list to be
	provided by	y M2 & ED				
Art. Faralli t	A - '11'	.	DDCD .		C 1	ha E O artilla a
Athy Food Hub	Awaiting up	pdates from	DRCD re	e contract stage	tor t	ne 5.2 million
Athy Enterprise	Currently s	eeking indu	ctrial lan	ds in Athy to de	welor	n 30 acres of land into
Zone	Currently seeking industrial lands in Athy to develop 30 acres of land into Industrial space potential for a just transition application					
Kilcock Enterprise				-		it to us by 30th June for
Park Feasibility			•	·		pace ,potential for a just
Study	transition a	•				,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
Industrial Parks		• •	nd tende	er to be prepare	d for	improvement works
Improvement Sche		es in owner				r
me			•			
<b>Mid East Commuter</b>	– project te	eam with W	icklow a	nd Meath to cor	nmei	nce in September
Survey						
Kildare Economic	Ospery Hot	el 8 -1 pm				
Conference on 12th	For all Busi	nesses and	departm	ents keynotes f	rom (	CE of KCC and Jim Power
September						
Kildare FDI round Table		CE & HOE of		our FDI companies		
Funding	Grant			No.approved Y	_	Comment
Schemes	TD Draf					
	Chanfrant			17/60 622 075	25	17/60
	Shopfront			17/60 €23,975	25	17/00
						Continued engagement
						via promotion of
						scheme. Feedback from busines ses re difficulty in
						obtaining quotes/builders/paint
						ers.
						Positive feedback on direct
						engagement on retail supports

Retail Window	4/20 € 1,467	3	As above and focus on Autumn/Winter
Athy Streetscape Enhancement Sch eme		15	Direct engagement with applicants. Seeking Dept guidance on scope of funding

#### **HUB Strategy**

#### **MERITS:**

**1pm – 2.15pm 23**<sup>RD</sup> **June . Minister** for Enterprise, Trade and Employment Simon Coveney TD arrives into MERITS & formally opens MERITS Building in the **Shackleton Suite first floor MERITS Building** 

#### Occupancy

	MERITS O		
	May	June	Change
Desks	71%	71%	-
Offices	42%	58%	plus 16%

- Available: 4.5 desks, 5 offices
- Pipeline: Office tenant trial week 24 (+2 upsizing)
- Strategy:
  - Support & develop existing clients
  - IDA property portfolio update
  - Grow Remote Summit week 23
  - SIRO Gigabit Hub awaiting decision

#### **MERITS:**

- Network:
  - Regional Innovation Valley EU funding with KIC & MU
  - GT corporate partnership secured for 12 months
  - Atlantec Tech Leaders Summit attended week 20
  - Innovation Ireland Conference (IoT) week 21
  - Dublin Tech Summit attended week 22
  - Chris speaking at DRCD Hubs Summit week 22
  - Grow Remote Summit (remote workers) week 23
  - Community open day July
  - Digital art exhibition tentative
  - •
- Programming
  - Pre-accelerator pitching complete wk22. Winner wk25
  - Accelerator in development, commence Autumn 23
  - Investment conference HBAN, IVCA. Date tbc
  - Coding workshop Coder Dojo alternative
  - Agile Innovation Supports with EI week 25

NEIC: Occupancy: full  LEO Equine Lean programme in development – to be run in INS.  EEBA (European Equine Business Association) potential visit from Germany week 32
<ul> <li>ACEC:</li> <li>Occupancy: Total occupancy @ 70% (footprint)</li> <li>Handover from previous team awaited</li> <li>Tenant "cleanup" thereafter</li> <li>Marketing to appropriate businesses</li> <li>Unit 12 phase 2 development – training rooms / canteen, further funding required.</li> <li>Potential for facility expansion / extension</li> </ul>

#### **APPENDIX 3**

#### REPORT TO SPC – JUNE 2023

### 1. Forward Planning

#### Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029:

- 1. JR no. 1 (Cairn & Glenveagh) case date has been set for October. Opposition Papers are currently being prepared to be filed by end of June. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been joined to the proceedings.
- 2. As part of the implementation plan work is underway to prepare;
  - Strategic Employment Lands Portfolio
  - Active Recreation Infrastructure Study
  - Permeability Guidelines for County Kildare
  - Nature Based Surface Water Management Guidelines for County Kildare

#### **Local Area Plans**

#### 1. Kildare Town

- The Chief Executive's Report on submissions received was circulated on the 12<sup>th</sup> June to the Elected Members of the Kildare Newbridge Municipal District
- An informal briefing has been arranged for the 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2023.
- A Special MD meeting will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> July at which the Chief Executive's Report and the Draft Plan will be considered.

#### 2. Joint Maynooth and Environs

 Work is on-going in relation to the preparation of evidence-based reports to support the draft plan. The Area Based Transport Assessment is being finalized.

#### 3. Newbridge

 Work is on-going in relation to the preparation of evidence-based reports to support the draft plan, including the Area Based Transport Assessment. Pre-draft (non-statutory) consultation is programmed for Q3 2023.

#### 4. Masterplans

- Maudlins Site Masterplan Traffic Modelling/Study completed and circulated to landowners
- Confey 1<sup>st</sup> draft of Masterplan has been received. Details to follow.
- Collinstown Masterplan position paper complete. Correspondence issued to Irish Rail & NTA for clarification re location of strategic infrastructure. Work on the MP has commenced.
- NW Quadrant, Naas works to commence ASAP with c. 18 month work programme.

#### 2. Development Management / Enforcement

- e-Planning The roll out of e-Planning in Kildare is underway with a target go live date of 26/06/2023. This is subject to a number of technical issues being overcome.
- Applications received to date: 593
- Residential units granted year to date: 285 (down from 451 in 2022)
- 5 SHD decisions remain out standing from ABP
- LRD: 3 files, 647 units decisions due in July, Maynooth, Kildare Town & Leixlip

### 3. Heritage, Biodiversity & Conservation

- Heritage Officer Projects Funding of €589,727 secured for 19 projects.
- Conservation Officer Projects Funding of €348,600 secured for 19 projects.

Note: Meabh Boylan joined KCC on 22<sup>nd</sup> May as KCC's first Biodiversity Officer.

 Conservation Management Plan for St David's Castle in Naas is underway; to be complete by end of summer.

#### 4. LEO & Economic

#### **Development Policy:**

- The implementation of the **Kildare Diaspora Strategy** has commenced; meeting scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> June in MERITS.
- Work is ongoing on the new **Local Economic & Community Plan** which is being support by

Kildare 2025 Economic Development Strategy.

#### **Ongoing Enterprise Supports:**

- Agile Innovation Client Event hosted in MERITS on June 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Climate Action & Energy Efficiency Event hosts in MERITS on 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Sustainability in the Equine Sector programme scheduled for September & October
- Women in Business event held on the 20<sup>th</sup> June
- Ongoing support programme for the retail sector including town visits.

#### **Economic Development:**

- Kildare Craft Hub: Southwells unit to be leased as a pilot project for Craft.
   Report completion timeline to be circulated. Also looking at collaboration with Kildare Village on Pop up Shop
- Monasterevin Textiles & Design Hub (old BOI Bank): Consultants appointed and stakeholder engagement commenced.
- Athy Food Hub: increase of 800K in grant aid commenced. Project will no go to tender.
- Industrial Parks Improvement Scheme: detailed report completed; tenders will be sought for upgrade works immediately to include new entrance signs.
- Kildare Economic Conference on 12th September: Schedule for the

Ospery Hotel 8 -1 pm. Keynote speakers will be CE of KCC and Jim Power.

- Retail Support Scheme 2023: Shopfront Improvement Scheme grant is open until 30<sup>th</sup>
  June
- Athy Streetscape Enhancement Scheme: open to applicants to June 30<sup>th</sup>
- Hub Marketing: marketing plan being developed to increase the profile of all hubs in Kildare

#### 5. Fire Service

#### Fire:

Firefighter industrial action enters week 2 on Tuesday 13th June, where the escalation of disruption by SIPTU will lead to 50% of Fire Stations closing on a daily rotation. In Kildare, this is 3 of 6 stations closed every second day. We have been advised of this rotation and the information has been passed to our Control Room and the potential impact has also been analysed locally.

The rolling closure will mean that there are areas which will not have the nearest available Fire Station/appliance responding to an incident, be that appliance from Kildare or from one of our neighbouring counties.

This may have implications for the health and safety of our employees and also for the public during the course of week 2.

The detail of week 3 action, which has been advised as an all-out strike, which begins on 20<sup>th</sup> June, has not been advised at this point.

# Appendix - Detailed Report

# 1. Development Management

1.1 Planning Applications							
Receiv ed Decisio ns to Grant to Refuse Purther informati on Control on Refuse Purther informati on Control on Refuse Purther informati on Control on Cont					Withdra wn		
2023	606	37 1	8 6	274	127	3	

	1.2 Housing Units Granted (Final Grants Issued – CSO Statistics)					
	Houses (exclude s one- offs)  Apartme nts One off Units Units Units					
2023	3 4	200	53	287		

1.5 LRD Applications						
Ref No.	Date Lodged	Developer	Location	No of Units	Decisi on	
23/269	16/03/2023	William Neville	Sallins	168	Refuse 08/05/2023	
23/416	20/04/2023	Pousterle Ltd	Southgreen, Kildare Town	168	Due 14/06/2023	
23/494	10/05/2023	Ladas Property Co Ltd	Mill Street, Maynooth	115	Due 04/07/2023	
23/510	12/05/2023	MRP Oakland Ltd	Ruanbeg & Coolaghaknoc k, Kildare Town	295	Due – 06/07/2023	
23/513	12/05/2023	Glenveagh Homes Ltd	Leixlip Demense	237	Due – 06/07/2023	

1.6 Part 8 Applications						
Lead	Description	Launched	MD	Status		
Department						
Library	Newbridge	January	Kildare	In progress		
Service		2023	Newbridge			
Library	Clane	January	Clane	In progress		
Service		2023	Maynooth			

# 2. Planning Control/Enforcement

2.1 Activity Levels						
Cases under investigati on at 25/03/2023	New Cases	Cases Closed	Warning Letters Served	Enforceme nt Noticed Served	Cases under investigati on at 07/04/2023	
880	5	7	14	4	878	

2.2 Short-term lettings								
	Ne w	Under Review - Forms / Respo nse s Receiv ed	Stage 1 & 2 Letter s & FI Issue d	Terminati on Forms Issued	Referred for Enforcem ent Action	Warni ng Letter s Issued	File s Clos ed	Properti es on Registe r
Stats as per previous Mgt Team Meeting	61	86	59	1 2	27	38	3 2	6
Cumulat ive to Date as at 28/04/20 23	6 2	8 7	5 9	1 2	2 7	38	3 4	6

# 3. Heritage & Conservation

und	ding secured:		
No	Project	Fund	Received
1	Heritage Awareness 2023	Heritage Plan	12,000.00
2	Historic Landscape Characterisation for Naas	Heritage Plan	15,500.00
3	Survey of Military Structures in Kildare.	Heritage Plan	10,000.00
4	Kildare Tower	Community Monuments Fund	120,000.00
5	Clane Friary	Community Monuments Fund	60,000.00
6	Donacompher Church	Community Monuments Fund	73,731.25
7	Laraghbryan Church	Community Monuments Fund	100,000.00
8	Tipper Church	Community Monuments Fund	15 <sub>1</sub> 129.00
9	Control of American Skunk Cabbage 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	6,800.00

10	Control of Himalayan Balsam 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	8,475.00
11	Vegetation control Lullybeg for Marsh Fritillary	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	8,075.00
12	Development of the Woodland Bat Monitoring Survey	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	7,000.00
13	Oral recording Training	Creative Ireland	5,000.00
14	Publication on Kildare Walled Towns	Irish Walled Town	5,000.00
15	Castledermot Walls	Irish Walled Town	45,000
		total	491, 710.25

# Funding applied for and awaiting notification:

16	Kildare Citizen science in Schools and	National Biodiversity Action Plan	14,000.00
	Community Project	Fund	
17	Pollardstown Fen Buffer Zone study	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	14,000.00
18	Ecological Survey and Management Plan of Harristown Commons	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	10,200.00
19	Biodiversity Awareness Project 2023	National Biodiversity Action Plan Fund	31,450.00
20	Kildare Towns Walls	Irish Walled Town	49,700.00
21	Castledermot interpretation	Irish Walled Town	2,867.00
		Total	52,567