

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 4 – Housing
held on 30th March, 2017 at 11am in John’s Green House**

Present: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Chairman, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Pat O’Neill, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty, Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr. Melissa O’Neill, Declan Murphy, Brian Dunlop.

In Attendance: Simon Walton, Martin Mullally, Ronan Ryan, Eimear Cody, Mary Cashin.

Apologies: Yvonne Moriarty, Mary Egan.

1. Minutes of 26th January 2017

Proposed: Cllr. Michael McCarthy

Seconded: Cllr. Fidelis Doherty,

and agreed that the minutes of 26th January, 2017 be adopted.

2. Matters Arising

Sympathies of the Committee were extended to Tom King, Tenant Liaison Officer, on the recent passing of his Father Mr. William (Billy) King.

3. Homeless Update

Martin Mullally, Senior Executive Officer, provided an overview of current homeless situation in Kilkenny. It was noted that there were currently 2 families in homeless services in comparison with 9 families for the same period in the previous year however members were advised that the situation can change quickly and numbers may increase/decrease depending on outside influences.

Cllr. Andrew McGuinness commended Kilkenny County Council staff on construction and allocation of The Haven and a discussion took place regarding an official opening.

Contributions from: Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty,

Agreed: Kilkenny County Council to organise official opening of The Haven

4. Repair & Leasing Scheme

Martin Mullally, Senior Executive Officer, provided the Committee with an overview of the new Repair & Leasing Scheme and advised that:

Max loan per unit is €40,000 subject to:-

- 12 month vacancy period
- Social housing need for the property
- Property owner agrees to a lease period of 10, 15 or 20 years

- Lease payment based on 80/85% of market rent and further loan offset to be agreed with landlord
- Properties should require a low level of investment to bring them to Minimum Rented Standards.

Simon Walton, Director of Services, encouraged committee members to use their connections/local knowledge to promote the scheme.

Contributions from: Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Declan Murphy

5. Tenant Handbook - Update

Martin Mullally provided an overview of the updated Tenant Handbook which was performed as an Executive function. He advised that the review was undertaken due the amalgamation of services, good estate management, improvement of communications with the public and commitment to review housing maintenance schedule.

Ronan Ryan, Estate Management Liaison Officer, provided a presentation on Estate Management. He advised that:-

- Funding of up to €20,000 was provided for 4 large scale projects i.e. 1 per Municipal District.
- Reestablishment of RAPID programme and monies for same set aside at local level
- Grants – 36% increase in applications to date
- Community Projects at Ferrybank and New Park Close undertaken
- Pride of Place – recognition of works undertaken by Community groups
- Communication – quarterly news letter which provides information on grants available and Ronan requested that Elected Members share this newsletter on social media.

Contributions from: Declan Murphy, Cllr. Pat O’Neill, Cllr. F. Doherty, Cllr. Andrew McGuinness.

Agreed: Old Housing Maintenance Schedule to be circulated to Members.

Agreed: T.H.B to include that dogs must be micro chipped and licensed under Tenancy Conditions.
Restricted Pets – reference be made to Restricted Breeds Register.
Page 17 (b) & (c) – change to Kilkenny County Council responsibility.

6. Capital Programme

Martin Mullally provided an overview of Capital Programme 2017 highlighting:-

- Overview of housing list
- Housing Capital recent successes
- Current activity
- Main challenges

A discussion took place in relation to the recent press release regarding secured L.I.H.A.F. funding of €6.76m. Members advised that the press release had been mis-leading and requested that a new press release be issued.

Brian Dunlop highlighted the challenge in encouraging Developers to commit to planning where an infrastructure deficit exists. It was noted that this was a policy issue as Irish Water have control of the water network and 1st in to develop on site will incur the infrastructure costs

Contributions from: Cllr. Joe Malone, Cllr Melissa O'Neill, Brian Dunlop, Cllr. Fidelis Doherty.

Agreed: SPC 4 to write to the Department that development is being stymied die to lack of water infrastructure. Letter to be agreed with Chair and circulated at Council meeting.

Re-issue Press Release in respect of L.I.H.A.F.

Conclusion of Meeting

Next meeting to take place on 8th June, 2017

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____