

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

Held Via MS Teams Thursday 23rd March 2023 at 3.00pm

1. The Chair welcomed Mr. Jimmy Duggan to his first SPC1 Meeting. Mr. Duggan is the PPN nomination to replace Mr. Paul Brophy.
2. It was noted in matters arising, a letter was issued on behalf of the members of SPC1 through the Chair to Mr. Tim Butler to thank and complement all who were involved in Yulefest 2022.
3. **Presentation by Ms. Catriona Corr, Cycling Officer – Kilkenny County Council.**
Ms. Corr provided a presentation and update on the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP).
The SUMP is a strategic plan that will be designed to satisfy the mobility needs of people and businesses in the City and its surroundings for a better quality of life. This plan will see the implementation of a vision, objectives and specific measures that relate to the movement of people in the city, such as the design of the streets, integration of public transport and safer walking and cycling infrastructure. The measures will be designed to make the City a vibrant, more user friendly, healthier and sustainable city for people. The plan process will take place over 12 months, due to be completed by Quarter 4 2023.
4. Mr Denis Malone provided an update on the Abbey Quarter regeneration project and on the North Quays SDZ.
5. Mr. Malone gave an update on the activities of the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) including **Kilkenny Start up Showcase event** which took place in the Newpark Hotel on the 9th February; **Local Enterprise Week** which took place from the 6th to the 10th March; **Student Enterprise Programme** – The Kilkenny County Final which took place in Lyrath Hotel on the 8th March with over 1000 students from 12 schools taking part. Students from 3 of the schools would go forward to the National Finals in Croke Park on 5th May.
6. Mr. Malone gave an update on Tourism, noting that 2023 will see the development and implementation of Kilkenny's 5-year Destination Experience Development Plan which will be led by Failte Ireland.
7. Mr. Malone gave an update on the South East Greenway advising that one section of it should be opened later in the year.
8. Mr. Malone advised that E-Planning, the process of making a planning application online and submitting documents, is now up and running, noting that 57% of planning applications are now made online.

9. With regards to the Local and Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023 – 2028, Ms. Aileen McGrath outlined the progress to date, noting that the Final Framework of the plan and the Implementation plan (2023/2024) was to be presented to LCDC on April 21st and Special Meeting of SPC1 on April 27th before formal approval by full Council on 15th May 2023.
10. Mr. Malone advised the Committee that a request had been made by the Irish Heart Foundation (IHF) asking Kilkenny County Council to include a no smoking condition on the licensed street furniture (Section 254) applications. Mr. Malone outlined the issues in relation to the policy matter, including resource implications and it was agreed it would be inappropriate to use the planning code (e.g. conditions attaching to the Section 254 licenses) as a public health measure.
11. Mr Malone provided an update on the Changing Places Facility for the Abbey Quarter, noting that there is a commitment in the Abbey Quarter Masterplan to provide same. Mr. Malone noted that it would not be located in the Mayfair Library, but instead will be located in Sweeney's Orchard section, but could take up to 2-3 years to be completed. Mr. Malone and Ms. O'Neill to discuss offline the need for designated parking for the Changing Places Facility.
12. Ms. O'Neill and Ms. McGrath to discuss offline, accessibility and facilities for people with disabilities in the City and County from a Tourism Prospective.

The next SPC 1 meeting will be held on the 22nd June from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Council Chambers in County Hall.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____