

Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on the 11th 2017 at 3.00 pm in Meeting Room 1

Chairman: Cllr. Pat Dunphy

In Attendance: Cllr John Brennan, Cllr Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr David Kennedy, Mary T Brennan, John Hurley, Paul O'Brien, John Burke, Martin Brennan, M. Mulholland DOS, M. Delahunty SEO, Louw SEP, C O' Sullivan EP, Jo. Coyne Librarian, E O'Reilly ASO

Apologies: None

Item 1- Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 12th July, 2017 were proposed by Cllr D. Kennedy seconded by Cllr. J Brennan and agreed.

Cllr P Dunphy on behalf of the Committee thanked outgoing chairman Cllr J Brennan, for his chairmanship of the SPC 3 over the past number of years.

Item 2 – Update – Hebron Road Urban Design

N Louw advised that two submissions were received by Kilkenny County Council following the recent public display. The Chief Executive's Report has been prepared and it is expected to be brought before members at the October meeting of the Council.

Item 3 – Update - County Development Plan Review & National Planning Framework

N Louw outlined to members the process involved in preparation of the County Development Plan 2020-2026. The next steps will include a conference at the end of January 2018 to discuss the topics for issue paper. Notice of the Development Plan review will be given during April 2018.

N Louw advised that Kilkenny County Council made its submissions on the issues paper in March 2017 and a draft National Planning Framework (NPF) was published at the end of September 2017 with a public consultation phase. Submissions under same are due by 3rd November 2017 and the plan will be finalised by December 2017.

Following a discussion with contributions from Cllr Dunphy, Cllr, Kennedy, Cllr Brennan, M T Brennan, P O'Brien, J Hurley, M Mulholland & N Louw, a motion was proposed by Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Dunphy that a Special Meeting of the SPC3 including all council members be held on Friday 27th October 2017 @ 4pm to discuss the content of the submission due on 3rd November 2017.

Item 4 – Derelict Sites/Vacant Sites

C O' Sullivan provided an overview of the Vacant Site Levy. Notification of an increase in the levy from 3% to 7%, to take effect for 2019 (payable in 2020), was announced by Govt. this week in the budget.

A survey of vacant sites was carried out during March 2017 and Kilkenny Council is currently in the process of determining folio no's /owners of the sites identified with a view to preparing a Vacant Sites Register.

Letters will issue to site owners during October 2017. Owners will have a number of opportunities to appeal inclusion of their site(s) on the Register. Valuations of the sites will be undertaken and site owners will be levied from June 2018 with the levy payable by Jan 2019.

Responsibility for the management of Derelict Sites was recently transferred from the Council's Area Offices to the Planning Section.

P. O' Brien commented that the Vacant Site Levy should not be a barrier to owners of vacant commercial premises in re-opening a business.

A discussion followed regarding older run down rural cottages & the Vacant Site Levy. M Mulholland advised that these dwelling types may be best handled under the Derelict Sites legislation.

Some members queried the detail of the Repair & Leasing Scheme and it was agreed that details of this scheme would be circulated to all members.

Item 5 – Kilkenny Cultural Strategies

J Coyne provided an update on the Kilkenny Cultural Strategy to date.

The next step is to identify the specific action areas for Arts, Heritage & Library. The Strategy will form the basis for these services for the next 5 years.

Cllr J Brennan & Cllr Fitzpatrick outlined their support and stated that budgets for the Arts, Heritage & Library need to be protected.

Item 6 – Community & Cultural Facilities Grant Scheme Review

M Delahunty advised that as the current Kilkenny County Council Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme is due for renewal in 2018, member feedback and suggestions for improvement are now being sought.

Following a discussion with contributions from Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Dunphy, Cllr Brennan & M Mulholland, it was agreed that all members would review the information pack provided to them by Ml. Delahunty and all comments and suggestions for inclusion in the new Scheme etc, would be discussed at the next meeting of the SPC3.

.Item 7 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 13th December 2017 in Meeting Room 1**, County Hall, John Street., Kilkenny.

That concluded the business of the meeting.