

Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on the 12th April, 2017 at 3.00 pm in Meeting Room 1

Chairman: Cllr. John Brennan

In Attendance: Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr D. Kennedy, Cllr M. Noonan, Cllr P. McKee, Cllr P. Dunphy, M.T. Brennan, M. Brennan D. Malone SP, A. M. Walsh SEO, A. Fitzpatrick AO, Nicolaas Louw SEP, F. Coady, Conservation Officer, D. Ledwidge Heritage Officer, M. Butler Arts Officer, E.O'Reilly ASO.

Apologies: John Hurley

Item 1- Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18th January, 2017 were proposed by Cllr D. Kennedy seconded by M.T. Brennan and agreed.

Item 1 – Protected Structure

F.Cody gave a presentation which provided an overview of Kilkenny County Councils Conservation function & its role with respect to the conservation of protected structures. An announcement is due within the coming weeks with regard to the award of funding for 2017. Mary Mulholland advised that assistance is available in the form of grant aid and advice from the Conservation Officer to anyone who is the owner of a protected structure. A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. P. Dunphy, Cllr. D. Kennedy, and M.T. Brennan.

Item 2 - Update on the LIHAF – Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund

D. Malone gave an update on the Local Infrastructure Housing Application Fund which is available under the Action Plan for Housing and Homeless 'Rebuilding Ireland'. Following the submission of a proposal for funding, €6.67m of funding was awarded to Kilkenny County Council for the two projects proposed i.e. (i) a Neighbourhood Park at Aylesbury, Ferrybank and (ii) The Western Environs Planned Neighbourhood. D. Malone advised that a proposed variation to the City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020 will be published for public display for 4 weeks in May 2017. A discussion followed with contributions made by Cllr P. McKee, Cllr. D. Kennedy, and M.T. Brennan & M.Mulholland.

Item 4 - Abbey Quarter Urban Design Framework

D.Malone informed the meeting of the preparation of an Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code for the Abbey Creative Quarter. The main objective is to incorporate the strategies, objectives and vision of the Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan into urban design criteria and a development code which will guide the nature and extent of development in the area, To assist in the preparation of this Urban Design Criteria and Recommended Development Code, a public consultation workshop will be held in Kilkenny on 19th April 2017.

Item 5 – Ferrybank Local Area Plan Update

D. Malone outlined the key points of the 2017 draft plan and advised that Kilkenny Council is almost ready to put the Draft Plan on public display. The plan will be on display for a period of 8 weeks and submissions will be invited.

Concerns were raised with respect to the uncertainty regarding the county boundary change issue. Mary Mulholland advised that it is important that Kilkenny County proceeds with the update of the Local Area Plan & that the uncertainty regarding the boundary should not be a barrier to this.

Cllr P. McKee proposed and seconded by Cllr J Brennan that Kilkenny Council write to Minister Coveney requesting clarification regarding his recent statement on the boundary issue. M Mulholland advised that following the recent meeting of the County Council it was agreed a letter be sent to the Minister seeking a meeting with him to discuss the proposed recommendation.

Contribution was received from Cllr M. Noonan in relation to habitats.

Item 6 – Kilkenny Cultural Strategies & Creative Ireland Programme

D. Ledwidge, on behalf of the Cultural Services team, provided a review of the Councils cultural plans & strategies. The Cultural Strategy is formed from a combination of the Heritage, Arts and Library strategic actions. The Creative Ireland Programme and the role of the Local Authority in this programme was also outlined. Cllr M. Noonan commended all involved in putting the Creative Ireland programme together and commented that the programme is very important in the development of our culture.

Item 7 – All Ireland Pollinator Plan

D. Ledwidge provided an update on the Pollinator Plan. In conjunction with the National Tidy Towns competition the Local Authority this years Tidy Towns competition saw the introduction of the Local Authority Pollinator award. The award encourages Tidy Town groups to take simple pollinator friendly measures in their local area.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr M Noonan and M. Brennan.

Item 8 – Any other business

Cllr. J Brennan welcomed Martin Brennan, PPN representative to the SPC.

Cllr P Dunphy inquired if there was any update on the solar farms. N Louw advised that since the last meeting of the SPC permission had been granted for one solar farm.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr. P Dunphy, Cllr D. Kennedy, Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, M. Louw, M. Mullholland

Cllr J Brennan proposed that a note of congratulations from the SPC 3 members be sent to Evelyn Graham, Kilkenny County Council Architect to congratulate her on the completion of the Medieval Mile museum. All were in agreement.

Item 9 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th July 2017 in Meeting Room 1, County Hall, John Street., Kilkenny.

That concluded the business of the meeting.