

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Planning, & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Aras an Chontae on *Monday 8th June 2015*

I LATHAIR

Baill: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair)
Cllr. Frank Kearney
Cllr. Aidan Donohue
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Thomas Welby
Ms. Frances O'Reilly

Oifigih:

Catherine Mc Connell, A/DOS, Planning & Sustainable Development, Industrial Relations & Community, Enterprise Development

Alan Farrell, SEO, Community & Enterprise.

Kieran Coyne, Rapid Co-Ordinator,

Saoirse Kennedy, Senior Executive Planner.

Mairead O Malley, ASO, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit.

Apologies:

Ms. Marian Brady

Mr. Gus Mc Carthy

Minutes of Meeting held on 30th March 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 30th March were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Welby

Cllr. Welby asked for a slight amendment to be made to the minutes and it was agreed.

Development Contribution Scheme

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that a review on the Development Contribution Scheme was taking place and she passed around a report on the matter. The following are considerations for design of new scheme:

- 70% transportation Infrastructure 30% recreation/Amenity/Community Facilities.
- Existing Scheme (as amended to exclude Water and Wastewater charges) is reasonable.
- Simplification of application of the Scheme-proposed to reduce Sub-Areas to 2 –(1) LAP areas and GTPS and (2) all other areas.
- Supplementary Scheme for large towns with LAPs (similar to Oranmore but reduced rates)
- Reductions for non residential development on offshore islands.
- Take account of current difficulties for economic development in town centres and the need to re-vitalise rural towns. This may be achieved through specific reductions which would enhance streetscape/upper floor occupation, etc in towns and villages.
- Reductions for temporary permissions.

Cllr. Welby queried if it would go to the full Council first before it would go on public display and it was agreed that that was a good idea to get the backing of the full Council first. He stated that there was €100,000 ringfenced for Oranmore and that future contributions will be ringfenced for areas that they are collected in. He outlined that people in rural areas get no benefit from the Development Contribution Scheme and this needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Walsh remarked that it was wrong to expect a small percentage of the population to fund amenities and it was very difficult on young couples trying to build a house considering that they are paying property tax why should they have to pay Development Contribution?.

Cllr. Welby stated that Galway County Council have funded Oughterard playground, footpaths and all weather pitch. The Council need to do a better PR job for the money it spent to date. Development contributions provide the matching funding for projects.

Cllr. Kearney agreed with Cllr. Welby stating that Galway County Council has provided funding for good projects in Lackagh and that we should keep the public informed of these developments.

F. O'Reilly stated that Headford had good facilities provided by the community with a lot of local effort involved and support provided by the Council.

Cllr. Cuddy informed the meeting that Claregalway was looking for a playground and was waiting on assistance from the Council for a number of years.

Cllr. Welby stated that the drive had to happen locally and the Council would provide a contribution.

Cllr. Donohue stated that in the County local effort has to be greater than in the City and queried could a bigger percentage of funding be considered for rural areas.

Cllr. Kearney proposed a different split e.g. 65:35.

C. Mc Connell suggested to wait until the recreation figures were available before the split could be decided.

Local Area Plans-Update

S. Kennedy gave an update on the plans to the Meeting.

Headford Local Area plans required a SEA & AA which delayed the plan by eight weeks. It is anticipated having the plan before the Council in November.

Ballinasloe Local Area plan is to be available at the July Council Meeting.

Portumna Local Area plan likely to be on public display in July.

Claregalway/Oughterard awaiting CFRAMS.

Cllr. Welby queried was the Oughterard Plan intended.

C. McConnell stated that Claregalway and Oughterard Plans had been held back due to infrastructure difficulties. She stated that due to resources some staff may have to be reassigned due to two members of staff due to take maternity leave in the near future.

Tidy Towns Initiatives.

K. Coyne gave a report to the meeting on Tidy Towns and the Cleaner Community Initiative. It is a mechanism to extend the "Tidy Town Season" and to serve Communities not participating in National Competition. Galway County Council wants to acknowledge their work. It will be based on photographic evidence "before and after". There will be four categories.

- Street Cleaning
- Burial Grounds
- Planted

- Coastal

It has been in operation in Fingal and Mayo and there will be an event in autumn with awards.

Cllr. Cuddy queried if it was separate to Tidy Towns and C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that it was a separate initiative.

Cllr. Keaveney asked if the overall winner could come from any category and was informed that was the case.

Cllr. Welby stated that the timelines were tight for this year and it was agreed to extend the date by an extra week.

A Farrell wanted the input of the SPC and stated that the scheme can be amended over the year to take on board the SPC comments and issues arising. The 3rd of July was the new deadline agreed.

Cllr. Donohue queried if a group needed to be registered with the PPN and was informed it would be an incentive to join.

Cllr. Cuddy stated planting of shrubbery should be promoted rather than bedding plants as they last longer.

Cllr. Donohue queried if a second date for submitting “after photos” was agreed and was informed that there was a date suggested in September for same.

Cllr Kearney wished the initiative well and stated that it was a good project and F. O’Reilly also praised the scheme stating that it would evolve over the years.

Cllr. Donohue queried the categories of prizes.

Update on LECP and Citizen Engagement Conference

Cllr. Cuddy informed the meeting that the Conference held on Thursday was very informative and congratulated all involved.

A Farrell stated that a lot of work had been done in the last year and stated that the LCDC and Economic SPC have full input into the whole plan and the ten themes and submissions are on public display. In July to August it is planned to work with other partners to agree actions. In September it

will be brought to the Municipal Districts. The key is to ensure that all partners are active in the delivery of the actions.

Cllr. Kearney congratulated the Council on the initiative .

AOB

The chairperson thanked the Members for their contribution and closed the meeting.

The next SPC Meeting will take place on Monday 7th September at 10.00 am.

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