

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Planning, & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Aras an Chontae on Monday 7th September 2015

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Baill: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair)
Cllr. Frank Kearney
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Thomas Welby
Cllr. Sean Canney
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Ms Marian Brady
Ms. Patricia Tierney
Mr. Gus McCarthy

Oifigh:

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

Saoirse Kennedy, Senior Executive Planner.

Ann Mallaghan, Administrative Officer.

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

Apologies:

Ms. Frances O' Reilly

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th June 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Kearney.

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

Local Area Plans

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

Headford Local Area Plan; The material alterations went on public display from 24th July -21st August during which time 11 submissions were received. The CE's report on these submissions is now being prepared and will be issued to the members in the coming days. The LAP is on the agenda for the September meeting of the full Council at which stage the plan should be adopted.

Ballinasloe Local Area Plan: The town plan for Ballinasloe will expire in November of this year. The draft plan now follows the template of all other LAP's in the County. The material alterations to the draft LAP were on display from 7th August until 4th September the CE's report is being prepared. It is intended to bring this plan back before the Council at the October meeting, for adoption.

Portumna has not had a LAP since 2011, with the last plan having been adopted in March 2005. A public drop in session was held on Wednesday 12th August from 2.30 – 7.30pm and 10 people (including members) attended. Following the closing date the CE's report on the submissions received will be prepared and issued to the members. It is intended to bring the plan back to the full Council at the November meeting.

Claregalway/Oughterard awaiting CFRAMS.

Tuam and Athenry Plans are due for review in 2016.

Cllr. Welby queried if all Local Area Plans had to go to the full Council or could they be approved at Municipal Level C. Mc Connell informed him it was a reserved function of the Council. C. Mc Connell also informed the meeting that the capacity of Forward Planning would be greatly reduced in 2016 due to staff shortages.

Development Contribution Scheme

C. Mc Connell outlined the new Draft Contribution Scheme to the Meeting. She stated the charges will be refined and sent to members in the next 10 days.

Cllr. Canney outlined his concern that the public want to know where the money is going and that Councillors do not know how much money is collected each year and how it is spend. He suggested that this information should be made available at the budget meeting. Cllr Kearney also expressed similar concerns.

Cllr Cuddy stated that there was a lot of Development Contributions outstanding. C. Mc Connell stated that the Council was not vigorously pursuing them as the only option was enforcement.

Mr. Mc Carthy welcomed the reduction in charges for Development Contributions especially Industrial and Commercial charges.

Cleaner Communities and Tidy Towns Update:

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that this new initiative was launched this year and 55 applications had been received. It is designed for communities that would not be ready to enter the Tidy Towns Completion and prizes would be awarded for first and second place. A before and after picture was to be submitted of the project. The Council hope to build on it and Cllr. Cunniffe congratulated the Council on the project.

Update on Social Inclusion Week:

Ann Mallaghan presented a report to the meeting on Social Inclusion Week which takes place this year between 19th and 25th October. The purpose of the week is to increase awareness and understanding of inclusion and diversity in County Galway. Groups are encouraged to take part and any group that do not receive government funding Galway County Council will provide a €100 donation towards the event. More funding may be available if it is deemed appropriate. This will be paid after the event once we are satisfied that the event went ahead.

C. Mc Connell stated that along with Culture Night it was a very important event during the year.

Cllr. Kearney requested that a list of these events be circulated to Councillors and C. Mc Connell informed him that it was groups that held these events not the Council.

AOB

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

The next SPC Meeting will take place on Monday 2nd November at 10.30 in GO1.

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