

**Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC
Meeting held on Monday 26th February, 2024 in the
Wurzburg Room, County Buildings, Station Road, Wicklow town @ 10am**

Present: Cllr. Tom Fortune (TF)
Cllr. Mary Kavanagh (MK)
Cllr. Gerry Walsh (GW)
Mr. Jim Wood (JW)
Cllr. Irene Winters (IW)

In Attendance: Ms. Lorraine Gallagher (LG)
Ms. Leonora Earls (LE)
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt (VD)
Ms. Susan Nichols (SN)
Ms. Deirdre Whitfield (DW)
Mr. John Powderly (JP)
Ms. Caroline Cullimore (CC)
Ms. Margaret Cullen (MC)
Ms. Patrice O'Toole (POT)

**Climate Action
Presentation:** Mr. Mark Costello (MC)

Apologies: Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)
Cllr. Pat Kennedy (PK)
Mr. Huw O'Toole (HO'T)
Mr. Killian McGreal (KMCG)

ITEM 1

Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 11th December, 2023

The minutes of the EDES SPC which took place on Monday 11th December, 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Mr. Jim Wood.

ITEM 2

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

ITEM 3

To note requirement under Circular LG 2/2015 in respect of the Ethical Framework in Local Government

SN outlined the requirements for both Members and non-elected Members under Circular LG2/2015.

ITEM 4

Receive a presentation on Wicklow County Campus Masterplan

JP gave a very extensive and comprehensive presentation on the Wicklow County Campus Masterplan and answered any questions put forward. The presentation circulated by WeTransfer on 4th March, 2024 to all SPC Members. A number of copies of the Masterplan were available for viewing at the meeting. JP gave a brief history and the subsequent appointment of MOLA to develop the Masterplan. The masterplan is an overall vision for the future development of the

campus. SN explained that while aspects of the Masterplan may appear aspirational it is essential to have them included in the masterplan when making funding applications in the future.

It was advised that some of the recommendations of the Masterplan could not commence until the foul sewerage problem has been addressed. The cost of the sewerage works are not yet known.

The Chair thanked JP for his presentation.

ITEM 5

Receive a presentation on Climate Action

Mark Costello gave a presentation on Climate Action (which circulated prior to the meeting) and dealt with any questions asked. MC gave a background to the Climate Action Plan and its adoption on the 8th January, 2024. The plan has 135 actions and is in place for 5 years.

MC reported that Wicklow County Council received €121,500 funding to carry out a Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study. Malachy Walsh & Co. Ltd. was awarded the contract. The study covers 12km of coast between Brittas Bay and Ennereilly. The timeline for the completion of the project is approximately 12 months.

The problem of coastal erosion and its impact on the Dublin to Wicklow railway line was discussed and MC confirmed that Wicklow County Council, the OPW and Irish Rail are in constant discussions and he will get an update and report back to the group. The use of rock revetment as a solution was discussed and agreed while it can help it can also encourage coastal erosion further along the coast.

The Chair thanked MC for his presentation.

ITEM 6

Report on Economic Activities - (report circulated prior to the meeting)

SN gave an update on activities and events taking place in the Economic Department covering the following:

Tourism: A Networking and Workshop event took place at Beyond the Trees, Avondale during February. Feedback from the attendees was very positive and requests have been made to run it as an annual event.

Abbey Grounds: SN reported that works are progressing on the project with funding from Failte Ireland.

Glendalough Masterplan: Implementation of the Masterplan has begun. A Steering Group has been established. A Working Group has also been formed with membership from all stakeholders. SN stressed that consultation with the community would be central to the implementation of the Masterplan. She further advised that regular meetings are taking place with Failte Ireland in respect of a destination plan for County Wicklow.

Special Projects: SN advised that Cushman and Wakefield were appointed by the Greystones Enterprise Hub CLG to fit-out, market and manage the enterprise centre for one year. TF asked if there was any development on the Greystones Media Studios, he was advised by JP that the developers were not releasing any information. LG suggested that an enquiry should be put to the IDA for an update. The Board were advised that the site on the Mill Road Greystones was still on hold due to a registration problem. SN advised that the recommendations of the Masterplan included the provision of a hotel.

Carnew Remote Working Hub: SN reported that the tender in respect of the former Bank of Ireland building in Carnew had closed and works would commence immediately the contract was awarded.

Marketing Plan: Soul Garden t/a MarketingCoach were awarded the contract to develop a Marketing Plan for County Wicklow. It is the vision that the Marketing Plan will promote Wicklow as a great place to work.

Offshore Renewable Energy: The ORE Network meets regularly and continues to engage with the offshore renewable energy companies.

Skills Strategy: The launch of the Skills Strategy is expected to take place in Q1 of 2024.

Food and Beverage Strategy: Wicklow Naturally is expecting to hold interviews for the co-ordinators role before the end of March.

ITEM 7

Report of Head of Enterprise, LEO supports – (report circulated prior to the meeting)

VD delivered an update on the LEO and began by giving a breakdown on the targets, grants, training and the business advice clinics. She also advised that the Student Enterprise Programme awards would take place on the 27th February with over 100 entrants pitching their business ideas. The overall winner would represent Wicklow at the National event in Mullingar in May.

VD gave an update on the following:

Activities during January and February 2024 - which included a programme of events for Local Enterprise Week, 4th – 8th March. She advised that a call for tender for the establishment of a mentoring panel had published.

Business Skills - confirmation that bookings for the business IT skills training programme for Spring 2024 could be made through the online portal and included courses such as Canva for beginners, start your own business and content creation and copyright.

Mid-East Enterprise Plan - the Masterplan has identified the best place for the Food Incubation Hub to be positioned at Clermont

Clermont Screen Enterprise Hub – the official launch had taken place and two long term tenants have moved over to the hub. VD advised that here is a lot of interest in acquiring space in the hub.

Film and TV Crew Academy – Jade Travers is organising and running courses based on the skills needed and to suit the demand

Conservation Management Plan – VD advised that the top priority coming from the plan is the repair work to be carried out on the roof of Clermont House – a tender had gone out for a project lead for this project. She also advised that a tender is to issue for the re-design and refurbishment of the cottages. She further advised that IT infrastructure will need to be installed in the rest of the building.

ITEM 8

Report on Town Regeneration Activities – (report circulated prior to the meeting)

DW advised that the LECP 2023-2029 is finalised with only the Foreword and proof reading to be done. The next step will be the implementation of the Plan.

DW opened her updates on the Town Regeneration activities by outlining the recent announcement of funding supports for town teams. She advised that applications would be submitted the following week as follows:

- 4 applications under the Town Team Support Fund – funding of up to €10,000 each for three towns. Applications to be made as follows Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass, Rathdrum and Kilcoole – 3 out of the 4 to be selected.
- 3 applications under the Town Centre First Plan – funding of €30,000 available to one town. Applications to be made as follows Newtownmountkennedy, Baltinglass and Rathdrum - 1 out of the 3 to be selected.

DW went on to give an update on the Blessington RRDF, Baltinglass RRDF and Newtownmountkennedy RRDF and answered any questions raised. She also gave an update on the €2.5 million which Wicklow received under URDF Call 3 to assist with long term vacancy and dereliction and advised that Call 4 funding is expected to be announced in early 2024.

DW undertook to send a link to the members outlining information on THRIVE (The Town Centre First Heritage Revival Scheme).

ITEM 9

Correspondence

There was no correspondence for discussion.

AOB:

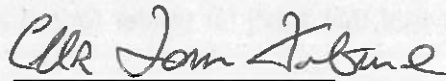
Cllr. Fortune spoke about the organisational changes taking place within Wicklow County Council scheduled to take effect from 1st March. He thanked Lorraine Gallagher for the huge contribution she had given during her time as the Director of Services with responsibility for Economic Development. He welcomed Leonora Earls the incoming Director of Services.

ITEM 10

Set date and time for next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 20th May at 10 am.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:

