

**Minutes of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC**  
**Meeting held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 in the**  
**The Boardroom, Clermont House, Newrath, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow at 2:30pm**

**Present:** Cllr. Tom Fortune – Chair (TF)  
Cllr. Avril Cronin (AC)  
Cllr. Ian Neary (IN)  
Cllr. Aoife Flynn Kennedy (AFK)  
Cllr. Louise Fenelon Gaskin (LFG)  
Ms. Mary Diskin (MD)  
Mr. Gerry Ginty (GG)  
Mr. Chris Fox (CF)  
Mr. T.J. Foley (TJF)

**In Attendance:** Ms. Leonora Earls (LE)  
Ms. Vibeke Delahunt (VD)  
Mr. Fred Verdier (FV)  
Mr. Stephen Clarke (SC)  
Mr. Susan Nichols (SN)  
Ms. Caroline Cullimore (CC)  
Ms. Patrice O'Toole (POT)

**Apologies:** Mr. Huw O'Toole (HOT)  
Mr. John Powderly (JP)  
Mr. Killian McGreal (KMCG)  
Ms. Margaret Cullen (MC)

---

#### **ITEM 1**

##### **Welcome and introductions**

The inaugural meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC took place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. Cllr. Tom Fortune (Chair) welcomed everybody and invited all present to introduce themselves.

#### **ITEM 2**

##### **Overview of the role of the EDES SPC**

LE gave an overview of the workings of the SPC and described the SPC as a forum for bringing together elected members and people working in social, economic, cultural and environmental areas to develop and review policies related to Council services. It allows the relevant sectoral interests to have an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages.

#### **ITEM 3**

##### **Minutes of meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024**

The minutes of the EDES SPC which took place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Fortune and seconded by Leonora Earls.

#### **ITEM 4**

##### **Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## **ITEM 5**

### **Update on the Economic Development and Enterprise Support goals as set out in the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029**

SN advised the members of the goals in the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029 which come under the remit of Economic Development and Enterprise Support, as follows:

- To continue to grow a strong and diverse economy in County Wicklow
- To implement the objectives contained in the Local Economic and Community Plan
- To develop Wicklow County Campus as a Centre of Excellence in Enterprise, Innovation and Education
- Collaborate with relevant agencies and stakeholders to further develop and promote the county as a tourist destination
- Implement our actions under Wicklow County Council Climate Action Plan

LE advised that updates on the actions would be given at each of the EDES SPC meetings and feedback would be encouraged from the members.

SC gave an update on the goals as set out in the Wicklow County Council Corporate Plan 2024 – 2029 which are the responsibility of the Town Regeneration Office. He advised that there are currently Town Teams in Arklow, Greystones, Blessington and Wicklow with the expected launch of the Newtownmountkenedy Town Team in the coming weeks. Information meetings have been organised and well attended for the Town Teams. Assistance will be given to Committees to make applications for funding where they identify suitable projects.

SC further advised that CPO's will be placed on a number of derelict properties in both Wicklow and Arklow which have been identified as suitable properties which can be turned around and made fit for purpose.

## **ITEM 6**

### **To consider training dates for SPC Members**

SN advised that the IPA will be running a training course for SPC members followed by individual SPC Workshops during November. Notification and links will be sent to all SPC members.

## **ITEM 7**

### **Update on the County Wicklow Skills Strategy**

SN gave an update on the County Wicklow Skills Strategy and advised that the implementation stage has now commenced.

## **ITEM 8**

### **Update on the Choose Wicklow Marketing Plan**

SN advised that Wicklow County Council acquired funding of €50,000 under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2022 to support the implementation of the Remote Working Strategic Marketing Plan, to promote County Wicklow as an ideal location to live and work with excellent facilities for remote working. A soft launch of #ChooseWicklow is scheduled for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October to tie in with the launch of the GRID.

CC advised that funding was also acquired through the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2022 to provide design and costings to convert the former Bank of Ireland on Main Street, Carnew into a working hub. A Part VIII is expected to be made before the end of the year.

## **ITEM 9**

**Update on the GRID (Greystones Regional Innovation District)**

SN gave an update on the GRID and its launch scheduled to take place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. She advised that Wicklow County Council purchased the South Wing of the Enterprise Centre, Greystones, Co. Wicklow from Cairn Homes. The GRID offers over 14,000 sq. ft. of office space as well as dedicated desk spaces for commuters who would like to work closer to home.

**ITEM 10**

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to consider.

**ITEM 11**

**Meeting Schedule**

It was suggested that going forward any reports circulated before the scheduled meetings would be taken as read and the meeting time would be used to make plans, suggestions and answer any questions.

TF also asked if members could come back to the next meeting with a decision on whether the statutory four meetings a year was sufficient to deal with the workload of the SPC or if additional meetings should be scheduled going forward.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 at 11 am to be followed by lunch.

The meeting concluded.

Signed:



Cllr. Tom Fortune

Chair

Economic Development and Enterprise Support SPC

Date:



