

Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on the 20th February 2019 at 3.00pm in the Council Chamber

Chairman: Cllr. Pat Dunphy

In Attendance: Cllr J Brennan, Cllr D Kennedy, Cllr M. Noonan, M.T. Brennan, John Burke, M Brennan.
S McKeown, M Mulholland, D Malone, M Butler, E.O'Reilly

Apologies: Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, J Hurley, P O'Brien,

Item 1- Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 12th December 2018 were proposed by Cllr J. Brennan & seconded by Cllr D. Kennedy.

Item 2 - Matters Arising

None

Item 3 – Creative Ireland Programme Update

M Mulholland advised Kilkenny County Council has an active Cultural Services team who engage with groups and individuals & deliver services across the areas of Heritage, Arts, Library & Conservation & has adopted a Cultural Strategy which covers the period 2018-2022. This plan is an integrated strategic plan for the delivery of the Kilkenny County Council Arts, Heritage & Library services. The vision of the Creative Ireland Programme is that the people of Ireland have the opportunity to fully realise their creative potential. This vision is pursued through the Five Pillars of the programme.

During 2018 the cultural services team assessed projects that were already underdevelopment and met the criteria of the Creative Ireland process for funding. A full list of the projects funded was presented to members. Some of the areas funded by Kilkenny County Council during 2018 under the Creative Ireland Programme include: Bookville, Yulefest – sensory quiet time, Whispering Fields, Rhyme Rag, Bring your own Chair & The Fairytale Festival.

For allocation of 2019 funds, Kilkenny County Council will assess those applications already under development that align with the key principals of the strategy, promote wellbeing & have added value for funding. It is also envisaged that an open call for a specified grant support will be advertised shortly to allow for new projects to be brought forward. It was proposed that 2019 funding be used to support projects being brought forward collaboratively in recent years with some funding being allocated to administrative support to allow for the development of the open call grant system in 2019 to be increased in 2020.

A discussion ensued with contributions from Cllr Dunphy, Cllr Kennedy & Cllr Noonan,

Item 4 –Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) update

D Malone advised that submissions on the Draft RSES must be made by 08.03.2019 and that Kilkenny County will be making a submission. The areas that will make up this submission were discussed and agreed at a recent workshop with Council members.

It was agreed that D Malone would email the main points of Kilkenny County Councils submission to members of the SPC 3.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr Brennan, M Brennan, and Cllr Noonan & Cllr Dunphy

Item 5 – Vacant Site Levy update

D Malone advised that 16 demands for payment of the levy were sent during January 2019. The review of vacant sites has been expanded to include the Castlecomer, Callan & Thomastown areas.

An additional 21 sites have been added to the register for 2019.

S McKeown advised that as soon as available, an update will be presented to the SPC 3 from the cross divisional team that has been set up to investigate on a pilot basis whether or not a number of selected derelict sites can be progressed from a housing perspective using the Council's powers under the Derelict Sites Act.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr Kennedy & Cllr Dunphy.

Item 6 – City & County Development Plan update

D Malone advised that following receipt of submissions relating to both the Draft Thomastown & Callan LAP's, amended Drafts are currently on public display.

The Callan draft plan is on public display until 08th March 2019 & the Thomastown draft plan on display until 28th February 2019.

It is envisaged that both Chief Executive reports will be prepared and brought to the March meeting of the Council for adoption. The review of the City & County Development plan remains suspended pending the publication of the RSES.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr Dunphy & Cllr Noonan.

Item 7 – Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2019

D Malone advised that the closing date for the receipt of applications for the BHIS and Historic Structures Fund (HSF) was 31.01.2019.

22 applications for funding under the BHIS and 8 under the HSF were received. Notifications of decisions regarding these schemes will be sent to applicants during March 2019.

Item 8 – AOB

There was a brief discussion in relation to the Aarhus Convention. It was noted that while the main objectives of same are laudable, Council staff are spending an increasing amount of time responding to Access of Information on Environmental matters (AIE) requests. It was agreed to write to the Minister seeking a dedicated resource to assist with processing AIE requests.

Item 9 – Fix date for next meeting

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 17th April 2019 @ 2pm** in the Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.

That concluded the business of the meeting.