

Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on the 05th July 2018 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber

Chairman: Cllr. Pat Dunphy

In Attendance: Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr M. Noonan, Cllr P McKee, M.T. Brennan, P O'Brien, J Burke, M Brennan, M Mulholland DOS, N Louw SEP, A. Fitzpatrick AO, D Ledgwick, Heritage Officer, E.O'Reilly ASO. P Walsh, Chairman of the South Kilkenny Beekeeping Association. (Guest Speaker),

Apologies: J Hurley, S McKeown, D Malone & J Coyne.

Item 1- Minutes of previous meeting.

With respect to Item 4 - Vacant Sites Register of the 11.04.18 meeting minutes Cllr P Fitzpatrick & Cllr P McKee requested the below amendment (**in bold**) be made :

*"It was proposed by Cllr McKee & seconded by Cllr Fitzpatrick that Kilkenny County Council seek advice from the Council solicitor **within 7/10 days** as to whether a site that is zoned residential & is currently being used for agricultural purposes is considered "vacant & idle" (with respect to the Act)."*

The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 11th April 2018 were then proposed by Cllr J. Brennan, seconded by Cllr P Fitzpatrick and agreed.

Item 2 - Matters Arising

Cllr P. McKee requested that The Vacant Site Levy be included for discussion on the agenda for the next meeting of the SPC 3.

A note of sympathy was extended to M Mulholland following the recent death of her mother-in-law.

Item 3 – All Ireland Pollinator Plan

M Mulholland advised that the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 will be brought to members for adoption at the July 2018 Council meeting.

P. Walsh outlined the importance of maintaining Ireland's bee population which is on the decline. Pollinators are an important function for farmers, gardeners, fruit growers etc. Therefore, it is very important that we maintain our bee numbers.

A discussion ensued with contributions from Cllr Noonan, Cllr. McKee, Cllr, Dunphy, P O'Brien, M T Brennan, M Mulholland & D Ledgwick

A Notice of Motion proposed by Cllr Noonan and seconded by Cllr Dunphy was approved by members to go forward to the July Meeting of the Council.

The motion proposes:

That Kilkenny County Council would designate the Garden Bumble Bee (Bombus Hortorum) as our County Insect. In doing so we will endeavour to collaborate with communities, business and farmers to conserve, enhance, create and protect habitats for all bees and insects across County Kilkenny and to work with the National Biodiversity Data Centre with the support of Kilkenny Heritage Forum to monitor and evaluate the state of the population of all bumblebees and honeybees within the County through the implementation at local community level of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan.

This motion recognises that this black and amber bee should be synonymous with Kilkenny but also the important economic, social and environmental function of bees and biodiversity in general to society, to our collective future on this planet and towards the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) in particular Goal 15 related to 'Life on Land'.

Item 4 – County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy 2018-2022

M Mulholland advised that the County Kilkenny Cultural Strategy 2018-2022 was adopted by members at the June 2018 meeting of The Council.

Item 5 – ePlanning

A Fitzpatrick advised that the LGMA are currently managing a project to deliver an ePlanning solution to all local authorities. It is envisaged that a pilot of the new system will be rolled out during September/October 2018 with a view to having a full roll out during 2019.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr Dunphy, Cllr Noonan, M. T. Brennan & P O'Brien.

Item 6 – Architectural Conservation & Record of Protected Structures – National & Local obligations

F Coady outlined the value of built heritage in relation to its intrinsic & economic value, cultural identity & sustainable development. It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to create a record of Protected Structures, preserve the character of places and townscapes which are of special interest and ensure that buildings are not endangered directly or through neglect. This is achieved by Planning Codes and Acts, architectural conservation officers and conservation grant schemes.

Item 7 – County Development Plan & Local Area Plans - update

N Louw provided an update on the County Development Plan & Local Area Plans. The County Development Plan Issues Paper was published on 20th April 2018. The period for receipt of submissions has now closed and a report is currently being prepared for the CEO.

The Castlecomer LAP has been adopted since the last meeting of the SPC3

The review of the Callan LAP has been commenced with the Issues paper published on 20th June 2018. The final date for receipt of submissions is 20th July 2018.

The review of the Thomastown LAP was commenced on 27th June. A public meeting is scheduled for 11th July 2018. The final date for receipt of submissions is 27th July 2018.

A discussion ensued with contributions from Cllr Dunphy & P. O'Brien.

Item 8 – Development Contributions Scheme- update

A Fitzpatrick advised that the Current Development Contribution Scheme 2016-2017 is currently under review.

Item 9 – Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday **13th September 2018 @ 3pm** in the Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street., and Kilkenny.

That concluded the business of the meeting.