

**Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee for Economic
Development & Enterprise held on Monday 13th November 2017
at 11.00 a.m. in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New
Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

In Attendance:

Organisation:

Cllr. Richard Nagle	Chair
Mr. Brian McCarthy	A/Director of Economic of Economic Development
Cllr. Johnny Flynn	Elected Member
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy	Elected Member
Cllr. P.J. Ryan	Elected Member
Ms. Theresa O'Donohoe	Environment/Conservation
Mr. Pat Morris	Ennis Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Padraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise.
Cllr. Gabriel Keating	Elected Member
Cllr. Pat McMahon	Elected Member
Ms. Dympna O'Callaghan	Business Commercial Sector
Ms. Ailish McMahon	Economic Development
Mr. Patrick Staff	Economic Development

Also in Attendance

Mr. Ray O'Driscoll	Managing Director, Commercial Properties, Shannon Group
Ms. Congella McGuire	Heritage Officer

Apologies

Cllr. Ian Lynch	Elected Member
Mr. William Hanrahan	Agriculture/Farming

Cllr. R. Nagle welcomed Mr. Ray O'Driscoll, Managing Director, Commercial Properties, Shannon Group and Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer to the meeting.

**1. Minutes of meeting held on the 11th
September 2017 and matters arising.**

Minutes of meeting held on the 11th September were proposed by Cllr. G. Keating seconded by Cllr. C.C. Molloy and agreed.

T. O'Donohoe referred to minutes of the 11th September and stated that the schedule of works/work programme 2018 should be "discussed and agreed" rather than presented.

2. Presentation by Mr. Ray O'Driscoll, Managing Director, Commercial Properties, Shannon Group.

B. McCarthy outlined that at the previous SPC meeting a discussion took place in relation to the Information Age Park Ennis. It was agreed at this meeting that R. O'Driscoll be invited to give a presentation.

R. O'Driscoll presented a comprehensive presentation on Shannon Commercial Properties. He informed the members that he joined Shannon Group approximately 3 years ago. R. O'Driscoll stated that Shannon Commercial Properties are a commercial group and not Shannon Development. He stated that Shannon Group owns Shannon Airport, Shannon Commercial Properties and Shannon Heritage. He outlined that the goal of Shannon Commercial Properties is to provide commercial property, where they can find tenants and provide employment growth. In his presentation he outlined the following:-

- Commercial Properties Evolution
- Commercial Properties Strategy
- Property Under Management
- Airport Facility (Tenants in the Airport)

R O'Driscoll also gave an overview of Shannon Free Zone and informed the members of the key Shannon Free Zone capital projects to date.

In relation to the Information Age Park in Ennis, R O'Driscoll outlined the following:-

- Office Block/42,000 ft² - 75% occupancy, never 100% occupancy achieved
- 26 acres development land – 10 acres services
- Access to site not good enough etc.
- Applied for planning to complete access road – Q1 2016

- Challenged – eventually approved – March 2017

With regard to rents in the Information Age Park Ennis, R. O’Driscoll outlined that is €12 per square foot is what they receive, that they would need to receive €25-€28 per square foot in order to be able to build a new block. He outlined that this is expensive to achieve these rents, and stated that Limerick are struggling with this. He outlined that in Dublin €60 is being charged for the rent of office space.

The office block is 75% occupancy, it has never been 100% occupancy achieved, and opportunities only are more for a box type development rather than an office type development.

The members thanked R. O’Driscoll for his comprehensive presentation. A questions and answers session ensued.

The members suggested that an SPC meeting should take place at the offices of the Information Age Park in the near future.

The members welcomed the news that construction work will begin by both Clare County Council and Shannon Commercial Properties on the road entrance. R O’Driscoll outlined that once the road is completed, Shannon Commercial Properties are open to partnership opportunities.

R. O’Driscoll informed the meeting that he would give the members a tour of the Information Age Park at any stage. He also outlined when the road infrastructure is complete a rebranding exercise would also be carried out and maybe rename the building as a “Technology Park”.

Reference was also made to the former “Our Lady’s Hospital”, the members stated that it was an eyesore. B. McCarthy stated that the Chief Executive would update the members on the current position at the Council meeting this evening.

3. Briefing on the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan and Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023 (attached).

Reports on submissions received in relation to the Clare County Heritage Plan and Clare Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2023 was circulated to all members for their comments/submissions.

C. McGuire outlined that Clare County Council commences the preparation of the 3rd Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023 on the 13th October, 2016. Public participation took place and submission were invited from education and community groups, Chamber of Commerce, Tidy Towns, the Public Participation Network and government departments. Notices were placed in all public libraries, at Clare County Council and Municipal District Offices and on the Clare County Council website

C. McGuire outlined that ten submissions to the plan were received, all of which were taken into consideration in the plan preparation. She outlined to the members the following submissions:-

1. O'Briensbridge Community Group
2. Burrenbeo Trust, Kinvara, County Galway
3. Cuimhneach an Chláir, Clare Education Centre, Ennis
4. Cllr. Johnny Flynn, Ennis
5. An Clár as Gaeilge, Inis
6. Kilkee Tourism
7. Brian Boru Trail, Killlalo
8. Waterways Ireland, Scariff
9. Heritage Council
10. Heritage Council

C. McGuire outlined the six themes as follows:

1. Community
2. Training and Education
3. Sustainable Tourism
4. Biodiversity, Climate Change and Green Infrastructure Planning
5. Built Heritage
6. Cultural Heritage

The members discussed the submissions received and thanked C. McGuire for her comprehensive work. Cllr. J. Flynn outlined the good work done in relation to the tree survey and suggested that for Ennis to get a survey of trees carried over the next 3-4 years.

Cllr. G. Keating referred to submission No. HP002 – "Geology Centre – To develop a geology visitor centre in Kilkee to provide education and research facilities to geology graduates and students". Cllr. G. Keating and Cllr. R. Nagle suggested to amend this wording so that the "Peninsula open for consideration for any Centre rather than confining it to Kilkee". This was agreed.

C. McGuire stated that as the plan is strategic rather than having specific actions, it is not recommended to add any further wording to the plan in this regard.

Reference was also made to the review of the Heritage Forum.

With regard to the disturbance of species (on page 39) of the document, Cllr. P. McMahon stated that dogs should be kept on leads. Cllr. J. Flynn proposed to endorse the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan and Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023, this was seconded by Cllr. P. McMahon.

B. McCarthy informed the members that the Clare Biodiversity Action Plan and Clare County Heritage Plan 2017-2023 would be an agenda item for the December Council meeting in which the members approval would be sought.

4. Presentation by Theresa O'Donohoe on the overview of National Policy that the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC could proactively influence. (attached)

T. O'Donohoe gave a comprehensive presentation on the overview of National Policy relevant to Clare Economic Development & Enterprise SPC. In her presentation she outlined the following main points:-

- National Risk Assessment 2017 – overview of Strategic Risks
- Strategic Geopolitical Risks
- Strategic Economic Risks Strategic Social Risks
- Strategic Environmental Risks
- Strategic Technological Risks
- National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development
- Participating Democracy – including budgets – Clare Public Participation Network
- Influential publications EPA/NESC listed in the attached document.

T. O'Donohoe also referred to the Capital Plan – Spending Strategy which was published in 2015, which set out a six year framework for substantial infrastructural investment in Ireland out to 2021.

T. O'Donohoe also circulated to all members documentation called “Moving towards the Circular Economy in Ireland” – A study for

NESC by Dr. Simon O'Rafferty – National Economic and Social Council.

T. O'Donohoe also outlined the meaning of "Sustainable Development" is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

With regard to the Draft National Planning Framework, T. O'Donohoe requested that a copy of the submission be sent to all the SPC members.

She also stated that it's national policy that we should consider in our work as well as influence when the opportunity arises.

The members thanked T. O'Donohoe for her comprehensive presentation and acknowledged the work she had done in relation to the presentation.

5. Draft Work Programme 2018. (attached)

The Draft Work Programme 2018 was circulated to all members for their input. The members thanked B. McCarthy for the comprehensive work programme.

The following was suggested by the members in relation to the work programme:-

- A informative presentation at each meeting
- It was noted that there is a new Regional Business Development Manager – Mid West (IDA) and that they should be invited in at some stage.
- Rose Hynes, Chair, Shannon Group, to be invited to give a presentation.
- Cllr. J. Flynn suggested the following:- "Development of Economically important Infrastructure "shopping list" for County Clare in order to provide input into development of upcoming critical Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy as set down to be prepared under NPF Ireland 2040 with reference for example on strategic roads as per table 7.3 of

adopted MWASP 2012-2030. This list also help to inform Council debate on National Capital Investment plan”.

B. McCarthy suggested that the SPC should have 4-5 key economic messages/themes throughout the SPC term – this to be discussed in January.

- T. /O’Donohoe asked that we include policy submissions as part of our work plan to be assessed as they arise.
- T. O’Donohoe informed the meeting that when there may be another redesign of the Strategic Policy Committees SPCs she made the following observations:-

“Standing Orders that outline the SPCs within each local authority are subject to a public consultation at the beginning of a council term. This is when the make up of the SPCs are designed. If the Local Authority wishes to change the standing orders and the SPCs they should consult the public. Clare County Council have changed the SPCs already during this council term when the Chief Executive added a new SPC on Rural Development as well as redesigning those already in existence. There was no public consultation at the time. Clare Public Participation Network PPN which elects representatives to the SPCs questioned this decision. We approached and met with the Chief Executive outlining our concerns. The PPN were offered the opportunity to move representatives to ensure they were sitting on the SPC most relevant to their expertise. If there are indeed plans afoot to change the SPCs again I asked that the elected members ensure that a public consultation is held.”

The Work Programme 2018 was endorsed and agreed by all members.

6. Schedule of meetings 2018 (attached).

The following meeting dates for 2018 were agreed by members:-

Monday, 8th January, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Monday, 12th March, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Monday, 14th May, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Monday, 10th September 2018 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Monday, 12th November 2018 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

7. AOB – Date of next meeting – 8th January 2018.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the 8th January, 2018.

B. McCarthy informed the members that he would circulate the submission on behalf of the Council and the SPC in relation to the Draft National Planning Framework to the members.

The members stated to notify Corporate Services of the schedule of SPC meetings for 2018 as some are also members of the JPC.

B. McCarthy circulated documentation in relation to invitation to tender with regard to the preparation of an Economic and Spatial Plan for Ennis to 2040 was circulated to all members for comments/submissions. The closing date for receipt of comments/submissions is the 20th November, 2017.

B. McCarthy informed the members that Ennis was voted as being Ireland's Friendliest town. Willow and Bambinos were names as one of the top five shops of 2018 in Ireland.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed:

Cathaoirleach

**A/Director, Economic Development
& Enterprise**