

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development & Enterprise held on Monday 22nd May 2017 at 11.00 a.m. in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

In Attendance:

Cllr. Richard Nagle
Mr. Gerard Dollard

Cllr. Pat McMahon
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. P J Ryan
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
Mr. William Hanrahan
Ms. Theresa O'Donohoe
Mr. Pat Morris
Mr. Seamus Ryan
Mr. Brian McCarthy
Ms. Ailish McMahon
Ms. Sarah Clancy
Ms. Jessica Quinn

Organisation:

Chair
Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Economic Development
Elected Member
Elected Member
Elected Member
Elected Member
Elected Member
Agriculture/Farming
Environment/Conservation
Ennis Chamber of Commerce
IMPACT
Senior Planner
Economic Development
Public Participation Coordinator
Clare Champion

Apologies

- Dympna O'Callaghan, Business Commercial Sector.
- Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise.
- Ian Lynch, Elected Member.

Cllr. R. Nagle thanked members for their support and kindness for rescheduling the SPC meeting at the recent passing of our colleague Betty Devanny, RIP.

Cllr. R. Nagle stated that Item No. 3 on the agenda - Review of LEO Performance 2016 – by Mr. Padraic McElwee would be deferred to the next meeting of the SPC.

1. Minutes of meeting held on the 27th March 2017 and matters arising.

Minutes of meetings held on the 27th March 2017 were proposed by Cllr. P.J. Ryan seconded by Cllr. G. Keating and agreed.

2. Presentation by Ms. Sarah Clancy on the Public Participation Network.

Cllr. R. Nagle welcomed Ms. Sarah Clancy Public Participation Network Coordinator to the meeting.

Ms. Clancy presented a comprehensive presentation on the Public Participation Network. She stated that the PPN replaced Clare Community Forum and the establishment of the Public Participation Network is part of the Local Government Reform process. The PPN was designed by Fr. Sean Healy and must operate a flat structure.

The members thanked S. Clancy for her comprehensive presentation. A questions and answers session ensued. S. Clancy also stated that Clare PPN representatives are obliged to bring the views or questions of member groups to their various committees – these are not the views of Clare PPN, but of the member who requested the issue to be raised. S. Clancy also stated that T. O'Donohoe is a member of the PPN and stated that she communicates with the community groups before a meeting.

S. Clancy outlined that the PPN requires a huge commitment from the voluntary sector. It was noted that the "Secretariat" in Clare is working very well.

Reference was made that the Community and Voluntary sector had over 600 groups registered and it was stated that word needs to get out there a bit more about the PPN. The question was also asked as to how Clare County Council could support to facilitate the PPN with regard to funding etc. S. Clancy acknowledged the help of M. Dunphy with regard to the promotion of the PPN.

With regard to questions raised by the members, G. Dollard outlined the following. With regard to budget, €30,000 is made available from Clare County Council and €50,000 from the Department. He also stated that apart from data protection issues, the PPN wanted a separate identity.

G. Dollard stated that the Council has had an involvement with the PPN from the outset but that the network also wanted a separate identity.

B. McCarthy thanked S. Clancy for her comprehensive presentation and for the detailed submission from the PPN into the County Development Plan.

The members stated that the PPN is providing an invaluable service to the Local Authority and the people of County Clare. It gives people a voice and

the fact that so many people are involved in recognition of what is being done.

3. Update on National Planning Framework – by Mr. Brian McCarthy. Senior Planner. (attached)

B. McCarthy presented a comprehensive presentation on the National Planning Framework. In his presentation he outlined the following:-

- The National Planning Framework will be the successor to the 2002 National Spatial Strategy
- Background – In December 2016 meeting held with Chief Executive and Partners to agree a “Vision”.
- January 2017 – Circulation of key questions and meeting with partners
- February/March – preparation of submission
- Submission to be sent to the Department by the 15th March, 17
- Opportunity & Challenges
- Strategic Aims and Actions
- Issues

B. McCarthy outlined the next steps in relation to the National Planning Framework.

- Draft National Planning Framework – summer for consultation.
- Adopted by House of Oireachtas in Autumn.

B. McCarthy also outlined approximately 600 applications were received by the Department in relation to the National Planning Framework.

The members expressed their concern that the document has too much focus on Limerick City, the Shannon Estuary and the airport.

The members also stated that “Ennis could turn into a dormitory town”. They stated that there needs to be a greater focus on investing in the county’s capital towns. The members stated that they were extremely disappointed with the document. They relayed their fears for the future of Ennis. It was also noted that the Council’s Rural Development Strategy should be incorporated into the submission. It was also felt that the National Planning Framework document doesn’t encourage economic development.

With regard to the members concerns, G. Dollard outlined that the National Planning Framework is a successor to the National Spatial Strategy which labelled Ennis as a hub town and Shannon as a gateway.

G. Dollard outlined that the general consensus is that the strategy failed. He stated that in trying to create a balance between the east and the west of the country, Clare as a county cannot compete with Dublin.

The members expressed their concern with regard to Ennis being described as a "dormitory town" and the document only refers to Limerick City. The members felt that Ennis is complimenting the role of Limerick City. It was also felt that the National Planning Framework document doesn't encourage economic development. It only deals with Limerick City, Shannon Foynes and Shannon Airport.

G. Dollard stated that the National Planning Framework is a successor of the National Spatial Strategy. In the National Spatial Strategy, Ennis was described as a hub town. The National Spatial Strategy document wasn't very successful.

G. Dollard stated that the Local Authorities of Clare, Tipperary and Limerick along with Shannon Group, the University of Limerick, Limerick Institute of Technology, Shannon Foynes Port Company and the Mid West Action Plan for jobs have made a joint submission to the Government's National Planning Framework.

4. SIFP for the Shannon Estuary – update on marketing and promotion – by Mr. Brian McCarthy, Senior Planner.

B. McCarthy, Senior Planner presented a promotional video to the members of the Shannon Estuary. He referred to the six strategic locations within the Shannon Estuary.

The members acknowledged the good work by Clare County Council in relation to the Shannon Estuary. They referred to the long planning process and the Environmental Impact Assessment.

The question was raised were any of the sites on flood plains. B. McCarthy stated that none of the sites were on flood plains. He stated that the preparation of the plan for the Shannon Estuary was fully in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Environmental Impact Statement. The members suggested that it was now an ideal opportunity for cruise ships to come to the west of Ireland to load and reload to burn off environmentally friendly fuel.

5. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the **17th July at 11.00 a.m in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

6. AOB

T. O'Donohoe asked the question was there any proposal submitted for Seaweed Harvesting.

G. Dollard replied and stated that to date no application has been submitted for Seaweed Harvesting.

P. Morris requested an update on the road from the IAPE to the Gort Road.

G. Dollard stated that Shannon Commercial Properties have a proposal to link the road on the IAPE. He stated that Clare County Council is also ready to commit. G. Dollard also referred to the recent clean up undertaken by Clare County Council. He stated that Shannon Commercial Properties have applied to Clare County Council for planning permission for works to be undertaken. Further information has been submitted. If all is in order the project should commence shortly.

It was suggested that a representative from Shannon Commercial Properties should be invited to give a presentation to a future meeting.

W. Hanrahan referred to the Development Contribution Scheme in relation to concern with regard to contributions to Agricultural Buildings over 800 m².

B. McCarthy stated eighteen submissions were received in relation to the Development Contribution Scheme. He outlined that the Development Contribution Scheme was adopted at the April Council meeting of Clare County Council. He stated that planning contributions apply to Agricultural Buildings above 800 m².

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____

Cathaoirleach

**Director, Economic Development
& Enterprise**