



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

1st February 2019, Swift Room, Buvinda House, Navan

**Attendees -
Councillors:**

Cllr Sarah Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Pádraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Sinead Burke, Cllr Maria O' Rourke, Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Sharon Keogan, Cllr Stephen McKee

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Lynch, Cllr Gillian Toole, Cllr Maria O' Rourke

**Attendees -
Sectoral
Representatives:**

Robert Bradley, Niamh Uí Loinsigh, Gerard Weldon

Apologies: Cathy Whelan, Michelle McCullough

Officials:

Barry Lynch, Aine Bird, Karan Dalton, Loreto Guinan, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 30th November 2018 were approved. Proposed by Cllr Killian, seconded by N. Uí Loinsigh.</p>
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were no matters arising
3.	<p><u>To Approve Draft Community Amenity Project Scheme 2019</u></p> <p>A. Bird outlined the amendments made to the draft document following discussions at the last meeting.</p> <p>It was suggested and agreed that reference should be made to advice to groups to make contact with the Community Department if stage payments are required, and such requests would be dealt with on a case for case basis.</p> <p>The Scheme was welcomed by members present, and recommended for approval by full Council.</p>



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4.	<p><u>To Receive Details on the Proposed Community Grants Scheme 2019</u></p> <p>A. Bird outlined expenditure and no of applications approved under the 2018 Scheme (document detailing same circulated to members present).</p> <p>In respect to the proposed 2019 Community Grants Scheme, it was noted that additional funding has been secured, and has been directed to the category of Resident Associations. Noted that similar categories are included in the 2019 Scheme as were contained in the 2018 Scheme. Scheme to be advertised immediately, with closing date for receipt of applications set at 8th March 2018.</p> <p>The staff of the Community Section was commended for their work and the efficient manner in their interaction with the Community & Voluntary sector in the County, including the administration of the Community Grants Scheme. The draft Scheme 2019 was agreed as presented.</p>
5.	<p><u>To Receive a Presentation on the Development of Heritage Ireland 2030</u></p> <p>L. Guinan provided a presentation on the development of Heritage Ireland 2030 , with the following key points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consultation process has commenced, with closing date for submission set at 28th February 2019 (consultation documents circulated to those present) ▪ The aim is to raise awareness regarding heritage , with a number of public consultation events to take place (Trim & Oldcastle) ▪ Local Authority has key role in the protection and promotion of heritage and engagement with the Community sector regarding same ▪ Management of our national archive and the use of technology to promote heritage highlighted ▪ Noted it was important for groups to engage in the current consultation process. Meath County Council and Heritage Forum will be making a submission, Members were asked to encourage others also to make submissions <p>Heritage Officer was commended on her ongoing work in the County.</p>
6.	<p><u>To Receive Details on Part 5 of the Housing 9Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 (Affordable Purchase Scheme)</u></p> <p>D. Jones provided a summary of the enacted Affordable Purchase Scheme (briefing document circulated to those present). The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targeted at first time buyers, with gross income of less than €50,000 (single applicants) and €75,000 (joint applicants) ▪ Units to be provided on Local Authority owned lands and sold directly ▪ Equity stake that must be paid back to Local Authority applies ▪ Completion of Economic & financial assessment will need to be conducted by Local Authority to determine the need and scale of affordable housing in a particular area ▪ There is no exchequer provision to Local Authorities to build dwellings for affordable purchase or to cover site cost. ▪ Funding may be accessed via Service Site Fund for site infrastructure



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scheme of Priority for affordable units has now to be developed and adopted by full Council ▪ Regulation and guidance on the Affordable Purchase Scheme yet to issue. Possibility that timeframe for adoption of Scheme of Priority may be extended beyond June 2019 <p>Discussion took place, with the following points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government funding to allow Local Authorities to build affordable units is required ▪ Possible linkage with Vacant Homes Action Plan and infill sites cited ▪ Role of Land Management Agency queried ▪ Need for discretion in respect to the income band criteria between/within County areas ▪ Persons who may have lost property due to financial difficulties should be eligible under the Scheme rather than strict adherence to 'first time buyer ' criteria ▪ Need for an affordable rental scheme highlighted ▪ Zoning objective re: affordable housing should be provided for under next County Development Plan
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ G. Weldon highlighted the significant burden placed on the Community & Voluntary Sector in respect to the Charities Act 2009. The matter was highlighted at recent PPN event. The need to simplify requirements, in particular for small scale groups such as Tidy Towns, was requested ▪ A. Bird noted the development of a joint Migrant Integration Strategy between Meath County Council and Louth County Council. Consultation events taking place in Navan and East Meath on the 20th February and 6th March respectively ▪ Cllr Killian requested that Part V obligations be delivered in earlier phases of developments so as to ensure delivery in the short term under this mechanism ▪ A. Bird noted that the development of a Play Policy has been incorporated into the current development of the Healthy Ireland Meath Strategy. Consultant is currently engaged on same, and Strategy is to be completed by the end of March 2019 ▪ Cllr Burke queried the progress on the development of an Estate Management policy. Noted that a sub group will be convened in February to begin scoping same

Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Agenda Item No. 3 Refers:

- To approve the draft Community Amenity Project Scheme 2019 as presented.



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