



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

**25<sup>th</sup> April 2017, Board Room, Innovation House, Railway Street, Navan**

**Attendees -**

**Councillors:**

Cllr Sarah Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Sinead Burke, Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Caroline Lynch, Cllr Sharon Keogan, Cllr Nick Killian

**Apologies:** Cllr Maria O' Kane, Cllr Gillian Toole

**Attendees -**

**Sectoral**

Robert Bradley, Liam Carey, Cathy Whelan, Niamh Ui Loinsigh

**Representatives:**

**Apologies:** Vicky Harris,

**Officials:**

Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Catherina O' Rourke, Aoife Fegan, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b> The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were approved. Proposed by Niamh Ui Loinsigh, seconded by Cllr Reilly.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There were no matters arising</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>To Receive Details of the Recommended Allocations under the Community Grants Scheme 2017, and if in agreement, to forward to the Full Council of Meath County Council for Approval</u></b></p> <p>The recommended allocation of funding to applicants under the Community Grant Scheme 2017 was outlined by F. Fallon, with documents pertaining to same circulated to members present. The following was noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2017 has witnessed a 33% increase in funding applications, while it was confirmed that the vast majority of funds were drawn down by applicants under the 2016 Community Grant Scheme.</li> <li>▪ Applications submitted under the Burial Grounds Scheme require further assessment and proposed allocations under this heading will be brought forward to the SPC at a later meeting. It was requested that the Heritage Officer attend meeting to advise on the criteria applied for the successful applications.</li> <li>▪ Reference was made to the Community Facilities Fund, which will be administered under the Local Community Development Committee. Closing date for receipt of applications 30th June 2017. Due to an overlap with certain applications under this fund and the Community Grants scheme, it was recommended that these applications be directed towards the Community Facilities Fund, which maximises the amount of funding available under Meath County Council's Grant Scheme as per proposed allocations.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noted that the lists circulated detailing grant allocations to applicants , subject to agreement, will go forward for final approval to the May full Council meeting. Members were requested to maintain confidentiality regarding said details until finally approved by full Council</li> <li>▪ The proposed allocation of the 2017 Community Grants Scheme to applicants as outlined was agreed by members present.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on the Review of Meath County Council Play Policy</u></b></p> <p>F. Fallon noted that the review of Meath County Council’s Play Policy will be advertised in local press shortly, seeking submissions from the public regarding same. Contact will also be made directly with schools to ascertain their views on the matter.</p> <p>It was requested, and agreed, that the commencement of the review be noted in the monthly Chief Executive Report for elected members’ information.</p>
5.	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</u></b></p> <p>C. O’ Rourke provided an update on the Public Participation Network, with the following noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are currently 480 groups registered with the PPN</li> <li>▪ A round of Municipal District PPN meetings has just been completed, with key issues regarding insurance for community groups and the matter of waste being identified</li> </ul> <p>Members welcomed the update and commended the ongoing work in sustaining the PPN. The challenge in attracting new groups and communicating the structure was noted, while the areas of good governance for community groups, capacity training and the role of the representative role of the PPN members on various committees were highlighted as areas for development.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on Social Housing Delivery</u></b></p> <p>D. Jones provided an update on the delivery of social housing in the County, with a summary document circulated to members present, including reference to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Current approved direct construction projects</li> <li>▪ Proposed direct construction projects that are pending submission to the Department for approval.</li> <li>▪ Acquisition Programme</li> <li>▪ Approved Housing Body activity</li> <li>▪ Local Infrastructure Housing Activation Fund</li> </ul> <p>In addition, members present raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Low uptake on the Mortgage to Rent Scheme to date, both within the County and nation wide</li> <li>▪ Progress on the refurbishment of St Francis Park. Noted that the Part 8 process will commence shortly on this project and will go before the Navan Municipal District members in due course</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progress on submission to the Department regarding Alverno Court. Noted that a decision is expected on said submission shortly</li> <li>▪ Progress on Kells direct construction project. Noted that approval has recently been received from the Department to proceed to Part 8 Planning Process, which will commenced week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> May 2017</li> <li>▪ The construction cost per unit of the approved direct construction projects was queried. It was noted that the approved budget for each of the projects as outlined, is inclusive of all costs associated with the project, including for example site costs, and does no represent construction costs only. Reference also made to general construction costs, and a review of same under the Rebuilding Ireland Action Plan</li> <li>▪ The accommodation needs of specific groups such as persons with a disability, substance misuse, mental health and those leaving state care need to be considered also, in addition to fulfilling general housing need</li> </ul>
7.	<p><b><u>To Consider the following Notice of Motion, referred to the SPC (Cllr Damien O’ Reilly)</u></b></p> <p><i>‘I call on Meath County Council to implement a new policy of removing social housing applicants from the county housing list if the applicant breaks into/squats in Meath County Council void houses and/or damages Meath County Council property.’</i></p> <p>Cllr Damien O’ Reilly outlined his Notice of Motion, and rationale for same, which was followed by discussion.</p> <p>While members present identified with the spirit of the Motion, and the agravitation associated with the act of illegal occupation of a vacant social house, it was the consensus that the existing provisions contained in the Allocation Scheme on the matter remained unaltered.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ D. Jones provided an updated on the supported accommodation unit for homelessness. It was requested that the subcommittee be convened to review progress, and this was agreed.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Lynch highlighted the presence of a number of vacant properties in Poynton Place, and whether consideration would be given to possibly acquiring same. It was agreed that the matter would be examined.</li> </ul>

### **Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

#### **Agenda Item No. 3 Refers:**

- Proposed allocation of the 2017 Community Grant Scheme to applicants, as recommended to, and agreed by the Strategic Policy Committee, be approved by Full Council

#### **Agenda Item No. 7 Refers:**

- That the current provisions within Meath County Council’s Allocation Scheme in respect to illegal occupants remain unaltered.



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