



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

21st May 2020, Virtual Meeting, 2.30pm

Attendees -
Councillors: Cllr Damien O’ Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Sean Drew, Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Conor Tormey, Cllr Alan Lawes, Cllr Emer Tobin, Cllr Eddie Fennessy

Apologies:

Attendees -
Sectoral Representatives: Niamh Uí Loinsigh, Gerard Weldon, John Regan, Michelle McCullough, Sinead Smith

Apologies:

Officials: Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Aine Bird, Danielle Monaghan, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 22nd January 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Cllr Fennessy and seconded by Cllr Murphy ▪ On commencement of the meeting, sympathy was extended to Cllr Tormey on the recent death of his wife
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ B. Lynch provided an update on the local programme of commemoration in respect of the War of Independence/Civil War ▪ Noted that proposed wording on Notice of Motion regarding the compliance requirements place on Community and Voluntary groups by the Charities Act was yet to be completed ▪ J. Regan stated that he had sought a presentation on procurement and the Sectoral Employment Order. It was noted that Section 7 of the minutes of the previous meeting had captured all areas members had advised they wished to be considered during this term of the Committee, though no commitment was made that any particular area would be dealt with immediately, with relevant policy development being the priority for progression
3.	<p><u>To Receive details of the Proposed Community Grant Allocations for 2020 and if deemed appropriate Recommend for Approval to the Full Council of Meath County Council</u></p> <p>F. Fallon outlined the proposed allocations for 2020 under the various categories (documents circulated), with the following key points noted:</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget available is €145,500 under the Community Grant Scheme and €20,000 through the Burial Grants Scheme ▪ 500 applications received, of which 21 were deemed ineligible ▪ 132 projects unlikely to proceed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Confirmed that reallocation later in year will be considered <p>The proposed 2020 allocations as presented were approved. Proposed by Cllr Killian and seconded by N. Ui Loinsigh. The Community Department was commended for their work in relation to the administration of the various grant schemes.</p>
4.	<p><u>To Receive details of the Proposed Regional Festivals and Participative Events Allocations for 2020 (Small Grants Scheme in Co. Meath), and if deemed appropriate Recommend for Approval to the Full Council of Meath County Council</u></p> <p>F. Fallon provided an overview of the proposed allocations under the Regional Festivals Small Grant Scheme (document circulated). The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding allocation to Meath for 2020 is €11,000 (same as 2019) ▪ Nine applications received, with one application deemed ineligible ▪ The scale of grant awarded is based on anticipated visitor numbers ▪ Confirmed that funding drawdown by groups will be based on vouched expenditure ▪ Any unspent monies by year end is required to be returned to Fáilte Ireland, and will not be carried over to 2021 <p>The proposed 2020 allocations as presented were approved. Proposed by Cllr Fennessy and seconded by Cllr Drew.</p>
5.	<p><u>To Receive an Update on Rebuilding Ireland – 2019 Targets/Delivery & Pipeline</u></p> <p>D. Jones provided an overview of delivery recorded for 2019, across the various delivery mechanisms, noting total delivery of 472 units viz a via target of 431.</p> <p>In terms of anticipated 2020 delivery, 426 units are currently expected to be delivered, though uncertainty exists in relation to Part V delivery and potential impact of Covid-19 on the advancement of private developments.</p> <p>Discussion followed, with the following noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are currently 3, 978 applicants on Meath’s social housing waiting list, of which 2,181 are in active HAP tenancies ▪ Land remains a challenge in relation to future direct construction projects, as all suitable sites within our existing land bank are subject to an approved scheme ▪ The matter of the County Development Plan (CDP) was raised and potential impact on rural areas in regard to one off houses. The opportunity for low cost private sites in the identified rural nodes was raised, while it was confirmed that the Housing Section had inputted into the CDP process in respect of housing demand statistics ▪ Confirmed that the standard acquisition programme had been stood down by the Department at the end of 2019, in favour of increased expenditure on direct construction activity and perceived impact on the private second hand property market. Noted that funding still available for turn key acquisitions and the acquisition of units for specific purposes such as disability and Housing First ▪ The matter of derelict sites/vacant units was raised. Meath County Council’s Vacant Homes



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	Action Plan was highlighted, as well as initiatives undertaken by the Environment Section in respect of derelict sites and the Navan Land Management project funded under the Urban Regeneration Fund
6.	<p><u>To Consider the following Notice of Motion (Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons), referred to the SPC</u></p> <p><u>That all Meath County Council housing tenants must have house and contents insurance.</u></p> <p>This item deferred to next meeting.</p>
7.	<p><u>To Consider the following Notice of Motion (Cllr Alan Lawes), referred to the SPC</u></p> <p><u>That Meath County Council allows Meath Councillors to inspect any properties used as emergency accommodation and clarifies its position as previously discussed by this Council and the Navan Municipal District.</u></p> <p>Cllr Lawes outlined the intention to the Notice of Motion, and his rationale for bringing it forward for discussion.</p> <p>It was the consensus of those members that contributed, that it was important that there was a process in place to ensure the standard of emergency accommodation was adequate, though any such process should be completed by Meath County Council staff.</p> <p>In response to the discussion, D. Jones highlighted the National Quality Standards Framework that has begun to be rolled out in respect of emergency accommodation provided by the NGO sector, in particular Theme 3: Safe Services, with reference to ensuring a safe physical environment to reside. It was proposed to develop a draft protocol in relation to private emergency accommodation in line with same, for review at subsequent meeting. This approach was agreed by members present.</p>
8.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cllr Murphy had sought an update on the Covid-19 measures undertaken by both the Community and Housing Departments. Updates on same were provided by F. Fallon and D. Jones respectively. The Community Section were commended for the coordination of the community approach to date, including the Community Call help line, Forum meetings and input from PPN ▪ Cllr Killian raised the matter of the Pride of Place competition and its cancelation, and sought that a way be found so that the budget assigned to same would be made available to the participating groups. F. Fallon confirmed that certain initiatives will be examined regarding same ▪ Cllr Lawes raised the matter of homeless clients with substance misuse issues, and the need for a hostel that can cater for active use on the premises. Reference was made to current models that had been developed and operational in the county in recent years, in conjunction with the Simon Community. It was highlighted that the current Regional Homeless Action Plan will expire at the end of 2020, and the draft new plan will come before this committee for discussion later this year



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Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Agenda Item No. 3 Refers:

- To Approve the proposed Community Grants Allocations for 2020 as presented

Agenda Item No. 4 Refers:

- To Approve the proposed Regional Festivals and Participative Events Allocations for 2020 as presented