



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

7th April 2021, Virtual Meeting, 2.30pm

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

Apologies:

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

Officials: Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Karen Dalton, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 17th February 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Cllr Lawes and seconded by Cllr M. Murphy
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were no matters arising
3.	<p><u>To Receive details of the Proposed Community Grants Scheme Allocations for 2021, 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 2021 Community Grants Scheme Allocations (document circulated in advance). The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Significant increase in the number of applications submitted from Resident Associations ▪ A total of 458 valid applications were received, and a breakdown per category was outlined ▪ Total budget has been allocated ▪ As per 2020 Scheme, flexibility will be shown to successful applicants in respect of potential impact on project completion as a result of Covid-19 restrictions <p>The proposed 2021 allocations as presented were approved. Proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Killian. The Community Department was commended for their work in relation to the administration of the various grant schemes, and swift turnaround of approvals since the Scheme was advertised.</p> <p>It was agreed that a Notice of Motion be brought forward to full Council seeking that the budget available for the Community Grant Scheme be increased to €200,000 for 2022, in recognition of the increase in the number of applications now being received, and the efforts of the community and voluntary groups in the County. Proposed by Cllr Killian and seconded by Cllr Tobin. It was noted that in the context of any future increase in budget, that the funding available to the Equality & Social Inclusion category be increased, with consultation suggested to take place with the Social Inclusion</p>



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Item	Discussion / Action
	pillar of the Public Participation Network.
4.	<p><u>To Receive details of the Proposed 2021 Meath Pride of Place Awards Scheme</u></p> <p>F. Fallon provided an overview of the Pride of Place Scheme, including a review of the 2019 Scheme and proposed Scheme for 2021 (document circulated in advance). The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in the number of participating groups in 2019 compared to 2018 ▪ Cost of Award ceremonies and Prize monies outlined ▪ Schools Pride of Place launched on 22nd March 2021 ▪ New Categories for 2021 include 'Climate Action Project', 'Actions for Pollinators', 'Apartment Complex' and 'Community Wellbeing'. The latter new category is to acknowledge the support groups have provided to their community during Covid-19 ▪ Format of judging will depend on the level of Covid-19 restrictions that are in place at the time of judging ▪ Similarly, the format of the County Awards event will be determined later in the year, in consultation with the Municipal District Chairpersons ▪ Scheme to be advertised through all available platforms, and input sought from members in promoting the scheme also <p>The proposed Pride of Place Scheme 2021 was welcome by members present.</p>
5.	<p><u>To Receive a presentation on the development of Meath's Housing Strategy for Persons with a Disability 2021-2026</u></p> <p>D. Jones provided a presentation in respect of the Meath's Housing Strategy for Persons with Disability 2021-2026, including reference to the current national and local Housing Disability Strategies, the local Housing & Disability Steering Group, the Strategy formulation process that is being undertaken in developing the new Strategy and identification of key priority areas. Discussion followed, with the following key points noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The suite of private Adaptation Grants, and the importance of a swift turnaround time on applications. Confirmed that Approved Housing Bodies can avail of said Grants to make adaptations to their own stock ▪ Confirmed that the matter of Rightsizing will be enhanced within the pending revised Allocation Scheme, with provision to be included for private homeowners who may wish to sell their property and avail of a Local Authority older person dwelling ▪ Emerging need and the importance of early application for social housing emphasised, in order to avoid a crisis situation when family circumstances change at some point in the future ▪ Confirmed that the Meath Disability Network is represented on the Housing & Disability Steering Group but further representation from service users would be welcomed. Matter to be raised at the Social Inclusion pillar of the Public Participation Network ▪ The need for joint working with the HSE highlighted, particular in the provision of care support packages ▪ The positive role of assistive technology was highlighted



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Item	Discussion / Action
6.	<p data-bbox="332 321 537 348"><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul data-bbox="332 380 1372 863" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="332 380 1372 436">▪ Cllr Lawes enquired on the number of persons sleeping rough at present in the County. This data to be ascertained<li data-bbox="332 468 1372 525">▪ J. Regan requested that the Sectoral Employment Order be sufficiently reflected in all procurement/contracts, including those pertaining to Housing maintenance<li data-bbox="332 556 1372 653">▪ J. Regan & G. Weldon enquired if the matter regarding agenda items emanating from the PPN representatives had been clarified. It was confirmed that an interim arrangement has been agreed in the absence of a functioning PPN Secretariat<li data-bbox="332 684 1372 741">▪ Cllr Killian enquired in relation to the status of a number of social housing construction projects. An update on same was provided<li data-bbox="332 772 1372 863">▪ S. Smith highlighted that forth coming National Domestic Violence day, with people encouraged to wear item/s of clothing in the colour purple to highlight awareness on the day. Also suggested that public building/s in the County be lit up in purple also

Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

Agenda Item no. 3 Refers: To approve proposed Community Grants Scheme Allocation for 2021, as presented