



Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

25th January 2021, Virtual Meeting, 2.30pm

Attendees - Cllr Damien O' Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Sean Drew, Cllr Nick Killian,
Councillors: Cllr Conor Tormey, Cllr Yemi Adenuga

Apologies: Cllr Emer Tobin

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

Officials: Barry Lynch, Mark Harrington, Fiona Fallon, Danielle Monaghan, Des Foley, Majella Farrell, Ciaran Mangan, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 18th November 2020</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Cllr Killian and seconded by Cllr Murphy
2.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There were no matters arising
3.	<p><u>Navan Railway Assessment Study – To Receive the views of the SPC Members on the benefit to the Community to an extension of the Rail Line to Navan</u></p> <p>D. Foley provided a background to the Navan Railway Assessment Study to be completed by the National Transport Authority (NTA), and the approach being undertaken by Meath County Council in terms of informing the outcome, noting the following key aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft report due mid-year and it is the intention of Meath County Council to recommend the delivery of a rail line from the M3 Parkway, Dunboyne to Navan ▪ Meath County Council has engaged a number of consultants to assist in a submission to the NTA, including in the areas of transport, climate action, economic development, community & wellbeing and population projections ▪ Pending meetings with the NTA on the matter highlighted, including with an Cathaoirleach and the Chairpersons of each of the Strategic Policy Committees ▪ Aim is to ensure as broad of views as possible are taken into consideration in the decision making process, beyond cost considerations and population projections <p>The views of the members of the Strategic Policy Committee were sought, with the following points</p>



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	<p>noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Benefits pertaining to employment, environment and wellbeing, in particular in the context of commuting, were highlighted ▪ Suggested that the views of neighbouring Local Authorities should be sought, as the proposed Navan rail line would represent key infrastructure for the wider region, with benefits not confined to Co. Meath alone – long term vision should incorporate a regional dimension ▪ Catchment areas that would benefit from the proposed rail line discussed, and it was the view of members present that the benefits would be accrued by a significantly wider area than a 10km corridor ▪ Noted that ‘business as usual’ approach will not be sustainable into the future and there is a need to future proof our communities. The provision of the Navan railway is one such initiative in that approach ▪ The decision should not be based solely on population numbers, but rather on a much wider basis. The negative impact on mental health emanating from car based commuting which is significant in the County, should not be underestimated ▪ Tourism benefit noted in facilitating access to the County’s visitor attractions and gateway to Ancient East ▪ Education benefits cited, including facilitating access to Dunboyne College of Further Education and to third level institutions in Dublin ▪ Matter needs to be placed as a priority by Co. Meath’s Oireachtas members, with their engagement also required
4.	<p><u>To Receive details on the proposed Community Grants Scheme 2021</u></p> <p>F. Fallon provided an overview of the 2021 Community Grants Scheme, including an outturn for 2020.</p> <p>Noted that the Scheme is in line with the 2020 Scheme, though the budget provision for festival & events has reduced as a result of COVID-19. It is proposed to advertise the grants scheme shortly, with a closing date of 5th March 2021. The following points were note by members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2021 Grant Scheme welcomed and the work on behalf of the Community Section was acknowledged ▪ Increased budget sought for 2022 onwards, noting the important role of volunteers ▪ Confirmed that virtual programmes/project are eligible for funding as per 2020, and flexibility will be applied in the context of challenges presented by COVID-19 ▪ Confirmation is currently being sought regarding deadline extension for Community Enhancement Scheme applications <p>The proposed Community Grants Scheme 2021 as proposed was agreed.</p>
5.	<p><u>To Receive an Update on the Decade of Centenaries Programme</u></p> <p>C. Mangan provided an overview of activity under the Decade of Centenaries Programme, noting the</p>



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	<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ During 2020, two key projects proceeded despite COVID-19, including the Hindsight History, Kells , which was held on line, and the publication marking the sacking of Trim ▪ Printed matter will be central to 2021 commemoration events, including ‘Sound of Freedom’ novel initiative targeting children, which will be distributed to schools plus an on line lecture ▪ Other initiatives outlined, included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The current six week on line Hinterland series ▪ Publication re: Eamonn Duggan (Longwood based Treaty signatory) ▪ Cortown 1920-1922 – due to be published Q4 2021 ▪ Ratification by Meath County Council of Treaty ▪ Arts projects including partnership project with Belfast based artist re: border, and commissioning of third volume of Civil War, with a focus on the north west of the County <p>The detailed update provided was welcomed by members present, and the work of the Library and Art Services was commended</p>
6.	<p><u>To Review Draft Mid East Region Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023</u></p> <p>D. Jones outlined the draft Regional Homeless Action Plan 2021-2023, covering Review and Progress achieved under previous Action Plan, COVID-19 Impact, Policy Context, Regional Structure, Homeless Expenditure, Background to Homeless Services in the County, Extent of Homelessness, Emerging Trends & Key Findings and Actions.</p> <p>The following key points were noted by members present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work of Homeless team acknowledged and commended ▪ The enhanced homeless services now in operation in the County welcomed ▪ Concerns expressed regarding the persistent high numbers of presentations and placements in emergency accommodation ▪ Complex issues that can be present regarding homelessness noted ▪ Good practice that may be in operation elsewhere should be explored, including the opportunities that may be present in respect of derelict buildings/refurbishments <p>It was agreed that given the importance of the issue, that a special meeting of the Committee be held to review further, and that an invitation be extended to all elected members. In addition, it was agreed that the draft document be circulated to the Social Inclusion pillar of the Public Participation Network for observations.</p>
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An update was sought in respect of the Low Cost Private Sites initiative, Lagore Lawns, Dunshaughlin. It was noted that 67 applications were received, and these applications were currently being assessed. Letters to issue shortly to applicants.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ G. Weldon expressed disappointment that agenda items that he had put forward had not been included on agenda and queried why this was the case, and the mechanism to do so in the future. It was confirmed that the agenda items submitted were valid; however a process needs to be in place to ensure a mandate for agenda items is present from the parent PPN structure. This to be followed up and agreed▪ In relation to Meath County Council's three direct construction projects that are on site, it was confirmed that two have been designated as Essential Projects (Kells & Bettystown), while the Dunshaughlin site has had to close, as units will not be completed by the end of February 2021

Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)

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