



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### **Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Virtual Meeting, 10am**

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

**Attendees Sectoral Representatives:** - Gerard Weldon, Niamh Ui Loinsigh, John Regan

**Apologies** Cllr Conor Tormey, Cllr Eimear Tobin, Michelle McCullough

**Officials:** Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Brian Hora

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of previous meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Lawes</li> </ul>
2.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No matters arising</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>Correspondence</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F. Fallon set out the details of the correspondence received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Announcement by Minister for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD on a set of Values and Principles for working with Community and Voluntary Sector.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The correspondence was noted. J. Regan raised concern in relation to the threat of privatisation of community services and the associated issues which may arise and the possible impact on public funding. Cllr Lawes also agreed with J. Regan. B. Lynch noted that the document set out a high level framework for working with the C&amp;V sector. It was also stated that Community Grants are funded by the ratepayers rather than central exchequer funds and any potential threat is likely to come from the economic performance of the county.</p>
4.	<p><b>To receive details of the proposed Community Grants Scheme grant allocations (2<sup>nd</sup> round) for 2022 and if deemed appropriate recommend for approval to the Full Council of Meath County Council</b></p> <p>F. Fallon provided details on the assessment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> call for community grants for 2022. The 2<sup>nd</sup> call provided an additional 98 applications with the total number of applications received for 2022 comparable to numbers received in 2021.</p> <p>A number of queries were raised by Cllr O'Reilly and Cllr Lawes which F. Fallon provided responses to.</p> <p>On the proposal of Cllr Maria Murphy and seconded by Cllr Alan Lawes, it was proposed to forward the community grant allocations to the July meeting of the Full Council for approval.</p>

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5.	<p><b>To receive updates on the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026</b></li><li>• <b>National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022 – 2027</b></li><li>• <b>Local Traveller Consultative Committee</b></li><li>• <b>Acquisitions policy</b></li></ul> <p>B. Hora delivered a presentation on the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2022-2026 for Co. Meath. Details of the number of social and affordable housing units to be provided were set out. The Action Plan is to be presented at the July Full Council Meeting with publication on the Meath County Council website to follow. B. Hora also advised that the Affordable Housing Policy would be prepared for adoption in Q3 of 2022. A number of queries on the specific targets were raised by Cllrs Maria Murphy, Alan Lawes, Nick Killian with Brian Hora providing responses to these.</p> <p>B. Hora provided a presentation on the National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-27 and the Local Traveller Consultative Committee. The Meath Disability Strategy has set out a target of 10% for housing supports for people with disabilities (mental health, physical, sensory or intellectual). As the National Strategy has set a target of 15%, the Meath strategy must be updated and it was noted that achieving this new target in Meath could be challenging. Further updates on the strategy will be provided on a quarterly basis as required.</p> <p>B. Hora advised that the procurement process for the re-development of St. Francis' Park has commenced and it is hoped that a contractor would be on site in September 2022. Fire Safety in Traveller specific accommodation to be addressed in conjunction with Meath Fire Services.</p> <p>A number of queries were raised were raised by Cllrs Sean Drew and Maria Murphy.</p> <p>B. Hora presented a procedure on the acquisition of properties and the instances where it is permitted under circular 16/2022 including purchase of 1 bed properties, to allow people to exit homelessness and specific housing for people with disabilities. The purchase of HAP properties was also discussed in detail by the SPC members. A number of queries were raised by Cllrs Alan Lawes, Maria Murphy, Sean Drew and Yemi Adenuga all of which were addressed by Brian Hora.</p>
6.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gerard Weldon raised a number of issues and he noted that the first value in the community and voluntary values and principles is respect<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ PPN plenary in April and it was stated that questions submitted on the night were not answered. Noted that the PPN was not working however the current process is putting in place a new Secretariat should be paused until the outgoing Secretariat are afforded the opportunity to present details of their work and financial reports.</li><li>○ Response from Minister O'Brien on the registration under the charities act noted that the charities test sets out whether groups should register or not.</li><li>○ CE Schemes – work on green spaces in housing estates must cease in September 2022. This affects older people who are not in a position to look after their estates and the CE scheme is essential.</li></ul></li></ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Insurance – most groups are reporting an increase in premiums despite coming out of the pandemic. It was also stated that if open defibrillators are provided in a community only limited insurance is provided.</li><li>○ Teach na Teamhrach – war museum insurance premiums and Council rates (rated as storage and not tourist) have increased and it will close as can't sustain these costs.</li><li>● Niamh Ui Loinsigh agreed with G. Weldon and the points raised</li><li>● Cllr Alan Lawes advised the committee that the Viper Debt Recovery Service was operating in Meath and An Garda Síochána have been advised of this.</li><li>● B. Lynch noted that it is the Valuation Office that determines the valuation of the site and if it is incorrect it can be appealed. B. Lynch also noted that the plenary was run by the Department and Meath County Council were not involved. The Department have set out a detailed process to be followed. A new PPN resource worker has commenced and will continue to work with groups until such time as the new Secretariat posts are filled. B. Lynch noted that it was open to the previous Secretariat members to be nominated for another term. F. Fallon confirmed that the process to seek nominations for the new Secretariat is likely to commence in September after the summer holidays.</li></ul>

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

- **Agenda Item no. 4 Refers:** To approve proposed Community Grants Scheme Allocation for 2022, as presented