

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Planning, & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in Aras an Chontae on Monday 7th December 2015

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Baill: Cllr. Jim Cuddy (Chair)
Cllr. Frank Kearney
Cllr. Seamus Walsh
Cllr. Sean Canney
Cllr. Shaun Cunniffe
Cllr. D. Connolly
Mr. Gus McCarthy
Ms. Frances O' Reilly,

Oifigigh:

Catherine Mc Connell, A/DOS, Planning & Sustainable Development, Industrial Relations & Community, Enterprise Development

Catherine Morgan,

Mairead O Malley, ASO, Planning & Sustainable Development Unit.

Apologies:

Cllr. Tom Welby,

Cllr. A. Donohue,

Ms Marian Brady,

Minutes of Meeting held on 7th September 2015.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June were proposed for adoption by Cllr. Walsh and seconded by Cllr. Connolly.

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Draft Development Contribution Scheme

C. Mc Connell outlined the new Draft Contribution Scheme to the Meeting. She stated the charges would be reduced considerably since the Scheme was introduced in 2004. She stated that a low volume of development had taken place in recent years but she anticipated a quick up spring.

She stated the new scheme had been simplified to two areas as no development had taken place in recent years in Barna, Oranmore and Athenry. The new rates were more realistic to allow communities to progress. The charges compare favourably with the charges in other Local Authorities e.g. Mayo and Clare County Council.

Cllr. Connolly asked for clarification on the Charges for Wind Farms. C. Mc Connell informed him a charge of €10,000 per megawatt capacity shall apply; previously it was a charge per turbine. A Charge of €4,000 per megawatt capacity shall apply to community based/local wind farms. Wind turbines up to 0.5 megawatts are exempt of development contributions.

Mr. McCarthy informed the meeting that Mayo County Council tried to adopt a scheme of Community Contributions but it was rejected by the members.

Cllr. Canney highlighted a case where a housing estate was built in Headford and no footpaths were provided. He queried if these conditions could be agreed before development.

Mr. McCarthy questioned if earth Material would be charged at the same rate as landfill waste of €5.00 per tonne. C. Mc Connell stated that it was subject to EPA if over a certain depth.

Cllr Cunniffe questioned if the development contributions could be ringfenced in each Municipal Area. C. Mc Connell stated that the weaker areas would suffer and that the funding needed to be distributed fairly. The funding is ringfenced for the purpose it is collected for and the Council have provided Play Grounds and Astro Turf Pitches. The money is distributed by the Corporate Services SPC.

Cllr. Caney stated that the public needed to know where the funding was going and it should be provided to the Councillors at the budget meeting.

Cllr. Connolly commented on the charges for Industrial/Commercial and Other Development. He stated that small abattoirs should be encouraged to develop without having to pay the same charges as the larger abattoirs. C. Mc Connell stated she would take advice from R Gatley the Veterinary Officer.

Cllr. Canney proposed that no charges be levied for parking in villages to encourage people to set up a business. It would attract business to the area and provide income to the Council from Rates. This was seconded by Cllr Connolly and all the members were happy with the proposal.

C. Mc Connell stated that the Draft Development Scheme would go before the full Council in December where it would be signed off on. It would then go on public display and be adopted.

Update on European Region of Gastronomy Bid:

C. Morgan gave a briefing to the meeting On the Councils bid for the 2018 Region of Gastronomy.

She stated it was a Joint Bid between Galway County Council, Galway City Council and GMIT Galway. The European Region of Gastronomy Programme will:

- Showcase regional Gastronomy at European Level.
- Build regional identity by giving visibility to traditional food ways.
- Support local economies by stimulating public and private sector funding potential.
- Create strong links between sustainable tourism and cultural sectors.
- Provide a focus on innovation and learning to support smart growth.
- Develop awareness on wider food issues for healthy living and sustainability.
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The bid book is currently been prepared and 10th January 2016 is the deadline for regions to submit their bid. In February/March 2016 each region has to present their bid book to an international jury of experts. In September 2016 award ceremony for European Region of Gastronomy 2018. Thereafter each region to work with all stakeholders on their programme of activities for their year and establish structures (sub –groups) to manage the programme.

Cllr. Kearney congratulated C. Morgan on her presentation and stated it was very informative. Cllr. Connolly stated it was great to see Galway County Council bidding for the title and commented that Galway Sheep Breeders should be included in the project as they produce a quality wool and meat product. C. Morgan stated it was a good point and would include them in the project,

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Cllr. Connolly informed the meeting that the Ballinasloe Area had been very badly affected by the flooding and queried what can be done to prevent this happening in future. Cllr. Canney agreed and stated that no one was taking responsibility for the problem.

The chairperson thanked the Members for their contribution and closed the meeting.

The next SPC Meeting will take place on Monday 2nd November at 10.00 in Boardroom in Centre Point..

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