

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of the Planning, & Community Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in G01 on Monday 11th September 2017.

I LATHAIR

Baill: Cllr. James Charity (Chair)
Cllr. Tom Welby
Cllr. Frank Kearney.
Cllr, Shaun Cunniffe.

Oifigigh:

Catherine Mc Connell A/ Director of Services.
Valerie Loughnane, Senior Planner.
Mairead O Malley, ASO,
Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer
Kieran Coyne, Rapid Co-ordinator
Sinead Monaghan, ASO.
Brendan Dunne, Assistant Planner.
James Russell, Executive Planner.

Apologies:

Cllr. D. Burke.
Gus Mc Carthy

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th September 2017.

The minutes of the meeting held on the 12th June 2017 were proposed for adoption by Cllr Tom Welby and seconded by Cllr F Kearney. A slight amendment was made to the minutes.

C. Mc Connell addressed the Meeting about the lack of attendance of PPN members at the meeting. She stated that we had written to the secretariat to point it out and had also referred the matter to corporate to identify the problem and to appoint new members if necessary.

Cllr Kearney said it was very disappointing that these members were not attending and the matter needs to be addressed.

Cllr. Welby stated that it was important to give the community an opportunity to voice concerns and it was the ideal venue. If the members were unable to attend it would give others the opportunity to get involved.

K. Coyne stated he was involved in the election of these members and there was huge interest expressed and it was disappointing that the members were not attending.

Overview of the submissions received on the non-statutory consultation on the Issues Paper's in relation to the proposed Variation NO.2 to Galway County Development Plan (Barna and Gaeltacht Plans)

V. Loughnane stated that non statutory meetings were held in 3 areas

Barna on July 18

Spiddal /Carraroe

Claregalway on 25th July.

There was a good attendance between all meetings one hundred people attended. They spoke to a lot of people re the different issues and explained the variation to people. The 8th of August was the closing date and 95 submissions were received. All the submissions were put into a report and we went through all the issues and we will prepare a report on that.

B. Dunne stated that in relation to the Gaeltacht Plan 41 submissions were received. A report on these will be finalised this week.

TII sent in a submission re route plans however these objectives are covered in the County Development Plan.

Udaras sent in a submission to ensure that the Irish Language was given careful consideration. We have met with Udaras on a number of occasions and this issue is covered in Chapter 3 of the County Development Plan.

Cllr. Cuddy put in a submission on Claregalway C Frames. The OPW hope to have final C Frames layers available on line shortly. We are also in consultation with OPW.

Other submissions were received and we grouped them together e.g. Heritage,

Claregalway re playground facility's

Housing to increase the residential land available in Claregalway.

Claregalway Bypass – there is still provision in Chapter 5 of the County Development Plan for this objective.

Tourism; Wild Atlantic way better emphasis on signage and facility's along the route.

Natural & Built Heritage – SAC use of stone walls and renovating old houses.

V. Loughnane informed the Meeting that they visited the 3 islands and that the community would like the Irish Language clause reduced to allow people to reside and work there. Udaras would have a different opinion and it is hoped to put a plan together.

Cllr. Kearney stated that the TII had changed the signage at Annage Cross and has put Claregalway in Irish. He stated that people would not know where they were going.

V. Loughnane stated that it was the signage policy and we had no choice but to put it in under its official name.

Cllr. Charity queried if it could be put in English in smaller language.

C. Mc Connell stated that this was not possible that we had to use Irish in statutory notices.

J. Russell informed the Meeting that in relation to Barna the Ring Road dissects the area and they had received submissions on this matter. They also received submissions re Coast Walk, sites for National Schools and playing pitches.

38 submissions were received for this area and there was big expectations from the public that they would be delivered. However previously we relied on the developer to deliver these services and with the downturn this did not happen. However they need to realise that the plan is only a short term one 5-6 years and it will take longer to deliver.

9 submissions related to town centres. Only 3 submissions were received in relation to the Ring Road. Issues were also raised re road safety, parking and footpaths.

Another issue that was raised was derelict boats and old tyres lying idle in the pier area.

113 houses have been applied for in Barna and this application has gone directly to a Board Planula. Galway County Council have met with the Board and the developer regarding this matter the issues are teased through and in three weeks time the Board will give an opinion on the formal application. This procedure puts a lot of pressure on the Local Authority as a lot of reports have to be prepared. It will be interesting to see their opinion on this development.

This will take a big chunk of our housing allocation for this area as we only had 155 allocated to this area.

C. Mc Connell stated that we will have a new National Planning Framework for this area with new guidelines.

V. Loughnane informed the meeting that we were engaging with Irish water to get services for Barna and Oranmore.

Cllr. Welby stated that the Atlantic Way seems to be falling down with no rest facilities on the route.

C. Mc Connell stated that people see opportunity's and try to develop their plans. However priority has to be given to the existing towns and villages and we need to support these. An Board Failte don't want a load of business popping up. Clifden Chamber of commerce are doing their best to promote towns and villages.

Cllr. Charity informed the meeting that in 2008 funding was ring-fenced for a playground in Claregalway and 4/5 sites were identified. However to date no development has taken place. He also queried the statues of the Claregalway Bypass.

V. Loughnane stated that both items will remain objectives for Galway County Council.

REDZ Update;

K. Coyne gave an update on this programmes. We are working on the 2nd phase of the project and 2016 phase will be implemented in 2017. There are 10 zones in Galway County and we cannot alter these boundaries e.g. Parts of Ballinasloe goes into Roscommon and Clonbur goes into Mayo. In the first round of the project we put in 7 applications we got funding for 6. For the second phase we have put in two projects split into 10 zones 5 in urban

Loughrea

Tuam

Clifden

Ballinasloe

Portumna

And 5 more in more rural area.

We have tendered for the process and Galway County Council have met with the successful tender. We have 4 sessions in each 5 zones and have a closing session and a final report. That is where we are at the moment and we will involve relevant elected members. There is a lot of work involved and we have retained some funding.

C. Mc Connell said it was a great opportunity for these areas to see funding allocated and to put together a plan and it will encourage other areas to apply for funding.

K. Coyne stated that the PPN have an opportunity to get involved in this area to have zoned groups to highlight issues. The parish newsletter could be used to communicate the information.

C. Mc Connell informed the meeting that we will be inviting groups to send a representative to come to the meetings and inform the community. The PPN are mailed 3 to 4 times a week with information.

Community Facilities Scheme Update.

C. Mc Connell stated that in March 2017 Communities were invited to submit applications and the maximum grant was €1000 per application. We received 173 applications some were duplicated and it was narrowed down to 138. The LCDS will have to approve these applications and be approved by the Municipal Districts. They are usually used to purchase something like a photocopier or replace a gate. We are trying to get the best value for money and they will be put before the Municipal Districts in October.

Presentation and consideration by SPC of Draft Galway County Heritage & Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022.

M. Mannion gave a presentation to the Meeting on this project. The aim of the Galway County Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2017-2022 is to place heritage and biodiversity at the heart of public life in the county through increasing awareness, participation, enjoyment, Knowledge and understanding of our shared heritage to lead to its proper conservation, management and protection and safeguarding it for future generations.

Three objectives have been identified that will underpin the delivery of actions under five key themes.

- Community Engagement
- Education and training
- Research and information
- Galway County Council: people, property and works
- Stakeholder engagement and pursuing opportunities with other partners

The Objectives are:

1. To increase awareness, appreciation and participation.
2. To gather and share knowledge
3. To manage and conserve our heritage including biodiversity.

The aim, vision, objectives and themes will be delivered through a series of strategic actions that will be listed under each of them.

Galway County Council will work in partnership with as many people and organisation as is possible has been policy since the first heritage and biodiversity plans were established. The plan has a timeframe from 2017-2022 sets out actions for a six-year period. The Galway County Heritage Forum will monitor the annual work programme. Progress will be evulated annually.

The meeting commended the development of the Heritage and Bio Diversity plan and all the work that went in to developing it. The Plan was endorsed by Cllr. Charity and Cllr. Cunniffe.

AOB

C. Mc Connell informed the Meeting that this would be her last SPC Meeting with Galway County Council as she was moving to take up another position. She thanked the SPC members for their positive input to the meeting and stated it was a pleasure to work with them.

Cllr. Charity wished her well in her future career and thanked her for her contribution.

Cllr. Kearney also wished her the best in her new position.

Cllr. Kearney queried if the Regional Roads would be downgraded after the opening of the M17 in September and questioned if planning restrictions would be eased.

V. Loughanne stated that certain restrictions would always remain in the interest of Road Safety.

Cllr. Charity stated that speed limit reviews would be put before the Roads & Transportation SPC Committee.

Cllr. Charity queried the matter of tenants been asked to move from their accommodation as the landlord wanted to set up Air B & B.

V. Loughnane stated that a householder could use up to 4 rooms for B& B but after that it would require planning permission. If a house was to be used solely for Air B & B Planning Permission would be required as was in the case in Dublin

Clle. Charity thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and scheduled the next Meeting for **Monday 4th December at 10.00 am.**