

***Minutes of Meeting of the Social Development Strategic Policy Committee
held in Council Chamber, Aras Contae an Chláir on Wednesday 9th
December 2020 at 2.30pm***

Present: Cllr. Gerard Flynn, Chairperson
Cllr. Tony O'Brien
Cllr. Mark Nestor – via Teams
Cllr. Ann Norton
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Cllr. Donna McGettigan – via Teams
Larry Brennan
Noel Kearney
Anne Haugh, Director of Service
Siobhan McNulty, Senior Executive Officer
Helen Walsh, County Librarian
Tim Forde, Sports & Recreation – via Teams
Eimear O'Connor, Administrative Officer
Congella Maguire, Heritage Officer
Kathy Lordan, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Joe Garrihy; Mary Leahy; Tommy Guilfoyle; William Cahir.

1. Minutes of Social Development SPC meeting held on 17th June 2020

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020 were proposed by Cllr. T. O'Brien, seconded by N. Kearney, and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Noted that no response has been received to correspondence to Irish Water. Agreed to invite Cyril Feeney, Senior Engineer, to the next meeting to discuss the deficit in water service infrastructure in Clare which is impacting on the delivery of social houses.

Noted that no response has been received from the Minister for Housing following invite to come and talk in Clare re. measures in place to address shortfalls and address SPC on Housing policy.

3. Climate Change and Biodiversity

C. Maguire, Heritage Officer, Clare County Council presented to the meeting on the Clare Biodiversity Programme and the main Biodiversity projects.

The members thanked C. Maguire for the presentation. A number of items were discussed including:

L. Brennan wished to acknowledge the expertise of Sheila Downes, Environmental Assessment Officer.
He requested more biodiversity in housing estate developments.

Cllr. D. McGettigan queried if more permanent pollinators and flower bed pollinators could be provided to Shannon Tidy Towns Group.

C. Maguire advised that there was significant engagement with Shannon in the second phase including webinars with Shannon Community group.

4. Allocation Scheme

S. McNulty reported that two submissions were received following circulation of the initial draft Allocations Scheme. Final draft has now been circulated and has also been forwarded to the Minister for comment before being brought to full Council meeting.

G. Flynn thanked Etain McCooley for response to his submission. Noted that L. Brennan also made a submission.

N. Kearney queried the role of Traveller Liaison Officer.

L. Brennan indicated there were still problems with the Scheme and referenced a number of paragraphs and terminologies he suggested amending.

S. McNulty advised that funding has been sought from the Department to appoint a Traveller Liaison Officer – this is not referenced in the Scheme.

S. McNulty agreed to look at wordings mentioned and again clarified that legal advice had been sought on the Allocation Scheme.

5. Tenancy Enforcement Additional Funding in Budget 2021

G. Flynn reported that the Budget 2021 granted €134k for Tenancy Enforcement.

S. McNulty advised that the new Officers will work with existing team in 2021.

6. Library, Arts & Culture

H. Walsh updated the meeting on the following:

- Community helpline – 82 No. calls received from 24th October to 2nd December.
- Wellbeing initiative - the Slaintecare Unit in the Department of Health through the Healthy Ireland fund have allocated funding for a new initiative called "Community Resilience".
- Chambers Ireland awards – Clare County Library awarded "Best Library Service" for the project "Connections: Stories by Syrian Families in County Clare".

- Letter of thanks received from President Higgins re. website service provided by Clare County Library.

7. Sports & Recreation

S. McNulty advised as follows:

- Project in Tim Smythe Park is on target for completion in Q1 2021.
- Awarded third highest amount nationally for Swimming Pool Grant
- Very positive feedback from customers of pool/gym – booking system will continue for Level 3 for pool, pitches etc.
- Working closely with Clare Sports Partnership – in particular for Kilrush Hub.

A. Norton queried what facilities for wheelchair users will be available in the new building at Tim Smythe Park.

8. Meeting Dates for 2021

Agreed meeting dates for 2021 as follows:

- 10th March
- 16th June
- 8th September
- 8th December

10. AOB

L. Brennan requested a presentation on the Shannon PPP and queried how Newmarket on Fergus housing is due to be completed in quarter 4, 2021 while wastewater treatment plant won't be completed until early 2024.

A. Haugh confirmed the Council is aware that private and Council schemes are affected by wastewater treatment plant. This can be discussed with Cyril Feeney at next SPC meeting.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____ **Signed:** _____
Cllr Gerard Flynn **Anne Haugh**
Chairperson **Director of Service**

Date: _____

