

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture  
Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on 13th April, 2016 at 3.00 pm in Meeting  
Room 1, County Hall**

**Chairman:** Cllr. John Brennan

**In Attendance:** Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. D. Kennedy, Cllr. P. McKee, Cllr. M. Noonan, John Hurley, Mary Brennan, John Burke, P O'Brien, M. Melia, DOS, A. M. Walsh, SEO, Deirdre Breen, Planner, J. Coyne, Acting County Librarian, D. Malone, Senior Planner, Mark O'Toole, IT, Breda Strappe, ASO.

Apologies:

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**Item 1 – Minutes of previous meeting**

Mary Brennan stated that the minutes of the meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> January under Any Other Business did not reflect clearly what she had said in regard to dredging, and would like to see this item discussed again before the winter. The minutes were then proposed by Cllr.P.Fitzpatrick, seconded by Cllr. D.Kennedy and agreed.

**Item 2 – Regional Cultural Strategy**

Maria Melia updated the group on the status of the The Three Sisters Regional Cultural Strategy 2016-2025, which is an integral part of the bid for the Kilkenny, Waterford, Wexford European Capital of Culture bid. Further consultation will take place on this framework document in order to increase partnership across the regions before the final document will be issued and presented to the full Council in May.

**Item 3 – Overview of Kilkenny Library Services 2015-2016**

Josephine Coyne, commenced her presentation by thanking the staff for their dedication and work during her secondment to Carlow County Council. Ms. Coyne updated the members on the newly introduced library services and the future plans for the service.

Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Noonan, Cllr. P. McKee and Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick welcomed the increase in the budget agreed for 2016 and commended the service provided by all the library staff. Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick complimented M. Melia for her support in supporting and driving forward the library services.

A discussion ensued with contributions being made by Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Noonan, Cllr. P.McKee and Cllr. P. Fitzpatrick. Concerns were raised in regard to the implications for the county should proposed shared services be introduced, the challenges of reaching the €3 per capita spend on the book fund and the issue of reduced opening hours due to staff resources. It was agreed that a letter should issue to the Department outlining Kilkenny County Council's concerns in regard to the proposed shared library service.

**Item 4 – Presentation on Signage**

Further to the information evening held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, for the business owners of Kilkenny advising them of the policy around signage and what is acceptable and not, Deirdre Breen, Planner gave a presentation to the group outlining same. Denis Malone informed the group that Kilkenny Local Authority has initiated a targeted approach to investigating unauthorised signage. The Planning Authority was commended on the steps taken

recently addressing the issue of unauthorised signage. A discussion followed where the concerns of the group were highlighted.

**Item 5 – Presentation on Estate Management and Community Information Interactive E-newsletter.**

Mark O'Toole on behalf of Ronan Ryan gave an overview of the on-line interactive magazine on estate management and community information. The magazine and its benefits to the public were welcomed by the group but some concerns were raised in regard format and accessibility to the public.

**Any other Business**

- a. Maria Melia informed the group that the Planning Authority is proposing a change to the Development Contribution Scheme adopted in April 2015 to include the development of solar farms. It is proposed to increase the charge of €5,000 per MW applicable under category 14 from Wind Farm Development to Renewable Energy - €10,000 per MW. The draft development contribution scheme will be going on public display in the coming days. A discussion ensued in regard to this issue and it was agreed that the issue of solar farms would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 3.00 pm.