

Chairman's Report of

SPC 1 Meeting of Economic Development, Enterprise Support, Tourism, Planning and Development Policy

Held in Council Chambers, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny

Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 3.00pm

1. Mr. Denis Malone gave an update on the Abbey Quarter Regeneration Project, noting that the works on the Mayfair Library are well progressed and are due to be completed in August 2023.
2. With regards to the North Quays SDZ, Mr. Malone advised that works on the site have commenced on the North Quays, noting that they are envisaged to be completed in 2025.
3. Mr. Malone gave an update on the Local Enterprise Office activities as follows:
 - The new Energy Efficiency Grant for Small Enterprises.
 - Recruitment Retention Seminar: Investing in the Right People for Your Business - which was run in partnership with Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce and was held in Newpark Hotel on the 15th June.
 - National Enterprise Awards - CHI Environmental based in Grannagh represented County Kilkenny at the National Enterprise Awards which were held in the Mansion House on 1st June.
4. Mr. Malone gave an update on Tourism noting the following:
 - The first draft of Kilkenny's Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP) which will be led by Failte Ireland was presented to Kilkenny County Council Executive in April. The plan focuses on improving and increasing the tourism experiences available to visitors in both Kilkenny City and County.
 - Kilkenny County Council in partnership with Kilkenny Volunteer Centre, once again launched the Kilkenny Welcome Team on the 24th May.
5. With regards to the Project Office and Parks, Mr. Malone gave an update on the following:
 - South East Greenway - advising that one section of it should be opened later in the year.
 - Woodstock Gardens are now fully open. Funding secured under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund along with funding secured under ORIS allowed for the provision of a new wheelchair see-saw and accessible Play Tower in Woodstock playground. A new fully electric and wheelchair accessible buggy was delivered to Woodstock in May.
 - ORIS Funding - Mr Malone gave a brief overview of the projects under Measure 1,2 and 3
6. Mr. Malone updated the meeting on Planning applications which are on par with last year; taking in charge sites; E-planning; Active Land Management; Derelict sites, noting a new

one in Graiguenamanagh was added to the register; Conservation Grants; Building control and Disability Access.

7. Mr Malone gave an update on the Review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan, noting that the Council had prepared a draft Masterplan for an extended Abbey Quarter area (to include Vicar Street & Greensbridge Street) along with a review of policy and the Urban Design Code (2018).
8. Mr. Nicolaas Louw gave an update on the Loughmacask Masterplan, noting that the material amendments to the Loughmacask Masterplan and Environmental screenings reports had been on public display from Friday 21st April 2023 to Friday May 26th 2023. The Chief Executive's report was presented to the Council at the Plenary meeting on the 19th of June and was accordingly adopted by resolution.
9. Ms. Martina Comerford noted that Kilkenny County Council's Tourism Development Strategy 2017-2022 has now ended and Ms. Comerford went through the outcomes of same. It was then proposed by Cllr. Michael Doyle and seconded by Cllr. John Coonan that the 2017 to 2022 plan be officially closed. The New KCC Tourism Development Strategy will run from 2023 – 2028 and will be launched later in the year. This plan is being developed in partnership with Failte Ireland's Destination Experience Development Plan (DEDP).
10. Mr Malone provided a briefing on the National Waste Management Plan advising that the three Regional Waste Management Planning Lead Authorities are now proceeding with the preparation of a replacement combined National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. The draft was on public display till 5th July 2023 and could be accessed through www.mywaste.ie

The next SPC 1 meeting will be held on the 21st September 2023 from 3.00pm to 4.30pm in Council Chambers in County Hall.

Cllr. Ger Frisby
Chairman

Date: _____