

Minutes of Meeting for Climate Action and Community Strategic Policy Committee

Held on Monday, 9th December 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

in Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise

Present:

Cllr. John King, Chairperson
Cllr. Tom Mulhall
Cllr. Pdraig Fleming
Cllr. James Kelly
Cllr. Ollie Clooney
Mr. Bobby Delaney, Environment/Conservation
Mr. Michael Gorman, Social Inclusion
Ms. Ruth Sullivan, Community/Voluntary
Ms. Ann Fingleton, Business/Commercial

Apologies: Donal Brennan Director of Services, Ms. Muireann Ni Chonail Arts Officer,

In Attendance:

Ms. Carmel McNicholl Senior Executive Officer, Ms. Elaine Moore A/Administrative Officer, Ms. Bernie Foran County Librarian, Ms Ann Marie Maher, Sports & Leisure Officer, Mr. Tadhg Madden Executive Engineer.

Cllr John King opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and asked that those in attendance give a brief introduction of themselves. Councillors expressed their thanks to the outgoing Chairperson Cllr. James Kelly and wished the incoming Chairperson Cllr. John King the best of luck in his role.

Cllr. James Kelly congratulated Bloom HQ Mountrath on their award in the Creative Place Initiative Category in Pride of Place awards held recently in Kilkenny.

As this was the first meeting of the new SPC, Ms. Carmel McNicholl gave an overview of the functions, objectives and workings of the SPC.

Confirmation of Minutes

Upon the proposal of Cllr. Tom Mulhall and seconded by Cllr James Kelly, the minutes of SPC Meeting held on Monday, 11th March 2019 were confirmed.

Work Programme Overview:

Community:

Carmel McNicholl SEO, gave a broad overview of the Community Department and it's activities, including reference to the wide range of funding streams available to support Community Groups around the county.

Sports & Recreation:

Ms. Anne Marie Maher gave an extensive report of the Sports and Recreation area under various headings/areas. The report was circulated and Anne Marie was commended on giving such a comprehensive insight into the work being carried out in this area.

Library:

Ms. Bernie Foran gave an update on Library Services. In particular building work is to commence on the new library in Portlaoise on 5th January 2020. The first Open Library in Laois is due to commence operating in Portarlinton in the coming weeks. This service is still being piloted across the Country with 18 Open Libraries in total to be opened.

Climate Action:

Tadhg Madden gave an update on Climate Action stating that Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the consequences of our changing climate. The Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019 - 2024 was adopted by members of Laois County Council in late September 2018 (circulated). This strategy states how we as a Local Authority react and approach climate change. Further development of the plan is required in tandem with national plans and policies.

Arts:

In the absence of Ms. Muireann Ni Chonaill the following documents were circulated: County Laois – Culture and Creativity Strategy 2018 – 2022 and Laois County Council Arts Plan 2018 – 2022. A full update to be available at the next SPC Meeting.

Any Other Business

Ms. Carmel McNicholl outlined to the Members that the focus of matters to be discussed at SPC meetings should be strategic in nature, and that if any operational queries arose, staff would make themselves available to the SPC members after the meeting had concluded.

Time and Date of meetings for 2020

The dates for the meetings in 2020 were circulated:

9.30am on 10th February

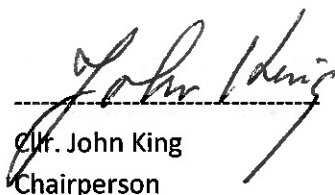
9.30 am on 13th April

9.30 am 15th June (Subject to change-JPC Meeting scheduled)

9.30 am 14th September

9.30 am 7th December

This concluded the business of the meeting.



Mr. John King
Chairperson



Mr. Donal Brennan,
Director of Services