

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of Infrastructure, European and Cross Border Affairs and Sustainable Energy Strategic Policy Committee meeting held in The Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk on Thursday 18th October 2018 at 4.00pm.

Present: Cllr E Coffey (Chairperson)
Cllr O Tully
Cllr Dolores Minogue
Cllr E Corrigan
Cllr Colm Markey
Cllr Kenneth Flood
Mr Matthew Mc Greehan
Mr P Malone, Business/Commercial Rep
Mr Tony Lennon DKIT
Mr Pat Kilboy, Dundalk Cycling Alliance

Officials: Mr Alan Sherry, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Fergus Fox, Acting Executive Engineer
Ms Therese Mc Ardle, Administrative Officer
Ms M O Callaghan, Staff Officer
Mr Pat O Rourke, Executive Technician
Mr Adrian Kerley, Acting Executive Engineer

Apologies: Mr Sean Connolly
Ms Emer O Gorman, Director of Services

1. Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr D Minogue seconded by P Malone the minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2018 were noted and approved.

2. Matters Arising

P Malone enquired if any progress was made on talking with Northern Councils on the 2040 Plan. A Sherry said an informal meeting between officials had taken place and if minutes become available he will circulate to the members. A Sherry related to members a reply he had received from Newry and Mourne DC regarding a request form this SPC for a meeting with a similar committee in the NMDDC. The reply stated that the MOU committee is the forum for discussion on the 2040 plan. Cllr C Markey stated that the MOU stakeholders meeting could facilitate such discussions. A Sherry agreed to confirm if the Dundalk Chamber is represented on

the Stakeholders group and if so it was agreed P Malone from Dundalk Chamber could be their representative.

E Coffey enquired if there was any progress on the campaign proposal for Dog litter and Dog Control since the last meeting. A Sherry agreed to pursue the matter and circulate to the members the draft proposal.

P Malone enquired if the Energy Office received any benefit from attending the Budget Breakfast Meeting held recently. T Mc Ardle reported that there was a reasonable amount of interest received on the day. P Malone added that the Chamber is willing to assist the Energy Office with promotions through its website and mailing lists.

A discussion ensued on the Eastern Economic Corridor. C Markey said he expects the Draft Regional Planning Guidelines to go on display soon. There will be time allotted to make submissions on the guidelines. It was noted that there are concerns with population growth figures and services required to cope with expected increases.

It was agreed that Speed Limits will be on the Agenda for the next meeting in November.

Concerns were raised by the members on the supplies of water in Drogheda and the potential effect new housing in Drogheda and in Meath could have on the supply.

It was agreed A Sherry would contact Water Services regarding the concerns and revert back to the members.

3. Energy section

Fergus Fox (FF), Acting Executive Engineer introduced himself as the new member of the energy team replacing Barry Woods. FF gave an update on the Better Energy Communities programme 2018 to the members. FF said the final date for claims is 19th October and all documents must be uploaded by this date. This work is being done by DKIT in conjunction with the Energy office.

4. EU Section Update

TMCA reported that the PEACE IV project is progressing steadily. There are 5 projects which have been advertised on eTenders and are about to go to contract stage. There are a further 11 projects to advertise and the terms of reference are being worked on at the minute.

TMCA also reported on the Carlingford Lough Greenway. The official opening of the Newry to Victoria Lock section took place on 27th July 2018.

There are counters on the Greenway and it is being used by a considerable number of people.

Adrian Kerley (AK) Acting Executive Engineer is the new project manager and the Greenway is due to be fully complete in 2020. AK commented that the cross border section is progressing well.

TMCA mentioned other projects the European Office is involved in namely Urban Innovation Actions Programme(UIA) the closing date for applications for this project

is 31/01/19. This programmes aim is to address urban challenges using innovative means. LCC has had meetings with Newry and Mourne DC and third level colleges namely DKIT and SRC in an effort to progress the funding application. At the minute tourism seems the area which will be focussed on in the application.

TMCA also informed the members of the Zero Energy Plus project. This application will be submitted by the end of October.

Cllr EC asked if any research is being done on Brexit and if the funding awarded to date is safe.

TMCA replied there is no research as such on Brexit but that funding already allocated is ring fenced by the British Government so projects can proceed as originally set out.

5. Dundalk Cycling Alliance Presentation

Mr Tony Lennon DKIT and Dundalk Cycling Alliance joined the meeting and gave an informative presentation on a preliminary plan to have a greenway/cycleway/walkway from Carlingford to Drogheda with possibilities of linking to Dublin. He envisaged the plan as a Great Eastern Greenway along Irelands Ancient East.

EC as chair thanked TL for his presentation. EC said she believed the Council will apply for funding when it becomes available for such a Greenway.

The members all agreed that the benefits of a Greenway are significant for the County both economically and socially.

The members discussed issues on the development of greenways including land ownership access issues, costs and funding.

Any Other Business

Cllr K F asked if the upcoming changes to the Directorates will cause any changes to this SPC. AS replied that the SPC's would stay as is.

The next meeting of this SPC is scheduled for November 15th 2018.

Confirmed at Meeting held on:


13 Dec 2018

Signed:


Chairperson

