

Minutes of Planning & Support Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber on the 17th November, 2022 at 4.00 p.m.

In Attendance

Cllr. John Reilly	Louth County Council
Cllr. Bernie Conlon	Louth County Council
Cllr. Antoin Watters	Louth County Council
Eddie Phelan	Business Sector
Helen Thompson	Social Inclusion (PPN)

Officials

Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services
Willie Walsh, Senior Engineer
Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner
John O’Hagan, Senior Engineer

Apologies Breeda Tuite, Richard Barry.

Cllr. John Reilly welcomed all to the meeting, especially new member Helen Thompson from the Social Inclusion pillar who was recently nominated onto the SPC.

Matters Arising

Motorhomes/Campervan Bye-laws

Cllr. John Reilly enquired what were the concerns and planning regulations/guidelines in relation to Motorhomes/Campervans and in particular to water & sewerage services. Joanna Kelly, Senior Planner advised re the planning regulations. Eddie Phelan spoke in relation to Aires which do not require services on site, and parking could be covered by the Parking Bye-laws.

Willie Walsh, Senior Engineer advised re the parking bye-laws which exist only in Dundalk, Drogheda & Ardee at present, however there are no wardens in Ardee. Louth County Council is not in a position to do amendments to the bye-laws at present.

Willie Walsh mentioned about the Regional Tourism Development Strategy being developed by Fáilte Ireland. Eddie Phelan feels that the campsite owners are a strong lobby group, which means that Aires would not be a priority. The positive aspect of accessible short-term visitor camping on tourism was discussed.

Cllr. Reilly mentioned that Carlingford Marina and also the Quay at St John’s Castle were not fit for demand for motorhomes/campervans and there was a constant overflow, resulting in a traffic safety issue and also clogging up the quay at St John’s castle for safety vehicles.

Cllr. A. Watters raised concern about the lack of output from this SPC and whether something else could be looked at. He suggested an audit on piers/slipways should be done to ensure safety regarding parking on the piers and quays. Eddie Phelan suggested that perhaps the communities who use these areas could do a presentation to the SPC. Willie Walsh said he would revert to Cllr. Watters.

Casual Trading Bye-laws

Willie Walsh, Senior Engineer stated that LCC have received a legal opinion on the amended document in relation to Casual Trading bye-laws but has not yet had time to study same. LCC is getting close to going to public consultation, and will have to go to Management Team first. Thereafter the Bye-Laws will go on public display for 4 weeks with 2 weeks for receipt of submissions. A report will then be prepared for a meeting of the full Council.

AOB

Residential Zoned Land Tax

Cllr. J Reilly raised a question on the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) and Thomas McEvoy, Director of Services gave a summary on how it operates and where LCC is in the process. Louth County Council have prepared draft maps, upon which the public can make submissions/comment to 1st January 2023. Thereafter taxes upon Residential Zoned land will be payable to Revenue from 2024. A discussion ensued with input from Joanna Kelly, Thomas McEvoy, Eddie Phelan and John Reilly.

Commonage

Cllr J. Reilly enquired about commonage, and ownership of same at Ghan Road, Carlingford and a brief discussion took place. Helen Thompson advised that there was ancient rights to commonage owned in Corrakit by eight families.

Local Area Plan

Eddie Phelan enquired about the progress of the Local Area Plan between Louth County Council & Meath County Council. Thomas McEvoy advised that the Strategic Issues paper has been signed off.

Traveller Accommodation

Helen Thompson enquired whether there was any provision for a transient Traveller accommodation site in Louth. She will enquire with Community Section.

Date & Time of next SPC Meeting

Cllr J Reilly suggested that the next meeting be held over Zoom on the 8th December 2022 at 4pm, and this was agreed.