

Minutes of Special Meeting held on 3rd December, 2012.

Chair: Cllr. M. Shortall

In attendance: Cllrs. J. Brennan, C. Connery, M.H. Cavanagh, P. Millea, T. Maher, M. Doran, P. Crowley, J. Moran, T. Prendergast, S. Treacy, M. Brett, A. McGuinness, D. Fitzgerald, C. Long, E. Aylward, A.M. Irish, P. Dunphy, F. Doherty, J. Coonan, T. Breathnach.

Officials: Mr J. Crockett, J. McCormack, D. Malone, C. Reilly and A.M. Walsh.

Apologies: Cllr M. Fitzpatrick and Cllr Ml. O'Brien.

1. Managers Report on Pre – Draft Stage – Review of Kilkenny.

County and City Environs Development Plan

The purpose of this special meeting is for members to consider the Managers report on Pre – Draft Stage of the review of the Development Plans. Mr. D. Malone, Senior Planner made a PowerPoint presentation to the members. He stated that he would give an overview of 3 major issues included in the review of the Development Plans.

- (a)** Core Strategy.
- (b)** Economic Development.
- (c)** Wind Energy Development Strategy.

(a) Core Strategy.

Mr. Malone advised that a Core Strategy was adopted as part of Variation 2 to the County Development Plan in September 2011. Local Area Plans which have lapsed or due to lapse for villages will not be renewed. These areas will become settlement boundaries in the County Development Plan. Separate LAPs will be retained for the District towns and Ferrybank as it is adjacent to the Gateway of

Waterford City. The Local Area Plan for Woodstock will also be extended.

He referred to the population targets published by the South Eastern Regional Authority for population growth for 2010, 2016 and 2022. Population targets will be reviewed in consultation with the Department and the Regional Authority.

(b) Economic Development

Mr. Malone outlined to the members the 5 strands being considered under Economic Development.

1. Third level education and research.
2. Agri business.
3. Tourism.
4. Life Sciences and Pharmaceutical Industry.
5. International Trade/Financial/Corporate services.

An economic workshop was held on 13th September 2012 and a number of economic stakeholders were invited. The issues raised at the workshop are listed on 3.2 of the Managers Report. The main recurring issues relate to Road/Rail Infrastructure, 3rd Level Institution, Brewery Site, City Centre Retail Development and Tourism. It should be noted that Tourism marketing is not a development plan issue. There is an addendum to the Manager's Report Ref. P43 – submission from Kilkenny City Centre Business Association and this should be noted.

(c) Wind Energy Development Strategy

Mr. Malone presented a map of the County showing the areas in the current strategy. A public consultation meeting was held in Graignamanagh on the topic of Renewable Energy. The issues arising from that meeting are included at 3.1.7 of the Managers Report.

11 submissions have been received in relation to wind energy and these are listed in the Manager's Report. There has been extensive discussions at SPC meetings on a revised Wind Strategy. A workshop

was held with the SPC members to identify areas suitable for designation for wind energy developments. There is a move away from the superseded designation of areas of high amenity towards a strategy based on the areas of viability and landscape character assessment.

Following the power point presentation Mr Malone advised members that the Draft Plan and associated appendices will be ready in March 2013. There will be a period of 10 weeks for members to consider the Draft Plan and the Draft Plan will go on Public Display in May/June 2013.

Cllr. M. Shortall thanked Mr Malone for the detailed presentation.

Contributions were received from. Cllr. S. Treacy, E. Alyward, J. Coonan, M. Brett, C. Connery, J. Brennan, D. Fitzgerald, T. Breathnach, T. Prendergeast, P. Dunphy, T. Maher, J. Moran, P. Crowley, and M. Doran.

Issues raised by members are as follows:

- Roads Infrastructure – Improvement to the regional road network, improved connections to the motorway and major towns in the region.
- Rail Infrastructure – linkage to the West and South of Ireland
- Economic Development in Kilkenny city – Master plans for Diageo site, Mart site- city centre retail development.
- More focus on rural development – Sustaining jobs in these areas – closure of post office, Gardai stations etc.
- Protected Structures – Policies on signage etc.
- Promotion of Belview Area for investment.
- Linking together Tourism and Heritage – Rural areas and Suir Valley.
- Development of Broadband throughout the county particularly in rural areas.
- Zoned land – is there too much - flexibility within the core strategy and within the national strategies.

- Regional Authorities – Re-alignment, will this affect settlement strategy.
- Wind strategy – change in policy, outline the criteria for designating an area – Council should have more liberal approach.
- Provision of infrastructure in the rural towns/villages.
- Re-generation of small businesses in towns, incentive to develop vacant property.
- Derelict Sites – Reduce development contribution, concessions in rates for new business, parking charges are an disincentive.
- Flood Relief Scheme for Gaignamanagh should be a priority.
- Flexibility on sightlines – NRA Guidelines, should not be applied to local roads.
- Policy to be developed on unfinished housing development.

Mr. Malone and Ms C. Reilly responded to all queries raised by members and noted the members concerns in relation to a number of issues.

Cllr. Crowley raised an issue on fluoridation of water supplies in the county and the incidents of cancer. Mr. Crockett advised that this was a matter for the Department of Health as Kilkenny County Council acts as agent of the HSE to fluoridate water.

Cllr. Crowley requested update on the provision of new facility for the Butler Gallery. Mr. Malone advised that this project is part of the Medieval Mile and it will be progressed subject to funding.

The meeting concluded at 5.15p.m.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____