

Minutes of Meeting of SPC1

- Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism held in County Hall on 16th December, 2016 at 11am.

Present: Cllr. Pat Millea (Chair), Cllr. Michael Doyle, Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Cllr. Pat Fitzpatrick, Cllr. Patrick McKee, Cllr. Peter Cleere, Mr. Phil Funchion, Ms. Deirdre Shine, Ms. Theresa Delahunty, Mr. John Bambrick

Apologies: Mr. Mark Kennedy

In Attendance: Martin Prendiville, Fiona Deegan, Brian Tyrrell, Stephen O' Connor, Aisling Hayes, Mary Walsh

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 6th September, 2016

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th September, 2016 were proposed by Mr. John Bambrick seconded by Cllr. Michael Doyle and agreed.

2. Matters Arising

South East Economic Monitor

Ms. Deegan stated that she had extended an invite to the South East Economic Monitor team to attend the meeting but they were unable to attend as they were out of the country but would extend an invitation to attend the next meeting.

CEDRA Funding

Ms. Deegan stated that the Local Enterprise Office (LEO)/Council had applied and were successful in their application under the CEDRA Food Tourism initiative and were awarded the sum of €50,400.00 (excluding VAT) or 70% of total vouched eligible expenditure (excluding VAT), whichever is lower. Ms. Deegan stated that the funding was awarded on 15th November with projects to be complete and claimed for by end of December 2016, giving a very short turnaround. Ms. Deegan stated that there were 3 elements to the work being carried out, i.e. (i) development of #tastekilkenny brand; (ii) production of #tastekilkenny artisan food & drink promotional postcard suite and (iii) attendance of #tastekilkenny at showcase events for promotional purposes. Ms. Deegan stated that all aspects of the proposal would contribute to an enhanced food tourism product for County Kilkenny which will lead to an increase in visitor numbers, bed nights and spend in the County through specific marketing of County Kilkenny as a premium food tourism destination. Ms. Deegan stated that she would provide a full report on the project at the next meeting of the committee.

Correspondence from Theresa Delahunty, PPN Representative

The Chairman stated that correspondence had been received via email on 13th December from Theresa Delahunty in relation to (i) *County Council/ISIF Venture – what has happened with the County Council/ISIF joint venture since it was announced?* and (ii) *Can SPC1 (and all councillors) have a quarterly update on the status of the County Council/ISIF joint venture from now on, each quarter, starting at the end of 2017, Quarter 1.*

Following discussion, the Chairman stated that an update is provided on the Abbey Quarter Development at all SPC meetings and that this information is provided to all Councillors at their Council meetings. Martin Prendiville stated that he will provide an update under Item No. 5 later on the Agenda, which was agreed.

3. Local Enterprise Office Update

Ms. Deegan circulated the Local Enterprise Development Plan (LEDP) Summary of Actions 2016 and the listing of 2016 Approvals and provided a comprehensive update on same, stating that all 34 actions were either complete or currently in progress, stating that there were no issues with any of the actions outlined for delivery. Ms. Deegan stated that she would provide a final outcome of the 2016 actions at the first meeting of the SPC in 2017 along with a full review of activity for same. Ms. Deegan stated that €490,000 had been approved in financial assistance to 25 businesses in 2016 with 49 new full-time jobs associated with this investment.

Local Enterprise Development Plan (LEDP)

Ms. Deegan stated that the next LEDP would be a 4 Year Strategy 2017/2020 and in preparing same, Heads of Enterprise must consult and agree the Plan with relevant Enterprise Ireland (EI) Regional Directors and plans are to be submitted by Friday 29th January, 2017. An update upon completion of plans is required by the LEO Steering Group comprised of representatives from EI, Department of Jobs Enterprise & Innovation (DJEI), County & City Managers Association (CCMA), LEOs, and Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government in early February. Ms. Deegan stated that she hoped to be in a position to present the 4 year strategy at the first meeting of the SPC in 2017 for adoption.

4. Update on Economic Actions of Local Economic & Community Plan

Stephen O' Connor circulated an update on a number of the LECP Economic Elements of the Annual Action Plan 2016 – 2017 and provided a comprehensive update of same.

5. Abbey Creative Quarter Update

Martin Prendiville provided an update on the Abbey Creative Quarter outlining the following:

- The site was formally handed over to Kilkenny County Council on 18th November, 2016 which allows the Council full unrestricted access to the site to facilitate the commencement of initial surveys and investigation works;
- Work on the detailed design and preparation of tender documents for the River Garden is ongoing and that planning approval was now in place for the Brewhouse. An Bord Pleanála issued a decision on 2nd November 2016 confirming that the proposed Brewhouse development did not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Structural investigation work on the Brewhouse had also commenced. The detailed structural design can be completed once the results of the investigation works are available;
- Planning approval is in place for the Mayfair development. Some demolition works are required to the current structure which will be followed by archaeological test excavation and site investigation works;
- Work on the archaeological assessment was also underway;
- Work is also underway on the preparation of an Energy Strategy Design of utility services and urban design criteria;
- The funding partnership with the NTMA was set up. The transfer of the six plots from the Council to the partnership would take place in Q1 2017 once approved by the Council. The NTMA would transfer the cash to the partnership the same day as the plots are transferred;
- A Chief Executive Officer for the partnership would be approved in the first few months of 2017.

6. Tourism Development Update

Brian Tyrrell, provided an update on Tourism Developments in the County and presented a PowerPoint presentation generated by Fáilte Ireland, explaining the concept of Ireland's Ancient East (IAE). The presentation showed how Ireland is being marketed abroad, and how important the concept of Ireland's Ancient East is to tourism businesses in Kilkenny City and County. The broad concept behind IAE is expressed as *"five thousand years of history, in lush green landscapes, with stories told by the world's best storytellers"*. Committee members were reminded of the significance of consistent branding and messaging to ensure that international visitors are given the best possible holiday experience when they arrive.

Mr. Tyrrell reported on a workshop facilitated by Fáilte Ireland and delivered by Bluesail Consultants, which was held in Inistioge, with attendees from Inistioge, Kells and Goresbridge, with the aim of discovering the local interest stories which will add to the visitor experience in the three localities. It is intended that the outcomes from the workshop will inform new Tourism Signage at these locations, and act as a template for other towns and villages across the County.

It was agreed to take item nos. 7 & 8 of the Agenda prior to the Presentation of the South East Action Plan for Jobs.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would take place on Friday 10th March 2017 at 11am and that a schedule for 2017 would be circulated at same.

Ms. Colette Byrne, CEO joined the meeting for the presentation.

7. Presentation on the South East Action Plan for Jobs (SEAPJ)

Mr. Sean McKeown, Director, SEAPJ circulated copy of his PowerPoint presentation and provided a comprehensive update on the SEAPJ, covering the background to same, the Regional Profile and the challenges, the Implementation Structure, Progress to Date and Strategic Initiatives emerging.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked the committee for their dedication in 2016 and wished all a very Happy Christmas.

The meeting concluded at 12.50p.m.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Pat Millea
CHAIRMAN