**Minutes for Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Meeting for Housing, Community, Libraries & Culture SPC meeting**

**Held on MS Teams on 23st February 2021**

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| **Present (Councillor and PPN members)** | * **Cllr Adam Wyse**
* **Cllr John Pratt**
* **Cllr Jason Murphy**
* **Cllr Conor McGuinness**
* **Cllr Donal Barry**
* **Mike Farrell**
 | * **Cllr Breda Brennan**
* **Cllr Damien Geoghegan**
* **Cllr Seamus Ryan**
* **Cllr Eamon Quinlan**
* **Vince Rellis**
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| **Present (WCCC Officials)** | * **Ivan Grimes**
* **Catherine Horan**
* **Katherine Collins**
* **Noeleen Osborne**
* **Mary Conway**
* **Leo Kennedy**
 | * **Paul Johnston**
* **Kieran Keogh**
* **Don Tuohy**
* **Jane Cantwell**
* **Una Dunphy**
* **Paula Paul**
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| **Apologies** | * **Rosmary Kennedy**
 | * **Person**
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| **Item No.** | **Decisions Taken** | **Responsibility/Action/When?** |
|  | * Minutes of Meeting 03rd December 2020 were proposed by Cllr Conor McGuinness, seconded by Damien Geoghegan and agreed.
 | Adopted minutes to be published on website and added to Decision Time |
| 2.Matters arising and updates | * N/A
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| 3. Draft Cultural Quarter Plan 2021-2025 | * Kieran Keogh gave an over view of the plan and Katherine Collins went through the six objectives including 2 European projects, Gallery of Art, O’Connell St to be for public use, Craft Market and working with other agencies.
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| 4. Issues from Committee Members  | * Jason Murphy addressed the issue of dumpsters in the area and would there be links to the Ballybricken area.
* Breda Brennan addressed the issues of public lighting, parking and noise levels in the residential part of the area.
* Kieran Keogh also mentioned that there are plans to bring a leg of the greenway down O’Connell st.
* Catherine Collins also said that there needs to be trust and engagement working with the people in the area, it is a slow process and we will need to apply for funding.
* Donel Barry commented that the Granary Café is an attraction and the Rice Trail should be incorporated too. There should be clear protocols on noise levels for families living in the area. He also asked why it’s taking so long to set up as it was in the plan since 2017.
* Una Dunphy asked if there will be transport connectivity for busses, will it be accessible to all.
* Eamon Quinlan complimented the plan he asked what the plan is for the building where the library services, yoga and community space will meet, what’s the vision for this building i.e. sliding doors on the front? Also will there be electronic bollards at the Bridge Street end and canopies over the area?
* Kieran Keogh replied that they are looking at the whole street and they are in consideration with the roads dept. to make sure it is sustainable, the area will have multi-functional use and they are considering installing electronic bollards.
* Katherine Collins also mentioned that the library will be running different initiatives rather than physical books such as community and education.
* Seamus Ryan asked about Little Red Kettle getting their own space within the Cultural Quarter.
* Kieran Keogh replied that they are trying to establish the company but there are huge legal issues and it needs to be part of the constitution. There are no funds available at the moment but hopes they will become available in a year or two.
* The Draft Cultural Quarter Plan 2021-2025 was proposed by Seamus Ryan and seconded by Damien Geoghegan.
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| 5 Library Services  | * Seamus Ryan reported that the sub-group didn’t meet since the last SPC meeting. Adam Wyse looked at the Wexford model of Mobile Library services to see if they may apply similar services in Waterford city and county.
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| 6 Vacant Homes Action Plan | * Ivan Grimes reported that the last meeting of the Sub-group was constructive but that there is a lot of work still to be done tackling issues.
* Paul Johnston tried to give the group an overview but was having technical difficulties so Ivan Grimes continued with the update. Ivan spoke about the Repair and Lease scheme with 50 properties delivering value ad time efficient long term one & two bed units. The use of compulsory Purchase Orders has successfully delivered 24 units. The rate of vacancy in stock is lower than previously.
* Seamus Ryan complimented the team on their great work and had one concern that some of the housing stock units were sold privately instead of keepings for housing stock.
* Ivan Grimes replied that these were very few cases and these units would have taken up too much funding to refurbish.
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| 7. Walk of Fame  | * Walk of Fame
* Adam Wyse asked the question if a sub-group should be set up to discuss this subject and report back to the SPC.
* Kieran Keogh, Eamon Quinlan, Seamus Ryan, Damien Geoghegan, Donal Barry, Jason Murphy and Conor McGuinness all agreed.
* Kieran Keogh, Honour Dunphy, Jane Cantwell, Conor McGuinness and Damien Geoghegan all agree to be on the Walk of Fame Sub-group.
* Kieran Keogh and Honor Dunphy to arrange the time and date for the first meeting.
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| 8. Issues from PPN | Funding -Energy Efficiency for local Authority houses * Ivan Grimes informed the group that we have secured funding of 1.3 million which will be used to upgrade 48 Local Authority houses to a B2 rating, this will include installation of windows and doors and insulating properties. Although the funding is welcomed it will only help to upgrade less than 1% of our housing stock this year.
* Donal Barry asked how this funding will be rolled out and will it affect future tenant purchase?
* Ivan replied the roll out will be looked at over the coming weeks and there is no stipulation on any exemption for future tenant purchases.
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| 7. AOB | * John Pratt asked about the backlog of on-going maintenance issues due to the Covid 19 pandemic saying it is very difficult to get plumbers out at the moment.
* Ivan Grimes replies that only essential maintenance such as emergency leaks and heating issues is being carried out under level five restrictions.
* Donal Barry asked about the updated tenant handbook.
* Breda Brennan replied it would be uploaded to the website in early March and she wished every woman a Happy International Woman’s Week.
* Eamon Quinlan asked about allowing tenants and the council to part pay for renovations to council properties.
* Ivan Grimes replies that tenants can apply to do works to the council properties themselves and he was thinking of discussing this with the housing team.
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| Date/time next meeting | There were three proposed date for future meetings, the first is proposed for Tuesday 30th March at 12.30-2.00pm–members were asked to send in any agenda items they wished to raise in advance. The intended location is Microsoft TeamsThe second meeting is proposed for Tuesday 27th April 2021The third meeting is proposed for Tuesday 25th May 20210 | **ALL** *Agenda Inclusion Deadline is -7 days from meeting* |