

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning & Development, Heritage, Community, Arts & Culture Strategic Policy Committee (SPC3) held on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2018 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber**

**Chairman:** Cllr. Pat Dunphy

**In Attendance:** Cllr J Brennan, Cllr D Kennedy, Cllr M. Noonan, M.T. Brennan, P O'Brien, John Burke, J Hurley  
S McKeown, D Malone. N Louw, E.O'Reilly

**Apologies:** Cllr P. Fitzpatrick, M Brennan, J Coyne & Ml. Delahunty

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**Item 1- Minutes of previous meeting.**

- With respect to Item 1 – M T Brennan advised that the correct spelling of the bumble bee species is *Bombus hortorum*
- The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018 were proposed by Cllr David Kennedy & seconded by Cllr J Brennan

**Item 2 - Matters Arising**

None

**Item 3 – Vacant Site Levy - Update**

D Malone provided an update on the Vacant Site Levy (VSL)

Valuations of Sites were carried out in April and owners notified. Serving of the levy demands for 2018 will be sent out in January 2019. The levy being 3% of the site market value (rising to 7% for 2020). Notices of intent to enter a site on the 2019 register were sent during October. A site can be removed from the Register when it is no longer vacant or idle.

Following from the experiences of 2018 some additional measures have been introduced for 2019 which include, a desktop analysis by the Forward Planning Section, completion of survey forms for each site visit & the inclusion of an information sheet with all Notice of Intent's sent.

A discussion ensued which included contributions from Cllr P Dunphy, Paul O' Brien, Cllr D Kennedy & Mary T Brennan

**Item 4 –Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) – briefing on publication**

D Malone advised that the Draft RSES will be on public display from next week. Then follows a 10 weeks submission period. The RSES serves to deliver at a regional level the objectives of the National Planning Framework

A discussion ensued with contributions from Cllr P Dunphy, Cllr M Noonan, Cllr J Brennan, P O'Brien & MT Brennan.

### **Item 5 – Development Plan, Callan & Thomastown Local Area Plans - update**

N Louw advised that the County Development Plan review has been suspended pending the making of the RSES. The process will be recommenced within 13 weeks of the RSES being made.

There was a good turnout for the Public information meetings that were held in both Callan and Thomastown regarding their respective LAP reviews.

Both draft Plans have been on public display for 6 weeks and submissions invited.

It is envisaged that the Chief Executive Officers recommendation will be presented to members at the January meeting of the Council.

### **Item 6 – Solar Energy Update**

DM Malone advised that Kilkenny County Council does not at present have its own policy regarding Solar Energy Farms. However, it is planned to prepare a policy taking a strategic approach for new large solar farm applications.

A discussion followed with contributions from Cllr Kennedy, P O Brien, Cllr Dunphy, Cllr Noonan & Cllr Brennan.

### **Item 7 – Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 20th February 2018 @ 2pm** in the Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street., and Kilkenny.

### **Any Other Business**

- M T Brennan presented details of the role played by Kilkenny women in achieving the vote for women in the 1918 elections and proposed that Kilkenny County Council hold a ceremony to commemorate the centenary of the first Dáil in Jan 1919, and also the centenary of the 1918 elections in which women could vote in Parliamentary elections and stand for election for the first time
- A discussion was had regarding the Kilkenny County Council Rural Housing Policy with contributions from Cllr Dunphy, P O Brien, Cllr Noonan, Cllr Kennedy & Cllr Brennan.
- A discussion was had regarding Derelict Sites with contributions from Cllr Dunphy, Cllr Kennedy, Cllr Noonan, P O' Brien & M T Brennan.  
S McKeown advised that Chief Executive Officer has set up a cross divisional team to investigate whether or not a number of derelict sites can be rendered non-derelict by restoring as housing.

That concluded the business of the meeting.