

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee
held on 6th December 2016 in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

Presiding: Cllr. Ollie Crowe

Present: Cllr. Donal Lyons
Cllr. Billy Cameron
Cllr. Níall McNelis
Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty
Ms. Nuala Nolan, Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment – An Taisce
Mr. S. Foran, Community/Voluntary – Galway Cycling Campaign

In Attendance: Ms. Caroline Phelan, A/Director of Services
Ms. Helen Coleman, Executive Planner
Ms. Olivia Murphy, A/Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Mr. John Mannion, Business/Commercial Sector

1. Minutes

The adoption of the minutes of the 4th October 2016 were proposed by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty and seconded by Cllr. D. Lyons and adopted.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Crowe expressed his best wishes to Joe O'Neill, Director of Services who recently retired from Galway City Council. He went on to thank the Planning Department for their work on the formulation of the Galway City Council Development Plan 2017-2023.

3. Policy on Sale of City Council Land

Ms. C. Phelan circulated a handout entitled 'Need to Develop Policy on Sale of Open Space Lands in Housing Developments'. She informed the committee that the matter of forming a policy document on the sale of City Council land had been discussed at the Management Team meeting. The outcome was that no policy had been finalised to date and other departments felt that the policy document needed to be broader than the areas set out in the circulated document. Further input has been requested from other Directorates in City Hall and this matter should be examined on return of same. The overall philosophy was that the sale of land should only occur under exceptional cases.

It was requested by Cllr. B. Cameron to check other local authorities for open space policy documents.

4. Galway City Council Development Plan (CDP) Update

Mr. S. Foran requested that it be formally noted that he questioned the legality of the process for the formulation of the CDP, as there was no right of reply.

Ms. H. Coleman gave an update on the CDP informing of the following:

- Final council meeting was held on 1st December 2016 and the CDP was formally adopted.
- The CDP will come into effect on Saturday, 7th January 2017.
- The Planning Department is preparing the final public copy of the adopted CDP; a flip book of the CDP will be made available on Galway City Council's website when the final printed version is completed and all will be available from February 2017.
- The CDP will be translated into Irish.
- Copies of the CDP are to be circulated to the prescribed bodies, libraries and council members.

5. Galway Harbour

Ms. C. Phelan informed that the Head of Finance advised that tenders had been received from interested applicants to carry out the due diligence on the harbour. Cllr. O. Crowe requested that the Chief Executive furnish the SPC Committee with a report from the Harbour Steering Group.

6. A. O. B.

Cllr. N. McNelis expressed his concern over the number of outlets (291) in Galway City where alcohol can be purchased and questioned the policy for off-licences. In response, Ms. H. Coleman referred the committee to Chapter 11 of the CDP wherein the policy is set out.

Cllr. N. McNelis proposed the following which was seconded by Cllr. B. Cameron:-
“That a letter be written to Minister for Environment/Justice – consideration be given to planning permissions on the limiting of future applications for the sale of alcohol in a retail setting and that no alcohol be sold at petrol stations”.

A memorandum by Mr. J. O'Neill, Director of Services was circulated to the members on the matter of the flower boxes in Merchant's Road. It informed that the flower boxes had been granted permission by the Chief Executive on a trial basis and the flower boxes would be removed and the parking reinstated if the council members requested it. Cllr. D. Lyons proposed that the flower boxes be removed, this was seconded by Cllr. T. O'Flaherty.

Cllr. D. Lyons proposed the following, which was seconded by Cllr. O. Crowe:-
“Request that the Galway City Council Press Officer would issue a press release outlining the obligations of satellite suppliers and householders with regard to the installation of satellite dishes”.

The question was asked should the report on the proposed amalgamation of Galway City Council and Galway County Council be circulated to the SPC members?

A discussion took place on murals and street art in the city and it was requested that the matter be put on the next SPC agenda.

Ms. C. Phelan brought to the attention of the committee, the vacant site levy which will impose a charge for unused land. It is deemed a vacant site, if unused up to one year after land registration. If owners do not utilise unused land or sell it on, they will incur a fine. Galway

City Council will carry out the survey works.

It was proposed that the 2017 Planning SPC meetings will take place at 10am in the Council Chamber on the following dates:

Tuesday, 7th February 2017.

Tuesday, 16th May 2017.

Tuesday, 5th September 2017.

Tuesday, 5th December 2017.

Cllr. O. Crowe requested that the agenda for the SPC meeting be circulated to members ten days prior to SPC meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 7th February 2017 at 10am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.