

**Minutes of Meeting of the Planning Strategic Policy Committee  
held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

**Presiding:** Cllr. Ollie Crowe

**Present:** Cllr. Niall McNelis  
Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty  
Cllr. Peter Keane  
Cllr. Donal Lyons  
Mr. Derrick Hambleton, Environment – An Taisce  
Ms. Nuala Nolan – Irish Congress of Trade Unions  
Mr. Shane Foran, Community/Voluntary Representative

**Apologies:** Cllr. Pearse Flannery

**In Attendance:** Mr. Joe O'Neill, Director of Services  
Ms. Caroline Phelan, Senior Planner  
Ms. Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner  
Mr. Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner  
Ms. Diane Egan, Executive Planner  
Ms. Norann Keane  
Mr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer  
Ms. Patrice Keane, Clerical Officer

**1. Minutes**

The adoption of the minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were proposed by Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty, seconded by Ms. Nuala Nolan and agreed, with minor amendments.

**2. Summary of Annual Statistics on Development and Enforcement**

Ms. Norann Keane presented to the members a summary of the annual statistics on development and enforcement. Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty enquired if there was a rise in planning applications from 2014 to 2015 and if there were sufficient enforcement officers for the City? Ms. Keane informed they were up approximately 25 applications on 2014 and that the Planning Dept. take a pro-active approach to enforcement in the city. Mr. Derrick Hambleton noted that there was a lot of enforcement cases for a city of Galway's size and enquired how the numbers compared to other cities. Mr. Joe O'Neill concurred with Ms. Keane that the enforcement team were very pro-active in the city and that enforcement cases are higher in cities in general.

Cllr. Donal Lyons then raised the issue of placing satellite dishes to the front of properties in the city and whether the enforcement officers were being proactive or re-active in that case, he then suggested that 1 day per month could be set aside for their inspection. Cllr. O'Flaherty then put forward that the issue satellite dishes be set out as an item on the agenda for the next SPC meeting as it is an ongoing issue. Cllr. Niall McNelis queried the time frame involved in the enforcement process to which Ms. Keane explained it depends on when a court date becomes available. Regarding the satellite dishes Cllr. McNelis sought clarification on whether the complaints were to be made in writing. Ms. Norann Keane explained that all complaints must be made in writing to the

City Council and that all complaints can be treated confidentially for members of the general public, however complaints made by Councillors as public representatives were not deemed confidential. Cllr. McNelis requested a circular to clarify this. Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty requested that a letter be written to all providers of satellite dishes informing them that the installation of dishes to the front of properties is prohibited, Cllr. Donal Lyons seconded this proposal, and it was agreed. Mr. Joe O'Neill informed them that letters had been issued in the past and that the responsibility lies with the owner of the property.

Cllr. Ollie Crowe then raised the issue of community wardens and questioned how many were currently employed with the City Council, and whether they should work on Sunday as this is now the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest day of the week in the city? Mr. O'Neill directed him to the Transport Dept. with his query.

### **3. Local Area Plans – Update on Ardaun L.A.P.**

Ms. Diane Egan gave a comprehensive presentation on the Ardaun Local Area Plan to the members. Cllr. McNelis raised questions as to whether the Ardaun area will be within the city limits and asked if there were any further efforts that could be made to increase public activity in the consultation phase? Ms. Nuala Nolan expressed her concerns as to the location of the Ardaun LAP being road locked by 2 major roads, these concerns were shared by Mr. Shane Foran and Mr. Derrick Hambleton. Ms. Caroline Phelan assured the members that the Ardaun LAP is within the city limits. Ms Diane Egan responded by informing the members that all aspects of the public pre-consultation was approached pro-actively and that other similar LAP's were examined such as Monard, Co Cork. She pointed out that a movement strategy was devised to address the road-lock issue and proximity to the motorway and major roads and also noted that a pedestrian/cycle access way was being looked at over the M6 in order to emphasis connectivity. Ms. Phelan pointed out that that the LAP has not been finalised and is yet to go for public consultation.

### **4. Update on Heritage grant applications and projects**

Mr. Jim Higgins updated the members on the various projects that have been applied to the Heritage Council for funding. These include the following:

1. Bohermore Cemetery management & conservation plan.
2. A survey of Roscam graveyard.
3. 1916 Centenary Conference, in conjunction with NUI Galway and GMIT.
4. Exhibition in City Hall of the 1916 Centenary, currently ongoing.
5. The commission of a scale model of the proposed Archway Model.
6. A community/schools wildlife project on Butterfly's of Galway.
7. A Programme for 1916 Centenary to include the erecting of plaques at Ceannt Station and the Harbour and a walking tour of Galway to be named "Slí na Saoirse".

Mr. Higgins confirmed that a total of €67,000 had been received in funding already under the Built Heritage Incentive Scheme for a number of buildings in the city. Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty then requested an update on the Browne Doorway, Mr. Higgins explained that 4 conservation management plans had been carried out to date and that an update would be given at the upcoming Council Meeting in March.

**5. A. O. B**

Mr. Derrick Hambleton raised concerns regarding the planned development at the innovation hub at Ceannt Station, as no planning permission had been applied for and the building is a protected structure. Mr. Liam Blake confirmed there had been discussions between the Planning Dept. and CIE and that a site inspection would be carried out in due course.

Cllr. Ollie Crowe proposed the following dates for the SPC meetings for the coming year: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April; Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July and Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Mr. Joe O'Neill added that the dates would be confirmed via email.

This concluded the business of the meeting.