

**Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee  
held on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Galway City Council, City Hall, College Road, Galway.**

**Presiding:** Cllr. Ollie Crowe

**Present:** Cllr. Billy Cameron  
Cllr. Terry O'Flaherty  
Cllr. Cathal O'Conchúir  
Mr. Derrick Hambleton – An Taisce  
Mr. Shane Foran, Community/Voluntary – Galway Cycling Campaign

**In Attendance:** Ms. Eileen Ruane, A/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, Senior Staff Officer  
Ms. Elaine Coffey, Clerical Officer

**Apologises:** Cllr. Peter Keane  
Cllr. Niall McNelis

**Absent:** Cllr. Pearce Flannery  
Cllr Donal Lyons  
Ms Nuala Nolan

**1. Minutes**

The adoption of the minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 was proposed by Mr. Derrick Hambleton and seconded by Mr. Shane Foran and adopted.

**2. Matters Arising**

Cllr. Ollie Crowe apologised on behalf of Cllr Peter Keane & Cllr. Niall McNelis who were absent from the meeting.

*Satellite Dishes*

The issue of satellite dishes was raised by Cllr Terry O'Flaherty. It was requested by Cllr O'Flaherty that a report on satellite dishes be made available to members at each SPC meeting. Norann Keane advised that the three commitments given 1. Write to the suppliers, 2. Publish notice and 3. Inspections made incidental to regular site visits had been met. A report on Planning Enforcement Activity would be made available on an annual basis as had previously been agreed. The members were also advised that 7 complaints were registered with the Planning Office in 2017 in relation to unauthorised satellite dishes.

*Due diligence on Harbour site*

In response to Derrick Hambleton's request for a report on the Harbour site, Eileen Ruane A/DOS confirmed that consultants have been appointed and a report will be made available to the Chief Executive in quarter 2 of 2018 for consideration.

*Nuns Island Master Plan*

Derrick Hambleton requested member be notified when the successful tender was appointed for the Nuns Island Master Plan.

### *Headford Road Project*

Derrick Hambleton requested clarification as to why this project was not on the Agenda given the request by the members at the last SPC meeting that it be given priority. The DOS advised that there has been significant interest from the market and Mark O'Donnell, Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development has now been assigned to head the project.

### **3. National Planning Framework**

Caroline Phelan provided members with a general overview of the framework which was published in February 2017 and the meeting was advised that a number of information workshops were held across the city. A submission was made by Galway City Council to the Draft NPF in November 2017.

### **4. Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.**

The addition of this item on the agenda was to discuss the consultation process. The Planning Department are to prepare a submission on this paper, the deadline of which in 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Concerns were raised by the members that the matter was not publicised sufficiently in that it was not published in local papers and there were no reports available from regional assembly meetings. Cllr Crowe advised that he would raise the matter at the Corporate Policy Group meeting.

### **5. Draft Ardaun Local Area Plan.**

A copy of the Chief Executive Report was issued to members on submissions received on the Draft Ardaun Local Area Plan including issues, observations & opinion raised. 44 submissions were received in total all of which would be discussed individually at the council meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Clarification on the process was requested by Shane Foran and he was advised accordingly.

### **6. City Development Plan – Proposed Variation No. 3 Kirwan Roundabout**

The proposed variation was on display from 12<sup>th</sup> October – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The members were advised that the item is scheduled for the agenda of the next Council meeting. The Part 8 Process for the designed junction will then be submitted to the planning department to go on public display to enable submissions from the public be submitted for consideration. It was of general concern to the members that the traffic issues need to be addressed as a matter of urgency with no delays

### **7. Strategic Housing Development – The Westwood Hotel - Update.**

Liam Blake had previously given an overview at the last SPC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Following a request by the members on the number of pre consultation meetings to date, Caroline Phelan advised that the planning department have met twice with the developer and are awaiting further consultation. A concern was raised by the members on the number of students living in the area if this development were to proceed and also clarification was sought with regard to the zoning of the area.

### **8. A.O. B.**

Cllr. O'Flaherty raised the issue of sandwich boards and queried the department with responsibility for enforcement. The members were advised that while the licencing of structures is covered under planning legislation, the enforcement of sandwich boards and their removal comes under the remit of the Transportation Department.

This concluded the business of the meeting