

Planning & Environment SPC
6th September 2016
Cooley Room, County Hall

Attendance

Cllr Richie Culhane	Louth County Council
Cllr Jim Loughran	Louth County Council
Cllr Jennifer Green	Louth County Council
Cllr Maria Doyle	Louth County Council
Cllr John McGahon	Louth County Council
Michael Smyth	Agricultural Rep
Richard Barry	Community & Voluntary Rep
Brefni Martin	Environmental Rep
Anthony Abbot King	Senior Planner
Mary T. Daly	Senior Executive Officer
Pat Finn	Senior Engineer
Frank Pentony	Director of Service
Marguerite Quinn	Senior Executive Planner
Sinead McVerry	Senior Staff Officer

Apologies

Peter savage	Louth County Council
Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Eddie Phelan	Business/Commercial Rep

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting which took place on Wednesday 8th June 2016 were proposed by Cllr John McGahon and seconded by Cllr Jim Loughran.

Matters Arising

The Chairman advised that following PPN elections in May 2016 Richard Barry and Breifne Martin would be replacing interim representative's Ollan Herr and Marian Sloan on the Planning & Environment SPC. Richard Barry community and voluntary representative and Breifne Martin environmental rep were introduced and welcomed to the committee. Ollan Herr and Marian Sloan were thanked for their service. Ollan Herr was specifically thanked for his many ideas and contributions to the Planning & Environment SPC. The chairman reminded the committee members that the standing orders of the SPC specifically permits SPC members to submit policy issues for consideration and to consider position papers prepared by the committee. A Notice of Motion cannot be submitted at SPC meetings.

Draft Louth Development Contribution Scheme

Mary T. Daly presented an update on the draft Louth Development Contribution Scheme 2016 to the SPC members. She advised 18 submissions were received during the public display period from 22nd June – 3rd August 2016. A chief executive's reports was

subsequently prepared and circulated to all elected members. The matter is due for consideration at the Louth County Council meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 19th

September 2016. Michael Smyth queried if the chief executive's report was available to the public and was informed it would be available once the scheme was adopted by the members.

CFRAMS

Pat Finn gave a presentation to the committee on the progress of the CFRAMS project to date. He outlined the various phases of the project and the stages contained within each phase. The project is currently at Phase 1 , Stage 4 ***Finalisation of Draft FRMP***. Eight areas in Louth have been selected and assessed , draft flood maps are currently being produced for each area. Public consultation days are being organised which will provide an opportunity for all interested persons and organisations to view and comments on the flood maps.

The matter of flood maps and planning applications was discussed and Breifne Martin asked whether flood plains had been considered in the renewal of planning applications specifically in relation to planning applications granted circa 2006-2008 and never activated due to the economic collapse, where subsequent applications for extension of durations have been received and which CFRAMs now indicate as being located on a flood plain. Councillor Doyle also expressed concern of the potential knock on effect at Balmers Bog .

Pat Finn advised that flood maps disregard any flood defences' in place and that all planning applications were assessed using the best available knowledge at the given time including the application of national guidelines on how to deal with flooding.

M.Quinn outlined the review process involved in granting an extension of duration planning application and advised that all planning applications should be consistent with the planning system and Flood Risk Management Guidelines – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, to manage and reduce flood risk. She further informed the committee that existing and proposed zoning of lands for development in areas at risk of flooding should follow the sequential approach and justification test set out in the DECLG Guidance on Flood Risk Management.

Councillor Loughran raised the issue of flooding along the Ballymascanlon River in Bellurgan. Pat Finn advised he would follow up with OPW in relation to this matter and revert.

Councillor McGahon question if the Dundalk CFRAM could be extended to include Bellurgan, Pat Finn informed the committee this was not possible.

Councillor Doyle also raised the issue of maintenance of sea walls and flood defences. She was informed the OPW advises the local authority is responsible for maintenance of them unless they are located on private property. However in reality he LA would maintain them regardless of whether they were located on public or private property. In terms of coastal defences Pat Finn informed the meeting it is presumed anything below the high water mark is beyond the responsibility of the LA.

Halloween Bonfire Aversion Arrangements

Pat Finn highlighted the successful joint initiative between Louth County Council and Drogheda Community Gardai addressing the burning of waste tyres at Halloween. The initiative was implemented in 2014 and consequently continued successfully in subsequent years.

The meeting concluded at 4.40pm and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 7th December 2016 at 3.30pm in the Cooley Room, County Hall.

Signed _____

Chairperson

Signed_____

Meetings Administrator

Signed _____

Senior Executive Officer