

**Planning & Environment SPC**  
**7<sup>th</sup> June 2017**  
**Cooley Room, County Hall**

**Attendance**

Cllr Jennifer Cassidy Green	Louth County Council
Cllr Tom Cunningham	Louth County Council
Cllr Maria Doyle	Louth County Council
Richard Barry	Community & Voluntary Rep
Eddie Phelan	Business/Commercial Rep
Anthony Abbot King	Senior Planner
Pat Finn	Senior Engineer
Damien Holmes	Executive Scientist
Sinead McVerry	Senior Staff Officer

**Apologies**

Cllr Richie Culhane	Chairperson
Cllr Antoin Watters	Louth County Council
Cllr John McGahon	Louth County council
Cllr Peter Savage	Louth County Council
Michael Smyth	Agriculture Rep
Breffni Martin	Environment Conservation Rep

Due to the absence of Chairperson Richie Culhane it was agreed by the members to select an acting chairperson on this occasion. Cllr Maria Doyle was proposed as Acting Chairperson by Cllr Cassidy Greene and seconded by Cllr Cunningham.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting which took place on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were proposed by Cllr Tom Cunningham and seconded by Eddie Phelan.

**Matters Arising**

Nil

**Update on Draft Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023**

Anthony Abbot King advised the members the public consultation stage for the Draft Dunleer Local Area Plan 2017-2023 occurred between 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 and 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The public consultation was advertised through a number of media. Copies of the draft plan were also available for inspection all Louth County Council Customer Service Desks and at all Louth Libraries.

Public consultations were held in The Market House Dunleer and submissions were accepted electronically or by post.

In total 21 submissions were received and it is anticipated the Chief Executive's Report will be presented to the elected members before 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and will be considered by the members at the July 2017 Council meeting.

The issue of public engagement was discussed and in terms of public engagement it was noted that the planning legislation at the start of planning documents can be off putting for the public. It was noted the Longford County Development Plan 2015-2021 is divided into six chapters with each chapter containing a NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) accredited Plain English summary at the start of each chapter. It was agreed the use of plain English in planning documents as approved by NALA should be replicated by other planning authorities.

### **Environment: Diesel Sludge Dumping/Laundering**

Pat Finn Senior Engineer and Damien Holmes Executive Scientist circulated a hand out to all members outlining the recent trends in diesel laundering. The presentation illustrated the continual decline in the number of illegal diesel dumping incidents in Co Louth from 119 incidents in 2012 to 14 thus far in 2017. In addition the number of IBC's was logged as 596 in 2012 and had reduced to 43 in 2017 so far. The cost of the clean-up of the illegal dumping was approximately €868,073 in 2012 and this had reduced to €50,000 in 2017 so far. It was noted the cost of the clean-up is recoupable from central government. The decline in the number of illegal dumping incidents since 2012 has been attributed to the new marker in diesel being very effective and difficult to remove. In addition new measures introduced by Revenue have resulted in retailers and wholesalers having to make monthly returns to Revenue and this has contributed to a significant reduction in purchase and retail of illegal diesel by retailers and wholesalers.

### **Framework for Town Centre Renewal**

Anthony Abbot King Senior Planner gave a verbal presentation to the SPC members on the framework for town centre renewal an initiative from Department of Jobs Enterprise and Innovation. He explained the framework identifies the key attributes of a successful town, and subsequently sets out an action plan which provides a structure for active partnership among stakeholders to achieve successful town centre renewal. The action plan contains three important steps including step 1 stakeholder engagement and health check, step 2 establish a town centre partnership and step 3 prepare and implement a town centre plan. And finally the framework for town centre renewal also highlighted a number of best practise examples including e.g. The Purple Flag Accreditation. Other elements of the town centre renewal plans include monitoring of plan, and key performance indicators and review of plan. A document titled framework for Town Centre Renewal was circulated to all members.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested there was a need for a town management system in Drogheda and a tourism plan for Clogherhead. The need for good communication between the Local Authority, traders, members of the public and all stakeholders was noted

particularly with regard to public consultation and successful implementation of Local Authority initiatives.

The meeting concluded at 4.30pm and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 3.30pm in the Cooley Room, County Hall.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairperson**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meetings Administrator**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Executive Officer**