Kilkenny PPN Representative Report on Committee Meeting

Reporting Representative Name: Mary T. Brennan

Committee: SPC 3

Date: April 12th 2017   Time: 15 – 17 h   Venue: KCC, John Street

Were you in attendance at the last committee meeting: Yes

Did you consult with the PPN prior to this meeting: Yes

Outline the key issues discussed at the meeting:

1. Protected Structures: A presentation was given on Protected Structures and the two types of conservation grants given in 2016, with examples of the work done. Three types of grants are to be given in 2017 under the following schemes: Built Heritage Investment Scheme, Structures at Risk, and Irish Walled Towns. Following a review, 200 more structures including period houses, vernacular houses and bridges are to be added to the list of protected structures. One Councillor objected to increasing the list. I supported the increase and the grant initiatives as this helps protect our built heritage.

2. LIAHF: Kilkenny Co. Co. obtained grants to for two initiatives (a) Western Environs – Infrastructure will be installed to support around 800 houses, 2 schools and the Bregagh Valley Park. It will be up to Developers to build the houses. Allusion was made to Inner Relief Road No 2 to link the Western side to the centre of the city. No mention was made of efforts to complete the ring road. (b) Ferrybank Park – funding was obtained for a joint development between the Kilkenny and Waterford Authorities to develop a park in consultation with the local people.

3. Abbey Creative Quarter Urban Design: A public consultation will be held on Wed 19th April to consider Block typologies, heights, forms, materials, and public realm finishes, the latter will include issuing a Part 8 for the main street. Implementation guidelines will be drawn up.

4. A pre-draft of the Ferrybank Local Area Plan has been completed. A detailed presentation was given on this and an outline of future work.

5. Cultural Strategies and Creative Ireland Programme: A presentation outlined how the Council's Cultural Services (Arts, Heritage, Libraries, Architecture and Conservation) are reviewing their cultural plans and expect to have an integrated plan prepared by September. Creative Ireland have outlined a five year culture based programme ('17 – '22) based on five pillars – child, community, infrastructure, media product excellence and global reputation. The Culture & Creativity Programme 2017 for Co. Kilkenny was circulated.

6. All Ireland Pollinator Plan. The National Biodiversity Data Centre has produce a guide to actions that Councils can implement to help pollinators. A presentation indicated that the County Councils will fund a prize category in the Tidy Towns Competition for pollinator friendly developments in addition to gradually developing maintenance actions that supports pollinators on public grounds. I welcomed the Councils participation in this action.

7. AOB – Solar Farms. Planning permissions granted up to now have been for relatively small sized farms which may not be viable because of the high cost of connecting to the ESB network. This shows up the need for a national policy.

Were any decisions made?

There was general support for the above developments.

Are there any actions to be taken as a result of this meeting? Who by?   No

Did you or any other PPN rep make any contributions to this meeting?

   I supported the proposed actions on Protected Structures and on the Pollinator Plan.

Do you require feedback from the PPN on any issue raised?   No

Are there any issues for you as a PPN rep arising from this meeting?

   Six day notification was given with a very brief agenda - so unless one is very familiar with the topics
   it is difficult to have meaningful consultation with the environmental pillar in advance of a meeting.
   Without consultation any view given at the meeting can only be a personal one or a very general
   policy of the pillar.

Date of next meeting: July 12th 2017

Any other comments:

Signature: *Mary Brennan*