

Kilkenny PPN Representative Report on SPC3 Meeting

Reporting Representative Name: Mary T. Brennan (Environmental Pillar)

Committee: SPC3

Date: July 5th 2018

Time: 15 h

Venue: County Hall

Key Issues

1. All Ireland Pollinator Plan: The National Biodiversity Data Centre's recommended actions for Councils to support pollinators was circulated, the Council's draft policy was presented and the experiences of a beekeeper who has recorded the importance and decline of bees was outlined. Discussion emphasized the need to coordinate the actions of the various Council Departments, the importance of understanding the requirements of bees for food and nesting sites, the importance of wildflowers and the need for educating the community to accept wild areas. The Council's proposed policy was welcomed.
2. Co Kilkenny Cultural Strategy: The strategy which proposed a vision is to create and sustain great places and communities has been adapted.
3. E-Planning. The proposal to make the planning application process to all local authorities and An Bord Pleanála electronic was outlined. A web portal will be provided through which all electronic applications, correspondences and submissions can be made. A Planning Bill to enable this is going through the Dáil, piloting of the system will commence later this year and the system will be rolled out throughout 2019. In the following discussion it was pointed out that rural broadband needs to be upgraded first.
4. Architectural Conservation & Record of Protected Structures – National & Local obligations. A presentation was given on the Council's obligations for protecting certain Structures and maintaining the character of Architectural Conservation Areas. The intrinsic value, importance to cultural identity, economic activity and sustainable development were outlined. The Council's role in implementing Part 4 of the Development Acts, provision of a Conservation Officer and Conservation Grants were indicated. In the discussion that followed the level of grants in relation to the cost of maintaining protected structures was criticized.
5. Update on County Development Plan and LAPs: Submissions on the draft issues paper of the County Development Plan were received. The Plan will be suspended until the Southern Region's Plan is adapted and it will resume next year. The Castlecomer LAP has closed and the Thomastown Plan has commenced.
6. Development Contribution Scheme Update: The scheme is under review.

Decisions made: A motion to support the Council's draft policy on Pollinators was proposed.

Did you make any contributions to this meeting? Comments on No. 1, 3 and 4 above.

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

Date of next meeting: September 13th 2018

Signature: *Mary T. Brennan*