

Kilkenny PPN Representative Report on SPC3 Meeting

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

Committee: SPC3

Date: September 13th 2018 Time: 15 h

Venue: County Hall

Key Issues

1. Our Public Libraries: The Librarian presented the vision for 2022 and how it would shape services for the next five years. It included the aims to grow the membership to 30%, provide a national borrowing and delivery service and develop as digital services. Funding for the book fund is very low in Kilkenny at €0.9 per head of population and it is aimed to increase it to €4. Opinions expressed included the need to bring existing archives into the public domain and the importance of supporting Irish book suppliers.
2. Vacant Site Levy: An update was provided which indicated that there are 19 sites on the register made up of 14 in Kilkenny city, 1 in Ferrybank and 4 in Castlecomer. Three sites are under appeal. More sites may be identified in Thomastown and Callan when LAPs are completed. Details for the process of assigning sites will be presented at the next meeting.
3. KCC Development Contribution Scheme: The outline presented for the new scheme 2018-2021 indicated that it is an important means of raising funds for infrastructure and amenity. It yields about €2 million per year and the County requirements are €13 million for roads and €18 million for amenities.
4. Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy: The final targets of the Southern Region's Plan have not yet been published and these are required to guide local plans.
5. Update on County Development Plan and LAPs: Information gathering has commenced in Thomastown and Callan to inform strategies on housing, wind energy, retail, rural housing policy, social and economic issues in order to prepare draft plans that will be put on public display in October and November. Discussion addressed solar farms and grid connections.

Decisions made: none

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

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

Date of next meeting: December 13th 2018

Signature: *Mary T. Brennan*