

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Report

Please complete and return to countywicklowppn@gmail.com within one week after each meeting.

Name of Committee: Planning SPC

Name of Representative: Joan Campbell

Date of Meeting Attended: 10th Dec 2018

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 16th July 2018 were agreed and signed off.

2. The new Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Plant, which is to be constructed in north Wales.

It was felt that the meeting is not in a position to make an informed submission because they do not have the necessary information and expertise even though it is accepted by the UK Government that the proposed development raises transboundary environmental issues for Ireland.

Section 254 of the Planning Act and the placement by traders of sandwich boards and advertising structures on public walkways.

This matter was raised by Cllr Matthews. The planners expressed the view that they do not regard this as a planning matter and asserted that they have no enforcement powers. If the structures cause obstruction on the public roads / footpaths then it is a matter for the municipal authorities and in particular the roads department and local engineers. It was agreed that first the Chamber would be asked to talk to traders because guidelines do exist. The Planning Act requires traders to apply for a licence. The licence costs €630 per annum.

Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

It was noted a draft Strategy has now been published and it is open for submissions until 23rd January. The planners said they would like a toolkit or guidance on the methodology to be used in order to facilitate growth in County Wicklow in a way that complies with the strategy outlined in both the draft Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and the National Planning Framework.

Vacant Site Levy

Sorcha Walsh (planner) circulated an update on the Vacant Sites Register that lists properties and owners that have now been served with Notice under the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015

Protected Structures

"The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2019" was launched on 28th November 2018. Wicklow has been allocated €60,000. There is also A Historic Structures Fund of €1,824,000 available for 2019. See Circular HSF/2019 and Circular BHIS 19/01. Relevant people are entitled to apply for grants.

E Planning

A Pilot Scheme is operating in County Tipperary.

It is intended that applications for planning permission will eventually be done online or electronically; even fees will be paid online. On appeal there will be an electronic transfer of files to the Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be in March. New SPC will be constituted after the election.