

Minutes of the Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Monday, 20th June 2022 at 11.00am

Present: Cllr Pat McMahon, Chairperson
Cllr Michael Begley
Cllr P.J. Kelly
Cllr Gabriel Keating
Cllr Johnny Flynn
Cllr Pat Daly
Mr Pat Morris
Mr Patrick Keogh
Ms Emma Karran
Mr Seamus Ryan
Ms Elaine D'Alton
Liam Conneally, Director of Service
Claragh Mulhern, DHLGH
Pat Keating, CEO, SFPCo
Helen Quinn, A/Senior Planner
Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer
Michelle Guthrie, Clare LEO
Valerie Fleming, Assistant Staff Officer

Apologies: Cllr P.J. Ryan

As Cllr Pat McMahon was delayed Cllr Pat Daly opened the meeting.

1. **Minutes of Economic Development SPC meeting 7th March 2022.**

The minutes of the Economic Development SPC meeting held on 7th March 2022 were proposed by Pat Morris, seconded by Cllr Michael Begley and agreed.

2. **Circular Letter NRUP 06-2021 Active Land Management Measures**

Claragh Mulhern, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage gave an in-depth presentation on the Residential Zoned Land Tax and Land Value Sharing/UDZs.

Cllr Pat Daly enquired if undeveloped zoned land will be liable for this tax and Claragh confirmed that it would be.

Cllr Johnny Flynn referred to zoned land within developer owned infrastructure which has not been taken in charge and asked if the legislation would deal with such a scenario.

Claragh responded that there will always be areas where applying the legislation will be less straight forward. Claragh highlighted differences between developer owned infrastructure and state-owned infrastructure and it would depend if infrastructure is deemed to be in the developers control whereby it could be considered to be 'in service' or where they are relying on other providers e.g. Irish Water, then that would be deemed to be outside their control. The purpose of the legislation she said is to encourage developers to proceed to the next step. Claragh added that the s48 contribution amounts were insufficient and for the common good it is important that the state take a bigger share of uplift in property value of zoned and serviced land and that this could be in the form of land/infrastructure instead of money.

Pat Keogh referred to zoned and serviced land where the services are on the site and for which Irish Water do not have the resources to upgrade thereby making the land unviable to develop.

Claragh advised that the scope included land that is connected to or able to be connected to infrastructure/services and that Irish Water must advise if their infrastructure no longer has capacity so that maps can be updated accordingly. Where the developer is committing to provide infrastructure themselves then they will be liable for the RZLT until they bring the site forward for development.

3. Development Potential of the Shannon Estuary

Pat Keating, CEO, Shannon Foynes Port Company detailed the development potential of the Shannon Estuary with a focus on offshore renewable energy.

Emma Karran expressed her opposition to the proposed LNG Terminal on the Shannon Estuary and asked Pat Keating as CEO of Shannon Foynes Port Company for his views.

Cllr Michael Begley asked if it was the intention to develop the deep water harbours at both Moneypoint and Foynes.

Pat Morris referenced the sale of land to a Dutch development company by Rosslare Harbour. Pat Keating responded that the Atlantic Ocean is capable of generating 85GW of power whereas the Irish Sea is limited to 5GW therefore the Rosslare Harbour sale does not affect the Shannon Estuary development potential.

Pat Keating also clarified that the scale of development proposed for the Shannon Estuary will require a multisite approach including development at both Moneypoint and Foynes and other locations on the Estuary.

Regarding the LNG Terminal Pat advised that this application is currently with An Bord Pleanála and he could not comment on the planning application.

Cllr Pat Daly asked if there was potential for smaller pleasure craft to pull into villages along the Estuary with Pat Keating responding that SFPCo is a commercial board focused on commercial cruisers and that smaller vessels are outside his remit.

Pat Morris stated this was an opportunity to rebalance the economic growth of the country towards the West of Ireland for generations to come and Pat Keating agreed and stated that nationally the level of government focus required to fully develop this resource is not as strong as it should be.

Emma Karran stated that it appeared as if the SFPCo is not aligned with national policy regarding LNG and requested the Port Company to undertake a new risk assessment.

Pat Keating responded that a new marine maritime risk assessment has been carried out. He added that SFPCo is aligned with Government policy and this is supported by the Government.

4. Marine Area Planning Act 2021

This item was deferred to the September meeting of the Economic Development SPC.

5. Climate Change and Biodiversity

- Burren World Heritage Site Tentative List

Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer, gave an update on the status of Clare County Council's application for the Burren to be included in Ireland's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites (WHS). She outlined what World Heritage Status would mean for the Burren, who would benefit and what the main challenges and concerns are.

Emma Karran said she would like to see a link with the Cliffs of Moher Masterplan to create a wider North Clare Strategy and Congella replied that the Burren World Heritage Site will look at the entire Burren area.

6. Planning

- Update on County Development Plan

This item was deferred to the September Economic Development SPC meeting.

7. LEO

- Abodoo Report

Michelle Guthrie, Clare LEO, outlined the findings from the skills mapping exercise undertaken by Abodoo.

8. AOB

Pat Morris requested a presentation regarding the ESB's future proposals for the Moneypoint site in particular the switch to renewable energy generation and transmission.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: _____
Cllr Pat McMahon, Chairperson

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Liam Conneally,
Director of Economic Development.

Date: _____