

Minutes of Meeting of Galway City Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 16th April 2024 via MS Teams & Council Chamber

- Presiding:** Cllr. Peter Keane, Galway City Council
- Present:** Cllr. Níall McNelis, Galway City Council
Cllr. Michael Crowe, Galway City Council
Cllr. Frank Fahy, Galway City Council
Mr. Eoghan Lynch, Senior Planner
Mr. James Russell, Senior Planner
Ms Helen Coleman, Senior Executive Planner
Mr. Peter Staunton, Executive Planner
Mr. Kevin Walsh, Executive Planner
Ms. Fiona Glynn, Executive Planner
Dr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer
Mr. Derrick Hambleton (Galway City Community Network)
Mr. Brendan Mulligan (Galway City Community Network)
Ms. Cliona Clancy, Galway City Council
Ms. Sara McDermott, Galway City Council
Ms. Lorraine Russell, Galway City Council
- Present Online:** Cllr. Noel Larkin, Galway City Council
Cllr. Clodagh Higgins, Galway City Council
- Apologies:** Cllr. Alan Curran, Galway City Council
Cllr Imelda Byrne, Galway City Council

Cllr. Peter Keane, Chairperson, welcomed members and officials to the meeting which was being held virtually via MS Teams and from the Council Chamber.

1. Minutes & Matters Arising:

The Minutes of Meeting dated 18th December 2023 were proposed by Cllr. F Fahy, seconded Cllr. M. Crowe and agreed. There were no Matters Arising.

2. Ardaun LAP – Update on Merlin Park Storage Tanks and Local Transport Plan:

Members expressed concern at the lack of infrastructure to allow planning and housing to progress. Concerns were also expressed about the capacity of the current water and wastewater treatment facilities and the commitment of Irish Water to providing these. Members requested that Uisce Eireann be requested to attend a future Planning SPC

E. Lynch, A/Director of Services, advised that this remained a priority for Galway City Council.

3. Draft Heritage Plan Consideration:

The Draft Heritage Plan was presented to the members for consideration. Members were advised that the draft plan would be on public display for 6 weeks.

Reference was made to the city waterways, Menlo Castle, St. Nicholas Collegiate Church, future of the Cannons currently outside Galway City Council. The issue of funding of heritage projects was also raised. The Heritage Officer advised members of a number of funding streams for heritage related projects and that the current focus of the three castles project was to ensure safety and stability of the ruins. Cllr. P. Keane welcomed Councillors to re-table a motion for a future council meeting regarding the Cannons. Cllr. F. Fahy highlighted funding limitations of Lough Corrib Navigation Trustes in delivering on requests of the Heritage Forum.

Members were advised that a new Conservation Officer had been recruited and was commencing in post this week. An update was also provided on the purchase by Galway Port of the hull of Naomh Eanna and plans to display it as Maritime Heritage in the Docks area.

It was agreed to present the Draft Heritage Plan for public display

4. Census Update:

Mr. K. Walsh, Executive Planner, updated members on the 2022 Census and how it relates to Galway City.

5. Tables and Chair Operations Review and Proposed Amendments:

A presentation was provided to members on minor amendments to the S.254 Tables & Chairs Licence Policy for Galway City Council to provide for consistency in applications submitted. The importance of ensuring accessibility was highlighted and members were reminded of the requirements regarding alcohol advertising on barriers which had previously been in place. Members noted potential additional costs to applicants, limitations on materials to be used for barriers and issues of enforcement.

The revised policy was proposed by Cllr. M Crowe, seconded by Cllr. F Fahy.

6. Residential Zoned Land Tax Update:

Ms. H. Coleman provided an update on the Residential Zoned Land Tax and advised members that the tax had been deferred to 2025. She confirmed the deadline for receipt of submissions as of 31st May 2024 and noted no submissions had been received todate.

7. Joint Retail Strategy for Galway City and Metropolitan Area:

Ms. H. Coleman, Senior Executive Planner, informed members that tender had issued for the appointment of consultants to prepare a joint retail strategy for Galway City and Metropolitan area. Closing date for receipt of tender responses was 25th April 2024.

8. A.O.B:

Mr. E. Lynch, A/DOS, noted members queries regarding a joint SPC with Galway County Council and queries on access to conference budgets. Regarding redevelopment of lands at Dyke Road the A/DOS referred members to the website, www.corribcauseway.ie

Members expressed gratitude to the Chair, planning executive, elected members and voluntary bodies for their work on the SPC. Cllr. P. Keane, wished it to be noted in the minutes that he had not seconded the minutes back on 18th December 2023. The minutes had been seconded by Cllr. M. Crowe.

This concluded the meeting.