

## Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021 via Zoom

**Presiding:** Cllr. Peter Keane  
**Present:** Cllr. Frank Fahy  
Cllr. Owen Hanley  
Cllr. Niall McNelis  
Cllr. Imelda Byrne  
Cllr. Mike Crowe  
Cllr. Clodagh Higgins  
Cllr. Noel Larkin  
Mr. Derek Hambleton (Galway City Community Network)  
Mr. Brendan Mulligan (Galway City Community Network)

### Apologies:

**In Attendance:** Ms. Patricia Philbin, Director of Services  
Ms. Caroline Phelan, Senior Planner  
Mr. Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner  
Ms. Emma Silke, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer  
Ms. Marcella Kilgarriff, Assistant Staff Officer

Cllr. Peter Keane, Chairperson, welcomed members and officials to the meeting which was being held virtually via Zoom. Cllr. Peter Keane and Ms. Patricia Philbin attended from the Council Chamber.

### **1. Minutes & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, were proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. N. McNelis

Mr. B Mulligan raised a matter of accuracy regarding the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, which states that the Headford Rd and Murrough LAPs were 'possible' agenda items for the next meeting. Mr. Mulligan stated that he was under the impression that these items would be on the agenda for this meeting but they are not.

In relation to the Galway East Wastewater Plan, Mr. Mulligan took issue with the phrasing of the sentence 'Mr. Uinsinn Finn outlined...' and said that it should read, 'Mr. Uinsinn Finn expressed an opinion...'

Mr. D. Hambleton advised that the references to 'Galway Wastewater Treatment Plant' should read 'Galway East Wastewater Treatment Plant.' He noted that the referenced to leaks 'into' the Claddagh Basin should be 'at' the Claddagh Basin.

Mr. D. Hambleton asked if the Galway County Council Planning SPC had been invited to meet with this SPC and Ms. P. Philbin confirmed that an invitation had been extended.

### **2. Irish Water Update**

Ms. P. Philbin advised that documents in relation to Irish Water had been circulated prior to the meeting. Irish Water confirmed that they would be happy to send a representative to attend a future SPC meeting and respond to any queries.

Ms. C. Phelan advised that Irish Water have commenced the process of doing a drainage study. She stated that this is within the remit of Irish Water so exact timelines have not been provided to Planning but a final report will be available when the study is complete.

Ms. P. Philbin agreed to check with Water Services in relation to works taking place at the Claddagh.

### **3. Short Term Letting**

Cllr. P. Keane noted that the report on Short Term Letting had been circulated and that it was proposed by the Chief Executive that the matter should go before the CPG following approval by the SPC.

It was suggested that the report should contain further recommendations in relation to Short Term Letting and that it wasn't clear that all possible options had been exhausted by the Local Authority within the current legislative framework.

Cllr. Keane proposed that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the SPC. He asked members to provide feedback to the Executive in writing before the next meeting. This was agreed.

### **4. Draft Work Programme**

The Draft Work Programme for 2022 was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. P. Philbin advised that suggestions could be taken if members had any amendments they wished to make.

Mr. B. Mulligan asked what role the SPC would have in relation to the City Development Plan and Ms. Philbin advised that this is a reserved function of the Elected Members and that all documents will be on public display in February.

Ms. C. Phelan advised that submissions will be accepted from the public, including any members of the SPC that wish to make one, once the Plan goes on display in early February 2022.

### **5. Heritage Update**

Mr. J. Higgins apologised for missing the last meetings. He stated that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Plan for Galway City Council. A new national plan is nearing completion and local plans will come about from a Heritage Forum. He noted that 2 members of this SPC has indicated interest in joining the forum and any others who are interested would be welcome. There have been delays to the national plan due to Covid-19, and if the new guidelines are not available by June 2022, it is proposed that the Galway City Heritage Forum be set up and the plan be formatted using the guidelines currently in place.

Mr. Higgins advised that the funding for the Three Castles project has been exhausted and that €130,000 had been set aside in a recent budget. Significant funding was received from the Community Monuments Fund and a further application will have to be made in 2022. Mr. Higgins noted that as part of this funding, a masterplan was prepared for Menlo Castle which includes a vision plan for the castle.

Cllr. P. Keane stated that he would be willing to keep this item on the agenda at least until the Heritage Forum is formed.

## **6. URDF**

Ms. P. Philbin advised that updated financial tables have been sent to the URDF. A meeting is to take place next week and a further update can be issued at the next meeting.

## **7. Agenda for Next Meeting**

Ms. C. Phelan advised that The Urban Density & Building Height Study and the Draft City Development Plan will be available to the public at the end of January/beginning of February 2022. They will not be circulated to members in advance but it was agreed that the next meeting of the SPC would be scheduled to give time to members to examine the documentation.

It was agreed that the Murrough and Headford Road LAPs would be on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **8. AOB**

Following a query from Cllr. N. Larkin, Ms. C. Phelan advised that any bus/cycle lane at the Crown Square development would not be the responsibility of the developer, they would only be required to ensure any setback that was outlined in the conditions of the planning permission be provided. She advised that the condition compliance could be checked.

Ms. Phelan said that there were plans for outreach meetings in relation to the Draft City Development Plan, Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

Cllr. Keane welcomed Ms. P. Philbin to the SPC in her role as Director of Services.

Cllr. Keane also thanked all for attending and the meeting concluded.