

Minutes of Meeting of Planning Strategic Policy Committee held on 28th October 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
	Mr. Derek Hambleton (Galway City Community Network)
	Mr. Brendan Mulligan (Galway City Community Network)
Apologies:	Cllr. Mike Crowe
	Cllr. Noel Larkin
	Ms. Caroline Phelan
	Ms. Helen Coleman
	Mr. Jim Higgins
In Attendance:	Mr. Uinsinn Finn, A/Director of Services
	Mr. Liam Blake, Senior Executive Planner
	Ms. Emma Lawless, Administrative 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, Mr. Uinsinn Finn and Mr. Liam Blake attended from the Yeats Building Conference Room.

1. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes of the last meeting held on 8th October 2021, were proposed by Cllr. F. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. I. Byrne.

Mr. B Mulligan raised a matter of accuracy regarding Item 8. Agenda for next Meeting where the minutes state that it was agreed that the Short Term Letting and the Heritage Plan will be put on the next SPC agenda and that the other items to be considered at the December meeting. The Chair and Acting Director clarified that, as the Heritage Plan Update was deferred at the last minute, and as also stated in the Minutes under Item 4. where it was agreed to also carry over the Short Term Letting to the next meeting to give further consideration on the matter, and it was agreed that the Headford Road and Murrrough LAPs and the Urban Density and Building Heights Study would be listed as possible Agenda items for the December Meeting.

Under Matters Arising, Mr. D. Hambleton sought an update on the request for a Joint SPC meeting between the City and County Councils and Mr. U. Finn confirmed that he would contact the County Council following this meeting to request a joint meeting of the City and County Council Planning SPCs.

Mr. D Hambleton also raised concerns regarding discharges into the Claddagh Basin and river and sought an update as to if and when the Galway Waste Water Treatment Plant was going ahead.

2. Short Term Letting

A report on short term letting was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. A discussion took place in relation to the shortcomings of the current legislation. The difficulty in proving short term letting beyond 90 days was highlighted. Lack of resources in the Enforcement Section and ineffective legislation placing the burden of proof on the Local Authority in order to bring a case to court were cited as the main issues.

A discussion was held on how regulations to enforce the issue could be improved. It was agreed to compile a submission to the Department outlining the issues and suggested potential solutions to be brought before the next SPC meeting on the 10th December for agreement and sign off.

3. Heritage Plan

Apologies were noted for Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer. A copy of the previous Heritage Plan was circulated prior to the meeting. Two representatives from the SPC were sought to sit on a Heritage Forum for the formulation of the next Heritage Plan.

Mr. D. Hambleton was proposed by Mr. B. Mulligan and seconded by Cllr. P. Keane.

Cllr. O. Hanley proposed himself and this was seconded by Mr. B. Mulligan.

4. Agenda for next Meeting

Suggested agenda items for the next meeting to take place 10th December 2021:

- Headford Rd & Murrough LAP's
- Urban Density & Building Heights Study
- Public Realm Strategy - Micro Spaces / Outdoor Dining

Any further suggested items to be communicated through the Executive in advance of the meeting.

5. AOB

Cllr. F. Fahy requested an update on when all structures for temporary outdoor dining arrangements would be removed. He noted that some tables and chairs were still in use in Woodquay.

Mr. U. Finn advised that, following the Government decision to extend COVID-19 Restrictions to 22nd October, Galway City Council extended temporary outdoor furniture licences until that date and a notice was published in local papers. Some licences were granted to 31st December 2021, mostly within pedestrian areas. Any unlicensed tables and chairs can be followed up with Community Wardens.

Mr. D. Hambleton requested an update in relation to the proposed Wastewater Plant and the issue of wastewater infiltration into waterways in the city.

Mr. U Finn outlined that the matters under discussion in relation to the proposed Wastewater plant and advised that this is more a matter for the Environment and Water Services SPC's. Cllr. P. Keane proposed that correspondence be issued to Irish Water from the Planning SPC with an invitation to

discuss the issues. This was seconded by Cllr. F. Fahy who also requested that Irish Water be asked to discuss the issues with planning on the East of the city due to the water network and also the water treatment plant in Oranmore.

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