

Sligo PPN Community Representative Feedback

Sligo Strategic Policy Committee 1: Housing and Corporate

12pm, Thursday 16th July 2020, Council Chamber, Riverside

Note. This is a synopsis of the meeting as understood by Sligo PPN Community Representatives on SPC1 and **NOT** an official record of the meeting. Official meeting notes will be available in due course.

CLÁR

1. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves. PPN reps introduced themselves as PPN reps. A few members were missing but no apologies were noted.

2. To consider the establishment of a Disability Consultative Committee (DCC)

Cllr Declan Bree was nominated and seconded for Chairing the DCC. A brief discussion was held on whether to advertise or reconvene the previous committee. It was agreed that an advert be drafted to invite any new people and/or organisations to be part of the group. Corporate will attend to this. Notification of same will be circulated by PPN reps to the PPN secretariat and distributed via the PPN groups. No schedule was proposed until this piece of work was completed.

3. To receive a report on Housing First



HF report for
SPC.docx

Currently Housing First model is already up and running in the region since Feb 2020. Complete roll out of this in terms of staffing and allocation is delayed due to Covid19 Pandemic.

A wider discussion took place on the need for single bed units and the lack of them. Discussions are ongoing internally in planning and design to see if this can be incorporated into future planning and housing needs as Housing First require single bed units primarily and the “waiting list” within the council is quite large for 1 bed accommodation and there aren’t the vacancy levels available.

The linkages between the HAT and the HF steering group are good with close collaboration and no duplication will happen.

Concern was raised that this was a tender function of the Department i.e. that voluntary groups etc run the HF projects and should the Department see fit to lower/remove funding where will that leave

these vital programmes? A number of members suggested that this should be a function of the council given that the council will most likely be housing the service users.

4. Current Housing Data



Item 4 Housing
output 16.07.20..

Housing data (output) was discussed. Initial figures on waiting list (c.1500 mix of HAP/Transfers etc) suggest that even if all built on time there will still be a shortfall. Official figures were not available in report for attendees but sourced from another office during the meeting. A request for these to be updated and available for the next meeting will happen.

SEO suggesting that more housing is needed and funding / designs / plans will have to be forthcoming to address not just the shortfall but also to keep up with demand.

Any new projects being discussed won't be realised for at least 2-3 years. Again Covid19 has delayed all existing programme of works which is having a knock on effect on other pieces of work such as expressions of interests and tenders for works on older properties.

The issue of reliance on the private market regarding HAP was highlighted. There was a general sense from attendees that HAP should not be the main vehicle for housing development, especially security of tenure but that nonetheless many like the flexibility of HAP. Examples were given of some cases relating to single parent families struggling and paying 'under the counter' money to landlords to remain in their home is placing a burden on them.

This will be raised again no doubt at other meetings.

General concerns expressed by attendees that the council need to be building more and take more ownership of the process.

RAS figures for Sligo are approx. 300 but no official figure was available to attendees.

A query to have a report on vacant properties was asked for. Council to consider this as sometimes this can be sensitive information. SEO to report back at next meeting on this.

5. Calendar of Meetings

The chair proposed that to facilitate everyone coming from different parts of the county that SPC 1 meetings be held on the morning of regular council meetings, i.e. if meetings are to be 1 hour duration they could be held before the general council meetings at 10am. Attendees were asked if this was suitable. 1 rep suggested that if meeting went over was 1 consideration but also the work of the SPC should be in the SPC and not move onto "in chamber meetings were all reps cannot attend".

It was mentioned that SPC 1 meetings heretofore were normally held for the allocated duration (1 hour) so there shouldn't be a problem. It was also mentioned that SPC matters would be dealt with in the SPC and not wider council meetings.

It was agreed to hold SPC1 meetings for 2020 in Oct/Dec/Mar with deferred June meeting to be rescheduled.

12th October

14th December

8th March **2021**

Dates above are suggested conform to 2nd Monday of the month as per LA Council Meetings norms.

Time for these meeting to be 8.45am to conclude approx. 9.45am

6. Any other business

A picture of the new committee was taken on the steps of the council (socially distanced)

Meeting End:

PPN reps did not have an opportunity to submit anything for the agenda but anticipate that this will happen for future meetings as this was the First Full meeting of the SPC 1 housing and Corporate for the new term.