

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee, Held on 27th March 2018 at 10.00am in Thurles Municipal District Civic Offices, Castle Avenue, Thurles.**

**In Attendance:**

<b>Members of Council</b>	<b>Sectoral Interests</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Cllr John Crosse Chair	Laura Jones - Clonmel Park Hotel	Pat Slattery, Director of Services
Cllr John Hogan		Kathleen Prendergast, Economic Development Officer
Cllr Seamus Hanafin		Ita Horan, Local Enterprise Office
Cllr John Fahey		Patricia Spillane, Clerical Officer
Cllr Martin Browne		
Cllr Joe Hannigan		
Cllr Kieran Bourke		

**Apologies:** Cllr. Tom Wood, Noel Byrne, Seamus Hoyne, Rita Guinan, Attracta Lyons, Thomas Kinsella

**1. Welcome**

Cllr John Crosse proceeded to welcome all concerned to the meeting and he welcomed in particular Pat Slattery the new Director of Services for the Community & Enterprise Department.

**2. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16th January 2018 were agreed and there was no matters arising. Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Cllr. Martin Browne and seconded by Cllr John Hogan.

**3. Local Enterprise Week Update**

This was nationally organised, with 300 events carried out throughout the country by Local Enterprise Offices. In Tipperary several events took place during the week

4 Seminars:

- Bracing Tipperary for Brexit
- Launch of Tipperary Craft Strategy
- County Tipperary Retail Symposium
- Growing Tourism in Tipperary

6 Training Workshops:

- Social Media x 2 in Thurles and Clonmel
- South Tipperary Network
- Trading Online Voucher Workshop
- HACCP
- General Data protection workshop

8 one to one Advice Clinics:

- Business advice Clinic (Roscrea, Cashel, Clonmel, Carrick on Suir, Thurles, Templemore)

- Energy Advice
- Health & Safety

National Enterprise Awards and Student Enterprise Programme also took place during Enterprise Week.

**National Enterprise Awards:**

The Tipperary Winner in the National Enterprise Awards 2018 was Horizon Off Site Ltd., Cahir, Co. Tipperary who design and manufacture offsite light-gauge steel building system structures. Commencing with an initial workforce of 3 they now have a workforce of 8. The company exports 95% of its production to the UK for group housing and apartment projects.

**Tipperary Craft Strategy Launch:**

The launch of the Tipperary Craft Strategy took place on Monday 5th March in Cahir Castle with a number of crafters showcasing their work. On the day a prize was presented for the best display stand and runner up. The winner for Best Display was Lynda Christan for her display of metal works she has created. The runner up prize went to Jackie Matthews for her felt work. Both crafters received a ceramic piece designed by Cyril Cullen.

**Student Enterprise Awards:**

Student Enterprise 2018 took place on Friday 9th March in Thurles. Over 1000 students took part in this event. The winners of the Junior category were from High School Clonmel with a Board Game they designed that tests memory and education. The winners of the Intermediate category were from Colaiste Dun lascaigh, Cahir with their product called Ushield. Ushield is a custom designed sports glove in which players can safely hold their gum shield. Dragons Den have expressed an interest in this product.

The winners of the Senior category were St. Joseph's CBS, Nenagh. Their project involves making visors designed specifically for GAA helmets to negate the effect of the sun's glare on a player's eyesight.

The winners from each category will be competing with other student entrepreneurs from all over Ireland in Croke Park at the Student Enterprise Awards National Finals on May 2nd.

**Growing Tourism in Tipperary:**

94 people attended this event on the 8th March in the Anner Hotel Thurles. At this event the strategy for Tourism in Tipperary over the next 10 years was presented.

**Enterprise Week Outcomes:**

- 227 people attended the seminars
- 85 participants received training development
- 34 people availed of advice clinics

**4. Social Enterprise Projects in LIT**

This presentation was postponed to a future meeting.

**5. Retail Symposium Update (5th March)**

The Retail Symposium was an afternoon of talks, workshops, and networking dedicated to promoting innovation in retail in County Tipperary. Over 58 people attended the event and an outcome was that this become a yearly event. There was 5 guest speakers:- Conor Pope, Consumer Affairs Correspondent Irish Times; David Fitzsimons, Retail Excellence Ireland; Rachel Doyle, Arboretum; Mary McAuliffe, Creative Consultant and Edel Garavan, Irish Web HQ, C'mon Tipp Buy Local. Many retailers availed of free social media mentoring and training by the Local Enterprise Office will be provided.

#### **6. Digital Strategy Final Draft Update**

Kathleen informed the committee that the Digital Strategy Sub Group is at the stage of finalising the County Tipperary Digital Strategy. She spoke about the 4 key themes that the strategy was built around:

- Infrastructure
- Enterprise
- Citizens
- Education

Objectives and actions for each of these themes were extensively researched and Tipperary County Council in conjunction with its partners organisations will collaborate to achieve them. Kathleen informed the committee that this strategy will be ready to be presented at the Council meeting mid-year.

Cllr Joe Hannigan highlighted the opportunity for Students in Limerick Institute Tipperary or Mary Immaculate College in Thurles and LIT in Clonmel to link up with retailers to assist in online promotion. Ms. Prendergast advised that this was already commenced with Mary Immaculate College Thurles who have linked in with the development of the Thurles Town Centre Forum. 60 students are currently working on this project, developing a brand that can be applied to Thurles and used as a design on the website [www.thurles.ie](http://www.thurles.ie).

#### **7. LECP Action Plan Review Update**

A brief for the review of the LECP monitoring system has been sent out to tender by Ms Hayes, A.O. who services the LECP. The successful company will include the SPC on the review of the actions and KPI's of the Economic elements.

#### **8. Replacement SPC Representative for Retail Sub-Group (replace M. Small)**

Kathleen is to enquire about a replacement for M. Small on the Retail Sub-Group with the Chambers representative T.J. Kinsella and will revert back to the committee at the next meeting.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

Cllr Joe Hannigan enquired about updates in relation to the Bio-Economy in Lisheen. It was agreed that this should be included as an item on a future Agenda.

Cllr Joe Hannigan informed the committee that he was arranging a meeting on Friday 11th May 2018 with a guest speaker who is a professor in monocular science - Kevin O' Connor. This meeting was relevant to the development in Lisheen. Cllr John Crosse

asked Cllr Hannigan to circulate the venue and time had been confirmed for this meeting to his fellow SPC members.

A new nomination was received to replace Jimmy Ryan who represented the community pillar. Ms. Mary Spillane, 8 Pallasderg, Newtown, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary was proposed by the Public Participation Network. This nomination would be presented to the next meeting of the County Council in April for ratification.

A new nomination was received to replace Mr Tim Cullinan who had represented the Farming pillar. Ms. Imelda Walsh, Barbaha, Carrigatoher, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary was proposed by the Irish Farming Association. This nomination would be presented to the next meeting of the County Council in April for ratification.

Subject to ratification, the new members would join the next SPC meeting.

**10. Date for next Meeting:**

A new date of Tuesday 5th June in Templemore Thurles Municipal District Civic Offices at 10.00am was agreed.

The meeting then concluded.

Signed: John Hosse

Date: 26/6/18.

Chairperson