**Environment & Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on Thursday 7th December 2017, 9.30am, Old Reference Library.**

**Present:** Cllr. D Brady (Chairperson), C Craven, P. Connaughton,(A/DOS) C O’Callaghan, (A/Sen. Eng) Paddy Denning, (Agriculture Pillar), Cllr. V. Smith, Andrew O’Gorman,(Construction Pillar) Cllr. W. Bennett, Cllr. M. Argue, Marice Galligan (SE Planner).

**Apologies:** Cllr. F Curtin, Thomas Cooney

The Chairperson advised the meeting that a letter of resignation had been received from Mr. Jimmy Jackson on 6th October last. The Chairperson acknowledged the contribution that Mr. Jackson had made in progressing the work of the Committee.

The Chairperson advised that Mr. Andrew O’Gorman has been nominated to the Committee as Mr. Jackson’s replacement to represent the Construction Pillar.

Minutes from previous meeting were proposed by Cllr. Argue and seconded by Cllr. W. Bennett.

1. **NWRA – Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (RSES) Consultation Issues Paper**

Marice Galligan informed the meeting that the Issues Paper was recently launched and is now at public consultation stage. The purpose of the Issues Paper is to prompt us to think about issues in our region and other issues. She explained that these issues should be of significance to the region or sub regional catchment level and relevant to the National Planning Framework, should be strategic in nature and should have an economic and/or spatial focus.

Marice noted that Cavan Town has been identified as a large urban town under the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial & Economic Strategyand this designation will target a 40% population growth to 2040. She cited concerns, however, with the share of population growth allocated to the County’s smaller towns, villages and rural areas. Marice advised that the Local Authority has made a submission to the NPF reflecting these concerns.

The National Planning Framework has also set a target of an increase in our region of additional 450,000 jobs. In addition, Marice pointed out that a 10 year National Investment Plan from 2018-2027 will accompany the NPF which establishes the link between long term capital investment and the planning framework.

The planning department will be making a submission which will go to the Elected Members at the January Council meeting and all submissions should be sent to the Northern and Western Regional Assembly by January 26th 2018.

Paddy Connaughton stated that the NPF would have an impact on future housing policy in rural areas. It will shift focus away from rural areas as future housing developments may be confined to urban areas with better infrastructure and using infill sites and removing any derelict buildings from out towns.

Cllr. Bennett stated that farmers need to live on or close to their farms and not in towns and that rural people should be facilitated to live in their own areas.

Andrew O’Gorman stated that is was important to maintain the provision of housing in rural areas (including one off rural housing). He added that the quality of houses and septic tanks have improved in the last decade. Moreover, small rural businesses play an important role in the rural economy which largely goes unnoticed.

Paddy Denning reaffirmed the importance of having small local businesses in rural Cavan.

The Chairperson requested that the Council’s submission should be discussed at a meeting of this committee in January before its consideration at the full Council meeting. Marice confirmed that the submission will be ready before Christmas and will be available to review in early January 2018.

1. **Anti Dumping Initiative Progress Report**

Conor Craven outlined the works carried out under the National Anti Dumping Initiative. He advised that CCC expected to recoup a total of €69,000 in respect of this initiative. Colm O’Callaghan pointed out that Cavan County Council had received the highest allocation of funding in the region and acknowledged the work of staff in the Waste Management Section. The Administrative Officer also advised that CCTV cameras had been purchased for all sites and that these cameras will be rotated to other dumping black spots. Handhelds will also be provided to litter and waste enforcement staff and will be a more efficient method of logging and tracking complaints.

Cllr. Bennett questioned if any convictions or fines were issued as a result of these clean ups. The Litter Management Officer advised that due to the nature of the sites and the length of time that waste had accumulated there, as evidence was not forthcoming, it was not possible to issue litter fines or initiate prosecutions.

Cllr. Brady stated that the Council should be knocking on doors in housing estates to find out how people are disposing of their household waste. In reply, the Administrative Officer advised that staff were in regular contact with waste providers, and issue relevant information on Brown Bins and Recycling to the Housing Officer and members of the public on a regular basis.

Cllr. Bennett added that Council should be contacting the resident associations in estates and working with them. He commended the Estate Enhancement Awards for the role it plays in enhancing the appearance of housing estates. In reply, the Administrative Officer advised that the litter wardens engage with resident associations on an ongoing basis, for example support for local cleanups and for events such as the National Spring Clean

1. **Reusable Cup Initiative**

Conor Craven provided the background to how this scheme arose, with Maghera Development Association starting this initiative. He stated that we will be working with all Tidy Towns Groups to promote this initiative. Cllr. Brady added that most shops now have a coffee/tea machine and that this type of litter is a common problem.

A number of cups were on display and a cup was issued to all who attended.

1. **Update on Taking in Charge Consultation Process**

Paddy Connaughton advised that 24 estates which are to be taken in charge were published in the local newspaper. Submissions were invited from members of the public. Only two submissions were received and both were in relation to mapping areas. These issues were resolved.

These 24 estates will be put to the next Council meeting for ratification.

**AOB**

Cllr. Bennett congratulated the IFA for their involvement in the roll out of rural broadband scheme. Paddy Denning welcomed the fact that the Council have a Broadband Officer. This funding scheme will assist local schools and businesses obtain improved Broadband Service.

**Close of meeting**

The meeting concluded at 10.30am.