**Minutes from Environment and Planning Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 27th February 2018, 9.30am Old Reference Library.**

**Present:** C. Craven (AO) B. Smith (SO), Cllr. Val Smith, Cllr. Madeleine Argue, Cllr. Winston Bennett, N. O’Kane (Sen. Planner,) Andrew O’Gorman (Construction Pillar), R. Burke (SET).

**Apologies:** Cllr. D. Brady, P. Connaughton, C. O’Callaghan.

Minutes of previous meeting were proposed by Cllr. Argue and seconded by Cllr. Smith.

In the Chairperson’s absence, Cllr. W. Bennett chaired the meeting.

1. **Review of the Adopt the Road Anti-Litter Initiative**

The Administrative Officer advised that the Council had recently written to the 72 business /community groups who were registered on the scheme, requesting their continued participation in 2018. Of the 23 responses received to date, 8 respondents had confirmed their intention to withdraw from the scheme, with a further 15 indicating their intention to continue.

C. Craven also advised that the Council had also re-advertised the scheme in the Anglo Celt month and this had generated interest from a number of new groups. He concluded by confirming that the initiative forms an integral part of the Council’s Litter Management Plan and that it will be kept under review by the Litter Management Officer.

1. **National Springclean 2018**.

C. Craven provided an overview of the Council’s plan for this year’s Springclean Campaign. He advised that Cavan’s Springclean would be launched by Ms. Sinead Greene, Captain of the Cavan Ladies County Team on the 12th of March after the conclusion of the monthly meeting of the Local Authority. He advised that materials such as litter pickers, bags and disposable gloves will be provided to volunteers and community groups during the campaign. All litter and other materials collected by the groups, he pointed out will be taken away by the Community Wardens. In conclusion for groups to become involved in the National Springclean, C. Craven advised that all groups should register with An Taisce via [www.nationalspringclean.org](http://www.nationalspringclean.org).

1. **National Planning Framework**

N. O’ Kane stated that a number of significant changes had been made to the original draft NPF document. He advised that the National Planning Framework had been launched by the Government in Sligo on the 16th of February. He made reference to the following changes:

* Greater prominence to the development of regional centres such as Athlone, Letterkenny, Sligo and Dundalk;
* The focus on the development of large towns such as Cavan which was highlighted in the draft NPF document has now been linked in with progression of County Towns;

N. O’ Kane stated that the adopted National Planning Framework was a very general document and it is not clear what the targets are for Cavan.

The Senior Planner circulated a copy of the submission which the Local Authority had made as part of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Consultation (Northern & Western Region) to the members. He highlighted the fact that a lot

of work had been undertaken by the Council in preparing their submission. He explained that the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy would be of more significance for the future development of the County. He pointed out that in light of the revisions to the NPF, the counties growth could be stifled because Cavan was now placed on a lower tier than that of Athlone or Letterkenny.

The Senior Planner stated that the Local Authority will seek to influence the shape of the Regional Spatial Strategy to ensure that that Co. Cavan achieves a higher population growth target and to ensure the maximum growth of the County.

The Chairperson queried whether the changes to the NPF from the perspective of Co. Cavan materialised from infrastructural deficits. In reply, Mr. O’Kane stated that such level of detail was not addressed in the revision of the NPF.

Cllr. V. Smith asked whether there would be changes to rural planning. Nicholas indicated that the emerging Regional Spatial Strategy would determine the future development of the County and that issues such as rural planning would form part of same. He explained that the Regional Spatial Strategy would be published in 2019.

Andrew O’Gorman highlighted the implications for Cavan given the changes that had been made to the NPF and noted the importance of the Regional Assembly in respect of the development of the Regional Spatial Strategy.

Cllr. M. Argue raised the issue of the relevance of Cavan’s submission at this juncture. In reply, the Senior Planner stated that Regional Assembly will open up the process and review all future submissions in respect of the development of the new Regional Spatial Strategy for the Northern and Western Region.

**AOB**

No items were raised and the meeting concluded at 10.20am.

**Date of Next Meeting**

**3rd of May 9.30am Old Reference Library.**