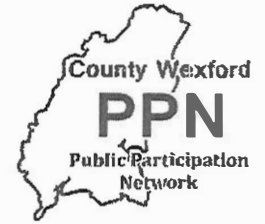


# PPN Rep Meeting Report Template

*Notes to go up on website*



PPN Rep Name	Senan O'Reilly
Committee Name	Economic Development & Enterprise SPC
Date of Meeting	02 March 2023

Other Reps who fed into this Report (if applicable)

Agenda Item	Notes	Outcome/Decisions Made	Actions Required - by Who & When
<b>Intro</b>	As an environmental rep, my primary focus as a member of this SPC is on sustainable development and on nurturing Wexford's 'green' and rural economies. In the notes below, any outcomes/decisions and any actions required are listed in the body of the text.		
<b>LECP</b>	<p>In addressing this SPC recently, Liam Mannix of KPMG, the man tasked with preparing the incoming Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), mentioned that Wexford has "areas of high multi-generational deprivation". This will be a tough nut to crack but it must be a priority.</p> <p>Liam had high praise for Wexford's success in attracting key businesses in the life sciences and finance areas. He also reckoned that we have a good handle on tourism and in recognising the importance of built and natural heritage in selling 'Wexford'.</p>		

	<p>Liam echoed the words of CEO of Rosslare Port, Glenn Carr, that a fully functioning freight rail connection Rosslare - Dublin and Rosslare - Waterford is key. Future-Proof Wexford sees rail as being a vital game-changer for Wexford.</p> <p>Public consultation on the incoming LECP starts this month. It will be completed by June. The plan's high level goals include development of the local economy, tourism, life-long learning, climate change. I have asked that, while the plan is for the period 2023 - 2026, it takes account of longer term trends such as, for example, the impact of rising sea levels, erosion and flooding on residential housing.</p>		
Town Regeneration Officer	<p>Mike McCormack is the county's newly appointed Town Regeneration Officer. His work is based on Town Centre First - A Policy Approach for Irish Towns, the main aim of which is to put town centres at the heart of decision making. It aims to create "town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community." Mike plans to direct the bulk of his initial efforts on Enniscorthy and New Ross. Enniscorthy already has a head start as they prepared their own plan last year.</p>		

<p><b>LEO</b></p>	<p>The Local Enterprise Office had a big line-up of events for Wexford businesses to celebrate Local Enterprise Week.</p> <p>A strategic objective of LEO Wexford is to accelerate growth of its client portfolio through increasing the number of new export companies. A programme commencing in April will target 10 -15 participating companies.</p> <p>High Performance Building Alliance (HPBA)/Green Hub - Mandy Timbrell has been appointed Business Development Manager and she is currently working on the establishment of the Green Hub and a Green Cluster for the SE Region.</p> <p>R&amp;D - WCC has engaged consultants to assist its Economics Department with r&amp;d in areas of economic, community and social development and tourism; co-ordination of funding applications; capacity building and facilitation.</p>		
<p><b>Tourism</b></p>	<p>Jean O'Connell provided detailed analytics while Billy Byrne spoke of the strength of Wexford in the tourism sector and good overseas promotional cooperation with Fáilte Ireland. On more than one occasion I have raised the importance of the council proactively encouraging the development of budget tourist accommodation. I have</p>		

	<p>also spoken of the need to select the best of the county's festivals and assist them in striving for excellence.</p>		
<p>Special Projects</p>	<p>Wexford County Council's Special Projects office covers the development of industrial, commercial, technological infrastructure that will facilitate and support economic development; town centres, public buildings and spaces revitalisation and regeneration; high value recreational amenity and tourism projects.</p> <p>Work has commenced on an access road to the most ambitious of these projects, namely Trinity Wharf in Wexford town. Enniscorthy Technology Park is at an advanced stage of development with the first tenants having moved in; RRDF funding has been secured for the proposed enterprise hub at John Street, New Ross.</p> <p>The completed works at Wexford Arts Centre provide a good example of public building enhancement with the new fire station in New Ross another example. Work commenced earlier this year on the Mechanics Institute, Wexford. Later this year, work will commence on converting the Adoration Convent building into student accommodation. The new roof which should be on Wexford's Monck Street by June is an example of public space enhancement. Likewise the removal</p>		

	<p>of the old oil storage tanks on the quays in New Ross. Dredging of Crescent Quay will happen some time but probably not this year.</p> <p>Recreation, amenity &amp; tourism projects are all about making Wexford an even better place in which to live and a more attractive/fun place to visit. Examples: Min Ryan Park, Carrigfoyle trails, regeneration initiatives in Enniscorthy, the Wexfordia tourism project, Enniscorthy Sports Hub, Courtown Coastal Protection, Curracloe water sports facility.</p> <p>And the greenways. Some stretches are going ahead, others are on hold.</p> <p>The Special Projects team is working with the OPW on flood defence/relief schemes in Enniscorthy and Wexford. Work is due to commence in Wexford while Enniscorthy will be waiting until 2024. One message I have tried to get across at previous meetings is that the Council and OPW continuously seek out the most up-to-date data on sea level rise and climate change-induced events so as to better prepare for future challenges. Investment now may more than pay for itself in the medium to long term.</p> <p>SEP</p>		