

South-East Regional Authority
Údarás Réigiúnach an Oir-Dheiscirt

Minutes of the January monthly meeting of the South-East Regional Authority held at the Presentation Community Development Centre, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford on Monday, 26th January, 2009 at 2.30 p.m.

Present: In the absence of the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. P Codd, Leas-chathaoirleach, presided.

Also Present: Cllr. L. Allen, Cllr. M. Anglim, Cllr. L. Brazil, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Cllr. J. Brennan, Cllr. M. Brett, Cllr. B. Coffey, Cllr. J. Crowe, Cllr. D. Geoghegan, Cllr. T. Howlin, Cllr. P.J. Kavanagh, Cllr. D. Landy, Cllr. C. Long, Cllr. M. Maguire, Cllr. M. Murphy, Cllr. A. McDonald, Cllr. D. MacPartlin, Cllr. P. O'Callaghan, Cllr. M. O'Halloran, Cllr. L. O'Neill, Cllr. W. Paton, Cllr. C. Phelan, Cllr. S. Ryan, Cllr. J. Tobin, Cllr. D. Walsh, Cllr. T. Wright.

In Attendance: Mr. T. Byrne, Director
Mr. M. Moroney, Asst. Director
Ms. A. Sheehan, Office Manager
Mr. E. O'Connor, Designated County Manager.

Apologies: Cllr. M. Fitzgerald, Cllr. S. Doyle, Cllr. D. Hurley, Cllr. T. Kinsella, Cllr. P. Norris, Cllr. S. Nyhan, Cllr. M. Roche.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr. D. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. M. Murphy, the minutes of the November monthly meeting, copy of which had been circulated, were unanimously approved and signed by the Cathaoirleach.

Before the meeting commenced, the Cathaoirleach proposed the following votes of sympathy:

- With Cllr. Jack Crowe, on the death of his sister, Phyllis O'Dwyer
- With the family of the late Bishop Michael Russell
- With the family of Mrs. Peggy Brennan, mother of Nickey Brennan.

He also extended good wishes to Mr. Joe Palmer, former General Manager of Fáilte Ireland, South-East, who had recently retired and wished Mr. Gary Breen, General Manager every success in his new position.

Presentation on the South-East Regional Craft Centre

Ms. Helen Shanahan, Manager, Craft Granary, made a presentation to the members on the South-East Regional Craft Centre located in Cahir, Co. Tipperary (Craft Granary). She outlined her presentation under the following headings:

- The Craft Granary before restoration
- A general overview of the Craft Granary
- Gallery and Workshops in the Craft Granary
- Details of 'Showcase 2009', where the Craft Granary had a stand for the first time and details of South-East exhibitors who received awards there
- Details of the Craft Granary's new website.

Ms. Shanahan then responded to questions and comments from the members including the following:

- The method used for counting visitors to the Craft Centre
- The use of the Gallery for Artists' exhibitions
- How publicity for exhibitions is handled
- The transition from derelict building to current modern building.

The Leas-chathaoirleach and members thanked Ms. Shanahan for her very interesting and informative presentation.

Review of Regional Planning Guidelines (RPG)

The Director explained to the members that the current RPGs had been adopted by the Authority in 2004 and had to be reviewed every 6 years, and such a review is currently due to take place. In this context, the Authority has appointed an RPG Officer, Dominic Walsh, Carlow Co. Co., who will coordinate the review. The first step involved will be the preparation of a Draft Issues Paper and Mr. Walsh will consult with all constituent local authorities in this regard, and this Paper will be available for presentation to the members at the February monthly meeting.

It is anticipated that new planning legislation being prepared will accord a significantly higher status and importance to the RPGs that will require closer adherence to them by local authority development plans.

The Director stated that the review must also take account of the requirements to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment under the EU SEA and Habitats Directives. In

addition, a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has to be carried out. In this regard, Ms. Bernadette Guest, Waterford Co. Co., has also been appointed by the Authority to assist with the SEA and AA. Mr. Byrne assured the members that they will be kept informed of all developments and progress with regard to the review and update of RPGs.

End-of-Year Statements issued by IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, on IDA Ireland and Enterprise Ireland End-of-Year Statements. The reports outlined the statement highlights and progress reports for each organisation for 2008.

Audit Report on the accounts of the South-East Regional Authority

The members noted and considered details of the Audit Report on the accounts of the Authority for the year ended 31st December 2007, copy of which had been circulated.

Programme of Work 2009

The Director outlined the main elements of the draft Programme of Work in respect year ended 31st December 2009, copy of which had been circulated. On the proposal of Cllr. D. Geoghegan, seconded by Cllr. L. Brazil, the Programme of Work was approved and adopted by the Authority.

Quarterly National Household Survey

The members noted details of a recently published Quarterly National Household Survey, copy of which had been circulated, recently published by the CSO for Quarter 3 2008, which outlined the most recent trends in (un)employment levels with figures given on both national and regional basis. The report also detailed a table showing labour force survey results classified by ILO status for persons aged 15 and over in EU member states.

National and Regional Population Targets

The members noted details of a summary report, copy of which had been circulated, recently published by the DoEHLG on National and Regional Population Targets for 2010, 2016 and 2022. The report was outlined under the following headings:

- Overall National Population Growth
- Regional Population Targets 2010-2022
- Assumptions underlying the Regional Targets
- Regional Population Targets by Regional Authority area.

'Transport 21' Update

The members noted details of an updated report, copy of which had been circulated, on *'Transport 21'*, the Government's 10-year transport plan. The report outlined the main highlights during 2008, which included the M8 Cashel to Mitchelstown scheme which was opened to traffic at the end of July, 10 months ahead of schedule and also the Cullahill to Cashel scheme which was officially opened by Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport, in December 2008.

The members requested that the importance of further rail services in the South-East in order to reduce traffic and the availability of low-floor wheelchair accessible busses be emphasised in the transport plan.

Correspondence

- Letter from Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Transport regarding the N.24.

Any Other Matters

The members expressed grave concern about the situation that is prevailing in the Waterford Crystal firm at present. Waterford Crystal is one of the South-East's flagship enterprises that is not only a major employer but is also one of the region's key tourism attractions through its Visitors Centre.

They requested that every effort is made to ensure that Waterford Crystal, its employees and the world-renowned iconic brand that is Waterford are safeguarded and that manufacturing is continued at the Kilbarry plant. They also strongly urged that a Pension Protection Fund be introduced to ensure that workers will get their full pension entitlements.

It was agreed that the Authority write to the office of the Tánaiste expressing these concerns without delay.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Sínithe: _____ Ceadaithe: _____

Dáta: _____ Dáta: _____