

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Information Newsletter for member Groups

It was agreed that in advance of agreeing minutes of the Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Economic meeting, a short report would be made available to enable groups to provide feedback in the form of a Newsletter.

1. LECP Annual Report 2019 and Draft Economic Action Plan for 2020

It was highlighted that there were a number of successful initiatives which resulted from the 2019 action plan as follows:

1. The successful development of the Ballingarrane site and Master plan.
2. The Lisheen agrichemwhey project
3. Digital hub for Roscrea
4. Town and village renewal through LEADER
5. LEO s ongoing support and promotion of Micro Enterprise and training supports
6. Tipperary Food production Network and their Breakfast initiative and long table dinner event and new brochure and the Tipperary food tour programme in primary schools and brand development and the food centre of excellence.
7. Action plan developed for the green sector network to deliver on the strong green enterprise potential in Tipperary.
8. The Town centre Fora to implement Town Centre Initiative actions in the 9 towns (Clonmel, Nenagh, Thurles, Roscrea, Cashel, Cahir, Tipperary, Carrick on Suir and Templemore.
9. New projects developed under the Town and village Renewal programme, Ireland 2040.
10. Continued development of the Kickham Barracks project.
11. Implementation of the Tipperary Tourism Strategic plan and its 5 objectives.
12. Continue the development of Ireland's ancient East and Irelands Hidden heartlands.
13. Development plan for Cashel with the possible development of the visitor centre.
14. Inclusion of Fethard Town on the Butlers trail
15. Redevelopment of the Tipperary Museum
16. The launch of the new Tipperary Tourism website
17. Upgrade of historic town signage supported by Failte Ireland.
18. LIT working actively with TEA on a wide range of actions and implementation of sustainable energy action plan
19. Progress on the implementation of the National Broadband plan in County Tipperary and the roll out of the BCPs (Broadband connection points in local remote communities to give high speed fibre internet connection) and the ongoing infrastructure development in the county.
20. Inclusion of the N24 ad Clonmel/Thurles/ Nenagh Road in appropriate national, regional and local strategies.
21. New reservoir in Giantsgrave improving the town water supply in Clonmel and that will allow Ballingarrane to upgrade their existing water supply capabilities to allow for high demand industries to consider setting up business in Ballingarrane.
22. Conduct a training needs analysis of Employers in the County, adjust and introduce new programmes that meet the needs of employers examine what current skills are required in the existing companies in the County.
23. Develop a craft strategy and craft network for the County.

The significant progress to date of the plan. Pat Slattery highlighted the role of "Whats on in tipp" and "Tipp live" and asked if maybe there was a way of bringing these platforms together to allow the citizen to be able to check one place to find out what is happening in all of Tipperary e.g. festivals events etc. and the importance of supporting struggling businesses in the County.

There was a suggestion to investigate the possibility re the provision a county wide vision and actions for migrant integration and could also focus on integrating migrants into the workforce as an economic action;

Pat Slattery advised the members that the LCDC had met recently and that it was proposed that they would take the lead on collaborating with the STDC, ETB, ESB and Tipperary County Council and develop a strategy and that this could be considered for adding to the Economic Action plan for 2020.

Another issue raised was with regard to the issue of integrating people with mental health issues and disabilities and noted the huge difficulties these people experienced trying to gain employment or return to employment.

A discussion took place regarding the issue of integrating those with mental health issues into the workforce was also discussed and it was agreed that this would be supported in the Strategy and refer to the open Door initiative (ODI) which refers to work opportunities for all. This objective has cross over with the integration of refugees into the workforce also. In summary it is about influencing employers in the county to have an open door policy

The meeting then concluded.