





## 1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr. Leainde welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced Michael Owens.

Michael Owens welcomed the members and stated that he looked forward to working with them on the SPC. Mr. Owens advised the members that today's special meeting was to get an overview of the Draft Age Friendly Strategy from Maria Hall of Hub Planning. Mr. Owens introduced Maria Hall.

Maria Hall thanked the members for attending the meeting and for giving her an opportunity to present the Draft Age Friendly Strategy. Ms. Hall gave an overview of how the strategy was prepared and how the actions came about.

Ms. Hall opened the floor to queries/observations from the members.

Cllr. Evelyn Parsons thanked Ms. Hall for all her work in preparing the Draft Strategy and queried if the members would have an opportunity to submit observations prior to final adoption of the strategy.

Mr. Owens advised the members that they would then have a chance to review the strategy in full and it would be then up for member approval at the next SPC meeting in September.

Cllr. Alan Harney stated that he noticed the participation rates in some County areas were a lot lower than in the City area and queried whether there was something that the Councillors could do to encourage more participation in these kinds of public consultations.

Ms. Hall advised that the survey findings were based on population density, therefore there was a good engagement from all areas of the County, it just may not look like it from the data figures shown.

Cllr. Harney queried if there would be an opportunity arising from the strategy for a dedicated funding stream for footpath improvements as it is difficult to get funding for those improvement works.

Ms. Hall stated that she will include some more wording in the strategy regarding footpath upgrade issues.

Cllr. E Parsons outlined a few issues that she would like to see mentioned in the Strategy if not already in there:

- Bus stop seating for older people.
- Public Toilet facilities in public places.
- Linkage networks in all large and small communities.
- Digital upskilling.



- Rural Crime – This is a worry for a lot of elderly people.
- Loneliness and social isolation – Important to tackle this issue.

Ms. Hall thanked Cllr. Parsons for her observations and advised that these issues are addressed in the Draft Strategy. Ms. Hall stated that there is an increased focus on public realm issues since the Inter Departmental meeting that took place earlier this week.

Michael Owens thanked Ms. Hall for her work in bringing the Draft Strategy to this point and also wished to thank Mary McGann for all her work in getting the Strategy to this stage.

Cllr. Leainde thanked Ms. Hall and her team for all their work in getting the Draft Strategy to this stage.

*This concluded the Draft Age Friendly Strategy presentation.*

Michael Owens advised the members that they would be asked to consider a Flag and Special Lighting Protocol at the next meeting in September which would be circulated to them prior to the meeting.

Cllr E Parsons queried if an audit of Council buildings has taken place in relation to building lighting and asked if people would be required to apply for lighting requests under the new protocol.

Mr. Owens advised that people will be required to apply for building lighting requests under the new protocol but that it will be mostly at Municipal District level in MD areas.

**Chríoghnaigh an chruinniú ansin.**