


Report to the Protocol & Selection Committee for noting and referral to the City Council

Councillor Name	Mary Freehill
Conference/Seminar Name	LAMA Spring Seminar
Conference/Seminar Topic	New National Planning Framework, Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy, The Economic Benefits of the Wild Atlantic Way
Venue/Location	Central Hotel, Donegal Town
Date (s) of Conference	5 th , 6 th and 7 th April 2018

Brief Summary

The seminar started with the usual opening welcoming speeches. Niall Cussen Dept of Local government, Sinead Dooley Rural Link and Joe Corr Irish Planning Inst. Spoke on Nat Planning Framework. They covered the need for connectivity to rural towns and how the Buchanan Report damaged rural Ireland.

On questioning regarding withdrawal of planning applications from LAC agendas, Niall Cussen told us that he thought Cllrs had enough to do not to be interested or concerned about spatial planning. A very good debate took place on general lack of Cllrs powers.

On talk on Regional special & Econ Strat. Speakers pointed out reason for denying one off houses as villages are dying. The future planning needed of low carbon environment, about tier 3 interestingly found out that Killybegs also used for Cruise ships, implications of Brexit. Jim Conway pointed out the need for the strategy take account of metropolitan plans, MASP and the future demographics.

John Paul Phelan addressed the dinner and just said a few words about Cllrs working conditions and pay. It was very disappointing that the minister hadn't time to hear what we had to say about the withdrawal of our powers in relation to planning.

On Saturday morning Deirdre McGloin spoke about the economic benefits of Wild Atlantic way. The big gain was in brining tourists to out of the way less well known areas and this has been a huge help to the County of Donegal.

Recommendations

In some ways the seminar was more like a scouts jamboree. I attended to have a political meeting but didn't get it. The lack of interest by the Minister in that regard was very disappointing.

Declaration

I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.

Signed by

Mary Freehill

Date

9 April 2018