

Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on Wednesday 17th November, 2021 via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair), Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Fergal Canton, Denis Brophy, Michael Rice, Kathy Purcell, Josephine Coyne, John Collins, Mary Butler, Dearbhala Ledwidge and Cora Nolan, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Murty Brennan.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. J. Coonan

(a) Matters Arising

Amendment on Page 3 of minutes of last meeting, should read F. Canton.

2. Update Heritage Forum

Dearbhala outlined the proposed process and has now received feedback from SPC 5 members. Dearbhala will review the feedback and in Q1 2022: -

- Update Terms of Reference
- Write to current members
- Identify gaps in membership
- Contact new members and organisations

3. Creative Ireland, Cruinniú na n'Óg and Decade of Centenaries Programmes Update

Dearbhala gave a presentation and updated the committee on the Creative Ireland & Cruinniú na n'Óg programme in 2021, which had a budget of €176,561. Two grants schemes were administered, and a total of 30 projects were funded, with a wide range of project partners.

The Decade of Centenaries Programme had a budget of €50,000. 11 projects were funded in total (9 under a grant scheme, and 2 delivered by the Heritage Office and Local Studies branch of the library). The projects commemorated the key events and people involved in 1921 in Kilkenny.

Pat thanked Dearbhala for her presentation and overview on the Creative Ireland Programme and The Decade of Centenaries.

A query was raised about the involvement of Community Radio Kilkenny City and Dearbhala advised that they were also involved.

4. Disability Awareness and Participation Fund.

Annette gave an update on this €80,000 fund. The Community Department met with other departments in the local authority and other representative groups. There was a tight timeline, 3 proposals were put forward as follows: -

- Woodstock including play equipment and buggy/wheelchair friendly
- Access toilet, changing/washing facilities – mobile unit
- Disability awareness training working with the Disability Federation.

Kathy Purcell advised the Discovery Park in Castlecomer are fully committed on disability awareness and offered their support.

Cllr. J. Coonan welcomed these proposals and hoped for a successful result.

Cllr. T. Breathnach raised a number of queries (a) €2.5 million on average €80,000 per local authority (b) — document on display in County Hall (c) Presentation of issues from a disability prospective.

Annette will take all comments on board, and advised promotion is included in the budget if the grant is successful, pending how application goes the Disability Federation most suited to do a presentation.

Hopefully it will be an annual fund, agreed to keep Disability as an item on the Agenda on future meetings.

5. Fire Safety Plan – 2021-2026

John Collins gave a presentation:

- John outlined the purpose of the Fire Safety Plan and working together for a safer Kilkenny with 4 elements, Engagement, Education, Engineering and Enforcement and also the Objectives of the Plan.

A number of queries were raised including: -

- Planning and fire safety certs
- Fire services in communities and schools with covid restrictions
- Fire drills – covid compliance
- Building certificate inspections
- Closure notices
- Policy for flat/apartment occupiers

Pat thanked John for his comprehensive presentation and for addressing the queries raised.

The Fire Safety Plan 2021-2026 was Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan and Seconded by Cllr. T. Breathnach and agreed.

6. Town & Village

Annette advised no news on applications that were submitted. All previous applications are progressing and currently working on 2020 projects.

7. AOB

Cllrs. Pat Dunphy & T. Breathnach asked would it be possible to produce a booklet on the events which took place this year to commemorate 1921. Dearbhala advised she has planned to make all the information available on the website and also that when the full Decades of Centenaries Programme is complete in 2023 a booklet could be produced which would bring together all the events which took place since the start of the Decade of Centenaries Programme.

The Communities Activities fund of €272,638 was announced and will be administered by Kilkenny LCDC and advertised in January.

8. Date for Meetings in 2022: -

Wednesday 16th February at 3:00p.m.

Wednesday 13th April at 3.00p.m.

Wednesday 22nd June at 3:00p.m

Wednesday 14th September at 3:00p.m.

Wednesday 16th November at 3:00p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.