

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5-Community, Cultural and Fire Services held on Wednesday 12th February, 2020 at 3pm in The Chamber, County Hall.

Present: Cllr. John Brennan (Chairperson), Mary Mulholland (Director of Services), Cllr. Thomas Breathnach, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Michael Rice, Martin Brennan, Denis Brophy, Fergal Canton, Kathy Purcell,

In attendance: Josephine Coyne (Library Services), Mary Butler (Arts Officer), Dearbhala Ledwidge (Heritage Officer), Annette Fitzpatrick, Ronan Ryan and Cora Nolan (Community)

At the commencement of the meeting a vote of sympathy was passed to Mary Mulholland on the death of her father. A minute's silence as held.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December, 2019

Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, Seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett.

It was noted that under item No. 6 an amendment is to be made, contribution was made by Martin Brennan and not D. Brophy. The Minutes will be amended accordingly.

2. Event Grant Scheme 2020

Mary Mulholland and Ronan Ryan gave the background to this scheme and explained that in 2019 over 130 applications were received. Ronan went through the eligible and ineligible events and also went through the application form. The budget for this grant is approximately €20,000. A number of queries were raised re twinning, St. Patrick's Day, Yulefest etc.

The Event Grant Scheme was approved. Proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, Seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy. This will go to the County Council Meeting on Monday for signing off on by the full Council.

3. Creative Ireland Grant Scheme 2020

Last year €15,000 was allocated to a grant scheme under Creative Ireland. The total fund for Creative Ireland this year is €96,700, €15,000 admin/clerkal officer, €25,000 grant scheme, and the balance of €56,700 split between Bookville (Library) Heritage in Schools Project (Heritage) and Regional Arts Project feeding in from the 3 Sisters Arts Strategy (Arts).

€25,000 to be allocated to the Grant Scheme this year with grants up to a value of €5,000.

The Creative Ireland Grant Scheme was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Pat Dunphy and seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett.

Cruinniú na nÓg will be held on 13th of June, 2020 the budget is €15,000 and the aim is to engage with the youth in projects of cultural development and provide free access to young children and families in a day of creativity. Proposed for this year is Imaginosity (Science Museum in Dublin) to come to MacDonagh Junction, T-REX Dinosaur Show in the Discovery Park, the Deise Group Waterford Medieval street event in Kilkenny City, Design Crafts Council of Ireland event in the Castle Yard and Creative Youth group in Graignamanagh, have all expressed an interest in taking part this year. There were a number of recommendations including the Geographical spread, an open call for next year, ask the young people what events they would like to see etc.

Mary advised this is not guaranteed funding every year and agreed to send a letter seeking a commitment to funding over a number of years.

The schedule of events was approved on the proposal of Cllr. Martin Brett, Seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy.

4. CCFCS Grant Scheme 2020

Mary Mulholland went through the CCFCS Grant Scheme. It was agreed to amend to include Intercultural projects. The scheme was reviewed in 2018. If any of the committee had any amendments or suggestions to email them to Mary Mulholland or Cora Nolan by the end of February.

This was agreed and proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, Seconded by Cllr. John Coonan.

A number of queries arose re upgrading not repairing community centers/community halls, also on car parks being ineligible. Mary advised it's a facilities grant not amenity grant. It was suggested could a certain percentage of the grant go towards car parks.

It was agreed to refer the issue of grant funding of car parks to the Transport SPC committee. This was proposed by Tomas Breathnach, seconded by John Coonan for further consideration.

5. Audit on Archaeological Landscapes

A presentation was given by the Heritage Officer Dearbhala Ledwidge. Dearbhala explained what an archaeological landscape is, and gave an example of Freestone Hill, having layers of history and the difference in what we see and what an archaeologist sees when they look at an archaeological landscape.

Dearbhala explained the difference between an Archaeological landscape vs archaeological site. Dearbhala advised why an audit is required and the value of archaeological landscapes, there are 18 potential archaeological landscapes and 3 landscapes have been proposed and need to be approved by SPC 5. The 3 landscapes that been prioritized are Tory Hill, Linguan Valley and Freestone Hill. These 3 sites will be included in the Draft plan which will go for public consultation. There were a number of queries. The Audit was approved by all members of SPC 5. Cllr. John Brennan thanked Dearbhala for her comprehensive presentation.

6. AOB

A query was raised on behalf of the Social Disability Group on meeting a representative from the Council to discuss access and information issues, and how to make it as easy and accessible for everyone. It was suggested that under the Access for All a meeting could be set up between the Access Officer, the Disability Group and the PPN.

7. Next Meeting:

Wednesday 15th April, 2020 at 3.00p.m. in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Kilkenny.