

Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting – Community, Culture & Fire Services held in Meeting Room 1, County Hall on Thursday 14th March, 2024 at 10.30a.m.

Present: Cllr. Martin Brett (Chair), Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr Tomas Breathnach(online) and Cllr John Coonan.

In attendance: Anne Marie Shortall, Mary Butler, Majella Keating and Ashling Slattery, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Fergal Canton

1. Minutes of last meeting on Thursday 14th December, 2023

Minutes were proposed by Cllr John Coonan, seconded by Cllr John Brennan and agreed.

2. Creative Ireland Fund 2024 – Proposed programme and Grants

Majella presented a Creative Ireland Fund 2024 update to the SPC 5 which included:

Review of Creative Kilkenny 2023.

Consultation process with young people informed the development of the Cruinniú na nÓg programme for 2024.

There is an allocation from Creative Ireland for 2024.

A total of 35 groups, artists and organisation will benefit from the programme.

A wide demographic of participants throughout County Kilkenny will be engaged in Creative activities.

Employing local artists, musicians and theatre production companies.

Additional streams of funding will be secured where feasible through Creative Ireland.

The members thanked Majella for her presentation,

Cllr John Coonan queried about people with disabilities, Majella and Mary advised.

Julie Kavanagh asked where is there information available about the events, Anne Marie Shortall advised.

Cllr Martin Brett enquired about cross over with youth services, Anne Marie, Majella and Mary advised.

Anne Marie thanked Majella and acknowledged her work since starting the role.

3. Community and Culture update

Anne Marie Shortall provided an update in relation to the Community & Culture Section and the following was noted:

The community event grant scheme was advertised and closed. The applications will be assessed shortly.

The 2024 Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme is now open, with a closing date for receipt of valid applications by 12 noon on Friday 10th May 2024. Level of grant aid available is at a rate of 75% of the total eligible project costs up to a maximum grant of €45,000. The grant beneficiary will have to provide the remaining 25% match funding.

Commercial Premises Paint Scheme 2024 is now open with a closing date of Friday, 3rd May, 2024.

The Project Development Measure is open for Expressions of Interest. It relates to the Design, Consultation and planning of future projects. EOIs will be assessed by the Community Department staff.

The Community Heritage Grant Scheme is open with a closing date of the 25th March, 2024. A letter of support is required from Regina to assist the application.

Thomastown library has been approved for additional funding and works are due to commence on the 19th March, 2024

Cllr Pat Dunphy thanked Anne Marie and enquired about schemes being advertised on social media, Anne Marie advised.

It was queried if the PPN newsletter could be sent to the Elected Members.

4. Fire Services Update

John Collins provided an update on the following:

Capital Projects such as Urlingford Library moving to their new fire station and the new HQ fire station for Kilkenny City is progressing.

There were 21 applications for Fire Safety Certificates.

Under the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003 Fire prevention staff made targets inspections of premises in 2023, there were 2 fire safety notices served, 4 licence

applications were processed and 17 fire safety inspections took place so far in 2024.

The Fire Brigades have attended 173 incidents in 2024 such as road traffic collisions, public road hazards, domestic fires, ambulance assists, chimney fires and automatic fire alarm activations.

A recruitment campaign for retained firefighters took place in February with a total of 67 applications received.

Capital grant aid has been received for the replacement of Freshford Class B Fire Appliances and Urlingford will also receive new fire appliances.

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service continue to deliver the National Directorate Fire and Emergency management Primary School Programmes.

All personnel responding to Fire and Rescue Service incidents require a minimum level of training to meet core requirements and further training is provided for specialist and supervisory roles.

The members thanked John for the update and the work provided by Fire Services.

Cllr Martin Brett asked how many road traffic accidents they attend, John advised.

5. Visit to New City Library at the Mayfair

The SPC 5 - Community, Culture & Fire Services visited and received a tour of the new Mayfair Library. It was noted on the tour that accessible parking is an issue for the new Library.

6. Date and time of next meeting

The next SPC meeting will be held on Thursday 16th May, 2024 at 11.00a.m. in Patricks Court Meeting Room, Patrick Street, Kilkenny, R95N28F.

7. AOB

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.