

Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting – Community, Culture & Fire Services held in Meeting Room 1, County Hall on Thursday 16th May, 2024 at 11.00a.m.

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

In attendance: Anne Marie Shortall, Josephine Coyne, John Collins, Diane Seale and Ashling Slattery, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Cllr. John Brennan

1. Minutes of last meeting on Thursday 14th March, 2024

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

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Fire Services Update

John Collins provided a Fire Services Update and noted the following:

Capital Projects

Urlingford Fire Brigade will officially open its new fire station on Wednesday 29th May 2024.

Urlingford Fire Brigade will also be receiving their new Fire Engine this month.

The design of the new HQ fire Station for Kilkenny City is progressing well. In 2020, €6m in funding was received for the station, however with inflation the cost of same will be significantly higher. John to provide a total cost at the next meeting.

Graiguenamangh Fire Station is to receive a new fire engine to replace the old one.

Fire Safety Certificate Applications

There were 34 applications received to date for fire safety certificates.

The fire authority technical staff have been involved with Kilkenny County Council's Ukrainian Response Unit.

A large number of risk premises throughout Kilkenny City and County have been subject to review and fire safety certification applications to ensure minimum standards.

Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003

The Fire Prevention staff undertook targeted inspections of premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation during 2023.

A total of 9 Licence Applications were processed under Section 24 of the Fire Services Acts 1981 and 2003.

There were 7 licence applications assessed to date under the Dangerous Substances legislation.

In 2024, 27 Fire safety inspections of premises have taken place.

Fire Brigade Operations

The Brigades have attended 400 incidents to date in 2024. These incidents included a number of road traffic collisions, house fires, ambulance assists, chimney fires and automatic fire alarm activations.

Primary School Programme

Kilkenny Fire and Rescue Service continue to deliver the National Directorate Fire and Emergency Management Primary Schools Programme. It is targeted at all 3rd Class Primary School children since 2006.

Training

Kilkenny County Council's Fire and Rescue Service are obliged to ensure that our Fire-fighters and Officers are adequately trained and competent to deal with tasks and varying roles they may encounter in the performance of their duties.

In Urlingford, Firefighter specific awareness training for the lifts within Fennor Hill Care Facility took place recently.

A transportation incident training course was held in Castlecomer Fire Station, Kilkenny between the 22nd and 26th April 2024.

A Pump Operators course is currently being run in Graiguenamanagh Fire Station. It is a QQI approved course with a total of 12 participants from Kilkenny and Laois.

Cllr Tomas Breathnach queried if there was any change in the character of incidents? John advised.

4. Library Policy

Josephine Coyne presented the Library Policy and noted the following:

The Mayfair Library has a Meeting Room and a Community Room, to support the library's role as a centre of community, culture, education and civic space.

Priority for use of these spaces is given to library groups and activities.

Spaces are also available to groups for one-off events or meetings that are appropriate to the ethos of the library service.

Reservations are on a first come, first served basis.

Josephine listed the terms of use and the reservation procedure to the SPC 5.

Cllr John Coonan queried the parking concerns and Josephine advised.

The members expressed concern over one element of the terms of use "The room may not be used for any events that are religious or political in nature" Josephine advised and will consider rewording.

Josephine also noted that they have been awarded €180k for a new mobile library.

5. Community Update

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

The 2024 Community and Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) and the Community Recognition Fund both closed on the 10th May. There were 22 applications received under the CCFCS and 22 Expressions of Interest received under the Community Recognition Fund.

Town & Village Scheme 2023 Allocations

Dunamaggin Development Group made an application under Town & Village funding where they propose to transform an open green space to a community amenity. The group were awarded €247,500 on 29th April 2024.

Callan Town Team made an application under Town & Village for remedial works on the Kingsriver. The group were successful in their application and were awarded €247,500 on 29th April 2024.

Urlingford Community Centre were awarded €500,000 for Phase 2 of works. – Phase 2 - €500,000

RRDF Allocations

The South East Greenway Connectivity Link and Pink Rock Cycle Loop and Amenity Trail was approved for funding was recently approved for funding in the amount of €1,885,138 under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund. There will be match funding from Kilkenny County Council in the amount of €471,285.

The proposed Greenway linkage connects the car park at Ballyverneen by way of the L-7513 through existing N25 underpass to the junction of L-7512. The route continues to the junction L - 7510 into the village of Glenmore, Co. Kilkenny. The route is approximately 1.86 km in length and 3.0 m wide.

The Pink Rock Cycle Loop / Amenity Trail

From Greenway Carpark at Ballyverneen, Glenmore to Annagh's Bridge, Shanbogh Upper - it is proposed to provide a shared surface along the existing road. This route is approximately 6 km long. The proposed route will provide Greenway users from New Ross, the option of cycling or walking out to Glenmore on the Greenway and returning via an alternative route along the Pink Rock Road / shared surface.

The Community Event Grant 2024 is going to the full council next week. A total of 65 applications were received, of which 63 were successful.

6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next two meetings of the SPC meeting are proposed for September and December with dates to be confirmed.

7. AOB

None.

This concluded the business of the meeting.