

Minutes of Meeting

SPC 5: Community, Integration, Cultural, Gaeilge, Heritage & Fire Services
Tuesday 28th January, 2025 at 3:00p.m
Meeting Room 1, County Hall

Present: Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair), Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Mary Dolan PPN Community/Voluntary and Fergal Canton, ICTU

In attendance: Fiona Deegan, A/Director of Services, Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer, Josephine Coyne, County Librarian, Regina Fitzpatrick, Heritage Officer, Michelle McQuaid, Integration Team Coordinator and Diane Seale, Community, Kilkenny County Council

Apologies: Cllr. John Brennan, Guy Jones, PPN Rep, Ian Gardner, A/Director of Services, John Collins, Chief Fire Officer

1. Minutes of last meeting on Tuesday 10th December, 2024

Amendment: Cllr. Pat Dunphy advised he attended the SPC 5 meeting on Tuesday 10th December, 2024 and proposed the minutes to be amended to note same.

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Tomás Breathnach and agreed.

2. Matters arising

Cllr. John Brennan who is the chair of SPC 5 sent his apologies. In his absence, it was agreed Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair) would chair the meeting.

3. County Heritage Plan

Regina Fitzpatrick, Kilkenny County Council Heritage Officer gave a presentation on the County Heritage Strategy. Regina explained her role, the Heritage Forum and outlined the process for developing the next Kilkenny Heritage Strategy. A discussion paper has been prepared to start the process of consultation. Submissions on the discussion document can be made up to 1 the 28th March, 2025.

Mary Dolan enquired about access to funding for community groups with heritage buildings. Regina Fitzpatrick advised of the 5-year review of the Community Monument Fund and there will be an invite for submissions on this review.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach suggested the SPC to make a submission on the Kilkenny Heritage Strategy and it was agreed to meet separately ahead of the submission deadline.

The importance of sense of place, how villages are changing, keeping record of buildings and how it effects people with dementia was discussed.

4. Integration

Michelle McQuaid, Kilkenny County Council Integration Team Coordinator gave a presentation on the Integration Team. Michelle advised the team follow the National Migrant Integration Strategy and outlined their role, purpose and what they achieved in 2024 and plans for 2025. Fiona Deegan gave an update and advised the statistics of International Protection applications and Ukrainians in Kilkenny.

Mary Dolan has experience with Cois Nore and advised of the challenges with language. There are language/translation skills in the community that could be utilised. Michelle advised that the Integration Team can link in with Mary Dolan and Cois Nore.

Cllr. Tomás Breathnach enquired how the Integration Team link in with new arrivals. Michelle McQuaid advised how they link in with new arrivals and advise them and sign post to all of the services available.

Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery advised Kilkenny school children are relocated to new counties. Michelle advised they connect the families with the Integration Teams in the other counties.

Fergal Canton commented on how Marian Flannery is successful in including different nationalities and cultures for St. Patricks Day festivities and how important it is that new communities are welcomed.

5. Community

Anne Marie Shortall gave an update on grants and opportunities available to community groups. The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) is overseen by the LCDC is open for applications for small to medium grants with the closing date of Friday 14th February 2025. The Community Event grant scheme for small grants

for small community events is open with the closing date of Friday 14th February 2025. There are two funding opportunities available from Creative Ireland. Cruinniú na nÓg deadline for applications is Friday 14th February 2025 and Creative Ireland grant deadline for applications is Friday 21st February 2025.

Anne Marie Shortall asked for approval from the SPC 5 of amendments for the Community & Cultural Facilities Capital Scheme (CCFCS) to benefit community groups. The amendments will increase the maximum funding to €50,000 to reflect increasing costs and inflation. The match funding was previously 25% and it will be reduced to 10%. There was positive feedback and support for the amendments.

The Community Department recently advertised Crokers Hill Community Centre for expression of interest to provide Management Services for Community Centre at Kennyswell road, with the closing date of 28th February 2025.

There were compliments and positive feedback for the 2025 Kilkenny County Council Grants Booklet and the PPN weekly newsletter.

The mapping exercise of grants awarded by Kilkenny County Council was queried by Fergal Canton and whether there was an update on the exercise. Anne Marie Shortall advised when grants are assessed the history, the geographical spread and disadvantaged areas are considered. The full mapping exercise is not complete, however there is data available through the deprivation index and records of previous funding allocated.

6. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting of the SPC 5 will take place on Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 3:00pm, it will take place both in person at County Hall and online via Microsoft Teams.

7. AOB

Acknowledgement - Kilkenny County Council was commended for the work involved during the snow and recent storm.

This concluded the business of the meeting.