

Minutes of Meeting

**SPC 5 Community, Integration, Cultural, Gaeilge, Heritage & Fire Services
held on Thursday 5th June 2025 at 4:00p.m
in Meeting Room 1, County Hall**

Present: Cllr. John Brennan (Chair), Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. Michael McCarthy, Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery, Cllr. Tomás Breathnach, Mary Dolan PPN Rep, Guy Jones, PPN Rep and Fergal Canton, ICTU.

In attendance: Fiona Deegan, A/Director of Services, Ian Gardner, A/Director of Services, Anne Marie Shortall, Senior Executive Officer, Janette Boran, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator, Majella Keating, Creative Ireland Community Engagement Officer, and Diane Seale, Community, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Josephine Coyne, County Librarian, John Collins, Chief Fire Officer.

1. Minutes of last meeting on Wednesday 19th March, 2025

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Michael McCarthy, seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy and agreed.

2. Matters arising

Fergus Canton enquired about the proposed establishment of an Irish Language group within Kilkenny County Council. The matter will be followed up with Margo Hayes, Corporate Section.

3. Creative Ireland Presentation

Majella Keating, Creative Communities Engagement Officer gave a presentation on the overview of the Creative Ireland programme, highlighting its priorities and funded projects and the grants scheme. Majella provided information on Cruinníú na nÓg held on 7th June 2025 where 52 events were planned across Kilkenny. There was a total of 39 groups/organisations approved for funding under the Creative Ireland Grant scheme for 2025. Part of the presentation included a video showcasing the 'Living Artfully' health and wellbeing project, delivered in collaboration with Carlow County Council and featuring creative workshops such as painting, pottery, and singing. The video included positive feedback from the artists and participants.

Mary Dolan shared details of a Cois Nore project funded by Creative Ireland, where children created artwork for display near the therapy room, offering comfort to children.

Future projects were discussed, including involvement in next year's St. Patrick's Day parade. The presentation and Creative Ireland programme received positive feedback from all members, with Cllr. Tomás Breathnach praising Kilkenny County Council's strong community connections, and Cllr. John Brennan highlighting the programme's wide-reaching benefits.

4. Healthy Ireland Presentation

Janette Boran, Healthy Ireland Coordinator for Kilkenny County Council gave a presentation on the Healthy Ireland programme. Janette outlined the programme's focus on enhancing physical activity and self-perceived health among disadvantaged and priority groups. Key initiatives include youth activity programmes, social farming, adapted cycling, and health needs analyses in Eastern Environs. Janette highlighted recent campaigns such as 'Not Around Us'—a smoking and vaping prevention initiative. Janette informed the members about the UcanACT project, a pilot project promoting physical activity for older adults as a cancer prevention tool, co-funded by the EU. Janette Boran will present the UcanACT project at the EU Parliament in Brussels on 11th June 2025.

Janette thanked Mary Dolan for her support with Cois Nore in getting individuals to take part in the UcanACT project. The group extended their best wishes to Janette for her upcoming presentation in Brussels.

The presentations and videos from the meeting will be circulated to all.

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the SPC 5 will take place on Thursday 4th September 2025 at 3:00pm

This concluded the business of the meeting.