

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

Minutes of Joint Meeting - Housing, Culture & Recreation SPC and Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held in the Galway County Council Offices, Boardroom, Centrepont, Liosban Business Park, Tuam Road, Galway, on Tuesday, 10th May, 2016 at 9.30a.m.

I Láthair:-

Bail: Cllr. T. McHugh, Chairperson
Cllr. D. Burke
Cllr. S. Donnellan
Cllr. M. Fahy
Cllr. M. Finnerty
Cllr. T. Healy
Cllr. M. Hoade
Cllr. P. Hynes
Cllr. J. McClearn
Cllr. K. McHugh
Cllr. S. O'Tuairisg
Mr. D. Dowling
Ms. H. McElmeel
Mr. P. Mannion
Mr. D. McKeon
Ms. M. Murphy

Oifigigh: Mr. K. Kelly, C.E.O
Mr. P. Gavican, D.O.S, Housing, Corporate & Emergency Services.
Ms. C. McConnell, A/D.O.S., Planning, IR & CEED.
Mr. Mark O'Donnell, S.E.O, Galway City Council / Galway 2020 ECoC Project Team
Ms. M. Gaughan Reddan, Arts Officer CEED, Galway 2020 ECoC Project Team
Ms. P. Philbin, Project Manager, Galway 2020 ECoC Project Team
Ms. J. Daly, Programme Manager, Galway 2020 ECoC Project Tam
Mr. K. Coyne, Rapid Coordinator, CEED
Ms. M. Flaherty, C.O. Housing
Ms. M. Collins, C.O. Housing

Leithscéal a ghabháil:

Cllr. S. Donnellan
Cllr. D. Killilea
Cllr. E. Mannion
Mr. P. Maher
Ms. B. Fox, Head of Local Enterprise Office
Ms. J. Brann, S.E.O. Housing
Mr. M. Sheil, S.E.E. Housing
Ms. E. Dolan, A.O, Corporate Services

1. To receive a presentation and update on the ECoC 2020 Bid

Cllr. T. McHugh welcomed members of both SPCs, Council Officials and the Galway 2020 ECoC Bid Project Team to the meeting to receive a presentation and update on the ECoC 2020 Bid.

Ms. C. McConnell welcomed all to the meeting also and advised that Mr. K. Kelly, CEO and the Project Team will give a more in-depth insight as to what the project is about, where it originated from, its progress to date, what it is leading to and the outcome, encompassing both the City and County region together.

Mr. K. Kelly, welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the Project Team members, Mr. Mark O'Donnell, SEO, Galway City Council, Ms. Marilyn Gaughan Reddan, Arts Officer, Ms. Patricia Philbin, Project Manager and Ms. Jane Daly, Programme Manager. Mr. Kelly explained the very competitive nature of the ECoC Bid. He advised that the ECoC was traditionally associated with Cities and their encompassing areas, giving Liverpool as an example. Whereas in the bid for Galway, a wider regional perspective was needed therefore both City and County combined.

Mr. Kelly explained the process to date, with initial process having been started in June/July 2014 by Steering Committee consisting of Council officials from both the City and County Council, from this working groups were formed, both internally and externally. He explained the importance of having recognised the necessity of external advice and expertise and it being essential in realising the appropriate methodology to use going forward and also in progressing areas that might not have been previously envisaged/considered. He said that it is very community/public focused and has been positively received. He stressed the immense competitiveness and scrutiny that goes with the process and it being similar to an Audit rigor.

Mr. Kelly explained that 1 of 3 locations would be chosen, and that 1 location, hopefully being Galway, would go on to be Irelands ECoC, the success of this opening doors to lobby for financial assistance, contributions and attention, which Galway greatly needs.

Mr. Mark O'Donnell gave a brief outline of his background having worked with Galway County Council for circa 18years recently moving to Galway City Council. He advised that this opportunity will not come around again for another 15 years. Mr. O'Donnell played a short video synopsis of the Galway 2020 Bid and went on to explain how the ECoC is a highly prestigious European designation which is awarded to two European cities each year whereby in 2020, one Croatian City (Rijeka) and one Irish City/Region will host the European Capital of Culture. He explained that along with Galway, Limerick and a combined bid from the South East (Waterford, Wexford and Kilkenny) are the 3 finalists. Mr. O'Donnell advised that the joint bid by Galway City and County Council is to provide an unprecedented and unparalleled cultural experience connecting Galway City and County and the wider region with Europe and the world, along with using culture as a driver to effect positive economic, environmental and societal impacts in both the medium and long term.

Ms. Marilyn Gaughan Reddan went on to explain the Team's approach to project development through the use of 6 Pillars, Engage, Inspire, Analyse, Develop, Co-Curate and Deliver. She stressed the importance of engagement with the public whereby a hub was created as a focal point with an open door policy making it welcoming to the public, for

them to get involved and have their say. Ms. Gaughan Reddan advised that there is currently 900 Volunteers registered online with Volunteer programmes being run frequently, 60,000 social media followers (i.e. Instagram, Facebook etc.), 28 Speak Out events have been held, along with home visits whereby the people get to voice what they want and are interested in for the Capital of Culture.

Under the 2nd pillar, Inspire, Ms. Gaughan Reddan advised that Thematic Subgroups, Art Form Specific Workshops along with European Targeted Workshops have taken place, highlighting the importance of engaging with the public through art. The outcome of these feeding into the Pillars Analyse and Develop, whereby 348 Projects were identified, 90 of which are at feasibility stage and 30 will be represented in the Bid book. Ms. Gaughan Reddan advised that these projects will be mapped to specific locations.. She explained that on foot of the Speak Out events, 3 Pilot Programmes, in Headford, Athenry and Ballygar were launched under the “Small Towns, Big Ideas” Initiative. Headford have engaged in school exchanges with other countries along with yarn bombing whereby the town will be covered in knitting. Athenry is focusing on the food area and its association with the European Region of Gastronomy, being the 1st Edible town which is citizen led.

Under the final Pillar “Delivery”, Ms. Gaughan Reddan advised that 3 to 4 projects commenced with the next set to commence in 2017/2018. She said it was important to note also that there is “in the year” activity whereby funding has been set aside for such projects.

Mr. O’Donnell explained that the process is now in its final mile with a submission date of June 17th 2016 for the final Bid Book. On outlining the timelines he stressed the importance of the final Bid Book, explaining how it is seen as a concrete business plan/document containing 100 pages covering 55 key questions He explained that members of the Jury panel will visit Galway on the 11th of July 2016 from 9am to 5.30pm, taking in both City and County along with the Islands. He said that the timeframe is short and will require strategic planning. He advised the final presentation will go before the full Panel on the 14th July 2016 in Dublin Castle where there will be a question and answers sessions, again of audit rigor. This leading to the announcement of Irelands winning ECoC bid on the 15th July 2016.

Mr. O’Donnell outlined the economic benefits of winning the bid, examples used and shown were that of Liverpool ECoC 2008, Lille ECoC 2004 and Derry/London UK Capital of Culture 2013. He said in all 3 winning bids an increase in visitor numbers was evident and a very common thread. Mr. O’Donnell advised, if managed and done properly, Galway winning the bid could attract in the region of 1 million additional visitors to the city and county along with attracting talent into Galway supporting industries and growth for the area.

Ms. Jane Daly gave a brief outline of her background that being 30yrs of Cultural Sector. She advised that it is important to note that the bid is not for a 1 year long arts festival, that it will have longevity and create a lasting impact. She explained that the bid is all encompassing from food, heritage to design to name a few. She said the driving force behind the ECoC is candidates clearly showing a European dimension and stressed that the challenge will be showing how we make what we are doing relevant to 500 European neighbours, what we get from it and give back.

Ms. Daly outlined the programme and its concept “Making Waves” advising that it accommodates projects which have gone through a rigorous criteria whereby they must have a European dimension, a legacy that can be retained and the capacity to build on culture. She stressed the importance of Galway being presented as relevant to Europe, generating it from the ground up, deliverability, being able to afford it / budget allocation, and the importance once again of public engagement, people being active and involved. She stressed the significant scale in Economic terms that this will have.

Ms. Daly advised that 3 main themes are reflected throughout the programme, Landscape, Language, and Migration, and this in turn reflects the overall concept. She gave an overall picture as to what the programme looks like, ranging from Large Multi-Annual Projects, to Medium sized projects, Conferences & Symposia, Education Projects and Public events.

Ms. Daly advised that 50% of the programme is within the County and the timeframes for these were outlined in the presentation. She reflected on Ms. Gaughan Reddans comments in relation to the Small Towns Big Ideas, reiterating the legacy this will have and building on a creative community where people can live where they love, love where they live, and can engage in exciting European cultural projects on their doorstep. She stressed the importance of Galway City and County now have the opportunity to lead culture and drive equal weighting of all areas. Ms. Daly said she is confident that the programme is very strong whereby a number of key programmes within the 1st Bid book sustained through to the 2nd Bid Book and again stressed the significant economic benefits for the City, County and wider region.

Mr. O’Donnell outlined the current work programme and next steps. He advised that the overall cost of running the European Capital of Culture for Galway city & county was estimated at €46.75m. Mr. O’Donnell concluded by stressing the importance of the ECoC designation for Galway having the capacity to be a catalyst for significant positive change through culture. He said it would act as key driver for an increase in tourism, attract inward investment and accelerate economic development and job creation across the City and County. Mr. O’Donnell advised that the bid requires the clear support and full backing of all sectors in order to be successful.

Cllr. McHugh thanked the Project Team for the very insightful presentation and invited questions. Mr. Declan McKeon agreed with Cllr. McHugh on the presentation and said it would be excellent to see resources being put back into the community, highlighting the example of Derry and cross border funding. He said it would be important that there is no clashing of events throughout the County so as to entice people to move outside their own areas. Ms. Philbin, Project Manager, advised that there is a Schedule of Events whereby a calendar is done setting out events and ensure that they do not clash with national events etc.

Cllr. Hoade congratulated and thanked the Project Team on the work done to date. She said it is very important that the bid is not City orientated but all-encompassing of both City and County. She stressed the importance of engagement from small towns to participate, become involved and harness every from part the community and county and commended the team on doing this thus far.

Cllr. Fahey thanked the Project Team and commended the quality/quantity of the presentation and said it would great for Galway to get the green light. He stressed the importance of progressing the Outer City Bypass in ensuring international jobs are saved

and protected. Ms. Philbin advised that if Galway wins the bid it is an opportunity to get leverage for funding towards infrastructure.

Cllr. K. McHugh thanked the Project Team for their passion and belief in the Bid and commended how refreshing it is to see. She queried the European Linkages in particular with Croatia. Ms. Gaughan Reddan advised that there is close consultations with bidding cities in Croatia and that there will be a number of partnership projects with the Croatian City, Rijeka.

Cllr. T. Healy commended the presentation and the weight it entails to secure the bid. He said that the day the jury visits Galway it will be imperative that the day is sequentially, carefully planned and of upmost importance will be the people the jurors encounter throughout the day. He stressed the importance of, when successful with the bid, the first area to be flagged should be infrastructure development for getting around Galway County to improve visitors experience. Cllr. Healy said that improving the quality of life throughout Galway, brings different sectors to the area which will feed into and build on economic development. He advised that the bid offers an opportunity to develop clusters. From a Connemara prospective, Cllr. Healy said it is important to highlight the cultural elements within this niche area. Ms. Philbin advised that the purpose of the Jurors visit is to showcase what is not in the Bid book and it is being well thought out and planned.

Cllr. O'Tuairisg thanked the Project Team and commended the vastness of the Bid. He stressed the importance of the Irish language and it being a competitive edge that Galway holds and that the recognition of this is vital. He said this along with writings, and dramas that have survived throughout the Gaeltacht areas are unique to Galway and should be utilised, exploited for the Bid. Ms. Philbin advised that the Irish Language and its culture is very much a part of the bid and it will be shown that it is very much still alive throughout.

Mr. Paul Mannion commended the presentation and advised that it is important to forge connections and this should be explored in dept. He said he is involved in several organisations/groups with European connections and could assist with same. He queried if there are any connections through local Scouts with different countries. Mr. Mannion said the Jurors visit day needs to be well choreographed in order to showcase what is not in the bid book. Ms. Philbin advised that work is ongoing with youth groups/scouts and that the Jurors visit day will be more about the people than the bid book.

Mr. Dan Dowling thanked the Project Team and outlined the progression of the Ballinasloe area in relation to sporting facilities and recreational areas. However, he queried the IFA and getting their support. Ms. Philbin advised that links have been made with the IFA and they are heavily involved with the Gastronomy project.

Cllr. Burke thanked the Project Team and queried the number of projects, 340, whereby not all area in the bid book, and if all will be carried through. Ms. Philbin advised that deliberately, 30% of the budget has been retained for new ideas should the bid be successful.

Ms. Michelle Murphy commended the work being done behind the scenes and the research involved. She said it is importance that an awareness is out there around the next few weeks to get the last bit of momentum going. She advised to put the push on through social media, getting schools involved through badges/leaflets. Ms. Philbin advised that it is a lengthy

campaign and they were conscious of over saturation and the awareness campaign was to go full on at the end of May. Ms. Gaughan Reddan advised that flags and bunting have been ordered which will be rolled out across the towns and villages. She commended Ms. Murphy for the idea of the leaflet through the schools before finishing for the holidays and said they would act on that.

Ms. McConnell read out a suggested agreed position from the joint SPC meeting – *“Having considered a report on the proposed bid by the City and County of Galway to become the Economic Capital of Culture for 2020, the Economic, Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee and the Housing, Culture and Recreation Strategic Policy Committee jointly support the participation of Galway County Council in this initiative and the objectives, approach and proposed programmes of the bid”*. The suggested agreed position was proposed by Cllr. Hoade, seconded by Cllr. Healy.

Mr. Kelly commended the enthusiasm, confidence and hard work of the Project Team and noted the importance of this in being successful. Ms. Gaughan Reddan gave her sincere thanks to all who attended the meeting and explained how the bid would not be possible without the support and endorsement at every level. Cllr. McHugh thanked the Project Team for a very informed meeting covering every aspect of Irish life past and present within Galway City, County and the wider region. He expressed his sincere hope that the bid will be successful putting the best foot forward. He thanked all who attended the meeting and all involved.

This concluded the business of the meeting.