



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

held on Tuesday 22nd September 2020 at 14:00,

Venue: Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae, Galway

Members in attendance:

Cllr. Ivan Canning (Cathaoirleach)	Galway County Council
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	Galway County Council
Megan Flynn	PPN Representative
Mairtin Davy	PPN Representative
Helena McElmeel	Business Representative

Staff in attendance:

Alan Farrell	A/Director of Service
Kieran Coyne	A/Senior Executive Officer
Mary McGann	Administrative Officer
Sharon O'Grady	Arts Officer
Bernie Kelly	A/County Librarian
Claire Connolly	Clerical Officer

Apologies:

Cllr. Padraic Mac an Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Galway County Council
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council

Cllr. Ivan Canning welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting of the Community and Culture SPC (Strategic Policy Committee), he noted apologies.

1. Minutes of Community and Culture SPC meeting held on 16th July 2020

Cllr Ivan Canning asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of that Meeting, a clarification was raised and qualified.

On the proposal of Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn seconded by Cllr Liam Carroll, the minutes were agreed and adopted.

2. Draft Public Art Policy

Sharon O'Grady gave a comprehensive and in-depth power point presentation on draft Public Art Policy 2020-2024. Sharon referenced inclusion of liaising with other local councils on their Public Arts Policy, Arts Council and other bodies to aid in the quest to bring the Public Arts Policy to fruition. During the presentation Sharon O'Grady visited the historic elements of arts and funding since 1970 including Galway County Councils 25 years' experience in commissioning arts works, the existence of a Public Arts Register for all pieces owned by Galway County Council. Sharon outlined the revised funding limit bands and the importance of the procurement process and funding monitoring. the Vision and Values were outlined along with the Composition of the Public Arts Management Group, public art expenditure, what is included in public art, Commission process, Donations & Memorials, Sharon also outlined the importance of documentation and the ongoing mechanism for review, all outlined under the following headings : (Hard copy enclosed)

- Introduction to Public Art Policy,
- Background,
- Funding,
- Galway County Council's Public Art Programme,
- Public Art Management Group,
- Commissioning and Public Art Programme,
- Commemorations and Memorials, care and Conservation,
- Documentation and review
- Term of Policy

Following presentation discussion arose whereby thanks and appreciation were afforded to Sharon O'Grady from members present for the in-depth work associated with developing and producing the draft Public Art Policy .Further discussion ensued around the topics in the draft policy including positive examples of murals country wide where artists were commissioned and the importance of community and public representatives involvement

in the decision making process as each area is unique. It was discussed about the lap over between various programmes for example the Regeneration Programme. Further discussion arose about the possibility to employ a County Architect to lead and steer projects, however due to present financial constraints it will not be possible at this time however there is an architect employed with the Regeneration programme. The Draft Public Art Policy was received in a very positive manner by all.

The public Art Policy 2020-2024 was proposed by Cllr. Liam Carroll seconded by Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn. This policy will now go forward to next Galway County Council meeting for approval and implementation.

3. Age Friendly Strategy – Submission to Galway County Development Plan Issues Paper

Mary McGann presented a comprehensive paper in the area of our ageing population, During the presentation Mary outlined the importance for the eight pillars to be included and part of all funding schemes , to give a voice to the ageing population, to aid the community centres in their endeavours as a social & information outlet to multipurpose facilities. A survey will be completed in the coming month with advertising in local papers.

It is envisaged that the results of survey will feed into priorities going forward and input into County Development plan.

The included 8 pillars;

- Outdoor spaces and public buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Social Participation
- Respect and Social Inclusion
- Civic Participation and Employment
- Communication and Information
- Community Support and Health Service

(Hard copy enclosed)

Following Mary McGann's presentation discussion followed whereby thanks for the work involved in producing the paper were voiced by members. Issue discussed such as transportation, housing, socialisation & inclusion being key issues for the elderly, particularly during this pandemic where loneliness and fear is prevalent. Bus shelters and transport are key issues for elderly. Further discussion ensued concerning the importance socially and emotionally Men's shed have for older men in the community. Concerns raised around the difficulty for older people to socialise who have lost confidence and are fearful since cocooning from March. The design of houses for the elderly was discussed and the importance of long-term thinking in the design brief.

The paper will go to County Development plan, the design features discussed will be referenced to the Housing SPC as it will fall under their remit.

4.AOB

- Mary McGann – Make Way Day (leaflet enclosed)

Make Way day is an online event on Friday 25th September 2020 to highlight the importance of accessibility for the disabled in our towns and villages in County Galway. The event will be for a duration of 45 minutes approx. and will consist of:

(A) Individuals with disabilities, and from disability representative groups, speaking about their experiences,

(b) A presentation/slideshow showing practical examples of issues across the County,

(c) Open floor session with questions/ feedback on how we can take positive action to address the highlighted issues, e.g. social media campaign

(leaflet enclosed)

- Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn posed the question about possibility of lobbying for equipment for a skateboard park in Athenry

Broad discussion ensued around the importance of keeping teenagers active and involved. It was felt the up to age 12 age group is looked after with playgrounds albeit some of the playgrounds are due to be refurbished. Cor na Nog are doing great work in the area of sport. Issue posed about insurance for skate area as posed as high risk. It was inferred that Recreation should be a priority during the term of this SPC. Alan Farrell stated that in the current climate there is an issue around resources, budgeting and while he wouldn't envisage it happening in the short term, he would like an overall strategy which may not fall into the work programme of this SPC.

- Sharon O'Grady expressed the requirement that if anyone had any Arts projects to put forward prior to yearend.

Next meeting arranged for Thursday 12th November at 14:00 in the Council Chamber, Aras an Chontae.

Cllr Ivan Canning thanked all present and concluded the meeting.