



Miontuairiscí Coiste Polasaí Straitéiseach Pobal & Cultúr

Minutes of the Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Meeting

Dé Mairt 6u Nollaig 2022 10:00

Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 10 a.m.

Microsoft Teams -Online

Members in Attendance

Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Galway County Council
Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr. Liam Carroll	Galway County Council
Cllr. Andrew Reddington	Galway County Council
Cllr. Ivan Canning	Galway County Council
Cllr. Peter Keaveney	Galway County Council
Ms. Megan Flynn	PPN Representative
Ms. Helena McElmeel	Business Representative

Staff

Mr. Michael Owens	Director of Services
Mr. Alan Farrell	Director of Services
Ms. Bernie Kelly	County Librarian
Ms. Sharon O'Grady	Arts Officer
MS. Aimee Lawless	Assistant Arts Officer
Ms. Claire Connolly	Clerical Officer

Apologies

Ms. Mary McGann	Administrative Officer
Mr. Máirtín Davy	PPN Representative

Cllr. Connolly welcomed everyone to his first meeting of the Community and Culture SPC and thanked everyone for their attendance online and noted the apologies received.

1. Minutes of Community and Culture meeting 13th July 2022.

Cllr. Connolly asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting of the Community & Culture SPC. On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Carroll seconded by Cllr. Mac An Iomaire, the minutes were agreed and adopted.

Cllr. Connolly outlined that Mr. Owens, Director of Services was in attendance to take any queries regarding the draft beach byelaws from the last meeting. Mr. Owens in reply to Cllr. Carroll gave an update from the previous SPC, including consultation with the Connemara Municipal District and consideration of the draft beach bye-laws by Plenary Council. He noted that the draft bye-laws with amendments agreed by the Members relating to shellfish and seaweed, addressing concerns raised by the Members in relation to these specific matters, were approved for public consultation. Notice of the draft bye-laws was published with an initial closing date of the 11th November 2022 later extended to the 25th November 2022. As of now Mr. Owens noted that a total of 1,030 submissions have been received, including one petition with several thousand signatures relating to water sports. He outlined that the next stage is consideration by members of the submissions, firstly by the SPC with a view to a recommendation to Plenary. The options available to Plenary are to adopt the draft bye-laws with/out amendment or to decided not to adopt the draft bye-laws.

Mr. Owens noted that at the December plenary meeting there may be a motion to pause the process to allow for the drafting of revised draft bye-laws.

Mr. Owens commented that there is a positive level of engagement, recognizing the value and importance of our beaches etc. including blue flag designations.

Mr. Owens referenced the prohibition contained within the draft bye-laws and in particular Section S referring to watersports would not take place near bathers was not intended to reflect a ban on water-sports as suggested. It is stating that water sports are not to take place in close proximity to bathers and is similar to wording in other local authority bye-laws, some in operation for over 10 year and a similar interpretation in relation to same reflecting a ban on water sports was not taken and more importantly the bye-laws were not implemented on that basis. He reiterated that the draft bye-laws did not reflect a ban on watersports.

A discussion ensued with many present commenting on the importance of the wording and the importance of highlighting that there is not a ban on watersports as appears to be the interpretation by many. The councilors present were very happy to have this point outlined very clearly and thanked Mr. Owens for doing so. It was also acknowledged that reasonable people don't need byelaws to regulate their behavior and the text in the byelaw is clear. The Members concurred on the need to dispel incorrect information in the community. It was agreed to await the decision on Plenary in relation to the motion before the December meeting and for the SPC to revisit thereafter as appropriate.

2. Galway County Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027.

Ms. O'Grady, Arts officer gave a PowerPoint presentation on Galway County Culture & Creativity strategy 2023-2027.

Key points; 5 Pillars of Creative Ireland Programme 2023-2027

1. Creative Youth, 2. Creative Communities, 3. Creative Industries, 4. Creative Health & Wellbeing, 5. Creative Climate Action & Sustainability

2. Key Messages from Creative Ireland one being

“The vision of the Creative Ireland Programme 2023 - 2027 is to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, in our personal lives and in our institutions, we can realise our full creative potential thereby promoting individual, community and national wellbeing”.

3. Creative Ireland Investment in Galway County from 2018-2022 €761,406.

4. Role of the Culture team in the implementation Plan.

5. Strategy Working Group.

6. Chapter Headings.

7. Outline of the work carried out by the Galway County Creative Ireland Team from 2018-2022

8. Guidance for Priorities – focus on strategy is Pillar 2 Creative Communities.

Following presentation Ms. O'Grady took comments and questions.

Ms McElmeel stated that she feels it is a well set out document and queried if there might be an opportunity under priority 4 to co design of Community led venture.

Cllr. Carroll questioned when the proposed new engagement officer might be appointed? And are we getting sufficient PR from all of the projects achieved in previous plan? Under strategy point 4 mentions the lack of facilities/ spaces in the county for exhibitions etc- what can be done to remedy this?

Mr. Farrell replied with his agreement regarding engagement of communities. We have a strong creative team looking at strategic engagement with communities for climate change funding. Due to staffing constraints, we don't always get promotion as much as we should, however all engagements are noted on all management reports. There is ongoing activity in terms of Creative places- town & Village ,RRDF, i.e., Tuam Town hall, Loughrea Town Hall in the repurpose of spaces through those funding projects, trying to bring the buildings back to multipurpose uses in creative communities.

Ms Flynn Dixon likes the document outlining great diversity in communities and mentioned that some rephrasing might be in order to change hard to reach



communities to seldom heard from communities . Some communities may not like the wording integration due to ethnic minority groups.

Ms O'Grady acknowledged the mention of the use of wording , will take it on board. She mentioned that she is looking forward to the new position being in place in 2023 and acknowledged the importance of feeding into communities for repurposing spaces and use of the spaces.

Mr. Farrell mentioned that we are happy to rearrange wording but important of getting the balance right ensuring that communities are at the heart of the plan and encompasses all departments. The role of community engagement is a very important role for the coming years and ties in with LECP 2 year plan.

Ms. Kelly acknowledged the work to date and projects delivered by means of the funding provided to the library service under Creative Ireland. She mentioned the high value of the various Creative Ireland library projects and looks forward to the various new projects in the coming years.

Ms. Kelly outlined the launch of the My Open Library facilities in Ballinasloe library on the 18th November 2022 – the first My Open Library in County Galway, whereby the library will be available to qualifying members from 8am to 10pm 7 days per week.

Cllr. Carroll thanked the library services for the various & innovative projects held in Oranmore mentioning a recent Piano lunchtime music recital which had over 60 people in attendance. He outlined the importance of this innovation for Arts, music & poetry reading.

Cllr. Connolly outlined the importance of celebrate groups , in recent times a local traveller group in Ballinasloe created a short film including old footage. He mentioned how diverse the county is from the river to the sea with significant areas of importance, looking forward to many exciting projects in the coming 5 years.

Cllr. Carroll welcomed the increase in the book fund in the adopted budget for 2023 representing an increase of €190,000.

Ms. Kelly acknowledged and welcomed the increase in funding the advised that the full membership and communities served by the service will see the benefit derived from the increased funding.

Cllr. Connolly asked if all present were happy with proposed draft Galway County Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 on the proposal of Cllr. Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Mac An Iomaire the Galway County Culture & Creativity Strategy 2023- 2027 was agreed and adopted.

3. A.O.B

It was proposed to have the next meeting in February 2023.

The meeting concluded with good wishes for Christmas.