

Minutes of Strategic Policy Committee 5-Community, Cultural and Fire Services held on Thursday 17th September, 2020 at 4pm via Teams.

Present: Cllr. John Brennan (Chairperson), Mary Mulholland (Director of Services), Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Martin Brennan, Fergal Canton, Kathy Purcell,

In attendance: Josephine Coyne (Library Services), Mary Butler (Arts Officer), Dearbhala Ledwidge (Heritage Officer), John Collins (Chief Fire Officer) Annette Fitzpatrick, and Cora Nolan (Community)

Apologies: Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Cllr. John Coonan, Denis Brophy,

1. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February, 2020

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett.

Matters Arising

Mary Mulholland advised that approval of the Event Grants and Art Grants are listed on the Agenda for the monthly September County Council Meeting which is due to be held on Monday 21st September.

2. Grants: Creative Ireland

Original funding under Creative Ireland for 2020 was €96,000. The SPC agreed the following breakdown at meeting on 12th February.

Arts Programme	€15,000
Heritage Programme Projects	€15,000
Library Programme Projects	€25,000
Administration Support	€15,000
Grant Scheme	€25,000

Revised proposal is as follows: -

Arts Programme €15,000

Heritage €13,000

Library €25,000

Administration Support €15,000

Additional €25,000

It is proposed to defer the processing of a grant scheme for 2020. It is recommended that this funding be retained to support existing projects experiencing financial difficulties.

- Knitted together
- One million stars
- Covid care concerts
- KCAT studio exchange

Additional funding has been received from Creative Ireland in the amount of €50,000 under the Governments July Jobs stimulus package. This funding is to provide supports for the following: -

- Facilitated Pilot Projects
- Wolf walkers project
- Four Rivers

Cora will circulate a full copy of this breakdown to the committee.

Grants: Decade of Centenaries Grant

The Kilkenny County Council Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2020 comprises seven projects focusing on the period 1920-1923. It is designed to raise awareness and encourage engagement with the significant events and people from county Kilkenny associated with this period in our history. It comprises online talks and workshops, films and commemorative postcards.

The programme is coordinated by the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council. Individual projects are organised and delivered by organisations and community groups. Due to Covid 19, unfortunately only projects which are delivered online or without public gatherings could be included in the programme. The programme is as follows:

Project Name	Details	Organiser
Kilkenny's War of Independence Film	Short film telling the story of the Friary St. ambush on 21 st Feb 1921.	Comdt. Larry Scallan (Kilkenny Barracks Museum)
Trasna na Tire	Online history talks on the theme of the Decade of Centenaries	Liam O'Sullivan
History Podcasts	A series of podcasts on the theme of the Decade of Centenaries	Local Studies, Kilkenny County Library
Children's Workshops	A series of online workshops about the history of the Decade of Commemorations for primary school kids	Local Studies, Kilkenny County Library
Historical Postcards	A series of postcards highlighting old photos of key sites associated with the Decade of Centenaries in Kilkenny	Local Studies, Kilkenny County Library
Online lecture on George O 'Dwyer	Online lecture by Cmdt Larry Scallan on Brigadier George O 'Dwyer from Coon who took over the Kilkenny Barracks from the departing British forces in Feb 1922	Coon Tidy Towns and Heritage Group
Pat Walsh Documentary	Film documentary about Capt. Patrick Walsh from Dunamaggin who died in May 1921 as a result of an ambush	Pat Walsh Memorial Committee

Grants: National Bio-diversity Action Plan Grant

This grant is to assist Local Authorities to deliver projects that promote actions in National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021. Kilkenny were allocated a grant of €16,000 which was spent as follows: - "Gardening for Biodiversity Book" (2,000 copies posted in lockdown), Kilkenny Pollinator Programme (film & materials), Kilkenny Wildlife Detective (school's resources), Local Radio Adverts (hedges, pollinators)

3. County Heritage Plan Projects 2020

Kilkenny were awarded a grant of €23,000 through the Heritage Council to implement actions in the County Kilkenny Heritage Plan.

1. County Wetland Audit (Phase 1) – This will be a desk-based assessment of all potential wetland sites (250) plus 15 sites surveyed in detail.
2. Recording Kilkenny's Ogham Stones – To record ogham stones in 3d and raise awareness and facilitate public engagement with ogham stones in County Kilkenny. Kilkenny has the 4th highest concentration in Ireland.

Covid Stimulus Grant Schemes 2020

Heritage Council Covid Stimulus Funding – Talbots Tower a grant of €39,900 urgent works will be carried out between September – November.

Community Monuments Fund 2020 Covid Stimulus Funding

National Monuments Service Covid Stimulus Grant – Kenny's Well, this is the 1st grant scheme for monuments.

4. Rural Funding Update

Town & Village.

In Round 3 6 applications were submitted and all were approved. The closing date for the next round is 30th September, 10 application can be submitted. The closing date for the CLar scheme was 28th August, 10 applications were submitted. Oris Scheme closing date end of September, Tourism submitted 7 applications and CKLP submitted 2 applications.

Cllr. P. Dunphy asked if CCFCS grants will be announced in 2020. Mary Mulholland advised these grants have been deferred. Cllr. Peter Cleere complimented the Community Section on the granting of the 6 applications under the Town & Village Scheme so far.

5. % for Art Scheme.

In 1978 the OPW established a scheme for the delivery of Public Art Works. In 1997 the Government approved the inclusion in the budgets for all Capital Construction Projects of up to 1% for Arts Projects to specifications. In June 2020 Government circular increase the budgets under this scheme.

The Public Art Policy for Kilkenny was prepared a number of years ago but was not formally adopted by Kilkenny County Council.

It is now appropriate to review this document at SPC level with a view to bringing forward a policy document for adoption by Council before year end. We will circulate the national guidelines on the % for Art Scheme 2004 as well as the Public Art Policy for Kilkenny for your attention. If any comments or suggestions for inclusion in the preparation of revised draft policy for Kilkenny County Council to be submitted to Cora Nolan at cora.nolan@kilkennycoco.ie before the 23rd of October.

6. County Fire Service – Update

John Collins Chief Fire Officer gave an update which included the following: -

- 2 jeeps have been delivered for Thomastown and Callan and 2 second hand engines have also been delivered to Urlingford Fire Brigade. Revised layout drawings and cost plans for the new Urlingford Fire Station have been sent to the Department for approval.
- 80 no applications for fire safety certificates were received to 31st August, 2020 this was a 20#5 in 2019 applications for the same period last year.
- Fire prevention staff made 32 no. targeted inspections of premises both to provide advice and to enforce legislation. 1 Fire Safety Notice under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003 were served during Covid 19.
- Ongoing public messaging campaigns are being maintained through social media.
- Free home fire safety visits are offered to vulnerable people.
- Kilkenny fire and resource service schools programme is postponed for the time being.
- Fire brigades responded to 506 turnouts up to the 14th August 2020. With the current pandemic people staying at home, there as been an increase of 40% in fire calls with a decrease of 49% in road traffic accidents.
- Recruitment of firefighters is in progress in Kilkenny City, Castlecomer, Urlingford and Graignamanagh. Numbers applying for the positions are very low as the position can be restrictive, the whole retained fire service model will need to be reviewed nationally.
- Fire Safety Week is the 5th October, and the chair asked if Cleaning chimneys could be highlighted.

7. AOB

The review and development of a new Integration Strategy has commenced but due to the pandemic how to carry out consultations needs to be considered, will update at the next SPC meeting.

8. *Date for next meeting*

Thursday 12th November at 3.00p.m.