

Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting held on Wednesday 16th February, 2022 via Microsoft Teams

In attendance: Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair), Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr. Martin Brett, Cllr. John Coonan, Cllr. Peter Chap Cleere, Cllr. Tomas Breathnach, Denis Brophy, Michael Rice, Josephine Coyne, John Collins, Dearbhala Ledwidge, and Cora Nolan, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Mary Butler, Murty Brennan, Fergal Canton, Annette Fitzpatrick and Mary Mulholland

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. M. Brett, Seconded by Cllr. J. Coonan

(a) Matters Arising

None.

2. CCFCS Grant Scheme.

One submission was received on the review of the above scheme which included the following suggestions: -

- (a) The minimum grant reduced to €5,000- €6,000 as there are many small community groups that could benefit if the grant was spread around more. Not enough community groups get any advantage from this grant.

There are other funding streams available for community groups for smaller grants such as the Community Enhancement Programme Grant.

- (b) Repairs to facilities are just being left there as repairs are needed e.g., surfaces and surrounding perimeter boards of all-weather facilities. It would help regenerate facilities where repairs are needed for them to continue to be utilised.

The CCFCS Grant scheme is a capital grant scheme, again other funding streams available for repairs to facilities.

- (c) The evaluation committee should meet with elected members before the evaluation process commences and afterwards to discuss their recommendations before any decisions are finally made.

A number of Elected Representatives including Cllr. John Coonan agreed with this observation and it was agreed that Josephine would revert back to Mary Mulholland. Overall the committee are happy with the scheme just the issue on the evaluation process needs to be discussed further.

3. Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022

Dearbhala gave a presentation and updated the committee on the Creative Ireland & Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2022, The budget for the Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2022 is €50,000, the programme is to raise awareness to encourage engagement with events from 1922 in Kilkenny. €15,000 of this budget is for Creative Community to respond creatively to the programme within the guidelines. Main element is the County Programme delivered by the Culture Team. Dearbhala went through the key dates in Kilkenny in 1922.

Creative Ireland Programme 2022

Enables creativity and culture in the community. Crinnu na nog will be held on the 11th June this year with €30,000 funding allocated, divided into two programmes one in the county delivered by the culture team includes workshop and exhibitions, and a public grant scheme. All funding comes from Creative Ireland.

The main programme allocation is €145,000, county programme delivered by Culture team, bookville etc, with a grants scheme of €30,000 and an administrator is also funded out of this scheme.

Creative Ireland announced another 5-year programme 2023-2027 and a new 5-year County Strategy to be developed.

Pat thanked Dearbhala for her presentation and the great work and looking forward to next update on both these programmes.

All the committee are happy with the proposals under Creative Ireland.

4. Update on Library Opening Services.

Josephine gave an update

All services resumed in all branches and reopened. Regular events on site are coming back. Library management system is a new national system moving to going live on the 29th of March, all staff will have to be trained in on the new system.

Mayfair library is on schedule, handover date December 2022, a large volume of work ahead on fit out etc.

Ireland reads national campaign encouraging everyone to read, staff podcasts, Storytime etc.

Autism Friendly spaces in libraries, AS I AM audit took place and the libraries took recommendations on board and invested in resources. Recently received accreditation and all Kilkenny libraries are autism friendly.

Urlingford library is currently closed, a lot of internal work due to dampness, on schedule to reopen in 3 weeks, hoping to replace windows in Graiguenamanagh.

Pat thanked Josephine for the update and welcomed the libraries re opening and activities coming back on stream.

Denis Brophy asked if pen readers were available, to assist with dyslexia, reading difficulties etc.

8 pen readers were purchased last year, one for each branch at the moment getting feedback from the schools, each of the branches will have one, more information on the pens will be going up on website in the next few weeks.

It is important that when new library services are developed that they are fully resourced with staff and funds.

Pat Dunphy proposed at the September meeting that the library be put on the Agenda before the budget discussions.

5. Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2026

John Collins gave a presentation.

Under section 26 of the fire services act it is a statutory obligation to prepare an operations plan. It is a reserved function of the local authority and will be presented at March Council meeting for adoption.

No submissions were received, the committee agreed this is a very positive sign and thanked the fire service for all their work and compliments to all the staff. A couple of queries were raised, Cllr. John Coonan asked the Fire Service to outline priorities that could be brought forward by the committee.

Cllr. John Brennan thanked the Fire Service in particular in his own area and the appreciation for work that was done.

John Collins responded to queries raised, there are no operational changes. Still looking for a 3-acre site and as regards resources extra technical staff would be a huge benefit.

Cllr. Tomas Breathnach asked if any significant change in this plan compared to previous plans and also Grenfell in London in 2017 has this led to a change in policy in Ireland.

John replied main report still the same. Task force set up and recommendations were made after Grenfell and reflected in operations plan.

Query on map of fire stations and areas. John advised it's the nearest available resource is contacted, there is a historical agreement in the south with Waterford City and Council. This needs to be reviewed and updated.

The Fire & Emergency Operations Plan 2022-2026 was Proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. John Coonan and agreed. It will now be brought to the March Council Meeting.

6. AOB

Cllr. Pat Dunphy brought up the issue of suicide and mental health and asked if a representative from community could attend meeting with Kilkenny Leader Partnership in the Ferrybank community area and to reconvene meetings that use to take place, he requested this item be placed on the Agenda for future meetings. Josephine will bring to the attention of Catherine Byrne Murphy in the Community Department, and will put on Agenda for April meeting.

Cllr. John Brenan thanked Francis Cody and Dearbhala Ledwidge for their help with the 3 houses roof restoration in Clogh and for the funding of over €50,000. John queried derelict sites. It was clarified that derelict sites are a planning issue and to contact Area Engineer.

Cllr. T. Breathnach advised that a review on thatching is taking place, and might lead to a significant increase in the rate of grant assistance. Tomas will update as more information is received.

Michael Rice – Comments on An Taisce regarding the decision on Belview Port.

7. Date for Meetings in 2022: -

Wednesday 13th April at 3.00p.m.

Wednesday 22nd June at 3:00p.m

Wednesday 14th September at 3:00p.m.

Wednesday 16th November at 3:00p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.