

**Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting – Community, Culture & Fire Services
held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 12th April, 2023 at
3.00p.m.**

Present: Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair), Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr Tomas Breathnach, Cllr Martin Brett, Cllr John Coonan, Cllr. Peter Cleere, Michael Rice, Fergal Canton and Julie Kavanagh

In attendance: Annemarie Shortall, Regia Fitzpatrick, Janette Boran and Ashling Slattery, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Josephine Coyne, Mary Butler, John Collins, Murty Brennan, and Mary Mulholland

1. Minutes of last meeting on Wednesday 15th February, 2023

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Tomas Breathnach, seconded by Martin Brett and agreed.

2. Heritage

1) County Heritage Plan Projects 2023

Regina gave a presentation on the Community Monuments Fund 2023 and an update on the projects in Kilkenny seeking funding under this scheme.

The following items were also noted:

Funding has been awarded under the Heritage Council County Heritage Plan Funding. There were 3 projects put forward and funding requested for 2 of these projects. Regina outlined details of each of the following projects: -

- A Survey of Holy Wells in County Kilkenny (183 in total)
- A Survey of Mass Paths in County Kilkenny
- A Survey of Thatched Structures in County Kilkenny. This is postponed until the outcome of a national audit of thatched structures which is currently taking place

Regina advised that a steering committee will be convened to advise on these projects and is currently assessing quotes for consultants to undertake the work.

Regina also gave update on the Heritage Engagement and Awareness programme which was awarded €13,500 which will get underway in May and be carried out in partnership with KCLR; CRKC; Beat FM; Kilkenny People; Kilkenny Observer.

Programmes include under the Heritage and Awareness programme include Pledge your Garden (May), Holy Wells and Mass Paths (June), Nature is good for you (July), Heritage week (August) and Autumn Clean-up (September)

2) Decade of Centenaries Programme 2023

Regina presented on the Decade of Centenaries 2023 and the following was noted:

Themes of the Decade of Centenaries are set at National level

Community Strand: 'Local Legacies 1920/2020' and a total allocation of €50k was awarded for Local authority Projects and Community Grant Scheme

Core requirement of €15k allocation for artists and creative communities' commemorative initiatives.

The Programmes for the Decade of Centenaries include Library Programmes such as podcast series, lecture series and children's outreach and Heritage Programmes to include Decade of Centenaries Oral History Project and Retrospective Booklet.

Questions asked by Cllr Pat Dunphy, Cllr Martin Brett and Cllr Tomas Breathnach and responded to by Regina.

3. UcanACT - Urban ACTION for Cancer Prevention - European Project

Janette Boran, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator gave a presentation on Urban ACTION for cancer prevention which is a European project to develop an App to encourage activity for cancer prevention. It is an intersectoral initiative, joining together physiotherapists, local authorities, non-profit organizations, higher education and research institutions to engage adult and senior citizens to practice physical activity (PA) as a tool for cancer prevention within public urban green spaces.

Contributions from Cllr Pat Dunphy and Cllr Martin Brett.

4. Community Update

Anne Marie Shortall provided an update in relation to the Community Section and the following was noted:

The Community Support Fund has been assessed and approved to a total of €290,000 broken down between 34 small grants, 41 medium and 7 large grants and provided an example of the approved works.

The LECP has gone through all the stages of consultation and has been approved and adopted. It will be presented to the full Council on the 15th May for adoption by the members.

Anne Marie gave an account of the current grants that are still open and closing dates of same.

5. AOB

Cllr Tomas Breathnach requested an update on the Fire Station for the next meeting.

The next SPC meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st June, 2023 at 3.00p.m. in Meeting Room 1, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.

This concluded the business of the meeting.