

Minutes of Meeting of Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 3rd December, 2021 at 10:00am via Zoom

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Micheál Lowry (Chairperson), Cllr Andy Moloney, Cllr Niall Dennehy, Cllr Anne Marie Ryan, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose

Sectoral Interests: John Butler

In Attendance: Brian Beck, a/Director of Services
Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Marie McMahon, Museum Service
Melanie Scott, Arts Officer
Roisin O'Grady, Heritage Officer
Pat Bracken, Executive Librarian
Eddie Meegan, AO, Community and Economic Development
Fiona Crotty, AO, Community and Economic Development

Apologies: Cllr Micheál Anglim, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr John Fitzgerald, Eamon Clancy, Peggy O'Brien, Matt O'Meara, Evelyn Noonan, Patrick Hanley

Councillor Micheál Lowry opened the Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, 17th September, 2021

Proposed: Cllr Niall Dennehy

Seconded: Cllr Andy Moloney

Item 2: Update on Music Generation Tipperary by Aidan O'Donnell, Music Development

Officer:

Cllr Micheál Lowry welcomed Aidan O'Donnell to the meeting. Melanie Scott then gave a brief overview of the project in County Tipperary to date before handing over to Aidan O'Donnell. Aidan O'Donnell gave a detailed presentation outlining the role of Music Generation Tipperary. He stated that the aim of Music Generation to create access to performance music education for children and young people in Tipperary, from age 0 to 18,

The project started in Sep 2019 and now has a team of 30 Musician Educators, 1 Administrator and 1 MDO. There are 8 ongoing (weekly programmes) at present and 60 shorter term/ one off events. The weekly programmes include Primary Beats which is for the early years primary school setting with large group tuition (Juniors, Seniors, 1st Class). There is also Tune up Tipp! which is an instrumental provision programme in primary school settings (2nd – 6th Class). There is Secondary Beats which is based in secondary school with large group/ small group tuition and finally, Our Hubs – Both Online and in Person which includes Instruments/ Groups offered include Bass Guitar, Guitar, Drums, Uilleann Pipes, Rock and Pop ensemble, Trad ensemble, and Music Technology. Aidan O'Donnell then played two videos which outlined some of these projects and showed young people participating in the programmes. Cllr Lowry thanked Aidan O'Donnell and praised the work that has been completed to date. He stated that these programmes were a very welcome outlet for young people. Cllr Andy Moloney also praised the presentation. He asked Aidan O'Donnell about the potential of holding trad workshops in secondary schools in Cahir. He stated that good work in this area was already being done by Michael Harty and he asked if Music Generation could work with Michael Harty. Aidan O'Donnell replied they were looking at working on a music ensemble in secondary schools in Cahir from next September. He further stated that he had been in contact with Michael Harty and Susan Buttimer on this. Cllr Moloney stated that he would fully support this initiative and that he was delighted to hear that Michael Harty and Susan Buttimer would be part of it.

Item 3: Review of new draft Festival Strategy by Melanie Scott, Art Officer

Melanie Scott gave a presentation on the Festival and Events Strategy. She outlined the background to the previous strategy. She stated that it was developed in response to merger of North & South Tipperary County Council's, Town & Borough Council's and it was the first all county approach to festivals. It was also the first Local Authority Festival Strategy in Ireland to set up a Festivals & Events Scheme. She stated that the current strategy was due to end in 2020, but that due to the Covid-19, approval to extend the term of first strategy to include 2021 was granted. Melanie Scott gave details on the methodology employed to prepare the current draft strategy and the consultation processes used. The feedback given was very positive. Tipperary County Council's financial support through Festivals & Events Scheme was highly valued. There were high levels of satisfaction with the existing Festivals & Events Scheme in terms of ease of application, its operation and funding levels. There were also high levels of satisfaction with supportive environment for festivals and events. Melanie Scott then outlined the five goals of the new strategy which are Support - Develop - Promote - Monitor - Sustain and gave a detailed breakdown of the objectives under each of these headings. Finally, Melanie Scott stated that it was hoped to bring this strategy before the next Council meeting subject to SPC approval.

Cllr Lowry complimented Melanie Scott on her detailed presentation. He also stated that there was a great deal of work being carried out by the Arts Service and he welcomed this. He also stated that he looked forward to a time when full events could resume.

Cllr Moloney also complimented the presentation given by Melanie Scott. He asked how festival support would be allocated. He stated that there were many festivals of varying sizes and scope and some festivals charge for attendance. He asked if smaller festivals who don't charge will be supported. Melanie Scott stated that the policy does not allow for funding for

any festival which is aiming to make a profit. Instead, the funding is only for community-based festivals. She stated that it was anticipated that festivals of different sizes and scope would be funded but it had to be clear that these festivals operated on a non-profit basis.

Cllr Darcy stated that he was happy to support the policy. However, he stated that some festivals require support, especially when volunteers are no longer able to commit to the work involved. He further stated that he hoped that support could help these festivals to sustain themselves and bring in new volunteers. Melanie Scott stated that Cllr Darcy's point was well made and she had seen this happen over the years. She stated that the strategy would allow for such support but she also stated that some festivals have a lifespan and that support should also be there for festivals to evolve and change.

It was agreed that this draft strategy should be brought to the next Full Council meeting for consideration.

Item 3: Update on the new LECP guidelines by Fiona Crotty, C&E

Fiona Crotty gave a presentation on the new LECP guidelines which were recently published. She stated that the purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant Local Authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The development of each LECP is informed by the overall vision, the need to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.

She stated that the guidelines consisted of two parts, namely the framework and the implementation of plans. The framework should be the development of an overall LECP framework detailing the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Community and Economic Objectives as well as consideration of outcomes and high-level indicators for the 6-year LECP period.

The implementation should be the development of Implementation Plan to detail the inputs, actions and resources required for that implementation plan period as well as relevant specific key performance indicators to facilitate evaluation. The initial LECP Implementation Plan should be presented for approval along with the LECP framework. Fiona Crotty then gave a detailed outline on the guidelines for preparing new LECP plans.

There will need to be a statement of high-level goals and a socio-economic statement. These high-level goals should be ambitious with their foundations in the analysis of the socio-economic data as well as the consultation processes undertaken as part of the plan development. However, goals should also be achievable and realistic. Once the socio-economic analysis has been completed and a number of High-Level Goals identified the resulting Statement of High-Level Goals will form the basis of the Public Consultation Process required to develop the LECP. The High-Level Goals should be elaborated further within both the economic and the community elements of the LECP, in the form of specific, measurable sustainable Objectives and an outline of the desired outcomes over the six-year period.

Cllr Lowry welcomed Fiona Crotty's presentation and stated that there was a considerable amount of work required. He thanked Fiona Crotty for giving a comprehensive presentation. Cllr Ambrose enquired about the Clar programme and expressed concerns about the allocation of funding. Fiona Crotty stated that she was aware of this and understood the concerns of Cllr Ambrose. She stated that she would raise this with the Department.

Item 4: Update on Irish War Dead website project by Pat Bracken, Library Service

Cllr Lowry welcomed Pat Bracken to the meeting. Pat Bracken then gave a background to the project. He stated that Tipperary Studies launched a new website www.irelandsgreatwardead.ie on Armistice Day (11th November) where they now host a database of servicemen and servicewomen who died in the Great War. There are 31,384 entries in the database, the work of military historian Tom Burnell who has spent almost twenty years researching the Great War dead from Ireland. He offered this database of work to Tipperary Studies, to host, so that his research, the genealogical information and records therein would be available to a wider audience. The website has been a great success to date with over 75,000 hits from Ireland and all over the world, including the Faroe Islands. Pat Bracken then gave a demonstration of the website.

Cllr Lowry welcomed this new initiative. He stated that he knew Tom Burnell and he was delighted to see his lifetime's work come to fruition. He further stated that he had personally received very positive feedback regarding both the content and quality of the website. He thanked Pat Bracken for his presentation

Item 5: Update from Library Service and Culture Services

Damien Dullaghan gave an update on the Library Service. He stated that in the previous meeting, he had stated that it was hoped that Library Services would re-open in full on 22nd October. However, unfortunately, the national situation had deteriorated since then. He confirmed that the existing restrictions remain in place. There are limited numbers of PCs and study spaces but that events and activities remain online. He outlined some positive initiatives including an online story time which entitled Sign of the Times which was a joint collaboration between the Library Service and the Mid-West School of the Deaf. Cllr Andy Moloney enquired if the plaster work damage on Cahir Library could be repaired. Damien Dullaghan stated that he would work with the Municipal District to ensure that this was done. Cllr Ambrose enquired about the progress for a new Library for Clonmel. Damien Dullaghan stated that a tender for a design team was about to be published and he would keep member up to date on progress

Marie McMahon outlined a project where a new banner advertising the Museum was erected on the Civic Offices in Clonmel. She also outlined the work which Museum staff were carrying out with the Partnership committee of Tipperary County Council including the

preparation of a new calendar for 2022. Cllr Ambrose praised the new banner and stated that it was an excellent way to advertise the Museum.

Róisín O'Grady gave an update on the Royal Sites bid. She stated that the Department had sought further details on the bid and this would need to be submitted by March 2021. She further stated that there was ongoing dialogue with the Department on this. Róisín O'Grady also stated that drawdown's for funding for 2021 were now complete.

Dates of future meetings

The following meeting schedule was agreed for 2022:

Friday 11th March at 10:00am

Friday 3rd June at 10:00am

Friday 9th September at 10:00am

Friday 2nd December at 10:00am

AOB

Brian Beck informed the SPC that there would be a name change for the Directorate and it would now include biodiversity in its title.

Brian Beck then outlined a proposal to commemorate those who had passed away during the pandemic. This would involve the planting of a native Irish tree (possibly an oak tree) in a park in each MD with a small plaque, as a memorial to those who lost their lives to COVID in the County. Cllr Ambrose welcomed the idea but she also queried if it was premature to do this with the pandemic still ongoing. Cllr Moloney welcomed the proposal but stated that the wording might need to include those who helped during the pandemic also. It was agreed that draft wording would be circulated in the next few weeks.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Councillor Micheál Lowry,

Chairperson.

Date: _____, **2021**