

Minutes of Meeting of Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 9th September, 2022 at 9:00am in Thurles MD Offices and via Zoom

Present:

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

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
Eddie Meegan, AO, Community and Economic Development

Apologies: Cllr Micheál Anglim, Cllr John Crosse, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr John Fitzgerald, Eamon Clancy, Peggy O'Brien, Matt O'Meara, Patrick Hanley, John Butler,

Councillor Moloney opened the Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, 03rd June, 2022

Proposed: Cllr Siobhan Ambrose

Seconded: Cllr Niall Dennehy

Matters arising: None

Item 2: Review of Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) for Tipperary Museum of Hidden History by Marie McMahon, Museum Curator

Marie McMahon, Museum Curator gave a presentation on the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI). Tipperary Museum of Hidden History has been fully accredited under this programme for several years. As part of the standards set down by the Heritage Council for this accreditation, a detailed review of Museum policies must be carried out every five years. At the previous two SPC meetings in March and June, Marie McMahon brought forward six policies for consideration and review by the SPC.

1. Loan Policy
2. Deaccessioning Policy
3. Exhibition Policy
4. Collections Policy.
5. Care of Collections Strategy.
6. Education Policy

Marie McMahon stated that she was now bringing the final two draft policies to the meeting and subject to these being approved, she intended to bring all eight policies before the September Plenary Council meeting for adoption. She then gave an overview on the final two policies.

She commenced with an overview of the revised Disaster Plan for Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. She stated that a disaster is defined in the policy as any unforeseen event which causes damage to or may potentially cause damage to any part of the fabric of the building or to its holdings. She further stated that the aim of the plan is to provide procedures and basic guidelines which will be followed in the event of a disaster caused by fire, flood or explosion. The plan will give staff members a series of procedures to act swiftly to minimise damage to the buildings and holdings. The Museum is committed to ensuring the safety and security of its staff and the public at all times. As such, this plan is coupled with a risk management program to reduce the likelihood of an emergency incident.

Marie McMahon then gave an overview of the new draft Museum Development Plan. She stated Museum is dedicated to education and lifelong learning through engaging inhouse and visiting exhibitions, workshops, schools and community projects. The Museum has a vast collection of nearly 25,000 objects, most of which have been donated by the people of Tipperary and further afield around the globe. The new Development Plan will have six key objectives and these will be:

1. Reach more people
2. Increase our profile
3. Maintain and Develop our Collections
4. Innovate and Inspire
5. Connect with our Community
6. Develop our Capacity

Marie McMahon stated that there would be public consultation and inhouse consultation with Council Staff regarding the development plan.

Item 3: Update from Museum Service

Marie McMahon gave a brief update on progress made with the Civil War Exhibition which is due to be launched later in the year. She also gave an update on the Museum Lecture Series which will have the Big House theme.

Cllr Moloney praised the work which had gone into these draft policies. He also praised the Museum Staff and stated that a visit to the Museum was a great experience from start to finish. It was then agreed that all draft policies should be brought forward to a plenary Council meeting for adoption.

Proposed: Cllr Ambrose

Seconded: Cllr Ryan

Item 4: Update on the Royal Sites of Ireland – Róisín O’Grady

Róisín O’Grady provided an update on the Royal Sites of Ireland. She stated that The Royal Sites of Ireland are a group of six unique collectives of largely prehistoric monuments and sites, including the Rock of Cashel, associated with early medieval texts as the principal ancient sites of royal inauguration in Ireland.

In January 2019 the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage sought applications to a new Tentative List for Ireland, to replace the current list dating to 2010. The Tentative List is an inventory of natural and cultural heritage sites that may have potential to demonstrate Outstanding Universal Value and therefore considered suitable for nomination to the World Heritage List. It is a pre-condition for nomination that a site must be on the Tentative List for at least one year before work can formally begin on a nomination.

The Royal Sites of Ireland bid was prepared by the Local Authorities of Tipperary, Kildare, Meath, Westmeath, Roscommon and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon. Tipperary County Council led the bid on behalf of the Royal Sites and Brian Beck, Director of Services chaired the steering committee for the group. On 23rd July, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O’Brien, announced that the Royal Sites of Ireland bid was one of three applicants who were successful in getting on the Tentative List.

Róisín O’Grady further stated that there are now a number of steps which need to be completed as part of the process to progress the bid. An action plan will be developed with a series of key objectives which will be required to be completed. One of the most important steps will be to demonstrate the OUV (Outstanding Universal Value) for the sites. In addition, a mapping exercise for the sites will also be required. Róisín O’Grady stated that each site presents very different challenges and it will be a huge body of work. However, the team from each site was committed and collaborating well. Róisín O’Grady stated that she will keep the SPC updated on progress.

Cllr Moloney stated that there had been great progress made and he understood that staff had worked very hard on the bid.

Item 5: Update from Heritage Service

Róisín O’Grady provided an update on Heritage Services. She stated that the Community Monuments Fund had been very successful in 2022. She further stated that two tower houses (Loughloher Castle/Tower House & Coolquill Castle, Killenaule) and one church (Kilnarath Church, Newport) had works completed to stabilise their structures.

She also detailed an event which took place over two days at the Agricultural College Mountbellew, now part of the newest university, the Atlantic Technological University, when Aileen Cust (native of Cordangan Tipperary) the first female Veterinary Surgeon to qualify in Ireland and the UK was commemorated 100 years after passing her final exams. There were over 300 attendees at the conference.

Cllr Andy Moloney referenced the Summer Festival in Cahir which took place in July. He thanked Róisín O’Grady for the grant aid which the Heritage Office provided for the festival. He stated that there were 1,300 visits to Cahir Castle and that this generated income for local business including hoteliers and publicans. He stated that the grant aid made a significant difference and that these types of schemes kick start projects and festivals.

Cllr Ryan thanked Róisín O’Grady for all the work she carries out on behalf of the Council. She referenced the great work being carried out on the old glove factory in Tipperary Town. She also asked about the action plan being prepared by Abarta Heritage. Róisín O’Grady stated that she had worked with Abarta Heritage on several occasions and have found them to be very positive and a good company to work with.

Item 6: Update from Library Service

Damien Dullaghan gave an update on the Library Service. He stated that Summer Stars is the free national reading programme for children that takes place in all public libraries and online each summer. It runs from 13th June - 31st August. This year was very successful and the Library Service put a considerable effort into programming and events. This was the first in-person Summer Stars programme since 2019 due to the pandemic.

Damien Dullaghan stated that a group of international librarian delegates visited The Source Library and Arts Centre Thurles on Friday 29th July 2022. This was part of their trip to Ireland for the International Federation of Library Associations World Library & Information Congress [IFLA WLIC] which was held in Dublin in July. The Source Library was one of only four Public Libraries chosen to host delegates nationwide. Damien Dullaghan stated that it was a great honour for Thurles Town and Tipperary County Council Library Service to be chosen for a visit.

Item 7: Update from Community Section

Eddie Meegan gave an update on the Community Section. He stated that he had circulated documents to the members in advance of the meeting. This included an update on the LECP. The aim of the LECP 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 the Local Authority directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.

One of the first stages of the plan development is to develop High Level Goals, A High-Level Goal can be viewed as the setting of the general direction of travel for a given development plan. The goals will not change throughout the plan period and inputs and interventions supported through the lifetime of the plan will be designed to reach the High-Level Goals identified.

Eddie Meegan asked if members could review the Goals and in relation to each pillar looking at the following areas:

- Are the High-Level goals appropriate? e.g. in line with your agency policies and broad enough to capture a wide range of actions?
- Are they correctly worded e.g. appropriate terminology/language?
- Suggest amendments or additional goals –e.g. If we have left out an area or misrepresented a thematic area?

He stated that feedback could be submitted to Margo Hayes, Community Section.

Eddie Meegan stated that the tender for the Socio-Economic element of the LECP has gone out to tender and this process will be completed shortly.

Eddie Meegan also spoke about the public consultation required for the LECP. He stated that he had circulated potential dates in advance of the meeting. He asked for the support of elected members and stated the importance of their attendance at this consultation meetings.

Eddie Meegan gave an update on Healthy Ireland. He stated that Áine Roche had taken over from Dan Downey as the TCC Healthy Ireland co-ordinator.

Eddie Meegan gave an update on the Healthy Communities Local Development Officer. Stephanie O'Callaghan has been appointed to this post. Her role over the course of three years is to work with agencies, services and community groups in Clonmel. The focus is on the wider determinants in people's lives that impact overall health and wellbeing, and health inequities that impact health and wellbeing.

Item 8: Update from Arts Service

Melanie Scott gave an update on the Arts Service. She outlined how the Arts Service had commenced work on a new Arts Strategy for the County and gave a presentation on same. She stated that *The Arts Act 2003* requires Local Authorities to prepare and implement plans for the development of the arts within their functional areas. The current Tipperary County Council Arts Strategy was due to end this year and therefore a new plan will need to be prepared and adopted by Tipperary County Council. Melanie Scott stated that the vision statement for the plan was “to support an environment where the arts flourish to the benefit of artists, local communities and visitors to the county.” She further stated that there would be a thorough and inclusive consultation process for the new plan. Covid-19 has impacted on audiences and the way we do things. Audiences and participants adjusted to online work. However, the challenges have created opportunities and refocused interest in outdoor performance and activities. Melanie Scott highlighted some of the positive achievements from the last strategy. She invited members to participate in the public consultation for the plan and stated that she would update them on progress at the next meeting.

Cllr Ambrose acknowledged the work that the Arts Office carry out. She welcomed the public consultation and stated that there were a good range of times available with the meetings.

Dates of future meetings

The next meeting has been scheduled for

Friday 2nd December.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Councillor Andy Moloney,

Chairperson.

Date: _____, 2022