

Minutes of Meeting of Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 26th January, 2024 in Thurles MD Offices and via Zoom

Present:

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

In Attendance: Brian Beck, Director of Services
Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Marie McMahon, Museum Curator
Melanie Scott, Arts Officer
Róisín O'Grady, Heritage Officer
Fiona Crotty, AO, Community and Economic Development
Marie Cox, AO, Community and Economic Development
Margo Hayes, AO, Community and Economic Development

Apologies: Cllr Micheál Anglim, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr John Fitzgerald, Cllr John Crosse, Eamon Clancy, Matt O'Meara, Patrick Hanley, John Butler, Michelle Lawrence,

Councillor Moloney opened the Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, 1st December, 2023

Proposed: Cllr Niall Dennehy

Seconded: Cllr Fiona Bonfield

Matters arising: None

Item 2: Review of Civic Memorial Policy

Damien Dullaghan addressed the meeting regarding the Civic Memorial Policy. He stated that the policy has been in operation since it was adopted at the full Council meeting in May 2019. Following a Notice of Motion in December 2021 to amend the policy to allow the naming of parks, fire stations, libraries and bridges after individuals, the Plenary Council referred the policy back the Community, Culture and Library SPC. The SPC met on 11th March, 2022 where this matter was an agenda item. The current policy was reviewed by the

SPC and proposed the proposed amendment was considered at length. It was decided that the Civic Memorial Policy has only been in operation since May 2019 and that the policy has worked well to date and has simplified the process relating to memorials. It was decided that the current policy should remain in place. A report outlining this decision was presented by the Chair of the Community, Culture and Library SPC to the CPG meeting on 8th April, 2022 where this decision was ratified by the CPG.

At the Plenary TCC Meeting 11th December 2023 it was decided that the proposal to amend the policy would be brought back before the next Community, Culture and Library SPC for consideration.

Cllr Moloney thanked Damien Dullaghan for the update. The current policy was then reviewed by the SPC and the proposed amendment was considered at length.

The decision taken was that due to Local Elections will take place in June 2024, it was too late in the current term of the Council to make this policy amendment. It was agreed that the review of the Civic Memorial Policy would be placed as an agenda item at a meeting of the new Community, Culture and Library SPC following the Local Elections.

Item 3: Presentation on Heritage Stewardship Project by Marie McMahon

Marie McMahon updated the meeting on the Heritage Stewardship project. She stated Tipperary Museum of Hidden History, were awarded €30,000 by The Heritage Council and its Stewardship Fund, to develop a traditional Irish skills programme working with diverse communities in Tipperary. The project is in its second year, and it builds on the strong relationship with our diverse communities into 2024. Many of the traditional Irish skills in stone and wooden carving, basketry, sewing, embroidery, thatching, harness making are a dying craft. The aim of the project is to share the techniques and skill of working with natural materials and commissioned artists and stone masons to work with each group. Marie McMahon further stated that the projects gave participants an opportunity to work with their hands and produce their own piece of work. This in turn bridges the skill gap and offer the possibility to work with natural materials and continue the traditions of previous craftsmen and women across Tipperary.

Cllr Moloney thanked Marie McMahon for her presentation and welcomed the great work that was being carried out by the Museum Team.

Item 4: Update from the Community Section by Margo Hayes

Margo Hayes gave an update on behalf of the Community section. She outlined the **Local Enhancement Programme 2024 and Women's group Funding schemes.**

The Local Enhancement Programme 2024 is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This funding will provide capital supports essential for the many

small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas in rural and urban areas.

The Women's group funding for the LEP includes groups affiliated with ICA, LGFA, Girl Guides as well as women's sheds

Margo Hayes then updated the meeting EU Just Transition Fund (EU JTF): Community and Enterprise Grants Scheme (Carrick-on-Suir and Thurles MDs only)

The Grant Size for Community Enterprise Grants is a minimum of €50,000 to a maximum of €300,000. The following types of projects will be supported in this scheme:

Innovation in energy and resource efficiency/Circular Economy/Training and upskilling/
Retrofit readiness/ Digitalisation and Connectivity/ Bio economy/ Nature restoration and regeneration/ Renewable energy and heat networks

Key Dates

- Deadline for PAU Registration of new organisations 2 February 2024
- Information Event (Application guidelines) Clinic 6 February
- Information Event (Application guidelines) Webinar 13 February
- Application Closes (Deadline) 22 February 2024

Margo Hayes then gave an update on the Local Economic and Community Plan Initial implementation Plan 2024/2025, Community Recognition Fund, Age Friendly Tipperary and SICAP

LECP: The Local Economic and Community Plan Framework was adopted, and the first implementation plan is being prepared

Community Recognition Fund: a second round of that funding likely to be announced in 2024 (This is for areas that have a high number of Ukrainian or International Protections Applicants.

Age Friendly Tipperary

The Age Friendly Older Peoples Council met on 14th December and the Age Friendly Alliance met on January 22nd . They will have a new 2-year action plan for Age Friendly Tipperary to compliment the LECP implementation timelines

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme

Procurement for the new SICAP 2024-2028 programme is complete with contracts awarded to the successful tenderers STDC and NTDC, with contacts signed on 18th December. The maximum Framework budget is €12,033,749 and the SICAP 2024 Annual Plan Budgets:

Tipperary North 22-1: €702,348 and New Arrivals 2024 Allocation: €123,218

Tipperary South 22-2: €867,090 and New Arrivals 2024 Allocation: €128,194

SICAP €1,569m and New Arrivals €251,412. (New arrivals include International Protection Applicants and Holders of Temporary Protection)

Cllr Moloney thanked Margo Hayes for her update and praised the extent and scope of the work which the Community Service does.

Item 5: Update on the Arts Service by Melanie Scott

Melanie Scott provided an update on the Arts Service. She stated that as part of **Tipperary Bealtaine, the Arts Office will** work with the Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) to bring *Irish Gothic* by artist Patricia Hurl to Tipperary. This exhibition will take place in two locations during May and June 2024 @ STAC, Clonmel and the Source, Thurles with both selected from a major retrospective hosted by IMMA last Spring.

Irish Gothic presents the work of one of Ireland's most accomplished artists. Hurl's work is by its nature political, and traverses the disciplines of painting, multi-media and collaborative art practice. Since the 1970s, she has created work that deals with loss, pain, frustration and loneliness.

2024 Open Call

Melanie Scott stated that In December 2023, Tipperary Arts Office issued an open call to artists based in County Tipperary to submit a proposal for an engagement project or event targeted at older people, culminating in a showcase during the month of May as part of the Tipperary Bealtaine Festival. Each year in the month of May, Bealtaine is presented as a nationwide festival celebrating the arts and creativity as we age. Tipperary Arts Office together with colleagues in the Library Service present an extensive, interactive programme throughout the county. The open call, which closed in January, attracted a significant number of high-quality proposals resulting in the successful approval of funding for seven projects. A total of 11 artists based in Tipperary, representing various art forms will lead projects for Tipperary Bealtaine 2024.

Artists Training 2024

Melanie Scott stated that Visual Artists Ireland serves as the representative body for professional visual artists in Ireland. As part of a partnership programme between Tipperary County Council, Limerick City and County Council and Clare County Council arts offices, a webinar titled 'An Artists Guide to accessing Funding' will be presented on Thursday, January 25th. The session, facilitated by Marianne O'Kane Boal, will take a closer look at all things 'Funding and applications' with free access granted to artists living and working in Tipperary, Limerick and Clare. Marianne O'Kane Boal, a renowned curator and writer specializing in art and architecture, will delve into various aspects of funding and application processes during the session.

Item 6: Update on the Heritage Service by Róisín O’Grady

Róisín O’Grady, Heritage Officer gave an update for the Heritage Section. She stated that At December Training meeting with the Heritage Council, ***Opening the door to Irelands heritage: A collection of Local Authority Heritage Officer projects*** was launched by Minister Malcolm Noonan at the Newpark Hotel in Kilkenny. The publication documents 31 projects from around the county that have been supported by Local Heritage Officers and the Heritage Council over the last 3 years. The project selected for Tipperary was the Historic Towns Initiative 2022 project which supported The Glove Factory in Tipperary Town.

Róisín O’Grady further stated that The Irish Community Archive Network (ICAN) project will begin work in February with 6 groups, Cahir Social and Historical Society, Borrisoleigh Historical Society, Slieveradagh Mining Museum, Tipperary in the Decade of Revolution, Ormond Historical Society and Tipperary Heritage Office. The Tipperary site will be launched later this year.

Róisín O’Grady gave an update on the Community Monuments Fund. Applications for the Community Monument scheme close to the public on 1 February 2024. A number of very successful projects have been carried out with this fund over the last 3 years and a number of our archaeological monuments have been secured because of it.

Cllr Ryan thanked Róisín O’Grady for the update. She also stated that the Glove Factory project had been very successful and was very well received in Tipperary Town

Item 7: Update on Biodiversity Service – Ann Marie Fleming

Ann Marie Fleming gave a brief update on the Biodiversity Service. She stated she was currently preparing grant applications for the Local Biodiversity Action Fund (LBAF) and the Heritage Council Grant Scheme. In 2024 these schemes will provide up to €116,000 of funding to support biodiversity projects and the creation of the Biodiversity Action Plan in County Tipperary.

Item 8: Update on Library Service – Damien Dullaghan

Damien Dullaghan gave an update on the Library Service. He stated that The Department of Rural and Community Development announced a grant scheme for the purchase of IT equipment for Public Libraries in October 2023. Tipperary County Council secured 100% grant funding of €79,808.64 which will be used to replace all 79 Public Internet PCs across all 12 Branch Libraries. In addition, the Library Service used this funding to purchase 21 laptops, 19 IPADs and 2 iMac PCs. This new suite of equipment will be rolled out to all 12 Libraries by the end of Q1

Damien Dullaghan also gave a brief overview of the Christmas Events Programme which was held across all 12 Libraries.

AOB

None

Dates of future meetings

The next meeting will be scheduled after the Local Elections in June

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Councillor Andy Moloney, Chairperson.

Date: _____, 2024