

The Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee

Minutes of Meeting

3rd June 2022

Venue: Council Chamber

Present: Cllr. C. Kelly, Chairperson; E. Doyle, Director of Services; Cllr. C. Lovett; Cllr. P. McDonald; C. Cusack Smith; C. O'Reilly, E. Clancy, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. P. Brady; Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly; Cllr. V. Smith; M. Rudden; G. McPhillips; M. B. Duffy; E. Nwaneri

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting, 2nd March 2022
Proposed by Cllr. P. McDonald; seconded by E. Doyle
2. Declaration of Interests:
Chairperson outlined the responsibility of Committee members to declare any beneficial interest in matters being discussed by the SPC.
3. Progress Report on Virginia Library & Ramor Theatre
Mr. E. Doyle provided an update on the project, noting that it is one of the first RRDF projects to be completed. It is anticipated that the building will be open to the public in Spring 2023. Cllr. P. McDonald noted that it would be important to encourage the theatre-going audience back to the Ramor Theatre.
4. Irish Language Scheme:
Ms. C. Cusack Smith, Irish Language Officer with Cavan County Council, provided an update on the Draft Irish Language Scheme which is currently being prepared. A public consultation on the Draft Scheme was conducted in Spring 2022, which received a small number of submissions. Upon adoption of the Scheme, it is proposed to establish an Internal Committee to implement various elements such as staff training and advertising using Irish. It is planned to establish a Placenames Committee to encourage a bilingual approach to the naming of housing developments. The range of bilingual programming delivered across the cultural sector was highlighted, including recent Bealtaine events. The Chairperson complimented Carmel on the work being done. Cllr. P. McDonald also acknowledged Carmel's efforts.
5. Decade of Commemorations / Creative Ireland:
Ms. E. Clancy, County Librarian, provided an update on plans for the 2022 Decade of Commemorations programme which were approved by the Department, which includes the continued engagement of the successful Historian in Residence, Dr. Brendan Scott, during this very important year of commemoration. She highlighted the very successful play commissioned by Cavan County Council "The Cartographer's Pen" which was performed at the Town Hall in May.

Ms. Clancy also reported on the 2022 Creative Ireland programme which is currently being delivered by Cavan County Council's Culture and Creativity Team

alongside a number of Strategic Partners, including the very successful Cavan Arts Festival, which took place in May. A new five-year strategy programme has been approved by central Government to run 2023-2027.

Both E. Clancy and E. Doyle acknowledged the ongoing support of the elected members.

6. Arts Services Update:

Ms. C. O'Reilly provided an update on various programmes currently being delivered by Cavan Arts Office. The Arts Awards by Cavan County Council are allocated under the Arts Act 2003. There were three categories for 2022, which resulted in 13 recipients of the Arts Development Awards, 9 recipients of the Professional Artists Awards and 8 recipients of the Emerging Artists Awards. The Arts Council will provide funding to support the recruitment of specialist staff this year, including a Part-time Arts in Health manager and a Part-time Assistant Arts Officer, which should be recruited shortly. Ms. O'Reilly provided an update on the County's Public Art, which is managed by Ms. R. Tidy, Cavan Arts Office. She advised that a programme of maintenance work is underway, with the support of the Municipal District. Ms. Tidy is involved in the development of a digital suite at the Town Hall and will also be involved in a similar project at the Abbeylands Development.

Ms. O'Reilly also reported on the ongoing Local Live Performance Programming Scheme III, which has provided an invaluable boost to enable Cavan County Council to provide local live performances such as the Faoin Spéir/In the Open productions by NYAH in the Town Hall Car Park, and the presentation of a bilingual Drive-in Theatre production, *Fiach le Fíbín sa Taibhdhearc* at Cock Hill in Cavan. She also mentioned the work of partnerships including the Cavan and Monaghan Arts and Health Forum.

Chairperson paid tribute to C. O'Reilly and the Arts Office team for the tremendous work being done. Cllrs. P. McDonald and C. Lovett also noted the great work in progress.

7. A.O.B.

Chairperson wished to record his sincere thanks to E. Clancy and C. O'Reilly for the terrific work being done under their leadership and stated that it was his pleasure to attend and preside over many cultural events during his term as Cathaoirleach of Cavan County Council, which will finish later in the month.

E. Doyle advised that a funding application under the RRDF had been submitted in respect of the proposed National Storytelling Centre at the County Museum. If successful, this would be the only national centre celebrating and developing the art of storytelling, supported by archival and digital elements, with the potential to increase visitor numbers to the County Museum from 8,000 to 30,000 annually.

It was noted and agreed that the committee will comply with the Transparency code of the Public Lobbying Act 2015. This will be done by regular circulation of minutes and the agenda of committee working groups / task force meetings on the Council website. The website will also detail membership and terms of reference of the committee.

Cllr. Clifford Kelly
Chairperson,
Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport SPC