

The Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee
Minutes of Meeting
12th October 2022
Venue: MS Teams

Present: Cllr. C. Kelly, Chairperson; E. Doyle, Director of Services; Cllr. C. Lovett; Cllr. P. Brady; Cllr. P. McDonald; Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly; M. B. Duffy; E. Nwaneri, C. Cusack Smith; D. McDermott, E. Clancy, Meetings Administrator

Apologies: Cllr. V. Smith; M. Rudden; G. McPhillips

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting, 3rd June 2022
Matters arising - None
Proposed by Cllr. P. Brady; seconded by Cllr. P. McDonald
2. Declaration of Interests:
Chairperson outlined the responsibility of Committee members to declare any beneficial interest in matters being discussed by the SPC.
3. Irish Language & Culture:
Ms. C. Cusack Smith, Irish Language Officer with Cavan County Council, provided a presentation on Irish language activities being delivered by Cavan County Council and recent changes that have been introduced as part of the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021. Ms. Smith also highlighted the Irish Section on the newly developed Library website. The Chairperson complimented Carmel on the work being done.
4. Decade of Commemorations:
Ms. E. Clancy, County Librarian, provided an update on the 2022 Decade of Commemorations programme, which includes a considerable outreach programme by Dr. Brendan Scott, the Historian-in-Residence with Cavan County Council. Dr. Scott has delivered a number of presentations online and in-person and continues to work with primary schools across the county during this very important year of commemoration. Ms. Clancy highlighted the upcoming Autumn lecture series which will run through October and November, in libraries and in the County Museum, and which will also be available online.
5. Creative Ireland:
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 a very successful project with Cavan GAA at Kingspan Breffni Park.
Cllr. P. McDonald commended E. Clancy and the team on their programme and hoped for further development of partnerships such as with Cavan GAA.
Both E. Clancy and E. Doyle acknowledged the ongoing support of the elected members.

6. Culture Night 2022:

Ms. D. McDermott from Cavan Arts Office provided a report on Culture Night 2022. As the local Coordinator of Culture Night 2022, Ms. McDermott informed the Committee that Culture Night 2022 was the most successful Culture Night ever held in Cavan, with an audience of 4,308 attending events across the county and one online event. The event which involved 115 artists, was promoted widely, on various social media channels, on Northern Sound Radio and in the Anglo Celt. A photograph by Lorraine Teevan also featured on the front page of The Irish Times, as one of the Top 25 Culture Night picks.

Chairperson paid tribute to D. McDermott and wished her well in her role. Cllr. P. McDonald congratulated Danielle and the Arts Office team on their work.

7. Cavan Day 2022:

E. Clancy updated the Committee on the third annual Cavan Day initiative which took place on 24th September 2022. Cavan Day 2022 had an online reach of 12.7 million compared to the 2021 initiative's reach of 8.3 million. Cavan Day 2022 featured the launch of a specially commissioned advert to promote the Cavan Calling festival planned for July 2023 – the video garnered over 30,000 views within the first week.

Cllr. P. McDonald noted how important it is to continue to promote the county at home and abroad and acknowledged that the online campaign is proving very successful.

8. A.O.B.

Cllr. P. McDonald enquired as to the level of interest in Irish classes from elected members – C. Cusack-Smith advised that there had been no interest expressed to date, but that Cavan County Council would endeavour to support any such interest in the future.

E. Clancy advised that a new Curator had recently been appointed at the County Museum. It is planned to meet Ms. Holly Roche at the next SPC Meeting in December.

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.

Next meeting: Wednesday 14th December at 11.30am. Venue: TBC

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