

Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting – Community, Culture & Fire Services held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 15th February, 2023 at 3.00p.m.

Present: Cllr. Pat Dunphy (Chair), Cllr. John Brennan, Cllr Tomas Breathnach, Cllr Martin Brett, Cllr John Coonan, Michael Rice and Fergal Canton.

In attendance: Anne Marie Shortall, Annette Fitzpatrick, Mary Butler, John Collins, Regina Fitzpatrick and Ashling Slattery, Kilkenny County Council.

Apologies: Josephine Coyne, Murty Brennan, Mary Mulholland

1. Minutes of last meeting on Wednesday 21st September, 2022

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. J. Brennan, seconded by Michael Rice and agreed.

2. Creative Ireland Strategy 2023

Annette Fitzpatrick advised that the official launch of the Creative Ireland Strategy 2023-2027 will take place on 23rd February, 2023. She then gave a presentation of the Creative Ireland funding streams and projects for 2023.

Decade of Centenaries - €50,000

Creativity in Older People – not yet announced

Creative Communities Economic Action Fund – Closing date 28th Feb

Creative Climate Action Fund – 13th March – creativeireland.gov.ie

Cruinniú na nÓg - €30,000 – grants scheme to be advertised from 6th March with a closing date of 3rd April.

Creative Ireland general grants scheme advertised with a closing date of 13th March, 2023.

Fergal Canton queried if the Survey for young people was available online only, Annette and Mary advised.

Cllr John Coonan suggested linking in with the OPC for Creativity in Older People.

Cllr Tomas Breathnach asked about the split funding, Annette and Mary advised.

3. Decade of Centenaries 2023

Regina gave a presentation on the Decade of Centenaries 2023.

Themes of the Decade of Centenaries are set at National level and funding streams were noted.

Regina gave an account of events that occurred during 1923.

Project include:

- Retrospective Booklet
- Radio Series
- Lectures
- Podcasts
- Events for children

Cllr Tomas Breathnach suggested holding an event to sign off on the decade and launch into a new one. Regina advised there is potential to hold an event around the launch of the booklet in the autumn.

Cllr John Coonan agreed with Cllr T. Breathnach and noted a decade of inclusiveness. Cllr J. Coonan offered congratulations to all involved.

4. Community Monuments Fund 2023

Regina gave a presentation on the Community Monuments Fund 2023, which provides National funding for care of National Monuments.

Regina advised that 6 applications were received this year and funding will be applied for through two strings:

String 1: Capital Works.

String 2: Conservation Management

Regina discussed the nature of each of the 6 applications and the funding strings they are associated with and provided a visual representation of the required works.

It is expected to hear back in April about funding.

Cllr John Coonan queried works for Kenny's Well. Regina advised of works that need to be carried out in order to have a strong application for 2024. Cllr J. Coonan thanked Regina and everyone involved for a job well done.

Fergal Canton asked about plans for Holy Well's in the County, Regina advised

Cllr Martin Brett congratulated Regina on her appointment as Heritage Officer and asked about St. Mauls, Regina is to visit St. Mauls in the coming weeks to assess the area.

Cllr Tomas Breathnach asked about Dunkitt, Regina advised. Cllr T. Breathnach acknowledged the work done by Annemarie, Dearbhala, Regina and all involved.

Regina acknowledged Dearbhala's contribution in completing the applications.

5. County Heritage Plan 2023

Regina gave a presentation on the County Heritage Plan 2023.

- The following was noted:
- 2 projects put forward, Regina spoke about each project.
 - Heritage data collection programme, two of the below will be carried out in 2023.
 - A Survey of Holy Wells in County Kilkenny
 - A Survey of Mass Paths in County Kilkenny
 - A Survey of Thatched Structures in County Kilkenny
 - Heritage engagement
 - Heritage Week
 - Climate Change
 - Biodiversity
 - Thatched Structures
 - Holy Wells
 - Mass Paths

Michael Rice enquired if Regina could look at Cantwell's Castle in Sandfordscourt, Regina advised.

6. Fire Service Update

John Collins gave a review of the Fire Safety Plan 2021-2026 and described the plans 4 pillars engagement, Education, Engineering and Enforcement and gave statistics relating to each pillar.

John spoke through the objectives of the plan and how they aim to achieve them and provided figures on engagement with the programmes.

Programmes include:

- Schools Programme
- BFireSafe at school programme
- Home Fire Safety visits
- Community events
- Annual Fire Safety Seminar
- Fire Station Open days

John spoke about fires attended and special services and provided 2022's operational statistics which totalled to 730 incidents.

Cllr Pat Dunphy thanked John for the detailed report and thanked all staff for their continued work.

Cllr John Coonan extended sincere thanks to all Fire Services Staff and asked about staffing levels and the new Fire Services site, John advised.

Cllr John Brennan offered thanks to John for the detailed report and gave an account of his own positive personal experience with the Fire Services. Cllr J. Brennan also welcomed Regina to the team and thanked Dearbhala for the work she had done.

Michael Rice on behalf of the IFA and rural community offered thanks and appreciation to the Fire Services.

7. AOB

No matters to report on this occasion

The next SPC meeting will be held on Wednesday 12th April, 2023 at 3.00p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.