

**Minutes of SPC 5 Meeting – Community, Culture & Fire Services, Meeting held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2021 at 3.00p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

**In attendance:** Cllr. John Brennan (Chair), Cllr. Martin Brett, Fergal Canton, Michael Rice, Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Cllr. John Coonan, Dearbhala Ledwidge, Annette Fitzpatrick, Mary Butler, Lindsey Butler, Cora Nolan, Cllr. P. Cleere, Cllr. T. Breathnach, Denis Brophy and Kathy Purcell.

**1. Minutes of last meeting**

Proposed by Cllr. John Coonan, Seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy.

**2. Kilkenny Migrant Integration Strategy**

Lindsey Butler gave a presentation highlighting the following points: -

- How the Integration Action Plan was developed
- What was learnt
- The underlying principles to integration
- The outcomes of the thematic focus groups determined the actions – There are 25 actions in total.

The next steps: -

Agree lead agencies this is almost concluded, seek LCDC and SPC support and engagement, now seeking the support of the SPC to support the Action Plan and prioritise it as an element of the next Local Economic and Community Plan, the next step then is to present to Kilkenny County Council, establish and expand the steering group, and put in place monitoring mechanisms, finally establish Kilkenny Intercultural Network.

Cora will circulate the strategy at the end of the meeting.

There were a number of queries raised after the presentation as follows: -

- The committee welcomed the strategy but it is essential that proper training is carried out so all steps and actions can be implemented.
- Kilkenny Trade unions would be interested in being involved.
- Feed into the County and City Development Plan, will be sent to forward planning for inclusion once adopted.
- It was agreed in principle to support this strategy but if any committee member had any comments or observations to contact Lindsey or Cora.

This was proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, Seconded by Cllr. John Coonan.

**3. Launch of Grants Booklets 2021**

Annette advised the grants booklet will be made available online and will be interactive for people to click in on, this is the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the booklet which is very popular with community groups, resident associations etc, the official launch will take place on Tuesday night, the committee complimented Ronan Ryan on the work put into the booklet and agreed it is a very positive booklet from the Council.

#### **4. Creative Ireland Programme 2021**

Annette is the Creative Ireland Co-ordinator and gave a presentation.

The Creative Ireland Team is made up of Heritage, Arts, Libraries with clerical support from Sinead Dunphy. The allocation for 2021 is €160,161 which is an increase of €50,000.

€15,000 allocated to Cruinniu na nOg – which will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 and focus on creativity amongst young people, it is proposed to spend this year's allocation by way of a grant scheme, up to a maximum of €5,000, application form available online or from Sinead Dunphy, closing date 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and €15,000 administration, the balance of €130,161 split between Heritage, arts, libraries, other and grants.

Grants will be up to €2,500 or up to €5,000 application form available on website or from Sinead Dunphy, they will be advertised in next week's Kilkenny People, closing date is the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

#### **5. Decade of Centenaries 2021**

Dearbhala gave a presentation and highlighted the guiding principles, broad approach and themes, in the last 3 years a number of initiatives were funded, the total budget for 2021 is €50,000, which will fund history podcasts, radio programme, raise awareness, promote projects, civic memorials committee/policy and administer grant scheme.

Community groups, local historical groups and individuals, museums, archives, libraries, closing date 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.

Proposed by Cllr. Martin Brett, Seconded by Cllr. John Coonan.

There were a number of contributions.

#### **6. CCFCS Grant 2021**

Annette gave a presentation and advised it is hoped to carry out a full review of the scheme during the year. It was agreed to extend the existing scheme into 2021 as no grants were awarded in 2020. This grant is a source of funding for Community groups for capital projects. The maximum grant available is €45,000, minimum grant of €9,000, funding at a rate of 75%. The scheme will be advertised in the Kilkenny People and online next week. Closing date is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> of April, application forms will be issued once the applicant has spoken to the relevant staff from the community section. The applications will be assessed by an evaluation committee, which will go to the full Council for approval. Terms, conditions and guidelines of the scheme can be downloaded from the Council website or contact any member of the community section.

Murty Brennan requested the title be amended to include intercultural as was agreed at the very first SPC meeting.

It was agreed to extend the existing scheme proposed by Cllr. P. Cleere, seconded by Cllr. P. Dunphy.

#### **7. Estate Management Grant Scheme 2021.**

This grant scheme will be advertised in next week's Kilkenny People and on our website and facebook. This grant will be made available to apply directly online. The closing date is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 2021.

#### **8. Fire Services Update**

John Collins gave an update from the fire station.

Part 8 planning submission in February for the new fire station in Urlingford, work is underway to identify and purchase a new site for Kilkenny City Fire Brigade.  
3 no. applications for fire safety certificates have been received so far this year.  
Home fire safety visits have been postponed due to level 5 lockdown. The brigades have attended a variety of incidents in 2021.

Murty Brennan will link in with John regarding fire and safety talk for seniors.  
Cllrs. J. Coonan and M. Brett thanked John and all who work at the fire stations across the County for all their hard work. It was noted that a new site is required to accommodate a new Fire Station and Civic Defence Unit in the City.

**AOB**

Cllr. P. Dunphy requested that Town & Village be put on the next Agenda.  
Annette advised that a report will be made to the full Council.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> of May at 3.00p.m.