

**The Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**28<sup>th</sup> September 2021**  
**Venue: Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Cllr. P. McDonald, Chairperson; E. Doyle, Director of Services; E. Nwaneri; M. B. Duffy; R. Tidy; P. McIntyre; E. Clancy, Meetings Administrator

**Apologies:** Cllr. C. Kelly; Cllr. P. Brady; Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly; Cllr. C. Lovett; Cllr. V. Smith; M. Rudden; G. McPhillips

In the absence of Cllr. C. Kelly, Chairperson, Cllr. P. McDonald assumed the role of Chairperson.

1. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021  
Proposed by Cllr. P. McDonald; seconded by M. B. Duffy
2. Declaration of Interests: Mr. E. Doyle, Director of Services outlined the responsibility of Committee members to declare any beneficial interest in matters being discussed by the SPC.
3. Standing Orders: Chairperson referred to the Standing Orders (documentation with amendments relating to the holding of remote meetings was previously circulated).
4. Town Hall Developments: Mr. P. McIntyre provided updates on the following:
  - Local Live Entertainment: The Town Hall and Cavan Arts, in conjunction with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and Cavan County Council's piloted pedestrianised "Streets Ahead Cavan" scheme, coordinated a programme of live performances across Cavan Town during July and August, as part of the government's Local Live Performance Scheme. The ticket only Local Live Performances were held at the Historic Abbey Grounds in the heart of Cavan Town, and featured local artists including The High Stool Prophets, Songsisters and Band and Kathy Durkin. Audio from these concerts was streamed throughout the town's PA system which enabled enjoyment by patrons across the pedestrianised zones without the need for large congregations. The response to the return of live entertainment within a controlled environment was very positive. A community element of this scheme is ongoing across the county.
  - Re-opening of Town Hall: A staged reopening of the Town Hall is taking place while the Ramor Theatre is closed during building works. A very exciting Autumn/Winter programme has been prepared, in line with government guidelines, which will see 100% capacity from October 22<sup>nd</sup>. It is hoped that this period will help to establish the newly refurbished Town Hall as a new arts venue for Cavan audiences, which will work in tandem with the Ramor Theatre when it reopens in 2022. Mr. E. Doyle paid compliment to Padraic and to Catriona O'Reilly and their staff for their efforts to rekindle a community spirit in a post-Covid reality. E. Doyle also paid compliment to committee member Evija Nwaneri on her terrific performance in the Cavan Day show.
  - Outdoor Performance Space: Cavan County Council has submitted an application to the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under the Outdoor Public Space Scheme 2021 for a new multi-functional public outdoor space adjacent to the Town Hall. The proposal is centred on presenting all art forms for the collective enjoyment of the community as a whole, while encouraging people to spend time in the Town Centre, and supporting in particular the night-time economy. The Space will be programmed by Cavan County Council's Culture and Creativity Team and supported by the Town Hall / Ramor Theatre, using the existing ticketing system. It is envisaged that a mobile stage will be used, and which will be made available to communities across the

county. This proposal has the potential to be a terrific asset for the county town. It is hoped that if the application receives approval, it will be operational by Summer 2022. Cllr. P. McDonald commended all involved for their hard work.

5. Culture Night 2021:

Ms. Rhonda Tidy, Arts Office, provided a comprehensive review of the Culture Night 2021 programme which took place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September across Cavan. The theme of this year's festival was "Come Together Again", which was fully embraced in Cavan. A total of 25 events were held across the county, with 8 taking place online. The programme included a number of "umbrella" initiatives, including Poetry Towns of Cootehill and Bailieborough, that presented events within events. A new commissioned play *Sparrowhawk* performed at the Dun a Ri Forest Park, along with a Cavan Monaghan Music Generation concert at Kilmore Cathedral were among the highlights of the evening. Ms. Tidy noted that this very impressive line-up resulted in expanding audience reach on previous years.

Ms. M. B. Duffy thanked the Arts Office and Cootehill Library for their support in the roll-out of the Cootehill Poetry Town initiative.

Cllr. P. McDonald paid tribute to all involved for the quality programme delivered.

6. Creative Ireland / Decade of Commemorations:

Ms. E. Clancy, County Librarian, provided an update on the Creative Ireland programme, noting that 2021 projects will be completed in the coming weeks. Ms. Clancy also delivered an update on the Decade of Commemorations programme and particularly the work of the Historian in Residence, Dr. Brendan Scott, which has included a series of talks with schools across the county and a series of webisodes and podcasts on relevant topics. A Centenary lecture series and Book launch will take place this Autumn.

7. A.O.B.

Ms. M. B. Duffy queried if it is likely that the Committee will have a role in the formulation of strategic policy, notwithstanding the challenges imposed by Covid-19 and online meetings. Mr. E. Doyle acknowledged that virtual meetings does not facilitate productive discussion and is hopeful that future meetings will be in-person and therefore allow committee members to have a more influential role.

Cllr. P. McDonald enquired as to the status of Irish Language Officer with Cavan County Council. Mr. E. Doyle advised that the post will be filled as part of an upcoming library recruitment campaign.

**Next meeting:** Padraic McIntyre, Town Hall Manager, invited the Committee to hold their December meeting at the Town Hall subject to public health measures. Date to be confirmed.

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