

The Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport Strategic Policy Committee
Minutes of Meeting
14th December 2022
Venue: Johnston Central Library - Events Space

Present: E. Doyle, Director of Services; Cllr. C. Lovett; Cllr. P. McDonald; M. B. Duffy; E. Nwaneri; H. Roche; D. McElroy; P. McIntyre; E. Clancy, Meetings Administrator
Cllr. S. P. O'Reilly joined the meeting via MS Teams

Apologies: Cllr. C. Kelly; Cllr. P. Brady; 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, 12th October 2022
Matters arising - None
Proposed by Ms. M. B. Duffy; seconded by Mr. 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. Virginia Project:
Mr. E. Doyle, Director of Services, provided an update on the Virginia Civic, Cultural and Library Services Centre. He advised that works valued in the region of €7million are progressing well with the appointed contractor DEMAC. It is anticipated that that building will open in March/April with an official opening to take place in May/June. The Ramor Theatre is preparing a programme schedule for the second quarter of 2023. The Chairperson praised the terrific work being carried out.
4. Cavan County Museum:
Mr. E. Doyle introduced Ms. Holly Roche, the recently appointed Curator at Cavan County Museum. Ms. H. Roche delivered an overview of the Museum's event programming for 2022 and plans for 2023, including the various programmes running in collaboration with other Council Depts and the local artist community. The Chairperson welcomed Ms. Roche and complimented the work being done at the County Museum.
5. Decade of Commemorations:
Ms. E. Clancy, County Librarian, provided an update on the 2022 Decade of Commemorations programme, which included a considerable outreach programme by Dr. Brendan Scott, the Historian-in-Residence with Cavan County Council. Dr. Scott delivered a number of presentations online and in-person and continued to work with schools across the county during this very important year of commemoration. Ms. Clancy highlighted the recent successful Autumn lecture

series which ran through October and November, in libraries and in the County Museum, and which were also made available online. She also noted the recent launch of the Frank Dolphin Exhibition at the Library Events Space in Johnston Central Library and the accompanying booklet *Frank Dolphin and Revolution in West Cavan* produced by Dr. Brendan Scott. This exhibition is drawn from a very rare and valuable archive collected by Frank Dolphin pertaining to his time as Intelligence Officer of the West Cavan Brigade of the Old IRA.

6. 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 several Strategic Partners, including Music Generation Cavan/Monaghan, Cavan Arts Festival and Cavan GAA. Ms. Clancy advised that a new Culture and Creativity Strategy 2023-2027 has been developed for Cavan to support the embedding of creativity in public policy.

Cllr. P. McDonald commended E. Clancy and the team on their programme and hoped for further development of partnerships such as with Cavan GAA.

7. Cavan Sports Partnership:

Mr. Dean McElroy, Senior Sports Development Officer, delivered a presentation on Cavan Sports Partnership, detailing the staffing structure, the CSP board, subcommittee structures and various funding received in 2022 which amounted to €479,629. This funding supported core work along with specific initiatives such as *Bike Week*, *Her Outdoors* and *Men on the Move*. Mr. McElroy referenced plans for 2023, including *Operation Keep Well* starting in January 2023, the development of a new CSP strategy and a Community Coaching Programme.

Mr. E. Doyle commended the CSP on the breadth of the programme undertaken.

Cllr. C. Lovett commended all involved in delivering the variety of work mentioned. The Chairperson also praised the good work being done.

8. Town Hall / Ramor Theatre:

Mr. P. McIntyre, Venues Manager for the Town Hall in Cavan and the Ramor Theatre in Virginia, provided an update on the September – December programme at the Town Hall, which included the staging of a new play by John McManus in Shercock, the presentation of MAM by Teac Damhsa at Mullahoran GFC, the delivery of the Cavan One Act Drama Festival and the Christmas pantomime Cinderella. The Artists' Studios and the Writer's Room are in full use, and the Gallery Space is hosting A Christmas Bazaar. Highlights of the early 2023 programme includes award-winning Cavan singer / songwriter Lisa O'Neill, and the staging of the Cavan Drama Festival (75th Anniversary). It is planned that programming at the Town Hall will integrate with that at the Ramor Theatre from Q2, with the same management structure overseeing operations to provide two fine venues serving audiences in Cavan and beyond.

Mr. E. Doyle commented on the creative use of space across the county. Cllr. C. Lovett commended all involved and wished all well for the reopening of the Ramor Theatre. The Chairperson also praised the great work being done.

9. A.O.B.

Ms. M. B. Duffy enquired as to the possibility of acquiring the vacant Bank of Ireland premises in Cootehill, indicating that there is a need for a performance space in the locality.

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 15th February at 11.30am. Venue: TBC

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