

# **Minutes of Meeting of Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at 10:00am via Zoom**

## **Present:**

**Councillors:** Cllr Micheál Lowry (Chairperson), Cllr Andy Moloney (Chairperson for part of meeting), Cllr Niall Dennehy, Cllr Anne Marie Ryan, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose, Cllr John Fitzgerald

**In Attendance:** Brian Beck, a/Director of Services  
Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian  
Marie McMahon, Museum Service  
Melanie Scott, Arts Officer  
Roisin O'Grady, Heritage Officer  
Eddie Meegan, AO, Community and Economic Development

**Apologies:** Cllr Micheál Anglim, Cllr John Crosse, Eamon Clancy, Peggy O'Brien, Matt O'Meara, Patrick Hanley, John Butler

Councillor Andy Moloney opened the Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

## **Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2021**

Proposed: Cllr Siobhan Ambrose

Seconded: Cllr Niall Dennehy

## **Matters arising:**

Cllr Dennehy enquired about the progress being made regarding the appointment of architects for a new Library in Clonmel. Damien Dullaghan stated that a tender was due to be published on e-tenders with the next ten days.

## **Item 2: Review of Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) for Tipperary Museum of Hidden History by Marie McMahon, Museum Curator**

Marie McMahon, Museum Curator gave a presentation on the Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI). Tipperary Museum of Hidden History has been fully

accredited under this programme for several years. As part of the standards set down by the Heritage Council for this accreditation, a detailed review of Museum policies must be carried out every five years. Marie McMahon brought forward three policies for consideration and review by the SPC.

1. Loan Policy
2. Deaccessioning Policy
3. Exhibition Policy

Marie McMahon gave an overview of the revised Loan Policy for Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. She stated that the Museum aims to store, handle, display and use its collection in such a way as to minimise the risk of damage and deterioration, thereby increasing long term access and appreciation of the collection. Whether in storage, on display or on loan the collections must be secure. The same care and precautions must be taken for the safe custody of objects given and received on loan as the safe custody of the permanent collection. Tipperary Museum of Hidden History is a Designated Museum and is legally entitled to retain objects on behalf of the state under the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997. It has the resources and skills to house and care for objects. Outsourcing conservation expertise is also essential. The revised policy includes loan out and loan in section as well as a Security and Environmental section.

Marie McMahon then gave an overview of the revised Deaccessioning Policy. She stated that one of the basic functions of a museum is preservation. There is a strong presumption against the subsequent de-accessioning of items from museum collections, other than in very specific circumstances. The policy covers the circumstances in which de-accessioning may take place, and the procedures to be followed, thereafter. The collections of Tipperary Museum of Hidden History are held in trust for future generations. Only under exceptional circumstances will the de-accessioning of any specimen from the collections be permissible. Once a decision to dispose of any item has been taken, priority will be given to retaining the item/s within the public domain and with this in view it will be offered first, by exchange, gift or sale to other suitable museums before disposal to other interested individuals or organisations is considered.

Finally, Marie McMahon gave an overview of the revised Exhibition policy. Tipperary Museum's Exhibition Policy plays a central role in helping to achieve the Museum's core aims and objectives. She further stated that the Museum has just completed a significant redevelopment of their gallery spaces. This will enable the Museum to grow its exhibition programme, secure high profile loans and enhance partnership opportunities going forward. This expansion of the exhibition programme will support and promote the Museum mission and vision going forward. The exhibitions staged by Tipperary Museum can be divided into two types:

The *Permanent Exhibition* refers to the displays in the 'Thematic Gallery'. This exhibition was the subject a redevelopment jointly funded by Fáilte Ireland and Tipperary County Council in 2019.

*Temporary exhibitions* are by definition a short-term display. These exhibitions are held in the Museum's temporary exhibition gallery.

Cllr Darcy complimented the work which was done regarding these policies. He further stated that he was aware from the McDonagh Museum in Cloughjordan that there was a considerable amount of work required to receive the accreditation.

It was then agreed that these draft policies should be brought forward to a plenary Council meeting for adoption.

Proposed: Cllr Ambrose

Seconded: Cllr Ryan

### **Item 3: Review of the Civic Memorial Policy**

Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian gave an overview of the Civic Memorial Policy and the reason a review of the policy was sought. The Civic Memorial Policy sets out the process by which Tipperary County Council will consider the commemoration of events or individuals who have shaped the County, either by the naming of infrastructure or by the installation of monuments, memorials and plaques in the public domain. It was brought before the SPC in January 2019 and was adopted at the Full Council Meeting in May 2019.

A Notice of Motion was raised in December 2021 which stated That Tipperary County Council amend its Civic Memorial Policy No. 7 – Infrastructure from "Parks, Fire Stations, Libraries and Utility Facilities will not be named after individuals or events, the names will reflect the locality or townland"

To

"Parks, Fire Stations, Libraries and Utility Facilities may be named after individuals or reflect their locality or townland".

It was agreed at the full Council Meeting in January 2022 to refer this suggested amendment back to the SPC for consideration.

The current policy was then reviewed by the SPC members and the proposed amendment was considered at length. Cllr Lowry stated that the policy was in place for less than three years and he took the view that it was too early to consider amending it. Cllr Ambrose stated that it was too early to consider reviewing the policy and that it takes time to see how a policy is operating. Cllr Ryan stated that there are potentially contentious issues when it comes to identifying who should or should not be commemorated and a policy was needed for this.

The SPC then made the following decision relating to the Motion:

- The Civic Memorial Policy has only been in operation since May 2019
- The policy has worked well to date and has simplified the process relating to memorials
- It would be premature to amend the policy at this point. The current policy should remain in place

It was agreed that this decision would be conveyed to the CPG.

#### **Item 4: Update on the Library Service by Damien Dullaghan**

Damien Dullaghan gave an overview of the current position of the Library Service. He stated that the lifting of Government Restrictions regarding events and activities was having a very positive effect for the Library Service. The Library Service was now able to hold full events and had planned a full programme for 2022. Cllr Moloney asked about the Craft Granary and what progress had been made to move the Library to this location. Damien Dullaghan stated that the project was part of the RRDF application for the town and that an application which included the Craft Granary project was due to be submitted in April.

#### **Item 5: Update from Arts Service**

Melanie Scott gave an update on the Arts Service. She gave an overview on a series of six workshops which were ongoing in February and March. She stated that Festivals and events are important to stimulate local economic activity and to showcase Tipperary's place on the map as a visitor destination. She further stated that the Arts Office were conscious of the range of type and scale of festivals across the county. Therefore, they were inviting festival organisers to avail of a Spring Series of workshops to support and inform festival organisers. Melanie Scott also gave an overview of grants issued by the Arts Office in 2022 and compared these to the grant offering in 2021. Almost all grant allocations had increased year on year. Cllr Ambrose enquired as to when the position of Assistant Arts Officer was to be filled. Melanie Scott stated that interviews took place earlier in the week but she had no further information on this matter as it was still with HR.

#### **Item 6: Update from Heritage Service**

Róisín O'Grady gave an update on the Heritage Service. Applications are ongoing for a number of Schemes to leverage funding for heritage and biodiversity projects. The County Heritage Plan and Commemorations have been allocated and the Heritage Office are awaiting results on Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Community Monuments Scheme which includes twelve projects in total. The Heritage Office was successful under the Historic Towns Initiative 2022 which is a joint initiative between the Dept of Housing Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. Thirteen towns in Ireland benefitted

under this scheme which saw €1.75 million investment. Tipperary County Council submitted *The Glove Factory* in Tipperary town, a significant heritage building that has been vacant for almost 50 years and is now to be refurbished for four apartments and a commercial space. The Creative Ireland Open Call, Community Grants and Commemorations schemes have all been assessed and over €140,000 allocated to groups and organisations around the county. The Heritage and Biodiversity Plan and Creative Ireland Strategy are both due for review this year and the process will begin shortly. Cllr Ryan enquired about the possibility of a Biodiversity Officer being appointed to Tipperary County Council. Brian Beck stated that nine Biodiversity posts were funded in 2022. There is more funding due for Biodiversity posts in Local Authorities in 2023 and Tipperary County Council will be applying for this when this becomes available.

### **Item 7: Update from Museum Service**

Marie McMahon gave an update on the Museum Service. She outlined the Museum's participation in the upcoming St Patrick's Day parade. She stated that the *Bringing History to Life* theme would be similar to the Culture Night event. She also stated that like the Library Service, the Museum Service has returned to full activities and that this was very welcome after the previous two years. Marie McMahon also outlined a new Museum campaign which would seek donations particularly from the time of the War of Independence. Cllr Ambrose praised the work which is carried out by the Museum and also asked if there were any specific type of artefacts which the Museum were seeking? Cllr Fitzgerald also complimented the Museum and stated that the work carried out by the Museum team was very important for the County. He also queried what type of artefacts would be of interest? Marie McMahon thanked the members for their positive feedback. She stated that the Museum were looking for unique pieces from that era which conveyed the story of County Tipperary.

### **Item 8: Update from Community Section**

Eddie Meegan gave an update on the Community Section. He stated that the Migrant Plan will be brought before this SPC for consideration in the next few months. He also confirmed that the new LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan) would be brought before the Council later this year. Cllr Ryan raised queries regarding the Ukrainian Refugee crisis which was unfolding. She asked what input Tipperary County Council would have in assisting refugees? She also asked if funding had been put in place by Tipperary County Council to assist those arriving in Ireland? Eddie Meegan stated that the situation was currently under review and that he would revert back when he had further information. Cllr Ambrose enquired if the Red Cross would have an input? She also asked who would take the lead to help families arriving. Eddie Meegan stated that this was currently being looked at.

**Dates of future meetings**

The next meeting has been scheduled for

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 10:00am

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Micheál Lowry,

Chairperson.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2022