

Minutes of Meeting of Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 3rd June, 2022 at 10:00am in Thurles MD Offices and via Zoom

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Micheál Lowry (Chairperson), Cllr Andy Moloney), Cllr Niall Dennehy, Cllr Anne Marie Ryan, Cllr Fiona Bonfield, Cllr Siobhan Ambrose,

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, Cllr Ger Darcy, Cllr John Fitzgerald, Eamon Clancy, Peggy O'Brien, Matt O'Meara, Patrick Hanley, John Butler,

Councillor Micheál Lowry opened the Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, 11th March, 2022

Proposed: Cllr Niall Dennehy

Seconded: Cllr Anne Marie Ryan

Matters arising: None

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. At the previous SPC meeting in March, Marie McMahon brought forward three policies for consideration and review by the SPC.

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

Marie McMahon stated that three further draft policies had now been prepared and were being brought to this SPC meeting for consideration. These were:

1. Collections Policy.
2. Care of Collections Strategy.
3. Education Policy

Marie McMahon gave an overview of the revised Collections Policy for Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. She stated that the Museum will seek to collect items that are associated with, or help to illustrate the general history of the county that relates to Tipperary: including Archaeology, Art, Geology, Natural History, Sporting, Social, Political and Industrial History, Religious and Folk life. A particular focus will be given to the collection of items that relate to North Tipperary. This reflects the amalgamation of North and South Tipperary County Councils in 2014 and the expansion in the Museum's geographical area of collection. In addition, the collection at Tipperary Museum of Hidden History, will provide a basis for its exhibition and educational programmes, for research and study, for special lectures and symposia and for the cultural and educational enrichment of the community of Tipperary and visitors to the county.

Marie McMahon then gave an overview of the revised Care of Collections Strategy. She stated that this Care of Collections Strategy is for a three-year period 2022 - 2025. Many of the objectives can and will be met using existing staff and funding available. This plan will be reviewed every six months. All reviews will take the form of meeting between the Curator, Caretaker and Documentation & Collections Officer and will refer to the Annual action plan.

Finally, Marie McMahon gave an overview of the revised Education policy. She stated that Education has always been a core value to the Museum, with a dedicated, full time Education Officer since 2000 and a separate budget. The Education Policy 2022 – 2025 has as its core aims to:

1. Continue and grow the adult programme by piloting the design thinking process to the development of adult programmes before rolling it out to other audience segments
2. Continue and grow schools programme in line with curriculum
3. Develop networks and partnerships
4. Ensure education programmes and facilities are accessible to all in a socially inclusive manner
5. Developing and taking part in outreach initiatives

Cllr Moloney praised the work which had gone into these draft policies and Cllr Ambrose agreed that there was work and thought gone into them. 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: Update on the Library Service by Damien Dullaghan

Damien Dullaghan gave an overview of the current position of the Library Service. He gave a summary of the Bealtaine Festival which was run by the Library Service and Arts Service. He stated that this was the first major in person series of events since the lockdown restrictions were lifted. There were events held in all Libraries and in general attendance numbers were very good. Damien Dullaghan also outlined the new Sensory Toy collections which were due to be launched the following week. He outlined how these collections were purchased under the Dormant Accounts Scheme and he stated that Ann Marie Brophy, Senior Executive Librarian had co-ordinated the funding application and subsequent procurement. Cllr Ryan stated that the Bealtaine Festival had been a great success and that the launch in the Excel Theatre was very well organised. Cllr Ryan also queried when My Open Library would be launched in Tipperary Town Library. Damien Dullaghan welcomed Cllr Ryan's positive comments. He further stated that there were technical issues with the My Open Library system and the new Library Management System. These issues were facing all Library Services and were being worked on by a national committee. He stated that he would keep Cllrs informed of progress made. Cllr Ambrose enquired about the progress being made regarding the appointment of architects for a new Library in Clonmel. Damien Dullaghan stated that the tender adjudication process was underway. Cllr Ambrose welcomed this news and also stated that she welcomed the new sensory room in Clonmel Library and the county wide sensory toy collection which will now be available in Branch Libraries.

Item 4: Update from Arts Service

Melanie Scott gave an update on the Arts Service. She firstly introduced the new Assistant Arts Office, Fiona Flavin to the SPC members. She also outlined a new Open Call for Culture Night events and stated that this was the first time in three years that this had taken place. Melanie Scott also spoke briefly about the official launch of Music Generation in the Source. She stated that this programme reached over 5,000 children in the County.

Cllr Ambrose stated that she was delighted to meet Fiona Flavin and wished her well in her new role. She also thanked Melanie Scott for her work on Music Generation and stated that Bernadette Cullen, ETB was also instrumental in its success also.

Cllr Moloney also welcomed Fiona Flavin appointment and wished her well. Cllr Moloney also queried if there is funding for this year's Culture Night? Melanie Scott thanked Cllr Ambrose and Cllr Moloney for their positive comments. She further stated that there was

funding available for the Open call for Culture Night. There was a maximum of €500 available for the Open Call.

Item 5: Update from Heritage Service

Róisín O'Grady provided an update on Heritage Services. The field survey of the Holy Wells of Tipperary will be available on the Tipperary County Council website by the end of this year. She further stated that there was delay in receiving national funding for biodiversity and one project could be affected. She stated that the County Monument Funds was being used to finance four projects and details of these could be found in the Management Report to Tipperary County Council. With regard to Creative Ireland, Róisín O'Grady stated that multiple events and activities throughout the County were being funded in 2022. In addition, 200 juggling sets for children had been purchased and were being distributed through the Library Service.

Cllr Ambrose asked if there was any update with the Royal Sites of Ireland project? Róisín O'Grady stated that the steering group had held two meetings with the Department. Officials from the Department intended to visit all sites in May and it was hoped that an announcement would be made before the end of June.

Cllr Ryan stated that the Government had announced a scheme for Local Authorities to employ a biodiversity officer earlier in the year. Róisín O'Grady stated that there will be a call for applications shortly.

Item 6: Update from Museum Service

Marie McMahon gave an update on the Museum Service. She stated that the visits from Schools were returning to pre-pandemic levels. There were over 700 student visits in May alone. She also confirmed that the Museum would have a stand at the Clonmel Pedigree Show which was taking place on 3rd June. The Museum has a full Summer programme in place. This included two workshops for Cruinniú Na nÓg. In addition, the Museum will be running Summer camps for children in July.

Marie McMahon then spoke about the ARTiculation programme. ARTiculation Ireland is a public speaking competition which promotes the appreciation and discussion of art, artefacts and architecture in secondary schools throughout Ireland. The competition is designed for students between 16-18 years, regardless of background or experience, with art, artefacts and architecture to develop the confidence and ability to express their opinions and conclusions.

Students are offered the chance to deliver a ten minute presentation before their peers and a wider audience about a work of art, an artefact or piece of architecture of their choice, through a series of internal school heats and regional heats across Ireland with the chance of being selected for the National final. The Museum runs the Tipperary competition and this year it was won by Kate Coyne, Presentation, Clonmel. Kate went

forward to The National Final which was held in The People's Museum, Limerick on 7th April. Schools from Kerry and Tipperary participated in Final. Kate Coyne went onto to win the overall competition.

Item 7: Update from Community Section

Eddie Meegan gave an update on the Community Section. He stated that the Community Section were assisting with the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis. He further stated that this was now taking up a major part of the Community Section's workload and this would continue for the foreseeable future. In addition, the Community Section are currently working on the new LECP plan and that consultants for the socio-economic element of the plan were currently being procured. Eddie Meegan stated that Ballyporeen Community Council was awarded a major prize at the Pride of Place for the work of local people's efforts to improve the village which was a very positive development. Cllr Ambrose raised her concerns regarding CLAR funding. She stated that the only area in the Clonmel BD that can apply for CLAR funding has a very low population. She further stated that the designation of CLAR areas is calculated nationally and is based on population. Eddie Meegan stated that CLAR funding is based on population and he understood the concerns raised by Cllr Ambrose.

Dates of future meetings

The next meeting has been scheduled for

Friday 9th September.

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Councillor Micheál Lowry,

Chairperson.

Date: _____, 2022