

Minutes of Meeting of Community, Culture and Library Services Strategic Policy Committee held on 13th October, 2023 in Thurles MD Offices and via Zoom

Present:

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

In Attendance: Brian Beck, Director of Services
Damien Dullaghan, County Librarian
Marie McMahon, Museum Curator
Melanie Scott, Arts Officer
Fiona Crotty, AO, Community and Economic Development
Marie Cox, AO, Community and Economic Development
Geraldine Manning, AO, Community and Economic Development

Apologies: Cllr Micheál Anglim, Cllr John Fitzgerald, Eamon Clancy, Matt O'Meara, Patrick Hanley, John Butler, Michelle Lawrence, Róisín O'Grady

Councillor Moloney opened the Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

Item 1: Minutes from previous meeting, 2nd June, 2023

Proposed: Cllr Fiona Bonfield

Seconded: Cllr Niall Dennehy

Matters arising: None

Item 2: Presentation on Draft CCTV Policy by Brian Beck

Brian Beck, Director of Services gave a presentation on the new draft CCTV Policy for Tipperary County Council. He outlined the reasons for CCTV monitoring and recording

- To assist in the maintenance of public order and safety in public places.

- To improve public and community safety and perception of safety by the local communities by assisting in the prevention, detection and investigation of offences, in turn assisting in the prosecution of offenders.
- To prevent, detect and investigate crime and illegal activities and in order to assist in the prosecution of offences
- To raise awareness for members of the public interacting with staff that their actions are being recorded in order to deter offences, e.g. assault and bodily harm.
- To safeguard and protect the security of premises both internally and externally and the plant, equipment and property, parks and cemeteries and all other assets under the ownership and remit of the Council.
- To protect and safeguard the health and safety of Council staff, elected members, customers, visitors and contractors.
- To assist with Investigation by Council management of reported incidents/accidents and of suspected, or allegations of fraudulent behaviour or other activities inconsistent with the ethos/policies of the organization
- To assist with Investigations carried out by other agencies in relation to incidents, i.e. Health and Safety Authority, the Council's Insurers and or legal advisors.
- To assist with Criminal Investigations by An Garda Síochána (AGS).

Brian Beck stated that for new Community CCTV schemes (or additions to existing schemes), the following points would need to be considered:

- An Garda Síochána's analyst team must prepare a crime report detailing the historical levels of crime at each specific potential location of a camera (using GPS coordinates). If crime levels are deemed sufficiently high, this becomes the starting point of the official process. (Threshold of Sufficiently High to be agreed with AGS i.e. what is high impactful crime?)
- The Crime Report must include details of all alternative measures taken to address the situation including results achieved/not achieved.
- The MD shall prepare a comprehensive Business Case to accompany the Crime Report, signed by the District Director requesting the installation as project sponsor.
- The Business must also include details of the total funding costs and sources for funding for the cameras (including ongoing operational and maintenance costs). These costs shall be signed off by the Head of Finance.
- The Business Case shall outline the case and rationale for CCTV, including all potential locations of cameras (including GPS coordinates).
- The Business Case and the Crime Report must be submitted to a new CCTV Oversight Board for review.

- This review will consider whether the rationale for the new/expanded CCTV is deemed to be proportional, justified and necessary, is in line with all legislative requirements and that the costs associated with the installation, operation and maintenance of the CCTV system, present value for money.
- The CCTV Oversight Board will only review CCTV applications once each year following the adoption of the Council Budget.
- A Data Protection Impact Assessment must be prepared and submitted to the Data Protection Officer for review.
- At this point the report must be subject to public consultation.
- Following the public consultation period, an Appendix to the report should be prepared outlining the submissions received during the public consultation.
- The Municipal District Administrator shall present the proposal to the JPC (or the new Community Safety Committee when established) for consideration.
- A recommendation from the JPC shall be made to the CPG.
- If the CPG concurs with the recommendation, it shall bring the recommendation before the Plenary Council for approval.
- In making a recommendation to the Plenary Council, the CPG shall have regard to the outcome of the Statutory Budgetary process and whether provision has been made for the ongoing costs of the CCTV system proposed. The CPG shall not make a recommendation where a revenue budget has not been put in place.
- A Community CCTV application must be prepared by the Council for submission to the Garda Commissioner for review.
- This application must include evidence of public consultation, evidence of historical crime, evidence of approval by the JPC, CPG and Plenary Council, among any other necessary supporting pieces of documentation.

Brian Beck stated that the maximum grant available for each CCTV scheme is €45,000. This includes €40,000 for minor works (calculated on the basis of an award up to 60% of the total capital cost. Tipperary County Council would not receive any money for replacement/upgrades of out of date CCTV systems. CCTV systems have a realistic life span of 10 to 15 years. He further stated that it is estimated that €100,000 is currently spent every year on CCTV operation in Tipperary. The estimated annual operating cost per camera is €670. If a recommended maintenance schedule of 2 to 3 visits per camera was put in place, this cost per camera could more than double. Working at the current annual operating cost of €670 per camera this equates to an additional €83,750. If maintenance were included and a total cost of €1,500 per camera were used, this annual figure would increase to €187,500 and Live Monitoring would increase these costs further. Brian Beck stated that the annual funding model, to cover the cost of operation and maintenance,

should be brought before the Elected Members as part of the Council Budget for agreement. In addition, a capital funding model for installation / upgrading / replacement of CCTV systems should be considered. Where monies are required for match funding for the installation of CCTV systems or the upgrading / replacement of existing systems, these can be classified as capital works. It is recommended that monies from the Community Fund under the County Development Contribution Scheme, be put into a sinking fund on an annual basis. This sinking funding could then be utilized as required across the County.

This budget would be made up of monies reallocated from current GMA allocations to each MD. In all subsequent years, a budget must be allocated to those CCTV systems in operation in the County, together with those recommended by the CCTV Oversight Board. This board would be a cross-departmental working group established by the Management Team to support the implementation of a new CCTV Policy.

Finally, Brian Beck stated that these types of CCTV Systems are a Department of Justice issue, but the costs under this model will reside with the Local Authority. He also stated that ongoing maintenance will need to be dealt with by Local Authorities as there is an expectation that when CCTV systems are installed, they must work at all times.

Cllr Moloney stated that he had concerns that Local Authorities could end up taking on the work of the Department of Justice, but that the costs would be borne by the MDs. He also stated that he acknowledged the need for a policy on CCTV.

Cllr Darcy stated that he agreed with Cllr Moloney about the costs which he also has concerns about. He further stated that he had actively campaigned for CCTV for Borrisokane for several years due to the fact that the road network convergence meant that criminals often passed through the town after committing crimes. He also acknowledged the need for a policy on CCTV.

Cllr Crosse stated that he also had concerns about funding. He stated that there would be costs in the future when systems will need to be enhanced and expanded and under the proposed system, these additional costs would probably fall to the Local Authority. He acknowledged that CCTV does help in lowering crime and anti-social behaviour. However, he stated that Local Authorities should be given additional funding for CCTV.

Cllr Dennehy stated that he agreed that a policy was needed for Tipperary County Council. He further stated that other stakeholder should co-fund CCTV.

Brian Beck stated that he understood and acknowledged the comments made in particular in relation to funding. He further stated that the Council will need to look at all opportunities for funding as the costs will have an impact on Budgets.

Cllr Ryan stated that members should be given some time to consider the implications of the policy. She also asked if a private company decided to offer CCTV at a cost, would the proposed policy cover this? Brian Beck stated that the policy would not cover this as it refers to Community CCTV only.

It was agreed that SPC members would reconvene to discuss the matter after giving the policy further consideration.

Item 3: Update on the LECF Framework Document by Margo Hayes

Margo Hayes gave an update on the progress made with the LECF Framework document. She stated that the plan sets out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic and community development of the county and that it was a multi-agency plan. She further stated that the high-level goals will set out the direction of the plan. The high-level goals are:

- Community
- Enterprise
- Climate Action
- Education and Skills
- Heritage and Culture

Margo Hayes stated that each of the high-level goals were underpinned by developing an agreed set of related objectives. She then proceeded to go through these objectives which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Margo Hayes finished her presentation by stating that there was still time to make amendments but these would need to be flagged quickly given the timeline for adopting the plan.

Cllr Ryan stated that it was clear that a great deal of work had gone into the plan and that all elected members should read the document. Margo Hayes stated that it was on the Council website.

Item 4: Update on the Museum Service by Marie McMahon

Marie McMahon provided an update on the Museum Service. She stated that the Museum Service was currently working on two major projects. The Museum recently received a donation from the family of the late Paddy Cashin. Paddy Cashin was a photographer who was synonymous with Clonmel. The Museum received a large collection of photographs from the 1970s to the 1990s. The Museum created an exhibition with these materials which was very well received. In addition, a selection of these photos were digitised and uploaded to the Museum website.

The second project entitled Rock – Paper – Scissors, is an exhibition and documentary tracing the steps of two diverse groups learning new traditional Irish skills and crafts. Marie McMahon stated that the exhibition explores craft as a universal tool that celebrates our shared experiences of identity, place and nature. Traditional skills were explored in a series of workshops in stonemasonry, woodcarving, basketry and sewing. Participants included

students from Coláiste Shliabh na mBan, Clonmel and the Ukrainian community living in Clonmel.

Cllr Ryan thanked Marie McMahon for the update and stated that she was delighted to see the work of the late Paddy Cashin being highlighted in the exhibition and online.

Cllr Ambrose thanked Marie McMahon and the Museum Staff for the work that was put into the Paddy Cashin exhibition. She also acknowledged the work that the Clonmel Camera Club put in also.

Item 5: Update on the Arts Service by Melanie Scott

Melanie Scott, Arts Officer gave SPC members a virtual tour of the new *Tipperary Artist Directory*, <https://tipperaryarts.ie/>. This is a new website showcasing professional Tipperary Artists which was launched in early October. Melanie Scott stated that this website is designed to act as a resource to promote the work of artists and arts practitioners living and/or working in Tipperary. The directory includes contact details, information about artists, images and links to websites and other work of Tipperary artists, across all art-forms, which can be used as a resource for festivals, curators, producers, collectors and collaborators. This directory was developed in a collaboration between Tipperary Arts Office and the Information Technology Department of Tipperary County Council and can be accessed at <https://tipperaryarts.ie/> or by visiting the Arts section of the Tipperary County Council website.

Cllr Moloney thanked Melanie Scott for her update. He stated that the Artists Database would be a very useful tool and that all members should promote it as a resource. He also stated that Culture Night was a huge success in County Tipperary. He further stated that consideration should be given to expanding it to a multi-night festival and suggested a Culture weekend with a high-quality closing event.

Cllr Darcy stated that he agreed with Cllr Moloney that Culture night should be expanded due to success and interest in the event. Cllr Darcy also praised the Artists Database and thanked Melanie Scott for demonstrating it to the meeting.

Item 6: Update on the Heritage Service by Damien Dullaghan

Damien Dullaghan gave an update for the Heritage Section. He stated that grant funded heritage projects are entering final phase in advance of grant drawdowns which will take place next month. He further stated that two films have been completed on Charles Bianconi and will be launched before Christmas.

Damien Dullaghan stated that the Heritage Week grant scheme was very successful again this year. One highlight was a collaboration with Planning Section and Tipperary Museum of Hidden History. *Reinventing the Past: Old Houses New Homes* was a seminar for owners of vacant and old properties and it took place at the TUS Campus in Thurles on 17th June. There was a range of talks on practical examples of re purposing old buildings and practical advice and information on supports from our Fire Officer, Vacant properties officer and Acting Senior Executive Planner.

Damien Dullaghan stated that Biodiversity programme for 2023 is almost completed and a new Biodiversity Officer will commence employment with Tipperary County Council in the coming weeks who will take on responsibility for biodiversity going forward.

Damien Dullaghan stated that the Irish Walled Town Network project for 2023 was completed and grant drawdowns had been finished. One positive outcome of this funding was a story map for the 4 walled towns in Tipperary will go live shortly.

Damien Dullaghan stated that the Creative Ireland projects are all in the final phase. Highlights this year include *The Crop, The Shop and The Table* by Aoife Barrett and a documentary on handball which will be launched soon. An additional €20k was secured by the Heritage Office for a social prescribing project which is currently taking place around the county.

Seven Projects received funding under Community Monuments Fund this year and all are nearing completion. Boolaban castle has been finished as has Kilnarath church, both of these projects have been completed over two years with a total investment of almost €400k

Damien Dullaghan gave an update on the Royal Sites of Ireland Bid. He stated a mapping of Outstanding Universal Value attributes is almost complete. This is a key piece of work which is required to be completed in order to begin the community engagement and nomination process. Meetings are ongoing with the Department on the MOU for the project and Tipperary County Council will be recruiting a Royal Sites Project Co-Ordinator in the coming months to help with this.

Cllr Moloney stated that Heritage Week had a great impact and also outlined how one event in Cahir had attracted a crowd of over 5,000. He further stated that these numbers brought in additional commercial benefits for local shops and restaurants.

Item 7: Update on the Library Service – Damien Dullaghan

Damien Dullaghan gave an update on the Library Service. He gave a brief overview on the Children's Book Festival which was taking place for the month of October. He stated that Library services have been organising Children's Book Festival events for many years, and Tipperary County Council has always made it a central focus of the annual Library programming calendar. This year's event was launched in Nenagh Library by Cllr Ger Darcy,

Cathaoirleach, Tipperary County Council with students from local schools attending an interactive event with Old Father Story.

Damien Dullaghan also gave a brief overview on the new Tipperary County Council Library Service Website. He stated that the website had been completely overhauled and a considerable amount of work had gone into the new website. He stated that the new site was very interactive and user friendly and would be updated on a continuous basis

Damien Dullaghan gave an update on new additions to the Tipperary Studies website. He stated that Library staff recently digitised the collection of Thurles photographer Ned O'Shea. He stated that Ned had a keen eye for detail. His photographs document events and characters of Thurles. The collection also includes a number of Michael Scanlan photographs of the R.I.C. evacuating the barracks on Friar Street in 1922. Donated for digitisation by the O'Shea family, Ned's work is dedicated to his daughter, Maureen O'Shea. In 1995, Maureen made Thurles proud by securing two silver medals for Ireland in the Special Olympics held in the USA.

Cllr Ambrose asked for an update on the design team's progress on the new Library for Clonmel. Damien Dullaghan stated that the first phase of the design was almost complete and he would revert back to elected members once this was completed.

Cllr Ryan highlighted a recent initiative in Tipperary Town Library where the Library offered Library users an opportunity to donate Halloween costumes and swap them for other ones received. Cllr Ryan stated that she thought this was an excellent initiative which promoted sustainability.

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Cllr Dennehy referred to the proposal to name Carrick-on-Suir Town Park after the Clancy Brothers and asked Damien Dullaghan if this could be done. Damien Dullaghan stated that the Civic Memorial Policy does not allow for parks, fire stations, libraries and utility facilities to be named after individuals or events. A discussion then took place regarding this and it was acknowledged that this matter may be referred from the Plenary Council back to this SPC for further consideration.

Dates of future meetings

The next meeting has been scheduled for

Friday 1st December at 10:00am

This concluded the business of the Meeting.

Signed: _____

Councillor Andy Moloney, Chairperson.

Date: _____, 2023