

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE IN COUNTY  
BUILDINGS**

**Present:** Irene Sweeney, John Mullen, Gertie Salley, Cllr Pat Kennedy, Cllr Nicola Lawless, Cllr Grainne McLoughlin, Cllr Miriam Murphy, Cllr Jim Ruttle (Chair)

**In Attendance:** Michael Nicholson, Martina Byrne, Brendan Martin, Denise O'Shea, Andrew McBride, Mary Tuite

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**{1} Adoption of the Minutes**

Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March was proposed by Cllr Nicola Lawless and seconded by Cllr Grainne McLoughlin.

**{2} Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**{3} Comhairle na nÓg Presentation**

Cllr Jim Ruttle welcomed Dermot O'Brien and Tanya Hoskins from the Comhairle na nÓg. Dermot O'Brien, Co-Ordinator informed members that the Comhairle had introduced new branding to help increase the visibility of the Comhairle. He felt the coverage in Countywise had highlighted the profile of the Comhairle. The two issues being focussed on at present were the provision of a Cyber Bullying Charter and Youth Homelessness. An on-line consultation had taken place, surveying 1,000 young people and a Cyber Bullying Charter had been prepared which would be put into school diaries and displayed on posters in the school. They had also facilitated workshops in schools to highlight the Foróige Citizenship Awards.

With regards to the issue of youth homelessness Dermot said it was important for young people to be aware of the complexity of the issue and the conversation around homelessness needed to be more accessible. A printed card focussing on the issues had been printed and would be distributed through schools, doctors surgeries etc.

Cllr Miriam Murphy extended an invitation to the Comhairle to speak at the next meeting of the Arklow Social Network and asked that one of the next issues they focus on might be Disability.

Members expressed their appreciation of the great work being done by the Comhairle and said it was so important that young people have their say about social issues and the importance of the SPC being kept informed by young people of services needed.

#### **{4} Age Friendly Update**

Richella Wood provided an update on progress undertaken under the Age Friendly Strategy. Cllr Pat Kennedy complimented Richella on her work with older people and suggested she ask Community Garda to call and visit older people when possible.

Cllr Grainne McLoughlin suggested there should be a strategy for employment for older people aged 50-65. A policy which would encourage older people back to work. Irene Sweeney suggested integration with the Youth Services – pensioners could help with running events and be compensated with free tickets etc. Involvement in the community would have a positive impact on health.

#### **{5} Updates -**

##### **Playgrounds 2018 -**

**Greystones** refurbishment nearly completed. Will be the first fully accessible playground in Ireland. Expected to open July/August.

**Roundwood /Laragh** - just accepted contracts

**Newtownmountkennedy** - negotiating with Coillte.

**Annacurragh** - On Church land - WCC supporting LEADER funding and will take in charge when completed.

Cllr Nicola Lawless raised the issue of concern amongst Newtown residents around the playground which some believed would be for teenagers and could cause anti-social behaviour. Michael Nicholson replied that playgrounds are built for children and he would clarify this with Newtown Forum.

**Celtic Routes** - Contracts underway.

**CLÁR** - no decision on project yet from the Department.

**Healthy Ireland** - Applied for funding for Disability Wheelchair. Brendan Martin suggested that the disability wheelchairs in the libraries could be used around towns as they were under utilised in the libraries.

**Town and Village Renewal** - 12 applications per county to be submitted and best in the country to be funded.

**Avondale Forest Park** - This is a €35m joint project between Coillte and Fáilte Ireland and it was expected that an application for planning permission would be made shortly.

**Fáilte Ireland Festival Grants** - Six festivals have been funded under this scheme.

**Ronnie Delaney Sculpture** - Three tenders have been submitted and a tender evaluation will take place in the coming weeks.

**Arklow Pottery Museum** - First set of drawings have been prepared. A planning application to be progressed and funding sought.

**Creative Ireland** - An update on Creative Ireland was circulated .

**Community CCTV** - Funding has been provided. Arklow Town has gone to tender and it is expected that Wicklow and Greystones will be underway by new year.

**Katie Taylor Bursary** – Details of bursary would be sent out to colleges. Members enquired why the previous request from the SPC committed that Katie Taylors name be removed from the bursary has not materialised. This recommendation was made in light of Katie Taylor's complete lack of engagement with the bursary and members felt as she had now turned professional that her name should definitely not be associated with the award. Michael Nicholson explained that he had brought this request to the Protocol Committee and it has been rejected. It was proposed by Cllr Grainne McLoughlin and seconded by Cllr Miriam Murphy that the recommendation from the SPC be brought back to the Protocol Committee again as members felt very strongly that it should now be called the Local Sports Partnership Bursary.

**Pride of Place** - Three projects has been chosen for Pride of Place 2018.

- Rathdrum Town – including the Famine Graveyard, redevelopment of the square, Avondale Forest Park and Parnell Memorial Park.
- Tinahely Courthouse Arts Centre
- Wicklow Hospice Foundation.

**{6} Community Grants 2018** - Details of this years Community Grants circulated.

**{7} People of the Year Awards 2018** – These awards are in partnership with The People Newspapers and Wicklow Hospice Foundation. All proceeds to Wicklow Hospice Foundation. Award ceremony to take place in the Glenview Hotel on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Members invited to put forward nominations.

#### **{8} Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee Update**

Newly expanded committee now up and running, covering all aspects of Outdoor Recreation in the county including the preparation of a new Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Co. Wicklow.

#### **{9} Details of new funding schemes**

**Community Enhancement Programme** - The fund for Wicklow was €141K. All projects must be approved by LCDC. It was agreed at the last LCDC meeting that 30% of the scheme be allocated to small capital projects and 70% for one large project in each MD, prioritising urban development. Any ideas to be emailed into the CCSD section. Closing date 30<sup>th</sup> July.

**Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme** - Three strands to this scheme for small , medium and large scale projects.

**{10} Library Update** – Brendan Martin circulated an update with details on -

- Wicklow Town Library
- Mobile Library Tender
- West Wicklow Poetry Bus
- Career Guidance Event at Arklow Library on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

**{11} Local Sports Partnership Update** – circulated to members covering –

- Park Runs
- National Gaelic4Teens Blitz Day (Women in sport)
- Workshops
- Training & Education 2018
- Street Feast
- Future Events and Programmes

**{12} Leisure Centres in Arklow and Wicklow**

Licence for these centres was up for renewal, it had been advertised and Coral Leisure were given a further 10 year licence. Both centres need a refurbishment and this process would start shortly.

Cllr Grainne McLoughlin asked that a letter of congratulations be sent from the SPC to Shoreline Leisure, Greystones who were recently voted Ireland's Overall Leisure Centre Award 2018 by Ireland Active at the annual White Flag Awards. This is the third time the Greystones club has won the award and in doing so, become the only club in Ireland to occupy the top spot three times.

**{13} Wicklow Gaol**

Wicklow Gaol had received a grant of €200K from Fáilte Ireland for their storytelling programme.

**{14} Greenways**

The national Greenway Strategy is now completed. Funding for Greenways is very competitive and the focus is on tourism appeal. An application for funding for Blessington Greenway will be made.

**{15} Any Other Business**

Martina Byrne was welcomed to the section and tributes were paid to all the staff and the Director of CCSD and in particular to Theresa O'Brien whom members said had always dealt with matters in an efficient and friendly manner. Michael Nicholson also paid tribute to his staff for their excellent work.

**{16} Date of next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in September, date to be advised.

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

**Cllr JIM RUTTLE  
CHAIR**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

10/10/18