



## Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

### Housing, Community and Cultural Development SPC

**10<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Swift Room, Buvinda House, Navan**

**Attendees -**

**Councillors:**

Cllr Sarah Reilly (Chairperson), Cllr Maria Murphy, Cllr Maria O' Kane, Cllr Nick Killian, Cllr Pdraig Fitzsimons, Cllr Sharon Keogan

Apologies: Cllr Caroline Lynch, Cllr Gillian Toole

**Attendees -**

**Sectoral**

Niamh Ui Loinsigh, Robert Bradley,

**Representatives:**

Apologies:, Vicky Harris, Cathy Whelan, Liam Carey

**Officials:**

Barry Lynch, Fiona Fallon, Karen Dalton, Ciaran Mangan, David Jones

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></b></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 were approved. Proposed by N. Ui Loinsigh, seconded by Cllr Killian.</p>
2.	<p><b><u>Matters Arising</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Killian queried the current position in respect to land acquisition for the purposes of social housing, as well as the need to secure Part V units upfront within any proposed private development.</li> <li>▪ It was confirmed that a number of submissions are currently being assessed as a result of an Expression of Interest advertised early this year. It was also noted that in negotiations on Part V with developesr, the preference is always to secure the appropriate mix of units as early as possible within the development.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>To Receive details on the proposed Community Grants Allocations for 2018 and if Deemed Appropriate Recommend Approval to the Full Council of Meath County Council</u></b></p> <p>F. Fallon outlined the proposed Community Grants Allocations for 2018 (details circulated to members present). The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 370 applications received</li> <li>▪ 8 applications deemed ineligible</li> <li>▪ Reduction in applications received under the category of Resident Associations</li> <li>▪ Deadline for receipt of applications had been extended due to Storm Emma</li> </ul> <p>The proposed allocations were approved as outlined. Proposed by Cllr Burke and seconded by Cllr</p>



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	<p>Fitzsimons.</p> <p>Appreciation was conveyed to F. Fallon and Community Team on the advancement of the 2018 Community Grants Scheme by the members present.</p> <p>Members were asked to maintain as confidential the information circulated until finally approved by full Council</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b><u>To receive details of the Proposed 2018 Meath Pride of Place Awards Scheme</u></b></p> <p>K. Dalton provided a review of the 2017 Pride of Place Awards Scheme, and proposed Scheme for 2018 (document circulated to members present). The following points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 85 groups who participated were awarded at least one prize in 2017</li> <li>▪ 70 schools participated in the Schools Pride of Place Gardening Scheme</li> <li>▪ 4 groups were selected to represent Meath at the Cooperation Ireland Pride of Place competition</li> <li>▪ 2018 Pride of Place to be advertised week ending 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018, with closing date of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018</li> <li>▪ Simplified application form to be introduced</li> <li>▪ New categories proposed re: Best Presented Front Garden, Village/Townland &gt;500 and Residential Streetscape</li> </ul> <p>The work involved on the Pride of Place Awards Scheme was commended by members present. Discussion took place regarding the venue for the County Awards Ceremony, with the overall view that the Solstice Arts Centre should be used again but to investigate the use of the venue's other rooms that could be utilised also.</p> <p>The work and commitment of volunteers in the County was acknowledged, and the shift towards a focus at Municipal District level was reflective of same. It was suggested that a presentation on Pride of Place be made at future meetings of the Municipal Districts.</p> <p>The proposed Pride of Place Competition 2018 was confirmed, and it was agreed that the Best Presented Front Garden would not be restricted to estates only.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>To Consider the following Notice of Motion (Cllr Sarah Reilly), referred to the SPC</u></b></p> <p>"To call on Meath County Council to establish a Meath Gaeltacht Scholarship scheme to promote the Irish language"</p> <p><b><u>Supporting Information subject to the motion being proposed, seconded and considered.</u></b></p> <p>Meath County Council is committed to investigating the establishment of a Gaeltacht Scholarship Scheme to assist in the promotion and development of the Irish language, through attendance at approved Irish Language courses in Gaeltacht areas during the summer months. The matter will be referred to the Housing Community and Cultural SPC for further investigation and consideration.</p>

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	<p>The Notice of Motion was also discussed also in the context of Agenda Item no. 6.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ C. Mangan noted that Gaeltacht Scholarships represent a practical means of promoting the Irish language and was in favour of introducing same. Various Local Authorities have introduced different models, and same will be investigated to identify the most beneficial model for Co. Meath. The introduction of a Gaeltacht Scholarship will complement well with the aims of Bliain na Gaeilge 2018</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on Creative Ireland</u></b></p> <p>C. Mangan provided an update on Creative Ireland and noted the following general points with regard to Creative Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Culture team in place, comprised of the relevant Officers</li> <li>▪ €1.8m announced nationally under Pillar 3 within the context of a five year plan</li> <li>▪ Each Local Authority received €64K which was utilised in Co. Meath to top up existing schemes</li> <li>▪ €96k allocated in 2018 and a further €5k and 10k allocated to the Decade of Centenaries and Cruinniú na nOg respectively</li> <li>▪ Creative Ireland is not a funding agency, an arts programme, a show case or permanent</li> <li>▪ Creative Ireland does not represent a new strategy, but rather to ensure that existing strategies complement each other</li> <li>▪ Need to align the ambition of the national strategy to local level, which will require investment in local culture related infrastructure and human resources</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Bliain na Gaeilge</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Main activities to be supported included scholarships, classes, conversation classes, lectures, debates and exhibitions</li> <li>▪ Key aims are to promote the revival of the language, including its creativity and vibrancy.. Also, to secure the participation of the community and to value our gaeltachtaí</li> <li>▪ Reference to on line Irish tutorial available in the Library and non school setting classes</li> <li>▪ Noted that there was a need to shape Irish in a different light than traditionally has been the case</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Decade of Centenaries</u></b></p> <p>Use of funding towards small scale projects or programmes in connection with the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Death of John Redmond</li> <li>▪ End of World War 1 – reference to Oldcastle Camp 1914-1918</li> <li>▪ Introduction of voting rights for women – reference to seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Buvinda House</li> <li>▪ The rise of radical Irish Nationalism and the consolidation of Ulster Unionism</li> </ul> <p>Members present welcomed the presentation and the wealth of information provided by C. Mangan, and commended the work being undertaken across Meath County Council’s Cultural team.</p> <p>Information packs including a sample of information pertaining to Creative Ireland were circulated to members present.</p>



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7.	<p><b><u>To Receive an Update on the Roll-out of Radio Frequency Identification Self-Service Technology (Library Service)</u></b></p> <p>C. Mangan provided a presentation on the roll out of the Radio Frequency Self-Service Technology, and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 3,000 items currently within the Library collection</li> <li>▪ All items have now been barcoded. Navan Library branch went live on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018, with 1,600 items gone through the RFID already</li> <li>▪ Confirmed that library cards are still required, and that the kiosks are disabled accessible</li> <li>▪ Key advantage of system is the freeing up of staff time to deal with patron’s queries</li> <li>▪ Grant received to implement same was €206,000, with match funding of €70,000 from MCC own resources</li> </ul> <p>Members present welcomed the introduction of RFID and the proactivity shown locally by the Library Service on the matter.</p>
8.	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cllr Burke queried if a recent national call for funding regarding playgrounds was for public playgrounds only. It was confirmed that this was the case, with funding available under two categories, namely installation of new playgrounds and refurbishments. It was noted that the closing date for receipt of applications was 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018.</li> <li>▪ Cllr Burke suggested that the SPC might consider receiving a presentation from the Disability Federation of Ireland regarding a toolkit that has been developed in the context of the recent adoption by Ireland of the UN Convention on Disability</li> <li>▪ Next meeting to take place on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018, 2.30pm</li> </ul>

**Recommendations to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG)**

- To Approve the proposed Community Grants Allocations for 2018 as presented