

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: corporate.services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Wednesday 4th December 2024

To Each Member of the Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Dear Member

A meeting of the **Community, Sports and Culture Strategic Policy Committee** will be held at **4.30 pm** on **Wednesday, 11th December, 2024, via MS Teams** to consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

Nikki Halleran
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services

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A G E N D A

- 1 Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community Development, Heritage Culture & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on 27th March 2024**
- 2 Department Updates on 2024 Work Programme**

**Comhairle Contae Fingal
Fingal County Council**

Minutes of Community, Sports and Culture SPC

Held on MS Teams Wednesday, 27th March, 2024

PRESENT

Elected Members

Members/Others

Councillor Joan Hopkins – Chair
Councillor John Walsh
Councillor Brendan Ryan
Councillor Grainne Maguire

N/A

Absent

Abi Wise PPN Representative
Councillor Cathal Boland
Councillor JK Onwumereh

Apologies

N/A

Council Officials

Paul Carroll	Director of Services	Housing & Community
Naomi Weir	Senior Executive Officer	Community
Betty Boardman	County Librarian	Libraries
Lilian Whelan	Senior Executive Librarian	Libraries
Gerard Reardon	Principal Sports Officer	Sports
Christine Baker	Heritage Officer	EETCD
Tricia Matthews	Administrative Officer	Community
Rosanne Martin	Senior Staff Officer	Community

SPC/1/24 (Agenda Item No 1)

**Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Community
Development, Heritage Culture & Creativity SPC meeting held on 13th
December 2023**

The minutes were proposed by Councillor Ryan and seconded by Councillor Walsh.

SPC/2/24 (Agenda Item No 2)

Work Plan 2024

Naomi Weir Senior Executive Officer, discussed the policies that are to be presented to the SPC throughout 2024 which include:

- Community Development Strategy
- Age Friendly Strategy
- Community Integration
- Sports Facilities Audit
- Local Sport & Physical Activity Plan 2024-2029
- Review of Community Grant Schemes
- Fingal Library Service Development Plan 2024 – 2029
- Review of Sports Grant Schemes
- Public Art Policy
- Review of 2003 Arts Act funding scheme
- Youth & Education Policy
- County Arts Plan Review
- Fingal Heritage Plan 2024-2030

Cllr Ryan enquired about the date of the June 2024 SPC considering a new Council will be elected in June 2024. Naomi Weir Senior Executive Officer advised the date is currently agreed by the current members and set corporately for 26th June; however, the Community Dept will make Corporate aware of the proximity of the next SPC to the newly elected Council dates.

Cllr Maguire enquired how we evaluate plans/strategies. Naomi Weir Senior Executive Officer explained that the CE monthly report and Annual Report outlines the progress made in key areas. Betty Boardman County Librarian also advised that the Annual Service Delivery Plan lists out departmental strategies and objectives which measure accomplishments.

Cllr Walsh enquired if the Childcare committee would feature on the 2024 workplan. Naomi Weir Senior Executive Officer advised that currently it is not on

the workplan as it is not a specific strategy or policy for review. The topic remains open to discuss should the need arise throughout the year. Cllr Walsh suggested the possibility of setting up working groups at the beginning of the year to progress and prioritise matters early.

The workplan was proposed by Councillor Maguire and seconded by Councillor Walsh.

SPC/3/24 (Agenda Item No 3)

Fingal Heritage Plan 2024 - 2030

Christine Baker, Heritage Officer gave the committee a presentation on the Fingal Heritage Plan 2024 – 2030 which was launched on 1st March 2024, the main points to note were:

Plan for the implementation of the following projects:

- Blas: Fingal's Food Heritage- Phase 2
- Fingal Oral History Audit
- Fingal Coastal Zone project
- Fingal Traditional Skills
- Community Graveyard Surveys

Community Monuments Fund 2024

- Lanistown Castle, Donabate Conservation Works
- Mulhuddart Church Conservation works
- Balrothery Tower House Works (Phase 2)
- St Columba's Towers, Swords, Works (Phase 3)
- St Doulough's Conservation Management Plan
- St Fintan's, Sutton, Conservation Management Plan

Cllrs Hopkins, Ryan & Walsh enquired on FCC's comparative spend and staffing to other Local Authorities. Christine Baker Heritage Officer advised that Fingal County Council has a substantial budget in this area and rank in the top four in comparison to other Local Authorities.

SPC/4/24 (Agenda Item No 4)

Update on Creative Ireland - Funding Call and Cruinniú na nÓg

Lilian Whelan, Senior Executive Librarian gave the committee a presentation on the Update on Creative Ireland - Funding Call and Cruinniú na nÓg, the main points to note were:

Creative Communities open call from the following:

- Community engagement
- Fingal based
- Creative practitioner led
- €5-€10 k per award
- 4/5 awards
- Open until 29th March
- Widely advertised, website, social media etc
- Projects to be linked to one of the 5 main themes of Creative Fingal strategy

Voice of the Child:

- Informing our decision making around Cruinniú
- Online consultation
- Surveys distributed through libraries & schools
- Lots of feedback
- Music & rap, art, author visits, STEM activities

Cruinniú na nÓg:

- 15th June
- Library programme
- Orchestral experience-schools in Swords, performance in Carnegie library
- Evening event for children and young people in Millennium Park, Blanchardstown
- 2 stages- musical performance
- Creative zone

Commemorations Programme 2024:

- Allocation of €15,000
- €5,000 for an artistic/creative programme
- Proposed project:
- Democracy and local government in North Dublin in the period 1924- 1930's
- Research project, published work
- Creative project, possible portrait of a prominent figure in North Dublin politics at the time

Creativity in older age shared island project:

- Cross border Alzheimer's choir
- 2 years
- €50,000
- Forget-me-nots and CAP Belfast
- Cross border trips
- Activities
- Song commissioned
- Video diary

Cllrs Ryan, Hopkins and Walsh welcomed the north Dublin history project which will focus on Democracy and local government in North Dublin in the period 1924- 1930's. Suggestions were made that the focus of the project should be placed on a female, involved in trade union activities.

Lilian Whelan Senior Executive Librarian advised the Cllr's that the plans were in an early stage, but she would mention their suggestions and ideas.

Lilian Whelan Senior Executive Librarian also advised Cllr Walsh that the Cruinniú na nÓg programme of events will be launched ASAP.

SPC/5/24 (Agenda Item No 5)

Local Sport & Physical Activity Plan 2024 - 2029

Gerard Reardon, Principal Sports Officer gave the committee a verbal update on the Local Sport & Physical Activity Plan 2024 – 2029, the main points to note were:

- S3 Solutions were hired to prepare the Plan
- Plan contains six commitments:
- Making Sport & Physical Activity a priority
- Improving opportunities and choices for everyone to be active
- Raise the profile and visibility of Sport & Physical Activity
- Focus on participation in the outdoors
- Enhance our access to quality sport and physical activity facilities
- Stakeholder Collaboration

Cllr Hopkins commended the plan and its progressiveness. She mentioned the requirement for needs-based facilities, which the Sports Facilities Audit will hopefully show.

Cllr's Hopkins and Maguire complimented the Sports Dept on the installation of the volleyball nets on Balbriggan beach which are being put to great use by the community.

Cllr Maguire commended the sports Dept for their 'outside the box thinking' and welcomed the results of the Sports Audit which has yet to be finalised.

SPC/6/24 (Agenda Item No 6)

Councillor J. Hopkins - Shared Pool Facilities Partnership Pilot with a Third Party Agency - St. Michael's House, Baldoyle - AI095372

"That the Chief Executive consider entering into a pilot partnership with a 3rd party to run a swimming pool, for example the pool belonging to St. Michael's House in Baldoyle has been closed to the hospital and the public since Covid as St. Michael's House does not have the €150,000 annual running costs required."

A written report was provided as follows:

Currently there is no funding provided in the annual budget for the request, however the Sports Section will meet with St Michael's House staff and review the facilities.

Cllr Hopkins thanked the Sports team for their support and for engaging with St. Michael's House, she stated she hoped for a favourable outcome.

The Motion was proposed by Councillor Hopkins and seconded by Councillor Maguire

The Meeting concluded at 5:30pm

AREA CHAIRPERSON

DATED

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY, SPORTS & CULTURE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2024

ITEM 02

DEPARTMENT UPDATES ON 2024 WORK PROGRAMME

Work Plan Item	Speaker	Format
Libraries	Susan Lovatt, Senior Executive Librarian	Report
Community Development Strategy	Linda Ennis, Principal Community Officer	Report
Age Friendly Strategy 2024 - 2028	Naomi Weir Senior Executive Officer	Report
Community Integration	Adrian O'Reilly, Integration Support Worker	Report
Sports Office Update	Chloe O'Farrell, Senior Sports Officer	Report
Review of Sports Grant Schemes	Chloe O'Farrell, Senior Sports Officer	Report
Review of 2003 Arts Act funding scheme	Sarah O'Neill, County Arts Officer	Report

Youth & Education Policy		Julie Clarke, Youth and Education Officer	Report
Public Art Policy	Caroline Cowley, Public Arts Co-Ordinator	Presentation	

Library Department –2024 Update

Launch of the Library Development Plan 2024-2029: Below is an overview of our actions in implementing the plan.

In the area of libraries providing a democratic space, Balbriggan library was awarded the title of Library of Sanctuary showing that all Fingal libraries are an open place for all. We enhanced are collections with new titles, added Kanopy a cultural and documentary streaming service along with the continued digitalization of our local history records.

In 2024, we began the process of introducing My Open Library technology into the newly refurbished & extended Skerries Library, which will commence operation in the months following the reopening of the library in Q2 2025. Donabate library will be relocating to Ballisk House during 2025 & the new library will see My Open Library operating in this new location. Blanchardstown & Malahide Library will see enabling works begin early in 2025 & both libraries will operate with extended opening hours through My Open Library later in 2025. Our MOL library Baldoyle is closed for renovation & improvement works currently & will reopen in Q3 2025.

Many actions have been covered in our library programming of events. An overview below.

Library programming and events.

The programming team in libraries were responsible for the roll out of an extensive calendar of events, workshops and talks across all ten library branches and at external events such as festivals and exhibitions. Over 55,000 people attended talks, workshops, and exhibitions in Fingal libraries in 2024.

We programme across the following areas: Skills for life including literacy. This includes financial, digital, and physical literacy.

- Children's and school events which include class visits and workshops by some of the best authors and illustrators working in Ireland at present.
- Age friendly events such as chair yoga and arts and crafts
- STEM including Lego building, engineering workshops and maths.
- Healthy Ireland events including talks on nutrition, menopause, anxiety, and mindfulness.
- Europe Direct events
- Events as Gaeilge for adults and children

The programming team also managed the following larger scale events.

- The Magic of Stories children's; literature event in Sword's castle which attracted over 2100 people this year September 2024
- The Festival of History in the new Carnegie library. A one-day event with concurrent events across the branch network October 2024
- The Write-time festival a celebration of the written word. This was a new 2-day event in the new Carnegie library in November 2024

Fingal libraries also attended at the following off-site events:

- The opening of Meakstown community centre
- Flavours of Fingal
- TY expo at the Helix
- Vintage Picnic

This year we also:

- Launched the Fingal Book Bike which was funded as part of the CE innovation fund.
- Launched two new story trails in St Catherines and Santry Demesne
- Welcomed the Lithuanian ambassador to Malahide library.
- Welcomed the Japanese ambassador to Blanchardstown.
- Worked with Fingal Community College and author Chris Judge to create a mural and graphic novel for the SCQ.

Coordination the implementation of Creative Ireland programme

84 Creative Ireland initiatives took place across the county in 2024, attended by almost **75,000** people.

Projects across various art forms, including all demographics with the inclusion of hard-to-reach and marginalised communities. Strong collaboration with other Council departments. These included:

- Festival in a Van - *Sounds like Summer*
- Tour of Fingal
- Brigid in Balbriggan
- The Magic of Stories Fingal Festival of Children's Literature
- Vintage Picnic
- Sustainable Art and Fashion workshops across communities including with Prosper Fingal, Forget Me Not Café, residential care homes, a COPD support group and Senior Citizen groups.

Community Grants awarded through an Open Call:

- Umoja - Let's Unite
- Helium Arts in Baleskin Reception Centre/Artist in residence in Connolly Hospital
- Song Tales sa Speir
- Weaving the threads of heritage
- Garden Party Crafternoons in The Séamus Ennis Arts Centre
- Swords Youth Choir Summer Camp

Cruinniú na nÓg Programme:

- Voice of the Child consultation
- Library programme across the County
- Cruinniú Ambassador appointed - Christian Campbell Age 13
- Orchestral Odyssey - Arts Office
- Garageland Galaxy- flagship live youth music festival in Millennium Park

Shared Island

- “Sharing songs-unforgettable voices” with the Forget Me Nots choir, Baldoyle and This Is Me choir, Larne. Cross-border musical recitals. Visit to Baldoyle 23rd October Project to continue in 2025

Total funding of €321,751.87 Core funding - **€186,394.05** Cruinniú na nÓg - **€84,157.82** **€26,200** in additional funding awarded **€25,000** in Shared Island funding

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SPC meeting 11th December 2024

Update from the Community Development Office

Review of Community Grant Scheme

	Total Amount funded end of November '24	No of Groups	No of participants (approx.)
Community Activities	€290,199	129	
Summer Project	€61,290	32	2600+
Safer Halloween	€25,896	43	3000+
International Women's Day	€6833	29	700+
Positive Ageing Week	€1880	9	1500+
Fingal Inclusion Week	€13,750	56	
Remedial Funding for non-Fingal owned facilities	€112,224	6	

Age Friendly Strategy 2024 – 2028

This strategy is being developed by Fingal Age Friendly Alliance and supported by the community department

Consultations with stakeholders including the community have taken place, qalos including the migrant and traveller communities who are harder to reach cohorts.

First draft strategy to be available in 1st quarter 2025

Community Development Strategy

No progress as we are waiting to align our strategy to the new Corporate Plan 2025

Continuing to deliver under the pillars outlined in our Vision Statement, Integration Strategy, Age Friendly Strategy, Climate Action Strategy

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SPC Meeting 11th December 2024

Integration Office updates:

Fingal Migrant Integration Strategy:

Action Plan for 2024 is currently being review and completed. Annual Report to follow (not sure if I can/should say I'm doing this as an extra piece of work?)

We have begun the overall review and subsequent evaluation which is envisaged to take us into mid-2025 at which stage the it is envisaged the National Strategy will be launched.

The tender process for the Fingal 2026-2030 Strategy will follow once the staff are in place to allow this process to be completed.

LAIT:

The Team is now in place; Ethos of Integration from day one, providing one to one Clinic based support to BOTP (Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection) and IP (Internation Protection) cohorts covering 22 centres across Fingal.

The team have developed networks with relevant stakeholders and agencies which are used to collectively to address issues arising across the accommodation centres.

Development of Connections Expo type event to be used as template going forward; Howth Connections Expo 23rd October 2024.

Sample stats for Fingal (November 2024):

Geographical Area	BOTP Residents	IPAS Residents
North County	9	58
Mid-East	412	1637
Dublin 15	83	782
Total	522	2455

Integration:

Launch of Fingal's Step by Step Guide to becoming an Anti-Racist Organisation

Launch of Reporting Racist Incidences Signposting Campaign

Launch of National Anti-Racism Campaign with our "Building Bridges Forging Pathways Beyond Prejudice" Exhibition

Ukraine:

Older and Wiser Showcase Event 2nd December 2024

St Nicolas's Day Event 28th November 2024.

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Community, Culture & Sports SPC

11th December 2024

Sports Office Update

Fingal's Active, Together Local Sports Plan 2024 – 2029	FCC Sport Office launched the Fingal Local Sports Plan in Jan 2024, strategic framework focused on six key commitments: prioritising sports and physical activity; improving accessibility for everyone; raising the profile and visibility of sports activities; emphasising outdoor participation; enhancing quality facilities; and fostering stakeholder collaboration.
Fingal's Sport Facility Audit Update	Following feedback of a prior meeting, auditors KPMG facilitated an internal stakeholder meeting to present the current state of the audit with the hope to present to Elected members Q4 2024 – Q1 2025
Fingal's Sport Programme	Aligned with Fingal's new strategy, Fingal Sports Office now have staff representation in all Local Electoral Areas. Our goal is to have a suite of programmes in all main towns from young to old and ensuring their accessible and promoted to the local community.
Fingal's Sports Grant 2024 - 2025	Fingal's Sports Office movement from Community to new directorate of David Storey has required a new funding system for Sports Dept. Fingal funded 114 projects with a total committed for 2024 of €135,635. BalLuskRushSwords 68 projects BlanchMul 38 projects HowthMal 8 projects

	Current Grant – Up to €3000 for equipment (excludes everyday equipment used by clubs – balls etc) 2025 Large Sport Equipment Grant – Up to €4000 for larger equipment projects such as line markers, scoreboards, lawnmowers, gym equipment etc 2025 Minor Sport Equipment Grant – Up to €1500 for everyday equipment projects such as footballs, bats, rackets, bibs etc. Fingal's Minor Sport Equipment Grant €1500 can be accessed every year once previous year has been drawn down. Fingal's Large Sport Equipment Grant of €4000 may be applied for every second year. The Minor grant can be applied for during this gap year, clubs can only apply for one grant per year.
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2003 Arts Act:

Ahead of the relaunch of the Arts Act Grant Scheme in October, a thorough review process was undertaken to ensure the scheme aligns with the 2003 Arts Act, best practices and meets the evolving needs of the arts community.

The process began with extensive desk research, which included analysing similar schemes offered by other local authorities, national funding programmes, and best practice guidance provided by the Arts Council. Two consultation sessions were held, engaging over 30 past recipients of the scheme to gather valuable insights and feedback. These sessions were independently facilitated by Paula Phelan to ensure open and objective discussions. Findings from the research and consultations informed the development of comprehensive new guidelines and a streamlined online application form.

To support applicants during this transition, two funding clinics were delivered, one focusing on application best practices and the other on large event/festival-specific applications in collaboration with the Events Office, alongside one-to-one support for over 20 applicants. This structured approach has resulted in a more transparent, robust, and applicant-friendly scheme that supports both artistic excellence and administrative efficiency. The deadline to apply is Friday 13th December and the panel's recommendations will be presented to the Council at the February meeting.

Key changes include:

- one open call for applications in October each year
- application window will be 6-8 weeks
- recommendations by the panel will be shared at the February Council meeting
- applicants will be informed of decision directly after the February Council meeting.

Youth & Education Policy Update:

Following a mid-term review of the County Arts Plan a decision was made to assess the Youth & Education Programme (2005-2024) in Q1 which will inform the Youth & Education Policy update.

New Public Art Policy 2025 - 2027

The Arts Council are due to launch a new All Government Per Cent for Art Policy in 2025. This is a significant development for Public Art in Ireland. This policy acknowledges the work delivered through the Per Cent for Art Scheme over 40 years while streamlining and expanding the opportunities for its inclusion across all government led capital programmes. Public Art in Fingal has evolved over three decades, from Per Cent for Art funded schemes, inclusion across Fingal's own capital programmes and since the 2017 Development plan provision of Public Art is a condition of private residential and commercial developments. The new policy also aims to streamline our commissioning processes, specifically in the key areas of governance, community engagement, co-ordinated planning, procurement and maintenance while aligning with the council's commitments to climate, heritage, and EDI. To implement the policy, we have planned to develop a countywide Public Art Strategy which will map out how we will bring public art into the next decade. Fingal is currently the largest commissioner in Ireland, and we have always done it well, but this new policy will help us do it better.

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