

Fingal County Council

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Community Development SPC

Held on MS Teams 13th December 2023 @4.30pm

Present

Elected Members

Councillor Joan Hopkins – Chair
Councillor Cathal Boland
Councillor John Walsh
Councillor JK Onwumereh
Councillor Brendan Ryan

Members/Others

N/A

Council Officials

Betty Boardman	County Librarian	Libraries
Lilian Whelan	Senior Executive Librarian	Libraries
Linda Ennis	Principal Community Officer	Community
Gerard Reardon	Principal Sports Officer	Sports
Tricia Matthews	Administrative Officer	Community
Rosanne Martin	Senior Staff Officer	Community
Julie Clarke	Youth & Education Officer	Arts

Apologies

Councillor Grainne Maguire

Absent

Abi Wise PPN Representative

1. Confirmation and Re-affirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2023

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

2. Fingal Library Development Plan 2024 – 2029

Betty Boardman, County Librarian, gave the Committee a presentation on the Fingal Library Service Development Plan 2024 – 2029 which outlined the following main points:

- Definition of the Development Plan
- Methodology and Timeline
- Achievements 2018 – 2023
- Vision, Mission, and Values
- Theme 1: Space and Place

- Theme 2: Engagement and Collaboration
- Theme 3: Access and Inclusion
- Theme 4: Culture and Knowledge
- Results of schools and organisations survey
- Public Survey
- Ratings of library services

Cllr Walsh commended Libraries on their works particularly during the covid pandemic. He also praised the 'Maker Space' as a positive initiative in Dublin 15. Cllr Walsh enquired if history and heritage grants were available under the Creative Ireland scheme.

Betty Boardman advised that the Dublin 15 library is the flagship for 'Maker Space', and it is hoped to incorporate the initiative into other libraries in the future. Lilian Whelan advised that the call for Creative Ireland grant applications would be made between Jan – Feb 2024. There are no specific grants for history and heritage, any project can apply, it must be creative in nature.

Cllr Ryan enquired how Libraries were reaching out to non-Irish nationalities, he asked what democratic meant in the context of 'Space & Place.' He also enquired if any negatives were found when surveys were conducted.

Betty explained that a vast range of diverse backgrounds use libraries and the democratic meaning referred to the space being open to everyone, no matter who or where you are from. The negatives found in the survey were certain areas having lack of space, noise, lack of quiet spaces and some facilities being out of order i.e.: lifts.

Cllr Hopkins also commended the libraries; she enquired if water fountains, and recycling facilities could be introduced at Libraries and if they could make use of the outdoor space at Library facilities to enhance learning.

Betty will confirm if water fountains can be installed, and she mentioned that all patrons to the library are encouraged to bring home their waste. Skerries, Garristown, Rush and Baldoyle currently make use of their outside space.

Cllr Onwumereh praised the staff and services that the libraries offer to the community. He enquired when Multicultural day would take place in 2024.

Lilian advised that the libraries are currently planning their Spring events and this brochure will be released in early January.

Betty asked the committee if she had their permission to bring the Draft Fingal Library Development Plan 2024 – 2029 to the Full Council meeting in January 2024. All present agreed.

3. Update on the Review into the Council's Youth and Education Policy

Julie Clarke, Youth & Education Officer Fingal Arts Office gave the Committee a presentation on the Youth and Education Policy review, the main points to note were:

- Partnerships at the core of the policy
- Purpose of Review
- County Arts Plan 2019 – 2025 – Children & Young People

- Policy Landscape is Complex
- Music Generation Fingal
- Arts Council, An Invitation to Collaboration
- Creative Ireland 2017 – 2027
- Artform Development – Youth Dance in New & Diverse Communities
- Musician-in-Residence Programme 2019 – 2024
- Microforest An Art & Ecology Project at Blakestown Community School
- Dunsink Observatory: A New Partnership in Arts Education
- Policy Review Q1

Cllr Ryan enquired about the selection process for the Music in Residence programme and was Irish dancing being considered.

Julie advised that a county wide public call out was made in 2019. There were thirty-five applications of which twenty-five were selected. A mapping project is currently being undertaken to map all dance classes of which Irish dancing will be included.

Cllr Onwumereh enquired if the PPN are consulted and if there is youth participation.

Julie advised that it is hard to document youth participation and imagery. The PPN are consulted on the larger pieces of work.

Cllr Boland enquired if the IMMS in Balbriggan could be used as a stage space, as large theatre type venues could enhance the programme.

Julie advised that they do work with the IMMS and have a good relationship with them.

Cllr Hopkins enquired if enough money is being spent in the Arts and how needs are being met on a tight budget.

Julie advised that non DEIS schools were required to match fund.

4. Update on Fingal Countywide Sports Facilities Audit 2023

Gerard Reardon gave the committee a brief update on the Fingal Countywide Sports Facilities Audit 2023. He explained that the audit is still on-going and is currently in the interim process.

Fieldwork has been completed, survey data is nearing completion and reporting is ongoing. 845 facilities have been identified.

Cllr Onwumereh commended the sports team and the work being conducted in this area.

Cllr Hopkins welcomed the fact that the audit is based on need. She queried if facilities would be accessible in terms of affordability as well as disability and when would the final audit be available.

Gerard will ask for the audit to include affordability and the final should be available in Q1 2024.

The meeting concluded at 6.00pm