**COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



**Minutes of the SOCIAL, COMMUNITY & EQUALITY SPC**

**Tuesday, 21 November 2023; 3pm; Hybrid Meeting**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Trevor Gilligan (Chair); Cllr. Vicki Casserly; Cllr. Lilian Guéret; Cllr. Shirley O’Hara; Cllr. Justin Sinnott; Cllr. Patrick Holohan; Darragh Hennessy (PPN); Lynn Byrne (PPN).

**Officials present:**Elaine Leech, A/Director HSCD; Edel Clancy, A/SEO HSCD; Paula Swayne, A/Administrative Officer HSCD; Paul McAlerney, Senior Community Officer; Joe Lumumba, Administrative Officer HSCD; Laurence Boran, Community Officer HSCD; Fionnuala Keane, Senior Staff Officer HSCD; Sean Barron, Staff Officer HSCD; Margaret Farrell, Clerical Officer HSCD.

**Apologies:** Maria Nugent, Administrative Officer HSCD.

The Chair, Cllr. Gilligan opened the meeting at 3pm and welcomed new member Cllr. Justin Sinnott to the SPC.

**Agenda Item 1: Minutes of Social & Community SPC Meeting**

The minutes of the Social, Community & Equality SPC Meeting held on 19th September 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Gilligan and seconded by Cllr. Casserly and agreed.

**Agenda Item 2: Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising**.**

**Agenda Item 3: Community Recognition Fund Update**

1. Clancy gave an update on the Community Recognition Fund, including an overview of the fund and progress on SDCC-led projects and Partner Projects.

There were queries and comments from Cllr. Casserly, Cllr. Gilligan, Cllr. Guéret and Cllr. O’Hara. E. Clancy and P. Swayne responded.

The queries included the potential usage of sensory ‘Cubbies’ and the use of Plain English signage for same, the Knockmitten all-weather pitch and the Community Bus.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 4: Community Centre Management Support Fund**

1. McAlerney gave an overview of the fund, the criteria to apply and mentioned the launch of an online portal to apply for this funding.

Questions followed from Cllr. Casserly, Cllr. Guéret, Cllr. Sinnott and D. Hennessy in relation to JAM Card training, applying for funding, average range of funding and timelines for new community centres.

Responses were provided by P. McAlerney, and he asked for criteria to be sent to him in relation to JAM Card training for community frontline staff.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 5: Community Centre Virtual Tour pilot project**

L Boran demonstrated how the virtual tour website can be used to look through community centres, libraries and other community facilities.

Cllr. Casserly and L. Byrne commended the system. Cllr. Casserly suggested nominating the system for ‘Access City Awards’ next year.

Cllr. Holohan stressed the importance of retaining cash as a viable payment option in all community facilities going forward.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 6: 2023 Age-Friendly Initiatives**

P Swayne gave a presentation on the Age Friendly initiatives underway in 2023 and gave an overview of the goals and objectives of the programme.

Cllr. Gilligan asked whether Councillors could refer constituents for the Carbon Monoxide Alarm Scheme. P. Swayne advised they could and would send the referral form to all members of the SPC.

Cllrs. Guéret and Cassidy welcomed all initiatives in the programme and enquired if they could distribute some bottles from the Message in Bottle Scheme amongst their constituents. P. Swayne responded.

The report was noted.

**Agenda Item 7: Reports for Noting**

E Leech advised the Active South Dublin, Sport & Physical Activity Plan 2023-2028 launched in Tallaght Stadium on 21st November 2023 and provided members hard copies of the plan.

P McAlerney gave a brief update on the progress of community centres outlined in the Capital Project.

**Agenda Item 8: Any Other Business**

E Leech asked members if there are any projects/initiatives they would like SDCC to undertake and advised the ‘Community Endeavour’ awards will be held in 2024, the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic. The deadline for suggestions is the middle of December.

Cllr. Gilligan said he is very happy with the committee's current focus. He also commended the return of the ‘Community Endeavor’ awards.

Cllr. Casserly stressed the importance of reaching out to women who are active in their communities but may not want a formal role in politics and welcomed any suggestions/recommendations for a “Women of South Dublin” programme.

Cllr. Holohan suggested obtaining modular training facilities for sports teams that don’t have their own facilities. E. Leech advised that SDCC could look at this and would have to liaise with the Public Realm Department.

**The meeting concluded at 4:12pm.**