SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



**REPORT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, GAEILGE, HERITAGE & LIBRARIES STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th February 2024**

**Venue: South Dublin County Council IT Conference Room & Microsoft Teams**

**Attended:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Members** | **Sectoral Members** |
| Cllr Guss O’Connell (Chair) | Ms. Elaine Vince-O’Hara |
| Cllr. Alan Hayes | Ms. Freda Manweiler |
| Cllr. Mark Lynch |  |
| Cllr. Mick Duff |  |
| Cllr. Teresa Costello |  |

**Apologies:** Cllr. Alan Hayes, Cllr. Kenneth Egan, Cllr. Teresa Costello, Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer.

**Officials present:**

Mr. Jason Frehill, Director of Services, EETD

Mr. Paul Fusco, County Librarian

Ms. Orla Scannell, Arts Officer

Ms. Meabh Butler, Assistant Arts Officer

Ms. Geraldine O’Meara, Snr Executive librarian

Ms. Sile Coleman, Snr Executive librarian

Mr. Declan Healy, Communications Officer

**Minute-taker:**

Ms Geraldine O’Meara

**The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. Guss O’Connell.**

Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell opened the meeting at 5.30pm and welcomed everyone.

|  |
| --- |
| **Headed Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes**  The [minutes](http://intranet/cmas/documentsbyitem.aspx?itemid=80058) of Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage & Libraries SPC meeting held on 7th November 2023 were proposed by Cllr. Mark Lynch and seconded by Cllr. Mick Duff.  **Agreed.**  Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell enquired and confirmed there were no matters arising. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Headed Item 2: Seachtain na Gaeilge Programme Update**  Mr. Declan Healy and Ms. Sile Coleman presented a report titled “[Seachtain na Gaeilge Libraries and Corporate Programme.pdf](Seachtain%20na%20Gaeilge%20Libraries%20and%20Corporate%20Programme.pdf)” . The report gave an overview of this years planned programme. Mr. Healy explained that SDCC and libraries have partnered with Áras Chrónáin for this year’s Seachtain na Gaeilge Átha Cliath Theas (SnaGÁCT) which will run from 1st March to 17th March.  SnaGÁCT will be launched on 23rd February by the Mayor of South Dublin County Council. Invitations to the event will be extended in the coming days. The theme of this years programme is “Gaeilge Le Cheile”. Mr. Healy reported that last year’s programme was successful, and they hope to build on that success this year. There are over 100 events planned in various locations. SDCC are providing funding towards a Kila concert in Áras Chrónáin on the 9th March. SDCC Staff requested this year that an Irish Language table be displayed in the canteen for gaeilgeoirs. Mr. Healy reported that an Irish Language Officer has been appointed for SDCC and will be taking up appointment after SnaG.  Ms. Sile Coleman presented the report on events in Libraries for SnaG. 2024 highlights include Ceili Mór, Irish language classes, ciorcal comhrá agus a public talk with author of Motherfoclóir. Ms Coleman expanded on details of the promotion of SnaGÁct in Libraries. An Irish Language poetry competition is taking place. It will be launched during SnaG and winners will be announced on Poetry Day Ireland in April. A robust social media campaign will take place inviting members of the public to submit videos using their favourite word or phrase as Gaeilge. These will be shared across South Dublin Libraries and SDCC social media.  Chair Cllr. Guss O’Connell commended the work on SnaGÁCT to date and pointed out how SnaG has grown and flourished. Cllr. Mick Duff, expressed his gratitude with the phrase “Go raibh maith agat”.  The report was **Noted**. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Headed Item 3: Public Art Update**  Ms. Orla Scannell and Ms. Meabh Butler, gave a presentation titled “[Public Art](Public%20Art)”. The presentation highlighted **In Context 5 – CONNECT:** South Dublin County Council’s Public Art Programme under the % for Art Scheme 2022-2025. Ms. Butler referenced the Arts Office four main strategy documents. These are ReFrame – Arts Development Strategy 2022- 2026, Early Years and Childrens Strategy 2020- 2025, South Dublin County Development Plan, Creative Ireland South Dublin strategy 2022 – 2027.  Ms Butler presented on the background of the In Context Programme from its roots in 1997. The main features of In Context now include sensitivity to context, community engagement, diversity and excellence in art form and discipline, site or non-site specific and permanent or temporary and value of community involvement. Ms. Butler explained that are 6 commissions given with a focus from early years up to age 18. Commissions have been given to Freshly Ground Theatre, David Beattie, Sophie Van Maltzan, Cleary Connolly and Mandivar, John Conway with Elaine Hoey and Selma Daniels.  Ms Orla Scannell presented on two of the Public Art Installations, Holger Lonze - An Chluain and Origami Monk- Ngaire Jackson. Ms. Scannell explained the **Location for :** An Chluain , adjacent to woodford roundabout, Clondalkin. She provided a visual of the installation that has a height of 3.4m. ***An Chluain*** is a sculptural installation that draws from the historic, cultural and natural environment of the area: the 8th C. monastic settlements on the Camac River together with references to Viking seafaring and the large Vikings Hall. It is composed of two slender, upright elements, forming a distinctive, contemporary gateway, is informed by the monastic architecture of Irish early medieval churches. The installation was funded by the  NTA and SDCC.  Ms Scannell then provided a report on Origami Monk installation. The location is to be New Nangor Road and Ninth Lock Road. The height is 2.5m. *Origami Monk* is a large-scale monastic figure in corten steel- a compelling visual link to the important monastic sites of Clondalkin contributing to a strong and unique sense of place.  It’s rigid, geometric design alludes to the rigid rules and order that shaped the daily life of a monk in Christian Era Clondalkin.This bold geometric design hints at a ‘paper’ folding technique, an interesting reference to The Clondalkin Paper Mills.  Following the presentation, Chair Cllr. Mark Lynch, Cllr. Mick Duff and Ms. Elaine Vince-O’Hara thanked Meabh and Orla for a fantastic presentation and all the team in the arts office for the creative work being done for the County. The possibility of a cultural celebration and a look at “new Irish” art to include African, Asian and other cultures going forward was suggested by the Cllr Gus O’Connell. Cllr. O’Connell commended the arts office for the work they have been doing in the community thus far and expressed his gratitude for how the arts office are communicating and linking up with local community groups. Ms. Freda Manweiler asked about artist censorship. Ms Maebh Butler responded that garda vetting and safety guidelines is at the forefront of programming but that they don’t censor artists unless there is a risk to safety.  The report was **Noted**. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Headed Item 4: Libraries Plans for 2024**  Mr Paul Fusco, County Librarian , presented on Libraries Plans for 2024 [Libraries 2024](Libraries%202024) . The presentation included a report on Capital Programme Citywest Library. The location was announced at December Council Meeting . The library will be in Citywest Shopping Centre and is a developer-led project delivering a library of over 1,600 Sq. M on the first (existing) and second floor (new build) of the shopping centre with own, ground floor entrance . Legals are in process of agreement and planning application is being prepared by the developer. Current estimate from developer is 23 months to handover plus fit-out and move-in time prior to opening at the earliest in June 2026.  Mr. Fusco discussed the plans for Adamstown Library . The development of a library at Adamstown is core requirement of phase 6 of the SDZ. The proposed library will have a floor area of c.1,200 sqm, with the current proposal also including the provision of an Enterprise Centre, providing for an overall building footprint of 2,660 Sq. m. The concept design for the proposed library and enterprise centre has been developed. Planning permission to follow.  Mr. Fusco highlighted Clondalkin Library in his report. Access improvement and refurbishment works are required. The plan is to build a lift-block on the west elevation, providing universal access to both floors. To restore the first floor to full space, moving office space to ground floor and to restore entrance and remove internal porch (added in early 70s) Part 8 will be notified to ACM in February and will launch in March, before going to Council for approval in July.  Mr. Fusco focused on service delivery for libraries in 2024. My Open Library will be introduced to Soth Dublin Libraries this year. Currently c. 40 operating nationwide with 2 each in Dublin City and DLR and 1 in Fingal. Additional opening hours provided through building automation with library members undergoing an induction before privileges added to their account • Building and room access with Library Card and PIN. Operating hours of 8am until regular opening at 09:45, and from closing to 10pm. 8am to 10pm Sundays, Bank Holidays, etc. Children under 16 can visit with parents, 16–17-year-olds can join with parental consent. Procurement for MOL has been completed, site specific preparations underway for Lucan Library to launch before the end of the year with a more exact date to be confirmed.  Mr. Fusco’s presentation included details on events programming including Neurodiverse South and Library Labs. The recently launched Neurodiverse South Toy Collection is a specialized collection of resources available for free borrowing at any branch of South Dublin Libraries. Aiming to provide support for children and adults with neurodiverse needs, learning difficulties, disabilities, or complex needs, the collection includes resources in the categories of core developmental aids, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, language communication and social skills, play and life skills, and sensory and tactile aids. The Neurodiverse South project also includes an annual series of free lectures and workshops. These events offer guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals. Library Labs is a new year long events programme from South Dublin Libraries, bringing together the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, arts, and maths. This programme aims to amplify existing STEAM initiatives in our libraries, promoting digital learning resources including the award-winning Think Big Space and our state-of-the-art Maker Space facilities. These innovative spaces are not just physical locations; they are gateways to imagination and creation. The programme kicks off in March with themed events scheduled for Engineers Week and Irish Astronomy Week.  Mr. Fusco finished his presentation with an update on mobile libraries. Mobile Libraries visit 36 public stops per week plus regular school visits to DEIS schools (with a significant waiting list) There were 55,000 visits in 2023 and over 2,000 new members. Two promotional initiatives from 2023 will be continued in 2024: St. Patrick’s Day and Pride. Patrick’s Day in Rathcoole this year with a visit to the family festival that follows. Libraries are looking at building our profile in Citywest and Adamstown with regular visits to the sites for new libraries.  Cllr. Gus O’Connell thanked Mr. Fusco for his update and asked about the Library @home service. Mr. Fusco responded to his question and commented that staff are particularly committed to Library@Home as it is such an important service to people that cannot leave their homes. Cllr Mick Duff apologised as he had to leave the meeting and thanked everyone for their work.  The reports were **Noted**. |
| **Headed Item 5: Any Other Business**  Chair Cllr. Guss O Connell invited contributions for Any Other Business. Mr. Jason Freehill expressed his gratitude to both the Council representatives and staff in the directorate for their hard work and enthusiasm. He acknowledged the work, time and commitment that goes into not only the SPCs but the day to day work. Cllr. Gus O’Connell agreed and expressed his thanks at Mr. Frehills words.  Ms. Elaine Vince-O’Hara spoke about the upcoming Jonathan Wade Exhibition in the ETB and said that invitations to the SPC members would be coming shortly. Cllr Gus O’Connell commended Ms Vince-O’Hara for taking an interest in the background and history of the exhibition and thanked her and the ETB for their work on the Jonathan Wade Exhibit.  No action items were raised.  Chair Cllr. Guss O Connell thanked members for their attendance.  **The meeting concluded at 6.31pm.** |