

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



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

MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2025 @17:30

Venue - South Dublin County Council IT Conference Room & Microsoft Teams

Attended:

Members	Council Officials	
Cllr Louise Dunne (Chair)	Mr Jason Frehill	Director of Services, EETD
Cllr Darragh Adelaide	Mr Paul Fusco	County Librarian
Cllr Dean Donnelly	Ms Orla Scannell	Arts Officer
Cllr Eoin Ó Broin	Ms Geraldine O Meara	Senior Executive Librarian
	Ms Meabh Butler	Assistant Arts Officer

Sectoral Members

Ms Elaine Vince-O'Hara
Ms Emma Kennedy
Mr Noel Galvin

Apologies

Cllr Sarah Barnes, Cllr Glen Moore, Ms Muireann Ni Cheannabhain, Ms Yemi Ojo

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Louise Dunne.

Chair Cllr. Louise Dunne opened the meeting at 5.30pm, welcomed everyone and introduced sectoral member Ms. Elaine Vince O'Hara to the other members of the Arts, Culture, Heritage, Gaeilge and Libraries SPC.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes

The [minutes of the Arts Culture Gaeilge Heritage & Libraries SPC](#) meeting held on 12th December 2024 were proposed by Cllr. Louise Dunne and seconded by Ms Emma Kennedy.

Agreed.

Chair Cllr. Louise Dunne enquired and confirmed there were no matters arising.

Item 2: Introduction to SPC and Overview of Standing Orders

Cllr Louise Dunne gave an introduction on the outline of the SPC and discussed the [Standing Orders for Strategic Policy Committee Meetings](#). Cllr. Dunne reminded attendees that the full agenda was not completed in December and asked that attendees leave no more than three minutes for questions and refrain from raising questions outside of strategic policy matters. Cllr Louise Dunne referred to the Standing Orders document which states that each member may submit one item on a strategic policy issue relevant to the business of the Arts Culture Gaeilge Heritage & Libraries SPC for inclusion on the agenda. All items are to be submitted 22 days prior to the date of the meeting. Cllr Dunne reminded all attendees that each member has the right to speak, and that each member should do so in the spirit of mutual respect and inclusiveness.

The report was **Noted**.

Item 3: Draft SPC Work Plan

Mr Paul Fusco, County Librarian, presented the [Draft Arts, Culture, Gaeilge, Heritage and Libraries SPC Workplan](#), sent to members on the 22nd January. Mr Fusco discussed how the flexible plan highlights the areas of work for the SPC over the next 5 years. Mr Fusco told SPC members that they can submit their feedback on the Draft Work Plan. Feedback from the meeting will be noted, and any other feedback can be submitted to the coordinator (Paul Fusco, pfusco@sdublincoco.ie) cc'ing the Chair, Cllr Louise Dunne (ldunne@cllr.sdblincoco.ie). The deadline for receipt of feedback is 19th February, to allow time for feedback to be considered before the Organisation Procedure and Finance Committee Meeting in March.

Chair Cllr. Louise Dunne thanked Paul Fusco and invited questions.

Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin enquired what is the Reframe Arts Development Strategy 2022-2026. Orla Scannell, Arts Officer, answered that it was part of the Art Act 2003 that every local authority was to have a five year arts strategy and offered to send Cllr. Ó Broin a copy after the meeting.

The report was **noted**.

Item 4: Arts Programme Update

Ms. Meabh Butler and Ms. Orla Scannell presented the [Arts Programme Update](#). The update stated the vision and mission of South Dublin County Council Arts Office, the SDCC Arts office strategies including Reframe - Arts Development Strategy 2022- 2026, Early Years and Children's Strategy 2020- 2025, South Dublin County Development Plan and Creative Ireland South Dublin strategy 2022 – 2027. Ms Butler and Ms Scannell discussed the grants and bursaries given in 2024, with a focus on the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Bursary awarded to Halfway to Heaven and a programme titled "Seedlings". In the report Ms Butler and Ms Scannell introduced NOISE Music – SDCC's youth art programme, Contact Studio, Music Generation and gave an overview of the In Context 5 Programme including An Chluain Holger Lönze, Origami Monk Ngairé Jackson and In Context 5 - Bang Bang Pop and various Creative Ireland awards such as Cruinniú na nÓg, Artist in Collaborative Practice, Schools Cultural Award, Film Award, Community Mural Award and the Project Awards.

Chair Cllr. Louise Dunne thanked Ms Butler and Ms Scannell for their presentation and invited questions.

Cllr Ó Broin thanked the arts office for their presentation and asked if an outdoor concert somewhere such as Rathfarnham Castle could be considered going forward. Cllr. Ó Broin enquired if the collaboration with the Abbey Theatre could not have been completed with South Dublin's Civic Theatre instead, if any of the arts programmes covered the area of juggling/circus skills and if the Arts Officer could look into his request for a space for the Clondalkin Youth Marching Band to practice. Cllr. Ó Broin commented on the public art piece in Clondalkin and asked for clarification on its size and colour.

Ms. Scannell answered the question in relation to the Abbey Theatre and the Halfway to Heaven Bursary. At the time, the Abbey Theatre was positioned to provide funding for the project and there is a plan to bring Donal and the Civic Theatre into the project going forward. Ms Scannell confirmed that circus skills and juggling had been included in Arts Programming through DooLabs and Cruinniú na nÓg workshops. Ms. Scannell replied to Cllr Ó Broin's request for a space for Clondalkin Youth Marching Band to practice and said that the Arts Office are currently undertaking a mapping exercise of what facilities and spaces exist in the county to utilize different arts activities taking place. The next step is research and consultation for an Arts Infrastructure Strategy.

Ms. Scannell clarified that the IN CONTEXT 5 – An Chluain Holger Lönze is a 3.4m high contemporary gateway adjacent to Woodford Roundabout on Monastery Road, Clondalkin, and would change colour from brown to orange over time. Ms Butler confirmed that budget plays a factor, and a larger public art piece could cost up to €150,000 and as it stands the art piece is quite impressive when walking past it as a pedestrian. Cllr Ó Broin posed the question that whether a fallen tree from Storm Eowyn could be used for an Arts piece. Ms Scannell responded there would be safety considerations and that it would be an area for Public Realm.

Mr. Noel Gavin enquired if there would be a collaboration with some of the music groups and the Tallaght St Patricks Day parade and if there would be a possibility of having a concert or event in Tallaght Stadium. Ms Scannell replied that there was a meeting yesterday regarding the Tallaght parade and more information would follow shortly. Mr. Jason Frehill answered that there was a capacity of 11,000 people in Tallaght Stadium with that capacity to increase, and that the local authority has engaged with An Garda Síochana on the possibility of using the stadium for concerts. South Dublin would like to facilitate concerts and similar events in the future and will do so in consultation with the guards regarding safety and traffic management procedures. Mr Frehill confirmed that if live concerts/music events were to happen it would be communicated to residents also. Mr Frehill stressed that it is important that if concerts go ahead at the stadium that it is done well and correctly but that it would be wonderful for the area and the local economy. Cllr Dunne commented that the idea of concerts at the stadium has come up on local resident social media groups and there is positivity around the subject.

Ms Emma Kennedy recollected her own experience of when the local community was consulted on the building of the stadium and that one stipulation of this was that music events would not be held. Mr Jason Frehill confirmed that if live music events were to be held at the stadium that it would be in line with permissions and local residents would be consulted. Ms Kennedy complimented Ms Butler and Ms Scannell on their presentation and said the Echo had reported on one of the “Mad Mags” art projects with a local school and assisted in the production of the articles. Ms Kennedy reminded the SPC members that the Echo provide advertising services and report on local events and the platform is there to be used.

Cllr Dean Donnelly enquired if a Martial Arts Competition and the stadium could be considered in collaboration with the Arts Office. Ms Scannell replied that there was certainly a social side between the arts, dance and martial arts but that a martial arts competition would be more suited to the Sports Partnership. Cllr Donnelly mentioned that tattoo studios were prominent in Tallaght and Clondalkin and if they could be included in the arts strategy going forward. Ms Butler responded that that was a great

suggestion, and that tattoo artists and nail artists were increasingly more popular. Ms Scannell responded that the arts office would try to include those areas in future programming.

Cllr Louise Dunne asked if the Arts Office could investigate how they engage young people. Cllr Dunne mentioned that in the last 9 years she herself has been engaging with the art world and travelled to see galleries and studios, mostly recently to London to see the work of artist Kevin Bohan. Cllr Dunne mentioned the mural in Brookview that was completed by teenagers in the area and how when they are part of a project, they take pride in it and make sure there is no graffiti or damage to it. Cllr Dunne follows the Arts Office on Instagram so sees the grants and opportunities arising but that young people may not be aware of what's available. Ms Butler. responded that marketing and getting the word out, particularly to young people is a priority and the Arts office are looking into developing a new website. Cllr Dunne thanked the arts office for their work and stressed how important and therapeutic art can be to a young person.

Ms Elaine Vince-O'Hara enquired about the process of commissioning public art pieces. Ms Scannell responded with details on the process including social media advertising, public consultation and a selection panel that includes council staff, chair of area committee and a member from the roads department. Ms Elaine Vince-O'Hara asked if there would be any signage put in place on the art piece in Clondalkin. Ms Butler responded that she is currently looking at signage for public art pieces that take into consideration the Irish language and council identification logos.

Chair Cllr Dunne confirmed there were no more questions and thanked the Arts Office for a fantastic presentation.

The report was **noted**.

Item 5: Any Other Business

Chair Cllr Louise Dunne invited contributions for Any Other Business. Mr Fusco noted that [Cruthaigh Campaign](#) was brought to his attention by Ms Muireann Ni Cheannabhain, the Irish Language Officer, and that the information would be circulated to members after the meeting.

No other items were raised. Chair Cllr Louise Dunne thanked members for their attendance.

The meeting concluded at 18:56.