SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



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

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th MAY 2025 @17:30**

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

**Attended:**

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| **Members** | **Council Officials** |
| Cllr Darragh Adelaide | Mr Jason Frehill | Director of Services, EETD |
| Cllr Dean Donnelly (Chair) | Mr Paul Fusco | County Librarian |
| Cllr Eoin Ó Broin | Ms. Orla Scannell  | Arts Officer |
| Cllr Sarah Barnes | Ms. Eithne Swaine | Creative Communities Engagement Officer |
|  | Ms. Geraldine O’Meara | Senior Executive Librarian |
|  | Ms. Sile Coleman | Senior Executive Librarian |
|  | Ms. Emma Perry  | Senior Librarian |

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| **Sectoral Members** |
| Ms Emma KennedyMr Noel GalvinMs Yemi Ojo |

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| **Apologies** |
| Cllr Louise Dunne, Cllr Glen Moore, Ms. Elaine Vince O’Hara, Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer |

**The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. Dean Donnelly in the absence of Cllr. Louise Dunne.**

**Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes**

The [minutes of the Arts Culture Gaeilge Heritage & Libraries SPC](May%202025/1.ACGHL_SPC%20Minutes%205th%20Feb%202025.docx) meeting held on 5th  February 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Dean Donnelly and seconded by Cllr. Eoin Ó’Broin.

**Agreed.**

Chair Cllr. Dean Donnelly enquired and confirmed there were no matters arising.

**Item 2: Sharing our Stories**

Ms. Sile Coleman presented and discussed a report titled [Sharing Our Stories, Making our Places Programme 2025](2.Sharing%20Our%20Stories.pptx) . The Programme is one of the 5 Development Areas in Our Library, Our Future, South Dublin Libraries Development Plan 2023-2027.

Ms. Coleman said that the programme is about having a sense of pride in our origins and in the localities in which we live and helps to develop a sense of who we are. Sitting at the centre of communities, the library plays an important role.

The following projects were addressed:

Mapping Space: Tallaght 2055, Tallaght and Adamstown Oral Histories, South Dublin Stories Podcast, Digitisation projects and Event programming.

Ms Coleman further explained the Mapping Space Project and that three schools in the Tallaght area were involved: Cnoc Mhuire Killinarden, Solas Chríost Cookstown, and St. Mary’s Tallaght Village. The project was led by artist Eva Kelly, workshops with historian Liz Gillis, SDCC Planner Padraig Collins and students from Griffith College Art and Design Course. The project looks at Tallaght in the past, present and future and is due to be launched with an exhibition in Work IQ, Tallaght Innovation Quarter on 10th June.

Ms. Coleman spoke about the South Dublin Stories Podcast. The series was launched in 2024 and there are currently 7 episodes available. The episodes tell the stories behind items in our archive which can be found at source.southdublinlibraries.ie .

Ms. Coleman mentioned the Tallaght and Adamstown Oral Histories. The Tallaght Oral Histories was produced in collaboration with Tallaght Historical Society and Tallaght Community Council. It’s focus was on people who moved to Tallaght in the late 1960s and early 70s when it was in transition from rural village to major urban centre.

The Adamstown Oral Histories was a community led project which focused on the second generation in Adamstown. This project explored identity, building a social history of the area.

Ms. Coleman highlighted event programming as part of the [Sharing Our Stories, Making our Places Programme 2025](file:///%5C%5Csdcc-cifs%5Ceetd%5CLibraries%5CLibHQ2%5CGeraldine%5CTech%2C%20Special%20Project%2C%20Staff%20Dev%5CSPCs%5CSPC%202025%5CMay%202025%5C2.Sharing%20Our%20Stories.pptx) and explained that History and heritage programmes and events are well established across the library branch network. 2,374 people attended 118 history events in libraries in 2024. Events focus on Heritage Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge and the Red Line Book Festival. There are regular events outside these programmes, including partnerships with local groups, e.g. Tallaght Historical Society, Joe Williams Archive, Ballyroan and Rathfarnham Historical Society and the Society for Old Lucan.

Chair Cllr. Dean Donnelly thanked Ms. Coleman and invited questions.

Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin posed questions including clarification on whether Ms. Coleman worked specifically on History and Heritage for South Dublin Libraries, an enquiry regarding Adam Kinsella’s role and expertise on the project, further information on the note from the IRA Association and an enquiry on whom in the libraries visited the Fingal County Archive. He expressed the importance of maintaining the historical stories and records, so they are not forgotten and that there are fascinating items to learn about such as the Jacobs Biscuit Factory in Tallaght.

Ms. Coleman clarified her role as team leader of Programming and Communications in Library Headquarters but that she is also the champion for Heritage and Placemaking.

She noted that Adam Kinsella has a very large repository of political ephemeras and that they are working with him on approx. 40-piece collection based on South Dublin. Ms. Coleman responded to Cllr. Ó’Broin’s question regarding the note from the IRA Association. She explained that when Dublin Corporation split, that archives went to Fingal. Ms. Coleman attended the Fingal County Archives herself and saw a letter relating to the IRA Association booking the library for an event in 1954.

Cllr. Dean Donnelly thanked Ms. Coleman for an interesting presentation and asked whether the South Dublin Stories podcast was still being produced and how could someone apply to be on it. Ms Coleman responded that people involved in the Irish language movement and those from Tallaght Historical Society that are known to the library service took part in the podcast. Ms Coleman said that if anyone was interested in taking part, they can email her. Ms Emma Kennedy thanked Ms. Coleman for her presentation and asked her to send on information to her to be shared through the Echo Online. Cllr. Sarah Barnes commented on the work of Alan Kinsella and confirmed his materials are legitimate. She noted that it can be costly to request political ephemera from RTE and Mr. Kinsella donated materials for free. Cllr. Barnes commended Ms. Coleman and Libraries on their work.

The report was **Noted**.

**Item 3: Makerspaces**

Ms. Emma Perry presented on [Makerspaces at South Dublin Libraries](3.%20Makerspaces%20at%20SDL.odp).

Ms. Perry explained that a makerspace is a place in which people with shared interests, especially in computing or technology, can gather to work on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge, and a Maker is a person who experiments with creating, constructing, modifying, or repairing objects especially as a hobby. Ms. Perry presented on the plans to create three makerspaces, one in Ballyroan, one in North Clondalkin and one in Tallaght library. Ms. Perry highlighted the work completed in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics in South Dublin libraries to date and mentioned the equipment held currently in branches. Ms Perry explained that our Makerspaces would be created in line with 3 areas of the Library Development Plan: Our Library, Our Future 2023 – 2027. The areas highlighted were Expanding our Community, Rejuvenating our Physical & Virtual Space and Empowering our Staff. Ms Perry updated attendees on new maker furniture purchased today and the plan to procure new larger pieces of equipment for the new spaces and small items for Castletymon, Clondalkin, Lucan, Palmerstown and Mobile Libraries. Items include new 3D printers, Laser Cutters,Vacuum Formers

Micro:bit kits etc. The presentation included information on repair cafes, future STEAM workshops, staff upskilling sessions, future environmental awareness sessions with a mini recycling station and an introduction to the new Maker in Residence, William Davis. Ms Perry finihsed the presentation with the promise of an invitation to the offical launch of the Makerspaces in June.

Cllr Dean. Donnelly thanked Ms. Perry for her presentation and said it sounds like a great initiave for children to learn STEAM skills. Cllr. Donnelly sggested that the new indoor market in Tallaght could be an opportunity for the libraries to show off the new inititive and perhaps attendees could sell items made at makerspaces at the amrket.

Ms. Perry responded and mentione dthat each branch also has a Christmas Craft Fair that patrons can sign up for a table and sell their wares.

Cllr. Eoin Ó’Broin mentioned that a repair café would be very popular. Ms. Perry gave mre information in response, mentione dthat it is an external repair café run by Tóg and that it would usually repair smaller electronic items with preadvance notice. Cllr. Ó’Broin asked for further information on the Maker equipment. Ms. Perry informed him of the plan to recycle the 3D printer filamint and other smaller plastic items through a mini shredder and a mould injector machine and confirmed that a fume extractor would be in place for certain equipment and proper PPE would be used by the Maker. Cllr. Ó’Broin asked if the new Maker hired was an offical South Dublin County Council Employee. Ms. Perry confirmed he was a paid outside facilitator.

Cllr. Dean Donnelly thanked Ms. Perry for her presentation and the report was **noted.**

**Item 4: Cruinniú na nÓg**

Ms. Eithne Swaine presented on [Cruinniú na nÓg 2025](4.%20SPC%20Cruinniu.pptx). Cruinniú na nÓg is a National Day of Celebration of children’s creativity and takes place on Saturday 7th June. Ms. Swaine gave information on the South Dublin plans and events which included:

* [Let's Sing! with Rachel Drew](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/lets-sing-rachel-drew) @ The Civic Theatre
* [The WhistleBlast Quartet](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/whistleblast-quartet) @ The Civic Theatre
* [Beach Days](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/beach-days) @ The Civic Theatre
* [Storymaking workshop with Juliette Saumaude](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/storymaking-workshop-juliette-saumaude) @ The Civic
* [Leaps and Bounds](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/leaps-and-bounds) @ The Civic
* Digital Moves @ the Civic Theatre
* [NOISE Music X Creative Places MacUíllíam Cruinniú 2025](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/noise-music-x-creative-places-macuilliam-cruinniu-2025) ~@Parthalán Place
* [My Monster and Me with Seiko Hayase](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/my-monster-and-me-seiko-hayase) @ Rua Red
* [Mo Ghuth gan focail ar bith (My Voice without words)](https://portal.creativeireland.gov.ie/report/mo-ghuth-gan-focail-ar-bith-my-voice-without-words) @Rua Red
* Needlecrafting with Katie Earely @ Rua Red

Ms. Swaine’s report highlighted the Ruaille Buaille Children’s Music Festival taking place at Lucan House from 12:00 to 16:30and would include The Lullably Project

Drumadore, a Sensory Space and the Mobile library. Ms. Swaine presented on the library’s role in the day with the programme “Loud at the Libraries”. South Dublin Libraries will host a Vegetable Orchestra, Classical Kids & Ukelele workshop, Uileann Pipes & Bodhrán workshop, Music workshops for deaf, Circus Skills workshop and African drumming, Sing your Socks off, DJ workshops and Sensory Explorers as part of Cruinniú na nÓg. Ms Swaine highlighted satellite venues for the day including:

* Áras Chronáin: Sorcas Gaeilge
* Tallaght Community Arts: Under the Sea at the Making Space
* The Park Community Centre: The Beat Project
* & Crafting with Kim McCrave
* Scoil Aoife Citywest: Word Play with Mothertongues
* Foróige Brookfield: Create Together Fest

Ms. Swaine finished her report with information on the Shared Island Cruinniú Project with Doulab Circus & Circusful Belfast which started in March and carries through until 7th June 2025. Ms. Swaine encouraged everyone to take part in the celebrations on the 7th of June.

Cllr. Darragh Adelaide thanked Ms. Swaine for her fantastic report and commented it was nice to see such a diverse range of events, particularly the inclusion of neurodiverse events. Cllr. Adelaide asked where people could book on to attend the events and asked for clarification of funding sources for the programme. Ms Swaine responded to questions and confirmed people could book through the Cruinniú na nÓg website and that funding comes through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Mr. Jason Frehill thanked Eithne for her presentation and commended her for all the hard work that goes into the programme.

Cllr. Dean Donnelly thanked Ms. Swaine for a fantastic presentation.

The report was **noted**.

**Item 5: Any Other Business**

Cllr. Dean Donnelly extended an invitation for Any Other Business. No action items were raised.

Mr. Jason Frehill thanked Cllr. Dean Donnelly for stepping in as chair of the SPC.

**The meeting concluded at 18:43.**