

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE, GAEILGE & LIBRARIES SPC

**Meeting 3rd September (17:30) – South Dublin County Council IT Conference Room
& Microsoft Teams**

MINUTES

Attended:

Members	Council Officials	
Cllr Darragh Adelaide	Ms. Lorna Maxwell	Director of Service, Community
Cllr Dean Donnelly	Mr. Paul Fusco	Acting Senior Executive Officer, Economic Development
Cllr Louise Dunne (Chair)	Ms. Sile Coleman	Acting County Librarian
Cllr Sarah Barnes	Ms. Sarah McHugh	Senior Executive Librarian
	Ms. Geraldine O'Meara	Senior Executive Librarian

Sectoral Members

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

Apologies

Cllr Eoin Ó Broin, Cllr Glen Moore, Ms. Yemi Ojo, Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer,
Ms. Muireann Ní Cheannabhain

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. Louise Dunne.

Chair Cllr Louise Dunne opened the meeting at 5.31pm and welcomed everyone.

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the Arts Culture Gaeilge Heritage & Libraries SPC meeting held on 7th May 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Dean Donnelly and seconded by Emma Kennedy.

Agreed.

Chair Cllr Louise Dunne enquired and confirmed there were no matters arising. Chair Cllr Louise Dunne explained that Paul Fusco had moved positions within the council from Libraries to Economic Development, and that from next week Sile Coleman would take up the role of Acting County Librarian. For this reason, Chair Cllr Louise Dunne asked that any questions on the presentations today be emailed to Paul Fusco and Sile Coleman after the meeting.

Item 2: Red Line Book Festival 2025

Ms. Sarah McHugh presented on the 14th annual Red Line Book Festival. Ms. McHugh explained the Red Line Book Festival is a celebration of all things literary, the power of words and the magic of storytelling.

- Festival Dates: 13th–19th October 2025.
- Over 40 events across venues including Civic Theatre, Rua Red, Rathfarnham Castle, Clondalkin Round Tower, and Rathcoole Courthouse.
- Headline authors: Paul Lynch, Helen Fielding, Hector Ó hEochagáin, Gavan Reilly, John Connell.
- New features of the festival include:
 - *Illustrator in Residence* programme with Celina Buckley.
 - *Family Fun Day* in Parthalán Place with illustration workshops, theatre events and makerspace activities.
 - Accessibility initiatives including ISL interpretation, sensory spaces, and transport from branch libraries.

Ms McHugh's presentation showed how the Red Line Book Festival aligns with SDCC's strategic goals and national frameworks through the following strategic plans:

- SDCC Corporate plan
- Our Libraries, Our Future
- The Library is the Place

Ms McHugh's report highlighted how the festival focuses on access, community participation, cultural inclusion and meeting literacy needs and promotion of the Irish language. Ms McHugh finished by explaining the Red Line Book Festival centers SDCC libraries at the heart of arts and cultural development in the county.

Chair Cllr. Louise Dunne congratulated the team and the report was **noted**.

Item 3: Our Library Our Future - South Dublin Libraries Development Plan Review

Paul Fusco presented the midway review of *Our Library, Our Future: South Dublin Libraries Development Plan 2023–2027*. Mr. Fusco first gave a brief introduction to the Library Management Team and their champion areas as part of the Development Plan Work. Champion areas include:

- Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
- Heritage & Placemaking
- Innovation
- Irish language
- Literacy
- Sustainability

Mr. Fusco gave an overview of the Library Development Plan, explained the mid year review is taking place currently and briefed the SPC on the approach taken towards the review.

The review applied a red/amber/green system to measure progress across the five development areas:

1. Expanding Our Community
2. Energising Our Collections
3. Sharing Our Stories, Making Our Places
4. Rejuvenating Our Physical & Virtual Space
5. Enabling & Empowering Our Staff

Key achievements included:

- Launch of My Open Library in Lucan and extended opening hours in Palmerstown.
- South Dublin Stories Podcast and Tallaght Oral Histories completed.
- Digitisation of Woodville and Corkagh Archives (partially achieved).

Ongoing initiatives:

- Ballyroan My Open Library
- Deliver new libraries in Citywest/Adamstown in line with County Development Plan.
- Refurbishment of Clondalkin Library

Mr Fusco finished the presentation with the promise of a final update once the mid way review was completed.

Chair Cllr Louise Dunne thanked Mr. Fusco for his presentation, noted that a huge amount had been achieved so far and passed on her thanks to the library team.

The report was **noted**.

Item 4: Any Other Business

Chair Cllr Louise Dunne thanked members for their attendance and reminded attendees that any questions were to be directed at Mr. Fusco and Ms. Coleman after the meeting via email. Chair Cllr Louise Dunne wished Mr. Fusco and Ms. Coleman the best in their new roles. Ms Lorna Maxwell commented that great work had been completed so far under Paul Fusco and that it would be now in Ms Colemans capable hands to carry on and that she looked forward to working with her and the members of the SPC.

The meeting concluded at 6:05pm.