

# **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



## **REPORT OF THE ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE, GAEILGE & LIBRARIES SPC**

**MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 TH FEBRUARY 2026 @17:30**

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

### **Attended:**

<b>Members</b>	<b>Sectoral Members</b>
Cllr. Louise Dunne (Chair)	Elaine Vince O'Hara
Cllr. Dean Donnelly	
Cllr. Sarah Barnes	

### **Apologies:**

Cllr. Darragh Adelaide, Cllr. Eoin Ó Broin, Cllr. Glen Moore, Emma Kennedy, Yemi Ojo, Noel Galvin, Lorna Maxwell (DoS).

### **Officials present:**

Ms Sile Coleman, Acting County Librarian  
Ms Rosaleen Dwyer, Heritage Officer  
Ms Orla Scannell, Arts Officer  
Ms Eithne Swaine, Creative Communities Officer

### **Minute-taker:**

Ms. Geraldine O'Meara, Senior Executive Librarian

**The meeting was Chaired by Cllr. Louise Dunne.**

Chair Cllr Louise Dunne opened the meeting at 5.37pm and welcomed everyone.

### **Headed Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the Arts Culture Gaeilge Heritage & Libraries SPC meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were proposed by Cllr. Louise Dunne and seconded by Cllr. Dean Donnelly.

#### **Agreed.**

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

### **Headed Item 2: County Heritage Plan Update**

Ms. Rosaleen Dwyer, Heritage Officer, presented an update on the preparation of the new County Heritage Plan.

The presentation outlined:

- The broad definition of heritage, including natural, built, archaeological and cultural elements.
- The Heritage Plan's role in providing a framework for protection, conservation, promotion and management of the County's heritage.
- Alignment with the Council's Corporate Plan, County Development Plan 2022–2028, the national Heritage 2030 framework and the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan.

#### **Work to date included:**

- Appointment of heritage consultants to assist with pre-draft consultation.
- Internal staff workshop.
- External stakeholder workshops.
- Online public consultation process.

- Review of submissions and identification of key themes.
- Commencement of drafting for the second public consultation phase.

The proposed working format of the Plan will include:

1. Setting the context – including pressures from development and climate change.
2. Policy context – local, national and international frameworks.
3. Achievements of the previous Plan.
4. Key Heritage Values structured around Leadership, Partnership, and Communities.

Cllr. Louise Dunne apologised that she did not have time to read the presentation before the meeting but thanked Ms. Dwyer for her work and welcomed the comprehensive consultation process. Cllr Dunne expressed her interest in having an opportunity to add to the plan during the consultation process. Cllr Dunne mentioned a previous Zoning meeting that members attended where recent flooding events were raised and the increased pressure involved on development and rezoning was acknowledged. Cllr. Dunne enquired if they could help protect built heritage during these processes through the capacity of the SPC. Ms. Dwyer responded by acknowledging that finding the balance can be difficult and highlighted that SDCC themselves deal consistently with issues day to day regarding flooding. Ms. Dwyer thanked Cllr Dunne for her support and said opportunities will come in new developments where people will feel a sense of place from the start.

Cllr. Barnes thanked Ms Dwyer for her presentation and said she looked forward to what comes back from the consultation process. Cllr Barnes agreed with Ms. Dwyer that getting the balance right can be tricky and asked if now that greener policies are in place, are we seeing the benefit of it and brought up the recent example of the proposed move of civic offices at Wood Quay. Ms. Dwyer responded positively and informed members of the SDCC Green Infrastructure Policy and the Sustainable Urban Drainages (SUDS) techniques utilised by the council have improved flooding in

areas. Ms. Dwyer gave the example of Clonburr as a good example of how SDCC are adopting greener policies in development.

The report was **Noted**.

### **Headed Item 3: Creative Ireland South Dublin**

Ms. Eithne Swaine presented an overview of Creative Ireland South Dublin.

The Creative Ireland Programme is an all-of-government initiative committed to enhancing access to, engagement with, and the enjoyment of Ireland's culture and creativity. Within the broad range of available definitions, creativity is considered as a set of innate abilities and learned skills; the capacity of individuals and organisations to transcend accepted ideas and norms and by drawing on imagination to create new ideas that bring additional value to human activity.

The Creative Ireland vision for South Dublin is to contribute to the social, cultural and economic development of the county and its creative sector by placing creativity at the center of people's lives.

This Creative Ireland vision is pursued through these five pillars:

- Creative Communities
- Creative Youth
- Creative Health and Wellbeing
- Creative Climate Action
- Creative Industries

Since 2018, over 530 projects have been developed and funded under the programme.

#### **2025 Funding Allocation:**

- Creative Ireland Funding: €188,064
- Cruinniú na nÓg Funding: €78,000.15
- Additional Creative Ireland Funding: €129,388

Cruinniú na nÓg remains the flagship initiative, with €75,000 allocated annually to support quality programming. In 2025, 45 events were hosted across the county. Attendance figures since 2018 totalled 309,456 people.

Programme strands include:

- Project Awards
- Cruinniú na nÓg
- Film Awards
- Community Mural Award
- Incubation Award

- Artist in Collaborative Practice Award
- Schools Culture Award

Cllr Dunne thanked Ms. Swaine for her work. Cllr Dunne looked for clarification on where Creative Ireland Funding comes from and how it is spent for e.g does it fund NOISE music Programme, and are the arts office targeting hard to reach groups. Ms. Swaine responded to the question. The dept of the Culture, Communications and Sport provide the majority of the funding with a small percentage coming from the Dept of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Funding for Shared Island initiatives comes through the Dept of the Taoiseach. The four Dublin local authorities get a higher level of funding than the other local authorities across Ireland. For example, Cruinniú na nÓg Is Creative Ireland's flagship initiative, a day of free creativity for children and young people under 18 which takes place on the first Saturday of June each year. €75,000 of the overall budget goes towards the Cruinniú na nÓg programme each year with a major national media initiative and support from RTE. In 2025 there were 45 events hosted on Cruinniú day across the county with large hubs in Lucan House and in Parthalán Place with libraries and community centres hosting events across the county. There were also a number of immersive programmes for children and young people in the lead up to Cruinniú day where many children and young people had the opportunity to share their new skills with a Cruinniú day audience. Ms. Swaine engaged an artist to create a colouring and craft pack for groups that could not engage in activities on the day so that every child could be included in some part. Ms. Swaine asked if there were any further questions they could be directed to her at [eswaine@sdublincoco.ie](mailto:eswaine@sdublincoco.ie).

The report was **noted**.

#### **Headed Item 4: Libraries Capital Programme Update**

Ms. Síle Coleman presented an update on the Libraries Capital Programme.

##### Citywest Library

- Construction commenced July 2025.
- Estimated completion May 2026.
- 1,300 sqm full-time branch (57.5 hours per week).
- Facilities include children's library, teen space, makerspace, lecture room, gallery, flexible study/workspaces and rooftop terrace.

Mobile library engagement in the area recorded 11,800 visits in 2025.

##### Adamstown Library

- 1,500+ sqm full-time branch.

- Co-located with Enterprise Centre.
- Planning application lodged January 2026.
- Indicative commencement Q1 2027.

#### Rathcoole Library Hub

- Located at the Old Courthouse.
- Small, part-time satellite branch to Citywest.
- Indicative opening Q4 2026.

#### Clondalkin Library Refurbishment

- Universal access improvements including lift block.
- Construction expected Q3 2026 (7-month build).

#### Ballyroan Library

- Makerspace installed 2025.
- My Open Library planned 2026.

#### Tallaght Library Refurbishment

- Goal: refurbish and redesign existing space within Tallaght Town Centre context.

Future priorities include ICT upgrades and planning for Clonburris, Newcastle and Firhouse/Ballycullen.

Cllr Dunne welcomed the scale of investment and asked if there were any questions.

Cllr Donnelly highlighted the importance of ensuring accessibility standards across all developments particularly for neurodivergent individuals. Ms. Coleman responded to say accessibility was extremely important to libraries. SDCC branches currently have three Sensory Cubbies in place and run a programme called Neurodiverse South, provide sensory toys and ear defenders for use in branches. Some branches have issues space wise to provide sensory rooms. SDCC hope to provide a sensory room in the new Citywest Library. Cllr Donnelly thanked Ms. Coleman for her response.

Cllr Dunne asked what areas would next be looked at for new libraries and Cllr Barnes mentioned that Knocklyon/Firhouse currently doesn't have its own branch. There was a discussion around using older historical buildings as possible locations for new libraries. Ms. Coleman responded to say that feasibility studies are being carried out and that Newcastle/Firhouse/Ballycullen areas are being looked at for this.

The report was **noted**.

**Headed Item 5: Any Other Business**

Chair Cllr. Louise Dunne invited contributions for Any Other Business.

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

**The meeting concluded at 6.40pm .**