

COUNCILLORS REPORT ON CONFERENCE WHICH THEY ATTENDED  
REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED UNDER SECTION 142(5) (f) and (fa) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001



Organiser of Conference Roscommon Co. Co.  
Name of Conference DOUGLAS HYDE CONFERENCE  
Location of Conference BALLAGHADERREEN, CO. ROSCOMMON  
Date of Conference 14/7/17 - 15/7/17  
Summary of Conference Content  
PLEASE SEE BELOW

Signature: SÉIGHÍN Ó CEALLAIGH  
Print Name: SÉIGHÍN Ó CEALLAIGH

THIS FORM TO BE SUBMITTED WITH CLAIM FORM FOR TRAVEL AND SUBSISTENCE

The Douglas Hyde Conference or as Gaeilge 'Comóradh An Uachtaráin', was held in Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon, at the Nephin, Western Regional Assembly on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The main theme of the conference, apart from the life of Douglas Hyde, was surrounding Culture, Heritage, & the Arts in Ireland. After the morning registration & welcome we received a talk from Orlaith O'Byrne, Director of the Arts Council, on the role of arts in the Irish Society. I raised the issue of inclusiveness with Orlaith, as I believe many people feel that there isn't enough for the ordinary person when it comes to Arts & culture events.

This was followed by a talk from Michael O'Brien of the Creative Ireland Programme 2017-2022. At this talk I raised the successes of the 2016 Centenary Programme & asked for a similar programme be rolled out for centenary events during this programme timeframe, including 1918 General Election, the Tan War, the Civil War. I said that what made the events such a success was the support given to local authorities to set out their own programme.

This was followed by a talk from US author Scott Timberg on the lack of culture in America. I discussed with Mr Timberg the lack of actual American culture, and more of a celebration of regional cultures such as the Irish-American culture. He agreed that the coverage of these things, while sometimes slightly exclusive, helped to shape the modern US culture.

I then received a talk from Dr. Sandra Collins, Director of the National Library, which did look at collection of information, memorabilia & scrapes from the 1916 Rising period throughout the centenary year. It was a very informative session & I had asked if we could follow on with this work throughout the approaching centenary events such as the Tan War & Civil War.

In the afternoon & evening we received historical presentations on the life of Douglas Hyde from his grandson Cormac Moore. There was a particular focus on Hyde's roles in Comrad Na Baeilge and the GAA, as well as his time as Undersecretary in Leinster. It also included his links with the US & the trips he made there on behalf of Comrad na Baeilge in order to raise money for the organisation.

I returned to Ballaghaderreen the following morning on 15/7/17, next door to the Nephelen & Western Regional Assembly, at the local library. There we received a presentation from the grand-niece of 1916 leader Joseph Plunkett, on the Roscommon by-election of 1917. In the constituency of North Roscommon George Plunkett, father of Joseph, stood as a pro-independence candidate for Sinn Féin and won the seat from the Irish Parliamentary Party (the Home Rule Party), and set a precedence for democracy in the republican movement, which can be seen in the success of the 1918 General Election, at which Plunkett kept his seat.

Seán O'Callaghan

20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

**To: The Mayor and each member of Limerick City and County Council**

Report on the trip to Loimaa Finland

**A Chomhairleoir, a chara,**

The aim of the trip was to promote intercultural dialogue and discuss models of best practice around Youth Theatres. The invitation to Limerick was extended via the County Limerick Youth Theatre from Loimaa Council.

The County Limerick Youth Theatre has a close relationship with Loimaan Teatteri in Finland an initiative of Loimaa Council. In August 2017, Mayor Keary and Director of Service, Josephine Cotter travelled to be part of the exchange.

The exchange is funded by the European Commission and is part of Erasmus+. The theatre exchange project Acting Out 100! is for young people to explore issues surrounding Ireland's 1916 uprising and Finland's 1917 revolution. The project allows young people to share their understanding of their own history and their own abilities, provides safe spaces for young people to socialise, develop and learn and it actively engages young people in building social capital.

While in Loimaa the delegation met with a number of services within Loimaa Town Council. At meetings discussion around youth work and cultural services of Loimaa municipality and Limerick's cultural strategy was shared to create further insights and learning's from important youth projects in the area of culture.

Meetings with the following officials and elected members took place;

Town manager Mr. Jari Rantala

Mrs. Tarja Mäki-Punto-Ristanen - Chairwoman of town council

Mrs. Teija Ek-Marjamäki - Chairwoman of town government

Mr. Heikki Vainio - Chairman of the committee of culture, youth and leisure time

Mrs. Pirkko Suhonen - Head officer of youth services

Mr. Juhani Heinonen - Head officer of culture services

Mr. Mauri Vainio - Youth worker

Mrs. Hannele Wilen - Chairwoman of Loimaa theatre

**Is mise le meas,**

Cllr. Stephen Keary

Mayor of the City and County of Limerick

