

## Community, Leisure & Culture Strategic Policy Committee Meeting 03/02/2020

A meeting of the Community, Leisure & Culture Strategic Policy Committee was held in the Council Chamber, Corporate Headquarters, Merchants Quay, Limerick on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 at 3pm

The following were in attendance: -

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr. Kieran O' Hanlon

PRESENT: Cllr. Olivia O' Sullivan  
Cllr. Sarah Kiely  
Cllr. Tom Ruddle  
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell  
Cllr. Elisa O' Donovan  
Cllr. Michael Donegan  
Cllr. Kevin Sheahan  
Ms Louise Donlon  
Mr Mike Ryan

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Gordon Daly, Director of Services  
Mr Damien Brady, Limerick City & County Librarian  
Mr Pdraig Malone, Administrative Officer  
Ms Audrey Crowe, A/ Administrative Officer  
Ms Anne Rizzo, Administrative Officer  
Mr Phelim Macken, LSP Sports Co-ordinator  
Ms Pam Byrne, Branch Librarian  
Ms Kathy O' Grady, A/Staff Officer  
Ms Patricia Cusack, Executive Librarian

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Francis Foley  
Cllr. PJ Carey  
Seamus O' Connor, Senior Social Worker/ Chief Officer LCDC

The Chair Cllr K O' Hanlon opened the meeting by welcoming the newly appointed sectoral interests Ms Louise Donlon and Mr Mike Ryan. On behalf of the committee, Cllr K O' Hanlon also paid tribute to Sheila Deegan, Culture and Arts Officer following her recent secondment to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and wished her every success in her new role.

### **Item 1: Adoption of Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr M Donegan, seconded by Cllr G Mitchell, the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 were unanimously adopted.

## **Item 2: Matter Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

## **Item 3: Autism Friendly Library at Watch House Cross- Presentation.**

The members received a presentation on the Autism Friendly Library at Watch House Cross. The presentation outlined the importance of providing facilities to those with autism and that supports such as the sensory room and relaxed performances benefit individuals with sensory impairments, special educational needs and those on the Autism Spectrum. It also outlined that the Library Staff plan to extend the programme to other library branches in Limerick. Following the presentation, the members thanked the library staff for the wonderful work they are doing in the libraries. The Chair Cllr K O' Hanlon outlined that he and the other members would welcome a visit to Watch House Cross Library to see the facilities.

Cllr M Donegan stated that he would like to see Autism Friendly Libraries rolled out in all the libraries in both Limerick City and County and also stated that he would like to see funding allocated to the libraries from the general municipal allocation.

Cllr E O' Donovan also congratulated the Library services and stated that she would like "*As I am Autism*" training rolled out to all council Staff. Ms Pam Byrne Branch Librarian outlined that the "*As I am Autism*" training is a free online training tool and available to everyone that would like to avail of it.

Cllr S Kiely requested that more funding and facilities be made available for Roxboro Library in the Southside of the city. Mr Damien Brady Limerick City and County Librarian outlined that an update on the development plan for libraries in the City & County will be presented to members at a future SPC meeting.

Cllr S Kiely indicated that the facilities at Roxboro Library are of great benefit to the Southside of the city and enquired if more resources could be put into the facility. Mr Damien Brady Limerick City and County Librarian outlined that a review of libraries will be necessary so as to review what are the service requirements for the city and county.

## **Item 4: Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Review 2019- Update**

The members received an update on the Local Community Development Committee review of 2019. The presentation outlined LCDC and Local Action Group membership and the key strategies the members oversaw and made decisions on, when required, in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP €3.2million), EU LEADER Programme (€9.276 million). In addition to the above programmes, the LCDC approved projects under various funding streams including the Community Enhancement Programme, Mens and Womens Sheds, the 'Big Hello' and Healthy Ireland. The presentation also highlighted key achievements in 2019 including SICAP Audit requirements and the additional

allocation of €500,000 for the LEADER Programme awarded to the LCDC as one of the top four performing LEADER Local Action Groups in the country.

After the presentation, the members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Some of the members enquired about funding for new playgrounds in both the City and County. G Daly, Director of Services stated that some playgrounds in the LEADER Rural areas have been financed under the LEADER Programme and that the Council have financed new playgrounds in Mungret and Castletroy. He informed the members that the Sports and Recreation Strategy will inform the Council of possible future investment and requirements in terms of play facilities in the City and County and that this strategy will be presented to the members in the coming months.

#### **Item 5: National Sport Policy (Development of Local Sports Strategies) - Update**

The members received an update on the National Sports Policy. The presentation outlined the goals and themes of the Actions in the National Sports Policy. Limerick Sports Partnership will promote sports participation through school programmes such as Active School Flag and Be Active After School. It also outlined how the Sport Ireland Participation Unit will lead on the evaluation of Limerick Sports Partnership initiatives to deliver on the participation objectives in the National Sports Policy.

#### **Item 6: Strategic Approach to Dereliction & Vacancy- Update**

The members received an update on the Dereliction and Vacancy Strategy. The presentation outlined that the aim of the overall strategy is to significantly reduce dereliction and vacancy in the towns and villages of Limerick City and County. The Presentation highlighted the significant activity undertaken in relation to dereliction and vacancy in 2019 including derelict site inspections, issuing statutory notices and compulsory purchase orders.

#### **Item 7: Age Friendly- Update**

The members received an update on the Age Friendly Limerick Programme. The Presentation outlined the aims and objectives of Limericks Age Friendly Strategy and the many initiatives running to promote Age Friendly throughout Limerick City and County. It also informed the members that there would be public consultation to assist with writing the new Limerick Age Friendly Strategy 2021-26. After the presentation member enquired whether Age Friendly car park spaces could be introduced across Limerick City and County. A Rizzo informed the members that this is something that is being looked into at a National level. Ms Rizzo also informed the members of a roadshow taking place in Limerick that week called Putting your House in order that was available to all members to attend.

Cllr K O' Hanlon and the members thanked all those who made the presentations under each of the agenda items and welcomed progress made to date under the various briefings made at the meeting.

**Item 8: Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Community, Leisure and Culture SPC will be held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm. Location to be decided.

Clr O' Hanlon thanked the members for their input into the meeting and as there were no other matters for discussion, the meeting was brought to a close.

Minutes Proposed By: Clr Jerry O'Dea

Minutes Seconded By: Clr Dan McSweeney

Minutes Signed By Chair: Nevan O'Hanlon Date: 6/7/20