

Community, Leisure & Culture Strategic Policy Committee Meeting 08/07/2021
Microsoft Teams

A meeting of the Community, Leisure & Culture Strategic Policy Committee was held virtually on Thursday, 8th July, 2021 at 3pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: -

CHAIRPERSON: Cllr. Kieran O' Hanlon

PRESENT: Cllr. Michael Collins
Cllr. Olivia O' Sullivan
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Cllr. Elisa O' Donovan
Cllr. Dan McSweeney
Cllr. Azad Talukder
Cllr. Francis Foley
Cllr. Pj Carey
Cllr. Gerald Mitchell
Cllr. Frankie Daly
Ms Louise Donlon
Ms Josephine Butler
Mr Pete Moles
Ms Maura Meaney

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr Seamus O' Connor, Chief Officer LCDC
Mr Pdraig Malone, Administrative Officer
Ms Eileen Humphreys, Administrative Officer
Ms Eileen Coleman, Senior Executive Officer
Mr Phelim Macken, Limerick Sports Partnership Co-ordinator
Ms Pippa Little, Arts Officer
Ms Kathy O' Grady, Staff Officer

APOLOGIES: Mr Gordon Daly, Director of Services
Karen O' Donnell O' Connor

Item 1: Adoption of Minutes

On the proposal of Cllr G Mitchell, seconded by Cllr F Foley the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on the 19th April, 2021 were adopted.

Item 2: Matters Arising

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

P Little advised the members that the first meeting of the cultural subcommittee would take place on Tuesday 13th July and advised any other members to let her know if they wanted to join the committee.

Item 3: To consider a notice of motion from Cllr Daniel Butler (Referred from the Metropolitan District of Limerick meeting held on 17th May, 2021) “I will call on Limerick Council to develop a recreation plan for Limerick City West to include a Municipal sports facility such as basketball, a skate/bike Park and other sports”

Mayor D Butler was unable to attend the meeting and asked that the motion be considered in his absence. The motion was presented to the committee for their consideration. S O’ Connor advised the members that Limerick City and County Council has commenced work on a Sports & Recreation and Facilities Strategy, covering all municipal districts. The development of this strategy has been delayed by Covid 19 restrictions.

The brief for the consultants includes examining all existing facilities for a full range of sports, which includes basketball, muga/skatepark among others and the need for potential new facilities. This notice of motion will be considered as part of the ongoing strategic study that is being prepared. This strategy will come back to the SPC for approval at a future date

Item 4: Audit of Community & Cultural Facilities (Short Presentation & Discussion)

The members received a further detailed update on the Audit of Community & Cultural Facilities. The Presentation outlined the background & objectives of the audit. The audit will inform Limerick City & County Council’s strategy on community and cultural facilities. It will identify gaps in provision, demand, capacity to deliver and operational models. It was proposed that a workshop will take place to further input into the preparation of the strategy under the following headings,

1. The building (old / re-use, new build, shared)
2. Community development process & social inclusion
3. Managing activities & services – sustainable operation (governance, volunteer strategy, activity / business plan etc.)

After the presentation the members were given the opportunity to ask questions. Cllr O’ Hanlon expressed his concern in that he sees gaps in the system particularly in the metropolitan area where they are no avenues for communities to get funding and asked where funding could be accessed for community facilities?

Cllr E O’ Donovan echoed Cllr K O’ Hanlon’s concerns with regards funding and stated that Dooradoyle/Raheen are in need of a community centre but also acknowledged that there is no funding available. Cllr E O’ Donovan also highlighted the LEDP as a good model that could be used for future plans for community centres.

P Moles enquired if the presentation could be given to the PPN linkage groups? E Humphreys stated that she would be delighted to present to the PPN at a later stage. He

also asked a question on behalf of M Conlon who was unable to attend the meeting with regards the lack of community facilities in Limerick City West and the lack of LEADER funding in this area. He asked what actions are being taken to fast track community facilities in this area. E Humphreys outlined that the LEADER programme is currently in a transition period and the shape of the new LEADER Programme is unknown at this time. She also outlined that the new LEADER programme may not have the same priority towards community groups that may have been in earlier LEADER programmes.

E Humphreys agreed with regard to lack of funding currently available and acknowledged that the scale of demand for these facilities requires significant funding. E Humphreys outlined that the URDF, which is large scale funding for urban development, may be a source of funding but this funding is for city centre development and community facilities would need to be integrated with other types of development. E Humphreys also agreed that the study showed the need for a community facility in the Garryowen area and Dooradoyle/Raheen and that these should be a priority. E Humphreys also suggested that one form of financing models that will need to be considered is a combination of public funding, philanthropic, and long term loan financing.

Item 5: Sports Partnership- Active Cities (Presentation)

The members received a presentation on Active Cities from Sports Partnership. The presentation highlighted that the Active Cities framework suggests that activities should take place across four key themes of:

- Active Systems
- Active Environments
- Active Societies
- Active People

Active Cities is a National Initiative with 8 sites including Limerick, Cork, Galway, Waterford and Dublin x 4. A National Coordinator with 8 Local Active Cities Officers will be recruited and €3.5 Million will be used from Dormant Accounts over 3 Years across the 8 sites.

The presentation also discussed the next steps for the initiative, which include the need to convene an Active Cities Steering Committee to drive the initiative and the need to recruit an Active Cities Officer for Limerick & National Active Cities Lead. Active Cities will not replace LCCC responsibilities but will look for partnerships and synergies meeting.

After the presentation, the members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

P Moles enquired if there is a mechanism in place as to how groups/organisations can get involved with the programme? P Macken outlined they want as many voices and representations that can help them, initially a few essential organisations will be brought on board, and then the programme will be opened up to other organisations and developing sub committees.

J Butler stated that a lot of groups are moving out of the city to county Limerick and County Clare with the lack of facilities/clubs based around the river. She asked if this is something that will be addressed in the Active Cities programme.

P Macken outlined that Sports Partnership currently have a project in the city with Athlunkard Boat Club, this club was selected because of its location and its membership. He outlined that it is not always about the facilities but about people not utilising certain clubs due to choice. He also stated that he is aware of issues with changing facilities and access and that it is something that Sports Partnership are looking at when they discuss possible barriers to sport. Cllr K O' Hanlon also mentioned use of the river and the importance of getting the canal revitalised and cleaned up.

Cllr A Talukder outlined that there is no cricket grounds in the metropolitan area and enquired is there any plans for same? P Macken stated that sports partnership are working with Cricket Ireland and Cricket Munster on the development of cricket in Limerick and that there is ongoing work at looking at potential facilities for the area.

M Meaney asked what plans sports partnership have to make sports more accessible to people with disabilities and how do they intend to reach out to this community?

P Macken outlined that Sports Partnership have a sports inclusion officer and part of their role is to sit on the steering board and are involved in all Sports Partnership programmes. He also stated that they have an inclusion club that promotes physical activity for young people which takes place on Saturdays. Under Active Cities there will be an element of the allocation that will be used to help people with disabilities to be more physically active.

Item 6: Date of next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Community, Leisure and Culture SPC will take place on Monday 4th October 2021 at 3pm.

Cllr O' Hanlon thanked all speakers and acknowledged the hard work they had put in to today's presentations. As there were no other matters for discussion, the meeting was brought to a close.

Minutes Proposed By: Cllr Michael Duggan

Minutes Seconded By: Cllr Sarah Kiely

Minutes Signed By Chair: Kieran O'Hanlon Date: 4/10/21