



To the Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Chairperson's Report for the Community, Leisure and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

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The Community, Leisure and Culture Committee meeting was held on 3rd April 2023 where the previous minutes of the meeting held 7th February 2023 were adopted.

Library staff from Watch House Cross Library gave a presentation to the members entitled "Story Seeds." Library staff from Watch House Cross and Rathkeale Libraries trained as volunteers with Fighting Words, which is a creative writing organisation, founded by writer Roddy Doyle and Seán Lowe. This training enabled the Watch House Cross Library Staff to facilitate sessions with children in Corpus Christi Primary School Moyross and Thomond Primary School, Ballynanty and assisted the students complete a story with illustrations, which is published on the Fighting Words website.

Fighting Words approached the Watch House Cross Library staff to work on a longer-term project called Story Seeds. The workshops took place between October 2022 and December 2022 with 17 classes from 2nd to 6th class from the above schools attending the workshops. The result was that 10 stories were written by primary schools in Limerick City and County. A presentation was held in Thomond Park where each student was given a copy of the book. The event got extensive Media Coverage featuring on the RTE Main Six One News, RTE News2Day, The Irish Times front page, Limerick Leader, Limerick Post and Limerick.ie.

It is hoped to extend the project to Secondary Schools in the future. Cllr. Donegan and the members thanked the Library staff for this excellent initiative.

Limerick Museum gave the members an update on the Museum Services. It gave details of Recent Exhibitions held at the Museum, which included the following:

- Shelters – an exhibition of children's drawings, which were provided by the Ukrainian Embassy from Ukrainian, bomb shelters. The exhibition was opened by Ms Larysa Gerasko, Ambassador of Ukraine and Deputy Mayor Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon.
- With Faith – An exhibition by Ukrainian photographers Kateryna Vyshemirska and Olena Oleksiienko which provided a unique window into the experience of the Ukrainian people over the past twelve months. The official opening of the exhibition was carried out by Mayor Councillor Francis Foley

- The Life and Legacy of Saint Patrick – An exhibition of St Patrick related objects from the Museum many of which were not on display for a number of years. The exhibition also included drawings by Senior Infants from Shountrade National School, Adare. Deputy Mayor, Councillor Joe Pond, opened the exhibition.
- Unlocking the Secrets of Limerick Museum – An exhibition of some of the Museum’s most iconic items, many of which have never been on display before held at St. Mary’s Cathedral and funded by the Heritage Council. Mayor Councillor Francis Foley carried out the Official opening.
- Wrap – An exhibition of painting by Limerick based artist Nuala O’Sullivan who works from a Limerick City and County facility in Cappamore. The exhibition was opened by Mayor Councillor Francis Foley.

The members were advised that a 5-year strategy for the museum service in Limerick is currently being prepared. The strategy will set out a strong vision and clear direction for the sustainable development of Limerick Museum and will be shaped and informed by a thorough review and analysis of existing services in consultation with key stakeholders. The strategy will be set within a framework of keys themes and underpinned by priority actions, which will guide the implementation of the plan. The strategy will be completed and published in 2023.

Cllr. Donegan and the members thanked staff for the presentation and the excellent work being carried out by staff of Limerick Museum.

A briefing was given to the members on Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making. This is an initiative involving The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)/Pobal/Local Development & Community Sector (ILDN & Community Work Ireland). The purpose of the initiative is to engage marginalised groups in planning and decision-making. The LCDC, SPCs, PPN and others will have a role in the process through the LECPs & LEADER Local Development Strategies. There are Three Core Phases, which are Planning, Implementation and Review. Cllr. Donegan and the members thanked staff for the presentation.

The members were advised that the final report with regard to the LECP will go before the full council by Quarter 3 or Quarter 4 2023. They were also advised that community groups had raised the amount of bureaucracy involved in funding applications.



Cllr Michael Donegan
Chairperson
Community, Leisure and Culture SPC

9th May 2023