

**Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee Hybrid Meeting 14/05/2025**

A meeting of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (CLAHC SPC) was held on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 3pm in the Council Chamber Dooradoyle and Online via Microsoft Teams.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Cllr. Fergus Kilcoyne  
Cllr. Azad Talukder  
Cllr. Brigid Teefy  
Cllr. Daniel Butler  
Cllr. Dan McSweeney  
Cllr. John Sheahan  
Cllr. P.J. Carey  
Cllr. Pádraigh Reale  
Cllr. Shane Hickey O'Mara  
Ms Louise Crowley  
Mr. John Ward  
Mr. Pete Moles  
Mr. Randal Hodgkinson  
Mr. Daniel Nedelcu

**APOLOGIES:**

Cllr. Tommy Hartigan  
Cllr. Catherine Slattery

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mr. Stephane Duclot, Director of Service  
Ms. Anne Rizzo, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Karen Burke, Town Centre First Officer  
Ms. Fiona McCormack, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Jane Kissane, Executive Architect  
Ms. Etain McCooey, Arts Officer  
Mr. Cathal Brodie, Senior Executive Scientist  
Ms. Lucy Medlycott, FRSA Director  
Ms. Aoife O'Connell, Assistant Arts Officer  
Mr. Aidan Finn, Senior Engineer  
Ms. Joanna O'Donoghue, Staff Officer  
Ms. Amy Hanna, Assistant Staff Officer

### **Declaration of Interest:**

The Meetings Administrator stated that, in line with Part 15 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended, and the Standing Order, all present members should notify the Cathaoirleach of any declaration of interest in any item due for discussion at the Meeting. No such interests were declared.

### **Item 1: Minutes:**

The Minutes of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture Strategic Policy Committee held on 12th March 2025 were proposed by Cllr. B. Teeffy and seconded by Mr. John Ward and adopted.

### **Item 2: Matters Arising**

No matters arising were brought forward.

### **Item 3: Presentation on Draft Limerick Outdoor Recreation Strategy**

A presentation was given by Karen Burke, Town Regeneration Officer on Draft Limerick Outdoor Recreation Strategy. The Limerick Outdoor Recreation Plan will aim to strengthen and support the sustainable development of the outdoor recreation sector in Limerick for years to come.

Members were advised that interdepartmental Project Team that included external stakeholders was formed to develop the Plan. Extensive public consultation was undertaken to inform the actions of the plan and Outdoor Recreation Committee is being formed with wider membership. Draft Action Plan was prepared including themes such as Leadership, Environment, Awareness, Opportunities, Expertise and Access.

Town Regeneration Officer advised that next steps would include: circulation of the Draft Plan to the SPC Members, completion of Environmental assessments and four week public display, after which, the final Plan will be presented back to SPC at the July meeting for recommendation to be brought to the full Council meeting for noting.

Cllr. A. Talukder asked the question on how interested groups could contact the team to have their input and if they are interested to discuss funding. K. Burke advised that the plan will be on public display with option for a public to have their say. It was also advised that draft plan will be circulated to all SPC Members. If any group would like to discuss funding opportunities they can contact team at any stage.

Cllr. S. Hickey O'Mara acknowledged the great work on this plan and asked if there is a way for community members to join the Outdoor Recreation Committee. Town Regeneration Officer advised that once the Plan is finalised the team will notify Elected Members, where they will get opportunity to invite suitable interested parties that might willing to join the Committee.

### **Item 4: Presentation on Developing Street Performance in Limerick**

At the September 2024 Full Council meeting it was requested that Street Performance and Busker Byelaws laws adoption be deferred so that the views of the Arts and Tourism Departments on street performance and buskers could be sought before the draft Bye-Laws were brought back to the Council for approval.



Etain McCooley, Arts Officer gave presentation to the members on Developing Street Performance in Limerick.

Members were informed that Environment Section has been leading on the development of regulatory Street Performance and Busker byelaws, and that the Arts Office is working on positive initiatives to encourage buskers aiming to support the development of quality street performance in Limerick City and County. These are professional development type initiatives that can run in parallel with the regulatory byelaws that are planned for Limerick.

The first of these, is a professional development and capacity building workshop, which has been developed for Limerick City and County Council by the national body ISACS – the Irish Street Arts and circus network, together with Lumen Street Theatre, in partnership with the Arts Office.

ISACS and Lumen Street Theatre will deliver the workshop on 11th June 2025, and it is open to all interested in street performance. The SPC members were invited to attend. The Arts Officer asked SPC members to give consideration under the 2026 budget process, to establish 2 new bursary categories, specific to Street Performance for Individuals and for Street Performance Organisations or groups, through increasing the budget on the existing arts bursaries programme for 2026. The bursaries would be awarded primarily for artistic development, training, mentoring, upskilling, production and development.

Lucy Medlycott, from the Irish Street Arts, Circus and Spectacle Network gave overview of the organisation vision, mission and membership, supports to ISACS members were also outlined.

The presentation was welcomed by the members. It was recommended that consideration be given, as part of the 2026 budget process, to establishing 2 new bursary categories by increasing the budget for the existing Arts Bursaries Programme. It was also agreed to bring the draft Street Performance and Buskers byelaws to the May Council meeting for adoption.

Cllr. S. Hickey O'Mara welcomed the new initiative and advised of his own experience with Street Performance and antisocial behaviour. It was pointed out that safety is one of the big issues for the artists and question was asked if this would be addressed.

Ms L. Medlycott admitted that safety can be an issue, therefore it is always very important to look at all the eventualities and a lot of planning is needed before the performance can take place.

Members acknowledged that street arts and busking can be a great way to revitalise city centre and other towns, therefore artists should be supported and their voice taken into account. It was also pointed out that it would be good to have a structure in place.

Chairperson asked if it is planned for Limerick to have a specific locations close to each other like in Galway assigned for street performance.



Arts Officer advised that feedback from consultation process will be assessed, however for now there is no such plans.

**Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025.

**Item 5: Date of next meeting**

The Chairperson Cllr Fergus Kilcoyne thanked all for the presentations made. The next meeting of the Community, Leisure, Arts, Heritage and Culture SPC will take place on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2025 in Council Chamber, Dooradoyle at 3pm and online. Dates of the future meetings will be circulated to members.

Meeting ended at 3.50 pm

Minutes Proposed By: CLLR B. TEEFY

Minutes Seconded By: CLLR A. TALUKDER

Minutes Signed By Chair: Fergus Kilcoyne Date: 9/July/25