

# Kilkenny PPN Representative Report on Committee Meeting

## SPC 5 : Community, Integration, Cultural, Gaeilge, Heritage & Fire Services

Date: 19/03/25	Time: 3pm	Venue: Meeting Room 1, County Hall
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**Reporting Representatives Name:** Mary Dolan

**Committee:** SPC 5

**Were you in attendance at the last Committee meeting?** Yes

**Did you consult with your Linkage Group /Wider PPN prior to this meeting?**

### Key Issues discussed at the meeting

#### 1. Minutes of previous meeting on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2025

- Minutes were taken as read and agreed. Proposer: Fergus Canton, Seconder: Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery

#### 2. Matters Arising

- Meeting Chairperson agreed as Cllr. Pat Dunphy in the absence Cllr. John Brennan.
- PPN enquiry (Mary Dolan) about the suggestion made by Cllr Tomas Breathnach at the January Meeting that the SPC make a submission to the Draft Heritage Strategy. KKCC (Anne Marie Shortall) to follow up with SPC members who wish to make a submission. An email will be sent out for further details.

#### 3. Fire Services

- Chief Fire Officer, John Collins gave a report on:
  - *The 'Procedure for Fire Charges:* Incidents that are invoiced and Incidents that are not invoiced, the procedure for dealing with invoice queries, the circumstances in which invoices can be written off, Waivers, Legal referral (for unpaid invoices) and the procedure for providing Fire reports.
  - *Public Access to Fire Safety Certificate Applications – Building Control Procedure* and advised on the procedure for access to fire safety certificates
- Chief Fire Officer John Collins responded to queries on:
  - Fire Safety certificates for old buildings advising that buildings built before 1992 are exempt

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- the number of calls out to date, confirming that this year numbers have increased due to Storm Éowyn.
- Waterford Council and Kilkenny Council have an agreement in place that the nearest available brigade will cover an incident and that a review of national policy could change how areas are mapped.
- Budget: €400,000 approx is received each year through fire charges. The annual cost of operating the fire service is €7 million.

## 4. Public Arts Programme

- Public Arts Manager, Vincent O'Shea, gave a presentation on the Public Arts Programme 2024 – 2027. He advised that the Public Arts Management Group (PAMG) provides oversight, guidance and delivers new projects and programmes in various artforms. 84 applications were received and 5 projects were granted funding.
  - Brown Mountain Diamond - €45,000
  - Pauline O'Connell – From Hide to Heel - €111,000
  - Fearghus Ó Conchúir – Extra Time - €113,000
  - Asylum Productions - The Alice Project - €75,000
  - Straymaker - €113,000

Projects will commence in April 2025 and completing in 2025 and 2026.

## 5. Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021

- SEO, Margo Hayes presented the Official Languages (Amendment) Act 2021 and outlined the requirements of public bodies under the Act.
- Suggestions were made that:
  - Kilkenny County Council could organise an Irish language project for schools.
  - Cllr. Jenny Catt Slattery mentioned there are many projects and competitions in schools in particular for Seachtain na Gaeilge.
  - to address the difficulty experienced by foreigners in accessing opportunities to learn Irish. There could be one day in Kilkenny to when everyone is encouraged to speak a little Irish and that this could involve Kilkenny businesses.
  - a group could be set up in the Council with initiatives to encourage the use of the Irish language such as a one day event in Kilkenny with storytelling, singing and Irish dancing.
- Anne Marie Shorthall advised that groups will be able to apply for funding next year under the Creative Ireland grant scheme or the Community Event Grant Scheme.

## 6. Training for SPC Members

- Training will be provided.

## 7. Date and time of next meeting

- Thursday 5th June 2025.

AOB

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- Details are available on the KKCC website for grants - The Community, Cultural Capital Facilities Scheme, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme

**Where any decisions made at the meeting? Yes**

- As detailed above

Are there any actions to be taken as result of this meeting? Who by?

- As detailed above

Did you or another PPN rep make any contributions to this meeting?

- As detailed above

Do you require feedback from the wider PPN/Linkage group on any issues raised? ( Specify issue)

Are there any issues/difficulties for you as a representative of the PPN arising from this meeting?

Date of Next Meeting:

- As detailed above

Any other comments:

Signed

Signature: M. Doran print name: MARY DORAN

Please return to: PPN office, Unit 1, Hebron House, McDonagh Junction, Kilkenny or email to: [ppnkilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie](mailto:ppnkilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie)

