

## Dún Laoghaire – Rathdown County Council

### Chairperson's Report of the Community Development, Culture & Ageing Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Councillor Carrie Smyth, Chairperson**

#### **Present**

Cllr. Deirdre Donnelly  
Cllr. Mary Fayne  
Cllr. Karl Gill  
Cllr. Josepha Madigan  
Cllr. Sorcha Nic Cormaic  
Cllr. Neale Richmond  
Cllr. Carrie Smyth  
Cllr. Patrick Stewart

Ms. Clare Abdel-Basit  
Mr. Tom Conlon  
Ms. Fiona Cummins  
Ms. Geraldine Graydon  
Ms. Michelle Relihan

**Apologies:** Cllr. Mary Hanafin and Ms. Victoria White

**Observers:** Cllr. Seamas O'Neill and Cllr. Ossian Smyth

**Chair:** Cllr. Carrie Smyth

#### **Officials Present**

Mr. T. McHugh, Director of Housing, Ms. A. Dargan, Director of Architecture & Culture, Ms. M. Owens, County Librarian, Mr. K. Redmond, Arts Officer, Ms. D. Baber, Community Department, Mr. D. Lawless, Community Department, Ms. C. Walsh, Assistant Staff Officer

#### **1. Presentation on Community Services provided by DLR**

D. Baber introduced her Section and gave an update on: -

- What the Community Department does; - provide a comprehensive support and advisory service to Local Community Groups, assist communities to provide a better social and economic environment for themselves and identify needs and build capacity within communities to respond to those needs
- Working with Groups; - offer a comprehensive support and advisory service working to a community development matrix of Engagement, identify need & building capacity, action/activity, planning/strategy. – Aim to develop and promote a healthy county and to encourage active civic engagement and participation. – work with over 600 groups county wide – arrange and support number of events to recognise their contribution such as; Community awards, Bealtine – Network for Older People, Volunteer Celebration, Training Days and Pride of Place
- Financial Supports: Community Grants – budget €160,000, 2 rounds for 2015 – January & July, 144 Groups awarded, 84 applications currently being assessed – Summer Project Grants; - Budget €23,000, 2 rounds for 2015, 25 Summer Projects supported – Centre Management Grants; budget €150,000, awarded annually
- Community Facilities; - 30 buildings under the remit of the Community Section Countywide – 15 operate as multi use community services/facilities run by

- voluntary boards of management – 15 operated by community groups providing services and supports within a community
- Estate Management – “A process of partnership and co-operation between residents and the Council. It is about working together to exchange information and ideas to generate for residents a greater sense of involvement and responsibility in the decision-making in their estates. It recognises that residents have a right to be consulted regarding decisions that affect their lives”. – Established on a pilot basis in 1999 in 4 areas – now operating in 12 areas county wide
- Community Employment; - Council Sponsor 3 CE Schemes with 127 learners, 3 CE supervisors & 1 assistant Supervisor, Budget 1.7 million, progression is approx. 50% into employment & 30% into further education

D. Lawless introduced his Section and updated the Committee on the following areas: -

- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC); - The Local Government Reform Act 2014 was enacted on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014. This Act gives legislative effect to the commitments in Putting People First, including the establishment of LCDCs in each Local Authority administrative area. – Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 (inserted by Section 36 of the 2014 Act) sets out the functions of LCDCs. These functions are – to prepare the community elements for a 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan, to implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the Plan, to co-ordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local and community development programmes that have been approved either by the relevant local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and a relevant public authority(e.g. Government Department, State agency), to pursue the co-ordination generally of all local and community development programmes within the functional area of the Committee
- Local Policing Fora; -Provide a space for local residents to highlight local safety concerns, develop a work plan of key community safety issues to be addressed, drive implantation of actions and monitor progress, get feedback on progress made on actions, improve communication between local residents and local agencies, three LPF - Loughlinstown, Shankill & Ballybrack Local Policing Forum, Central Dún Laoghaire Local Policing Forum & Sandyford, Stepaside Local Policing Forum
- Public Participation Networks (PPN); - A new framework for public engagement and participation, called the Public Participation Network (PPN) is currently being developed within each local authority area, The DLR PPN will be the main link through which the local authority connects with the community, social inclusion and environmental sectors without prejudice to other consultation processes, The aim of the structures and processes is to facilitate and enable the public and the organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system.
- Age Friendly: DLR is a signatory to the Dublin Declaration for Age Friendly Cities and Counties. As part of that initiative the Council committed to developing an Age Friendly Strategy and implementation programme, through collaboration with public and community based service providers, The objective of the strategy is to “*Make DLR A Great Place to grow Old.*” An Age Friendly Alliance, with oversight responsibilities for the preparation and implementation of An Age Friendly Strategy was established in 2014, comprising of An Garda Síochána, HSE, ETB, Chamber of Commerce, Southside Partnership, Southside Travellers and the Older Persons Network, The Age Friendly Strategy will be finalised in 2015.
- Social Inclusion; Internal Focus - **Embedding** Social Inclusion Objectives into Decision Making Processes with the Council, Raising Awareness and Promoting

Social Inclusion within the Council. External Focus - **Supporting** the Development of Inclusive and Sustainable Communities, **Providing** leadership and working in partnership with external bodies

Following a wide ranging discussion during which The Director and officials responded to Members' questions, the Chairman thanked the Director and the staff of the Community Department for the comprehensive and informative presentations.

## **2. Presentations on:**

### **a) Library Development Programme:**

M. Owens introduced her department and updated the committee on the following areas:

- Library Development Programme 2010-2013: "The Mission of the library service is to enhance the quality of life in the county by enabling the enjoyment of reading and the pursuit of lifelong learning". – six key delivery areas: strategy & planning, the library user, the collection, spaces, cultural programming & Staff development
- Dlr Libraries Capital Programme 2010: Refurbishment; Deansgrange & Stillorgan libraries, Improvements to Dundrum & Shankill libraries and Construction of Blackrock Library and dlr lexicon
- Finance to date: approx. €40 million
- Statistics: library membership is 67,749/33% of population, issues of 1,426,680 million items for 2014, self-service usage averages 85% in branches, 220,000 visitors in LexIcon since December 2014.
- Culture Programme: Vibrant Outreach Programme to Schools, Nursing Homes & Community Libraries, Children's Book Festival, Science Week, One City One Book etc., Multiple Book Clubs, Writing Groups, Language & Internet Classes, Increased usage of Social Media, twitter, Facebook, e-zine etc. dlr library voices series -Donna Tartt, Jo Nesbo, Ruby Wax, Jodi Picoult, Jeffrey Deaver, Kate Atkinson, Audrey Niffenegger. Artists/Writers in Residence: Chris Binchy, Kathy Hayes, Colm Keegan
- Mountains to the Sea/M2C 2015: 67 events over 5 days in 4 venues, Readings, workshops, discussions etc., Budget of €200,000, income of €60,000, 6,000 tickets issued, Over the Years Writers have included: Margaret Atwood, Colum McCann, Eavan Boland, Anne Enright, Michael Longley, Lee Child, Paul Auster, Sebastian Faulks etc.
- New Strategy for Public Libraries 2013-2017: Opportunities for all – " The public library as a catalyst for economic, social and cultural development" – Irish society is undergoing considerable change – 2009 saw the highest number of births recorded in Ireland – The 65 & over age group grew by 14.4% in the five years to 2011
- Key recommendations from Public Library Strategy: - maintain Capital Programme, Public Libraries to explore different sources of funding, Conduct National Audit of library buildings & services, Frontline services of local authorities, Universal Free Membership, National Library Management System, Shared Procurement.
- DLR LexIcon – short video was shown
- Library Development Programme: Letter from DOECLG 16/04/15, A Library Authority has to adopt a programme for the operation and development of its library service, New National Guidelines, DLR to publish by end of 2015
- The Future: Library Development Programme 2015-2019, Engage with Local Stakeholders, Support Community Initiatives, Build Partnerships

Following a discussion during which Ms. Owens responded to Members' queries, the Chairperson thanked Ms. Owens for this thorough and informative presentation.

**b) Municipal Gallery Programming Policy:**

K. Redmond introduced his department and updated the committee on the following areas:

- Our Mission: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council supports the development of the arts at a local level and aspires to provide opportunities for all who live in, work in and visit the County to engage with the arts as creators, participants and spectators.
- What we do: Important service, contributing to quality of life of residents and visitors to DLR, Commissions exciting range of festivals, exhibitions, artist residencies, schools projects, arts, health initiatives and public art programmes in promotion of arts development, Manages the Grainstore, dlr's Youth Arts Facility in Cabinteely Park, Fortnightly Arts E-bulletin – email newsletter to all audiences, details events, opportunities and funding by Council, Provides annual subvention to support the work of the Pavilion Theatre, Mill Theatre and Dance Theatre of Ireland, subject to Budget allocation each year, Facilitates individual artists and arts organisations through provision of dlr annual arts grants
- Arts Development Policy: The Council's second Arts Development Policy, 'Continuing the Conversation 2011 – 2014' will be reviewed internally in 2015, A mechanism to develop the next policy, to run from 2016 -2020, will be brought to the next SPC meeting for consideration.
- Arts Office Programme 2015: Public Art, dlr Ireland 1916, Mountains to Sea, dlr Book Festival, Writer in Residence, Arts Grants and Artists support, Music Development programme, Municipal Gallery (presentation to follow), Youth Arts, Early Years Arts programme, Creative Classrooms, Primary Arts Programme, running 20yrs, Countywide commissions and opportunities, Arts and Health partnership programme with HSE, Arts Policy Development
- Key County Arts Infrastructure: Pavilion Theatre, Municipal Theatre for Dún Laoghaire- Rathdown, Mill Theatre, Dundrum, Grainstore, dlr Youth Arts Facility, Dance Theatre of Ireland, dlr LexIcon – including the Municipal Gallery and Studio, Proposed Baths Artists' Studio
- Funders: Beyond internal dlr funding, the work of the Arts Office is contra funded by: Dept. of Environment, Community and Local Government, Dept. of Children and Youth Affairs, Dept. of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Blackrock Education Centre, HSE, Fáilte Ireland, Arts Council
- Municipal Gallery Programming Policy Overview: First purpose built public gallery in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Target Audience: Library visitors, dlr residents, Tourists/ day visitors, Local arts community. Programme: Each gallery exhibition programme will consist of artworks in the gallery space and a learning programme, planned and designed in tandem.
- Programme Overview: The Gallery will: be a key local arts infrastructural resource for the dlr professional arts community, Have an accessible and popular programme equally attractive to a local resident or tourist to the area, have an average of six exhibitions annually
- Learning Programme: The learning programme will: Create opportunities for the visitor to explore and engage with the artworks on show, Include programmed talks, practical workshops and projects with community groups, Offer opportunities for everyone, from beginners to those with a more in-depth knowledge of the arts.
- Programming Team: The programming team will be made up of: Arts office staff members, Curators, Artists, Cultural partners, National cultural institutions, Key partner organisations, Arts Education specialists will be consulted as required
- Current situation: The Programming will be a mix of established gallery models: Commissioned exhibition programmes, Touring exhibitions, Open call exhibitions.

The first fifteen months of operations features eight exhibitions: 5 Local, 2 national and 1 international

- Future Gallery Programming: Further gallery programmes policy direction will be informed by: Audience research, Gallery attendance figures, Continuing consultation with relevant stakeholders

Following a discussion during which Mr. Redmond responded to Members' queries, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Redmond for his comprehensive presentation.

### **3. Progress Report on Age Friendly County**

T. McHugh, Director of Community advised that details of Age Friendly County had been included in the Community Department's presentation and referred to the written report:

#### **DLR Age Friendly County Programme Report to The Culture Community & Ageing SPC**

Cllr. Carrie Smyth signed the Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly City and Counties on the 13th June 2013 on behalf of DLRCC. The overarching goal of Ireland's Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme is that every local authority area in Ireland will be *A great place in which to grow old*. The Programme is part of WHO inspired movement, which is built on the recognition of the valuable role that older people can and should play in shaping their communities for the better

At county level, the Programme is developed and implemented by older people working side by side in partnership with service providers and other relevant stakeholders. The Programme facilitates multi-agency cooperation in finding new, innovative low or no cost ways to make our communities better places for people to grow old in.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown's programme is led by an **Age Friendly Alliance**, chaired by Donal Marren (chair of the DLR Network for Older People) and comprising senior decision makers from the key public, private and not-for-profit agencies involved in providing supports and services to older people e.g. Local Authority, HSE, Gardaí, VEC/University, Leader, Carers groups, Community and Voluntary Pillar, Chambers of Commerce, LEO. Also at the Alliance table are 3 representatives from the Older Peoples Network. The Alliance has met twice and has agreed a work programme and time frame for the delivery of the programme strategy by the end of December 2015.

During the first and second quarters of 2015 the County Council hosted 19 separate consultation/focus group sessions all around the county, with older people. The consultation sessions covered 9 key themes which have already been identified by Age Friendly Ireland as their priority concerns, namely :- Health, Housing, Transportation, Information, Safety & Security, The Built Environment, Education, Social & Economic Participation and Dignity & respect.

Following this extensive consultation with older people, the data will be analyzed and an Age Friendly County Strategy and Implementation Plan will be prepared for approval by the Alliance. This plan will contain specific commitments by agencies, service providers and older people's organisations, often in collaboration, to implement agreed changes reflecting the priorities expressed by older people in the consultation process. On completion of this phase of the programme the budgetary requirements will become much clearer.

Mr. Pat Coffey, Social Inclusion Officer in the Housing and Community Department has been assigned responsibility for leading and developing the dlr Age Friendly County Programme and any questions or suggestions related to it may be directed to him at [pcoffey@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:pcoffey@dlrcoco.ie) or telephone 01 2047269

T McHugh advised that P. Coffey, Community Department had been requested to report quarterly to the SPC on an update on the progress of the Strategy. The consultation process is currently under way and the Draft Strategy will come to the Community

Development, Culture and Ageing SPC meeting. T.McHugh undertook to formally introduce policies to member in advance of future meetings.

During a wide-ranging discussion, T. McHugh responded to Members' queries.

#### **4. Nominations from SPC to the Public Arts Steering Group**

K.Redmond advised that the Public Art Steering Group is comprised of 11 people with a quorum of 6 and members may serve up to three years. As per the adopted policy the membership is made up of:

When adopted	Currently
Chair of the Environment, Culture & Community S.P.C.*	Chair of the Community Development, Culture & Ageing S.P.C.*
A non-Councillor/Council representative from the Environment, Culture & Community SPC. *	A non-Councillor/Council representative from the Community Development, Culture & Ageing S.P.C.*
A representative from each of the Environment, Culture & Community, Water & Waste Services and Housing Area Committees (2)*	A representative from each of the Environment, Culture and Housing & Community Area Committees (2)*
Environment, Culture & Community Director of Services	Andrée Dargan, County Architect and Director of Culture
Representative from the Parks Section – Senior Parks Superintendent or Senior Executive Parks Superintendent	Tim Carey
Representative from the Architects' Department – County Architect or Senior Architect	Pamela O'Connor
County Arts Officer	Kenneth Redmond
Representative from the Public Art Working Group	T.B.C.
2 x external with artistic expertise (e.g. professional arts practitioner, curator, arts manager)	Louise Lowe and Claire Power

and those nominations were now being sought for external members of the Community Development, Culture and Ageing SPC, he advised that the Steering group have on average three to four meetings per year, which are held on Wednesday at 11.00 am and last approximately two hours.

It was **agreed** that an email would issue after the meeting to the six external members of the SPC and that nominations would be accepted at the next meeting.

## **5. Referral from Council – proposed policy on community facilities usage**

TMcHugh informed the committee that at a cross party meeting it was recommended that a proposed policy on community facilities usage be referred to the Community Development, Culture and Ageing SPC meeting. He advised that the committee could decide if they want to make a decision on this matter, but that a policy can be recommended by the SPC but requires the elected Council to adopt policy.

The Committee were advised that the Council depend on voluntary management of community facilities and if a policy was adopted the onus would be the voluntary management group to implement.

Following a discussion during which T. McHugh responded to Member's queries and it was agreed that draft guidelines will be developed and presented at the next Community Development, Culture and Ageing SPC meeting.

## **6. Items for consideration for inclusion in the Future Work Programme**

### **Cllr. Deirdre Donnelly**

#### **a. Culture**

That this committee organise the setting up of a Coiste Gaeilge (to include members across all parties) to implement a plan for the Irish language at both Council and county-wide levels.

T. McHugh advised the committee that Coiste Gaeilge falls under the remit of the Corporate Services Department for the provision of a development officer.

Following a discussion of the members A. Dargan advised that the item is not a responsibility of the Culture Department and the Corporate Services do not have a SPC.

**The committee referred the item back to Corporate Services requesting feedback/reply.**

#### **b. Ageing**

That this committee examine the possibility of introducing CO alarms for the elderly under the same scheme as the distribution of smoke alarms. This would apply to all citizens irrespective of privately owned, council owned or rented accommodation.

T.McHugh advised that the introduction of CO alarms for the elderly is not a policy and that it is a national scheme. The matter was a motion on the Council meeting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2015, where it was agreed that a letter would be issued to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to include CO alarms on the scheme.

**7. Any Other Business:** none

#### **8. Date of next Meeting:**

The Chair advised that the next meeting will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 with the following meeting taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The meeting concluded at 7.15 pm.