

**DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**14 JANUARY 2019**

**Chairperson's Report for the Community Development, Culture and Ageing Strategic  
Policy Committee**

**held in the Dundrum Office, Main Street, Dundrum, Co. Dublin  
on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at 5.00 pm**

**Chairperson's Report**  
**Councillors Present**

Cllr. McCarthy, Lettie  
Cllr. Blain, Emma  
Cllr. Donnelly, Deirdre  
Cllr. Hanafin, Mary

Cllr. Kennedy, John  
Cllr. Stewart, Patricia  
Cllr. Tallon, Grace

Councillor Lettie McCarthy presided as Chairperson

**SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**

Ms. Ann Cannon, Mr. Tom Conlon, Mr. Tom Dalton, and Ms. Geraldine Graydon

Apologies were received from Councillor Mary Fayne, Councillor Sorcha Nic Cormac, and Michele Relihan

**OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Dearbhla Lawson, Director of Community and Cultural Development; Mary Ruane, Senior Executive Officer; Kenneth Redmond, Arts Officer; Maire Davey, Assistant Arts Officer; Sue McMahon, Senior Staff Officer

**Confirmation of Minutes**

Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, 2018 were agreed and adopted, having been proposed by Cllr Emma Blain and seconded by Cllr Patricia Stewart.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes (if any)**

There were no matters arising.

**Information items submitted by members for written reply**

**Loneliness Among Older People**

**Mr. Tom Conlon**

"As the issue of loneliness among older people is a key aspect of the Age-Friendly Strategy, I would like to receive copies of all research or consultancy reports (together with any assessments of them) carried out by or on behalf of the Council in the last four years into (a)

the extent of loneliness among the older population in the County, (b) the needs of the lonely or (c) possible initiatives to alleviate loneliness”.

### **Reply:**

The Council is not aware of any specific recent studies undertaken in relation to loneliness in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. The issue of loneliness and supporting efforts to alleviate loneliness is taken into account in the development and on-going implementation of the dlr Age-Friendly Strategy. Consultation was undertaken in the development of the dlr Age-Friendly Strategy with people across dlr to assess views on a range of issues and challenges affecting older people’s lives. Good progress is being made on delivering the Strategy, and there are a range of Age Friendly activities being delivered to support and promote wellbeing and social engagement throughout the County.

Dlr has also recently fed into the Loneliness Taskforce’s report *A Connected Island – An Ireland Free From Loneliness* which aims to address the key issues surrounding Loneliness in Ireland today. We also provide and support many local groups and initiatives such as Befriending Services, Support Co-ordination Service, Safety & Security Events for Older People along with social activities such as coffee mornings and tea dances with the aim of identifying and combating potential loneliness with dlr.

The reply to Question 3 a) was **NOTED**.

It was **AGREED** to take Director’s Business in the order of item 4. b), followed by item 4. c) and 4. a).

### **Exit 15 Project Overview and Update**

Dr. Victoria Durrer, Lecturer in Arts Management and Cultural Policy, Queen’s University, Belfast, gave a presentation on the Exit 15 Project, and highlighted the project’s support of the development of the arts in Ballyogan area and in exploring the area’s sense of community. The presentation outlined the engagement by local groups and projects, and impact of the project as part of a sequence of events in a learning framework.

Following discussion, Dr. Victoria Durrer, Dearbhla Lawson and Maire Davey responded to the Members’ questions and Dr. Durrer was thanked by Councillor Lettie McCarthy, and the update was **NOTED**.

### **Grainstore Programme Update**

Ms. Louise Costelloe, Grainstore Manager, gave a presentation update on the Grainstore, dlr’s youth arts facility. The key highlights from the last 12 months, the programme and the partnerships. Following a discussion during which Louise Costelloe responded to the Members queries, the report was **NOTED**.

### **Universal Grants – Arts & Community Grants**

#### **Arts Grants**

Mr. Kenneth Redmond, Arts Officer gave a presentation on the Arts Grants which included the objectives and background, an outline of the categories, funding and examples of events, projects, participation and learning. Following a discussion during which Mr Kenneth Redmond responded to the members’ queries the report was **NOTED**.

#### **Community Grants**

Ms. Mary Ruane, Senior Executive Officer, gave a presentation on the dlr Grants Scheme which included: Overview of dlr Grants Scheme, Community Grants Categories, number of Community Grants Awarded, what's new for 2019 and the programme of Public Information Sessions & advertising/awareness-raising for 2019 Grants Scheme

Following discussion during which Ms. Mary Ruane responded to the members' queries the report was **NOTED**.

### **Items for consideration under the Future Works Programme**

#### **Councillor D. Donnelly - Introduction of walking/running trails in all our parks/green spaces**

"To ask this Committee, following the last meetings report on a Healthy County and in the interest of promoting health and fitness amongst all ages, to support the introduction of walking/running trails in all our parks (and where possible green spaces). This could involve marked distances at intervals (as in Clonmore Park), support of Slí na Sláinte initiatives (as in Leopardstown Avenue) and maps (similar to walking routes provided by Belfield) that could be promoted to community groups, schools and other organisations across the County."

Following a discussion during which Ms Dearbhla Lawson, Director of Community and Cultural Development responded to the member's queries. She outlined that the SPC Work Programme included Healthy Ireland Policy updates, and that this item could be referred to Municipal Services Department as it relates to operational issues.

### **Future Works Programme 2018**

Dearbhla Lawson gave a brief progress update in regard to the future works programme which includes.

- Public Art Policy Development and Programme Updates
- Autism Awareness
- Cultural Programme Updates
- Universal Grants
- Community Development and Social Inclusion Updates
- Heritage – Plan Review and Updates
- Cultural and Creative Plan Development and Updates
- DLR's Children and Young Person's Plan Update
- Healthy Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Strategy and Updates
- Library Development Plan Updates
- Positive Ageing – Age Friendly Strategy – Review and Updates
- Migrant Integration Strategy
- DLR's Play Policy Review and Development

It was AGREED that an update on Community Development and Social Inclusion would be brought to the next SPC Meeting and also, to invite the PPN Co-ordinator to present on the PPN at a future meeting.

### **Business Referred from the Council (if any)**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business for consideration under this heading.

### **Business Referred from the Corporate Policy Group (if any)**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business for consideration under this heading.

**Any other Business**

It was **NOTED** that there was no business for consideration under this heading.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The proposed date of the next meeting is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2018.