

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community, Quality of Life & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 7th September, 2022 in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk.

Present: Cllr. John Sheridan-Chair
Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. Maeve Yore
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Ms. Fiona Crawley, PPN Environmental Rep
Ms. Susan Farrelly, PPN Arts Rep

Officials: Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Paula Gribben, Administrative Officer
Ms. Amanda Brannigan, Acting County Librarian
Ms. Linda Larrigan, Senior Executive Librarian

Apologies: Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
Cllr. Emma Coffey
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, PPN Sports rep
Ms. Stacey McVeigh, PPN Youth Rep.
Mr. Colin Roche, PPN Social Inclusion Rep

Introduction

The new Chairperson, Cllr John Sheridan was welcomed in his new role. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend.

Minutes of the previous meeting- 15th June 2022

Cllr. Michelle Hall proposed the minutes of the previous meeting which was held on Wednesday 15th June 2022 and Cllr. Maeve Yore seconded.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

My Open Library- presented by Ms Linda Larrigan, Senior Executive Librarian

Ms Linda Larrigan, Senior Executive Librarian delivered an extensive presentation on the Library Services – “My Open Library” (MOL) Programme. She outlined the success of the Ardee MOL and its reopening following the Covid crisis. We were advised that the Drogheda MOL is now up and running following a soft launch and it is proving very successful particularly with the newest residence in Drogheda, The Ukrainian Refugees.

A formal launch of the Drogheda MOL will take place in the coming weeks – Library members can opt in to use the service and complete a short induction programme to allow them access Library services from 8am to 10pm 365 days of the year. Members welcomed this development and recognised the role it will play in improving inclusion for many groups. Members raised a number of questions that were addressed by Ms. Larrigan about the process and congratulated her on the success of this new initiative

Amanda Brannigan Acting County Librarian also responded to members queries with regard to the extension of the MOL programme across the county and addressed questions regarding the mobile Library service and the increased staff numbers.

AOB

Cllr. Maeve Yore asked that a vote of condolence for Mr. Jim Nugent be noted in the minutes.

Mr. Paddy Donnelly outlined the structural change to directorates and informed members that Mr. Joe Mc Guinness will be the Director of Service who will be attending this SPC for future meetings. Members thanked Mr. Donnelly for his participation and contributions.

The future SPC work programme was discussed, with members being encouraged to put forward suggestions for the work programme over the next two years.

It was agreed to discuss the Play and Recreational activities programmes at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

After some discussion members agreed that the next meeting would be held in Drogheda Library on Wednesday 16th November at 4.00pm, for the SPC members to see MOL in operation.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed at SPC Meeting held on: 16th Samhain 2022

Signed by Chairperson: Seán S Stóradáin