

LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community, Quality of Life & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th November, 2022 at 4pm in Drogheda Library, Stockwell lane, Drogheda.

Present: Cllr. John Sheridan-Chair
Cllr. Michelle Hall
Cllr. Maeve Yore
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Cllr. Sean Kelly
Ms. Fiona Crawley, PPN Environmental Rep
Ms. Stacey McVeigh, PPN Youth Rep.
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, PPN Sports rep
Mr. Kevin Moran, Comhairle na nÓg
Mr. Ruaírí Holohan, Comhairle na nÓg
Mr. Andrew Rosbotham, Comhairle na nÓg
Ms. Aisling Mc Quillan, Comhairle na nÓg
Ms. Leah Shevlin, Comhairle na nÓg

Officials: Mr. Finbar Gethins, Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Paula Gribben, Administrative Officer
Mr. Mark Johnston, Senior Executive Engineer
Ms. Valerie Mc Hugh, Senior Staff Officer
Ms. Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator

Apologies: Cllr. Paddy McQuillan
Ms. Susan Farrelly, PPN Arts Rep
Mr. Colin Roche, PPN Social Inclusion Rep
Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services
Mr. Joe Mc Guinness, Director of Services
Ms. Amanda Brannigan, Acting County Liabrian

Introduction

The Chairperson, Cllr John Sheridan welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for taking the time to attend. He also welcomed Cllr Sean Kelly who is a new member and replaces Cllr. Emma Coffey on this committee. He asked that everyone introduce themselves before the meeting commenced.

Minutes of the previous meeting- 15th June 2022

Cllr. Michelle Hall proposed the minutes of the previous meeting which was held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 and Cllr. Pearse McGeough seconded.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Healthy Ireland/Louth- Round 4 - presented by Ms Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator

Ms Paula Keenan, Healthy Louth Co-ordinator delivered an extensive presentation on the Healthy Ireland strategy, fund and consultation survey. She outlined the 3 phases and some of the preliminary survey results that will be explored more through the targeted focus groups and an inspiration station workshop. Members raised a number of questions that were addressed by Ms. Keenan about the process and members were encouraged to contact Ms. Keenan directly with their suggestions, to enable them to feed into the process.

Comhairle na nÓg Presentation- presented by Comhairle na nÓg reps from each MD area

The Comhairle na nÓg reps, Aisling McQuillan, Leah Shevlin, Andrew Rosbothan & Ruaírí Hololan from the National/Municipal Districts each gave an excellent overview of what Comhairle na nÓg do at a local and national level. They discussed their current work plans and the recent consultation held in the Carrickdale, which will shape their future work plans. Various issues that were raised in this consultation were discussed with members. They were both articulate and engaging; they addressed a number of questions raised by members. Members congratulated them on their presentation encouraged them to continue in their work, and offered their support. Mr. Kevin Moran, clarified for members the recruitment process and highlighted the Seanad Na nÓg recent meeting convened for the first time. This gave young people an opportunity to debate topics that were significant and pertinent to the lives.

Play and Recreation Programme Activities

Cllr. Michelle Hall proposed a 10 year play and recreation strategy that caters for all ages, could form part of the future work programme for this SPC. Cllr Sean Kelly seconded the proposal.

Mr. Mark Johnston, Senior Executive Engineer advised on the existing playground infrastructure and outlined the current maintenance programme. He updated members on the current funding available and advised that quotes had been sourced for a strategic plan from companies. It was agreed that a comprehensive public consultation would need to form part of any plan going forward. Members discussed and proposed a number of suggestions regarding cost of equipment, accessible play equipment, playground surfaces, Teen spaces, basket ball hoops in Parks, Insurance and a skate park in Dundalk.

AOB

Dates for the 2023 meeting will be agreed at the next meeting in March 2023.

Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held in Ardee Library Market Square, Ardee, on Wednesday 22nd March at 4.00pm.

That concluded the business of the meeting.

Minutes confirmed at SPC Meeting held on: 22 / March / 2023

Signed by Chairperson: Seán J. Smeadair.

