

## LOUTH COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Community, Quality of Life & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020 at 2.30pm in the Council Chamber, County Hall, Dundalk.

**Present:** Cllr. Emma Coffey, Chairperson  
Cllr. Maeve Yore  
Cllr. Paddy McQuillan,  
Cllr. Pearse McGeough  
Cllr. John Sheridan  
Ms. Fiona Crawley, PPN Environmental Rep.  
Mr. Colin Roche, PPN Social Inclusion Rep.  
Ms. Susan Farrelly, PPN Arts Rep.  
Ms. Gráinne Berrill, PPN Sports Rep.  
Stacey McVeigh, PPN Youth Rep

**Officials:** Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services  
Mr. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Yvonne O'Brien, County Librarian  
Ms. Amanda Branigan, Senior Executive Librarian  
Ms. Paula Gribben, Administrative Officer  
Mr. Gerard Judge, Staff Officer

**Apologies:** Cllr. Michelle Hall

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### **Introduction**

Cllr. Emma Coffey, Chairperson, welcomed all to the SPC meeting and introductions were made.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Cllr. Emma Coffey, Chairperson, proposed the minutes of the previous meeting and Cllr. Maeve Yore seconded.

### **Pre-Draft Policy on Works by Community Groups**

Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Director of Services, outlined the purpose of pre-draft policy and welcomed comments and observation from members. It was noted that that there was no pre-existing policy by any other Local Authority in place and LCC would be the first. It was agreed that this policy would ultimately inform and protect the community group from a potential claim, going forward.

Members discussed the Pre-draft Policy and a number of suggestions were made.

- The inclusion of examples of all construction project types, non-routine works, small scale works that require a Road opening licence and construction works not requiring a Road opening licence.

- Public Liability Insurance 6.5 million for all community groups, sign in sheets for volunteers on projects reducing insurance premiums and Irish Public Body recommendations be taken into account when drafting the policy.
  - Community group definition and its registration to the PPN, assessing capability/skill set to carry out works- Louth Leader's role.
  - Structure of written policy to be clearer and friendly for community group's usage and reviewed annually.
  - Community groups seeking planning permissions, land ownership/permissions before applying for funding to carry out works.
  - Responsibility/ wear and tear when the project is completed, is it designer or constructors responsibility. - LCC takes in charge/ LCC may be unaware of its state of repair it may not be included in its register. Community groups need to be steered in the right direction early in the process and empowered.
- Information manual could be sent to all community groups.

Following the discussion it was agreed that members would consult with community groups and feedback recommendations to the secretariat, to inform a draft policy for the next SPC meeting.

### **Directorate Presentations**

A presentation was given to members outlining, the work carried out by and the priorities of the Community, Libraries, Quality of Life & Creativity section during the Covid19 Pandemic and lock down period.

**Mr. John Lawrence:** Community Development, Support & Engagement

**Ms. Yvonne O'Brien:** Louth Library Services

Members commended the works carried out during the Covid19 Crisis and thanked all involved. It was noted that there were positive new ways of working that would be beneficial and should be embraced going forward.

### **Next Meeting**

Cllr. Emma Coffey advised that the next meeting of the SPC will take place on Thursday 22nd Oct 2020 at 2.30pm County Hall, Dundalk. Co. Louth and proposed to have a zoom meeting if Covid restrictions are in place.

**That concluded the business of the meeting.**

Minutes confirmed at SPC Meeting held on: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Signed by Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

