

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting

Name of Committee: Community, Cultural and Social Development SPC

Name of Representatives: Celine O'Neill & Kevin Mann

Date of Meeting Attended: 24th October, 2019

Present: Cllr Gail Dunne (Ch), Cllr Melanie Corrigan, Cllr John Mullen, Cllr Vincent Blake, Cllr Miriam Murphy, Gertie Sally, Irene Sweeney, Celine O'Neill, Kevin Mann.

Michael Nicholson, Mary Tuite, Caroline fox, Ashling Hubbard, Martina Byrne, Deirdre Whitfield, Jenny Sherwin, Carol Kinsella.

This was the first meeting of the new committee, following the Council elections earlier in the year.

Normally there will be four meetings in the year but we missed the June meeting and the September meeting.

Irene Sweeney was Nominated and voted in as Leas Ceann Comhairle

Today's meeting was taken up completely with discussion around the extensive range of issues and projects covered by this committee and introductions around the group present.

Our first business meeting will be on 9th Dec. then meetings will be held on 3rd Monday of March, June and September. It is hoped to move the meetings around the county. So venues to be decided.

Jenny Sherwin briefed us on Arts development. Arts and festival grant applications will be coming up in the New Year to be discussed at next meeting.

Avondale Forest Park project has the go ahead. County Council involvement will be purely around compliance from here in. Project will be completely managed by Coillte and Failte Ireland.

Caroline fox briefed the meeting on the Blessington Greenway. €5m of funding has been secured for this project. It will proceed in July 2020 with completion date of late 2021 on the cards. 42km of a greenway loop.

Wicklow/Wexford/Waterford Blueway is an exciting project in the pipeline.

There is a November launch of the "Celtic Routes" project. Three south eastern counties of Ireland in conjunction with three Welsh counties.

The Community Grants Scheme will hopefully have a further €200k to be distributed. Dates not released yet.

Jenny Sherwin spoke about Creative Ireland briefly. There will be small grants available for projects.

The Katie Taylor Bursary was discussed. There are very few applicants each year. Unknown why there's not more interest in the Grant.

Mens sheds throughout the county are funded directly from the department. Distributed by the County Council.

There are a couple of playgrounds to be completed around the county but it is then expected that the focus on funding will then switch to maintenance work on older playgrounds. Celine O'Neill asked if there could be some consideration given to helping Schools open there playgrounds to the public after school hours and during summer months.

There was a brief discussion about Wicklow Gaol and the upcoming Arklow Heritage projects. The Rural Regeneration Development fund, being used mainly for Tourism projects around Glendalough etc. The Urban Regeneration Fund will focus on the town of Baltinglass as it is in need of a lift. To be discussed at future meetings.

It was reported that Wicklow pool and leisure Centre has started to operate in the black and that Arklow leisure centre is close to a break even situation. Cllr John Mullen said he was looking forward to a Swimming pool being built in the West of the County. Michael Nicholson suggested that it is an expensive project to develop but even more expensive to operate.

Our Nominations for Pride of Place are Tinahely and Blessington. Both very worthy contestants.

It was agreed that Wicklow are competing well in the Tidy towns Competitions.

It was pointed out that the "Wicklow County Council Draft Corporate Plan" is available for scrutiny and that submissions and suggestions will be welcomed. It will be discussed at our next meeting.

The meeting ended.

Kevin Mann.

Celine O'Neill

Gertie Sally.