

ARTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY LINKAGE GROUP AND SPC.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY ON BOTH LINKAGE GROUP AND SPS SINCE NOV. 2016.

As the existing 5-year strategies/ plans for this SPC expire in the main this year, 2017, the work of the SPC has centered principally on updates and overviews of existing policy/ strategies, and reviews of actions taken against strategic/ plan objectives.

SPC ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

- Draft SPC Work Plan for 2017, including draft Annual Service Delivery Plan for year, embracing a break-down of the c. E17.65 million Budget for and the activities to be achieved under each of the core SPC policy areas.
- Presentation on the wide ranging activities of the Community Development Office, including the strategic 5-year objectives to 2017, funding for community & voluntary groups, and FCC support for 31 community facilities across Fingal. The establishment of and support for our FPPN network is provided from this office.
- Overview of the current Fingal Heritage Programme, highlighting the significant role of heritage in building communities, its centrality to our identity & culture, and its economic importance in underpinning tourism, through heritage tourism.
- Update on the Swords Civic & Cultural Quarter, with a particular focus on the conservation and restoration works in & around the Anglo-Norman Swords Castle. A new Swords Civic & Cultural Centre is planned to be built on the current Seatown Road Car Park site, as an integral part of this Quarter.
- Outline of the FCC County Library Development Programme which continues with ongoing consultations across Fingal stakeholders. An FPPN library development submission has been made which has been posted on the website.
- A brief on the 'Creative Ireland Programme', a 5-year initiative from 2017-2022. It is the main implementation vehicle for the priorities identified in 'Culture 2025', the draft national cultural policy paper, published in July 2016.
- A comprehensive presentation, titled 'Infrastructure', on the FCC Public Arts Commissioning Programme 2017-2021. All strands of the programme are funded from the Per Cent for Arts Commissions Programme with no lean or call on the FCC Budget.

LINKAGE GROUP ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

- Commitment from SPC and FCC executive that the FPPN and the Linkage Group in particular will be consulted, engaged & involved in the review of all 5-year SPC policies expiring this year. Timelines for this review have now been circulated.
- The FPPN requested review of the Grant Application Process, including online capability, in the domain of sport, art and community grants is now complete in terms of the Community Development Office. The recommended process is now with FCC line management for consideration & approval by FCC Council for 2017 launch. FPPN to be consulted.
- On the proposed Swords Civic & Cultural Centre, the FPPN Rep. highlighted the need for a clear break-down of the expected budget cost, and more critically the necessity for an evidenced based Business Plan to clearly demonstrate the Centre's viability & sustainability, including access & parking arrangements.
- The case for a Permanent Orienteering Course (POC) in Fingal was made by the FPPN Rep. on behalf of the Linkage Group. There is currently not a single permanent orienteering course in Fingal County in comparison with the other three Dublin County Councils.
- The FPPN through the Linkage Group recommended to the SPC that, where & when required, the Bremore All Weather facility, where facilities are shared, on a commercial basis, be the sports facility model for the future.
- In the remit of Sports Strategy the FPPN highlighted the omission of any form of water sport in the Strategy feeding an elitist perception of the sport. As an example the vast and untapped opportunities in the Malahide Estuary were highlighted.
- Under the Public Arts Commissioning Programme it was confirmed to the FPPN Rep. that there is adequate provision for local Fingal artists to be recognised, encouraged & supported. While under the artist-in-residence programme (ARP), which is part of the FCC Youth & Education Programme, it was confirmed that the ARP is a continuing & integral part of Fingal Arts Policy.
- On Fingal Heritage the FPPN Rep. highlighted the need to place greater focus, by way of leadership & link up of local groups, on core identified aspects of Fingal heritage tourism. A reform of the Fingal Heritage Forum to include commercial, local FPPN group, and tourism interests should be an integral part of the consultation process of the Heritage Strategy.