



**Fingal
Public
Participation
Network**

Minutes

Linkage Group Name	Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports
Venue	Zoom
Date of Meeting	28/01/2021
Attendees	Chairperson: Heidi Bedell Angela Byrne, Ian Murphy, Tina Nwachukwu, Jacqueline Millman, Seamus Russell, Monika Gupta, Niall Gosson, Madaleine Harford, Todd Pocius, Liz Madden, Lawrence Carvalho, Nike Adesemowo, Matt Cullen, Eilish McDermott, Brian Arnold, Abimbola Wise, Heidi Bedell, Catherine Rose, Myles Caulfield, Finbarr Quigley, Gill Blackburn, Sue Mulvihill, Bernie Kennefick, Isobel Ryan, John Harford, Mary Ogunleye, Rafe Costigan, Bridie O'Reilly, Breda Griffin and Angela Rogers
In attendance	Adam Rudden Kevin Halpenny FFC Parks Department Michael Staunton FCC Parks Department.

Open, Introductions and Minutes

Minutes proposed by HB

Seconded by SR

Presentations: The Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal

Michael Staunton and Kevin Halpenny presented on The Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal.

- BA inquired if tree canopy includes hedgerows?
Will the council be looking into widening the species range of trees in the Fingal Area?
 - KH replied that canopy does include hedgerow.
 - Having a limited range of species is a big exposure. But there is technology in place that will enable the planting of a wider species of tree, especially in terms of native trees that are not suited to small pits in residential area.

- MC mentioned the importance trees have in mitigating flooding. This is especially relevant in the context of climate change. He commented that he is glad farmers are being engaged. It is important to understand why they are resistant. He commented that oak trees grow on arable land and are grown commercially. Government tree planting grants can assist in encourage farmers to commit to the growing of trees.
 - KH stated MC point on water management is important. The environment benefit trees bring in terms of preventing flooding and erosion is crucial.
 - KH stated the strategy does highlight the economic benefit of trees. It is no consequence that wealthy societies have developments of trees and tree management.
- AR (Secretariat) inquired whether the tree inventory electronic database is still in use and whether new trees will be added to it. She stated that KH stated at a meeting in March 2017 that pruning is not a sustainable option. This forest of Fingal pushes back on this idea.
 - KH stated pruning is a legitimate form of tree management. There are times when pruning is not suitable e.g. close to an object or feature.
 - Database has been kept with updated software. Fingal has the most accurate database of any local authority. The geodata informs when a tree has last been checked and use this information to generate workload.
- HB community groups cannot apply for tree grants. If a residence association has a green area they would like to turn into a woodland, who do they contact? Can they do this?
 - KH stated that resident associations wishing to undertake this can be extremely useful in highlighting to the council that there is consensus in undertaking such work. The first protocol is to contact Operations.
- EMcD mentioned that tree replacement at the Portrane Forensic Hospital development did not match the number removed. EMcD also inquired about the walled garden and its protection.
 - i. KH stated that Hans Visser monitors the work at Portrane Forensic Hospital development and the welfare of tree biodiversity. An ecologist is working with Hans in this regard.
 - ii. KH stated the walled garden is owned by the HSE so Fingal has limited control over it. Fingal has been directing local groups to make contact with HSE in relation to the walled garden.

• PPN Representative Progress Report

There were no progress Reports to present.

LM will submitted the following motions to the next SPC as they were unable to be submitted to the 1st December 2020 meeting.

Agreed Motion

That Fingal County Council carry out a research project on St. Ita's to capture the oral and social history of the organisation. – EM to mention that members of the PPN would be very eager to engage in this project.

Agreed Motion

That Fingal County Council research the provision of meeting rooms that are free of charge to non-profit, voluntary groups.

IM stated that the Draft 2021 Workplan on SPC agenda was not included in email circulated.

AR(Support Worker) will circulate it.

AR (Secretariat) stated SPC seems to be merely about disseminating information as opposed to agreeing policy action.

AR (Secretariat) encourage everyone to read PPN Handbook.

HB wants members to read PPN Handbook for next meeting.

AR (Support Worker) to circulate handbook.

• Discussion on Community Issues

- MC raised concern about Draft Heritage Signage Guidance on consultation portal. He stated that it seems that if a community wish to have a heritage trail, they will be required to pay for it.
 - AB (Rush Tourism) stated she is interested in viewing this consultation as Rush have a trail but are looking to extend it.

AB (Rush Tourism) inquired what groups were doing for St. Patrick's Day given the virtual environments due to Covid-19.

- Group inquired whether buildings in the Fingal area could be lit green for St. Patrick's Day similar to Lighting Up Fingal for Christmas.
- AR (Support Worker) agreed to bring this request to Paul Barnes from events department.

EMcD mention she is having a virtual event for Women's day on March 7th.

- AR (Support Worker) encourage EMcD to send him details of event to circulate among members.

• Agreed Actions

1. LM will submitted the following motions to the next SPC as they were unable to be submitted to the 1st December 2020 meeting.
2. AR (Support Worker) to circulate handbook
3. AR (Support Worker) to circulate the Draft 2021 Workplan on SPC agenda
4. AR to bring this request to Up Fingal green for St. Patrick's Day to Paul Barnes.

Date of Next Meeting

Next meeting will take place April 1st.