



**Fingal
Public
Participation
Network**

Minutes

Linkage Group Name	Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports
Venue	Zoom
Date of Meeting	01/04/2021
Attendees	Facilitator: Heidi Bedell Alain Rochecouste, Angela Byrne, Anthony Brennan, Brian Arnold, Bridie O'Reilly Dara Mac Domhnaill, Eilish McDermott, Gill Blackburn, Ian Murphy, Isobel Ryan John Harford, Matt Cullen, Myles Caulfield, Rafe Costigan, Seamus Flynn Thomas Magner, Thomas Murphy and Todd Pocius. Apologies: Liz Madden, Catherine Rose, Abimbola Owoeye-Wise
In attendance	Adam Rudden

Open, Introductions and Minutes

Minutes proposed by MC

Seconded by GB

PPN Representative Progress Report

No representative report was given.

AR (Support Worker) gave an overview of the CDHC&C Strategic Policy Committee's agenda that took place on 24/03/2021.

- Draft workplan 2021 was approved at meeting.
- Fingal County Council 4th Language Scheme: Draft 4th Irish Language Scheme 2021-2024
- Climate Action Programme - Facilities Network:
- Virtual Community Centre

Linkage Group's Motion on the **Provision of Meeting Rooms** was submitted by PPN Representative.

- It was noted by the SPC chairperson

Linkage Group facilitator stated Janet Ivers (Community Officer) put the motion/proposal for discussion among members of the Fingal Community Facilities Network. Feedback from Fingal Community Facilities Network is positive towards the idea.

- The challenge of insurance was raised by a Linkage Group member where certain facilities are required by Fingal to put the onus on service users.

Fingal Heritage Forum: A new chair has been appointed to the forum.

• Secretariat and LCDC Nominations Open

Linkage Group were informed about the secretariat and LCDC vacancies for June's plenary.

Secretariat Vacancies: 1 Community Pillar, 4 Social Inclusion Pillar, 3 Environment: deadline 02/04/2021

LCDC Vacancies: 1 Community Pillar, 2 Social Inclusion Pillar, and 1 Environment Pillar: deadline 06/04/2021

• Heart of the Community Fund Opens for Applications

Linkage Group were informed about Heart of the Community Fund.

The Heart of the Community Fund offers awards up to €5,000 for small, not-for-profits and community organisations with an annual turnover of less than €500,000.

Awards will be offered in the following 2 tiers: €2,500 and €5,000

• Discussion on Community Issues

Linkage Group members were split into four breakout rooms to discuss community Issues.

Issues discussed:

- The challenges Covid presents to community facilities in terms of creating safe breakout spaces for visitors.
- An inequality is present among voluntary groups that do not have the capacity or resource to transition their activities into the digital environment.
- Lack of volunteers: Covid has brought huge difficulty in relation to maintaining and sourcing volunteers, meaning many organisations struggle to function.
 - It was suggested that Fingal Volunteer Centre might be able to assist some members facing this issue.
- Concerns were raised over rubbish crisis in certain areas being beyond the technical capacity of volunteers and the council.

- It was felt that the council's communication system offered to volunteers engaged in picking up litter was antiquated.
- Fingal could do more to promote heritage and tourism within Fingal. A lot of their current promotional focus is on coastal areas. Smaller heritage/tourism areas/villages are not adequately promoted. A "Hidden Fingal" campaign promoting these areas would be a positive step, whether through a "Hidden Fingal" dedicated website, app etc
 - Action: Fingal Heritage Forum Representative will bring the "Hidden Fingal" promotion idea to next heritage forum meeting.
- The importance of PPN representatives attending Linkage Group meetings.

• Linkage Group (Round 3)

It was explained to Linkage Group that at November's 2020 Secretariat meeting the calendar was presented. The calendar matches the first two rounds of Linkage Groups to SPC meetings. Rounds 4 & 5 dates will be altered once SPC release its calendar the second half of the year.

Because Round 3 does not tie into an SPC meeting, it left open to group to decide whether they want to use it as an informal networking session or not go ahead with it. If an informal session is agreed PPN staff will not be required to attend this round.

Linkage Group agreed to have an informal session. Facilitator and Group members is aware that PPN staff will not be present. Minutes will not be taken for session, but facilitator will take notes where necessary.

• Agreement on actions / issues to be pursued

- Fingal Heritage Forum Representative will bring the "Hidden Fingal" promotion idea to next heritage forum meeting.

Next Meeting Date

8th June 2021