

**Chairman's Report of SPC 5 Meeting - Community, Culture & Fire Services,
Meeting held on Thursday 15th of July, 2021 at 3.00p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

1. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed by Cllr. John Brennan, Seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett.

2. Presentation on the KTCM CDP Pilot Programme Award to Kilkenny.

Lindsey Butler outlined the background to this award and the process involved. The aim of the 2021 Community Development Pilot Programme is to trial community development initiatives that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, and promote human rights.

This item was brought to the attention of the SPC members to recognise the achievement of the people who put this application together. The County Council will also have a role in supporting this programme and this will need to be considered at budget time.

3. Heritage Programme Update

Dearbhala Ledwidge Heritage Officer gave an update on the following:

Kilkenny Biodiversity Programme: - The Kilkenny Swift Audit

Kilkenny Wetlands Audit Phase 2 - A survey of 30 wetland sites will be carried out (lakes, ponds, marsh etc), this is co-funded by the Heritage Council under County Heritage Plan Programme. In 2020 phase 1 was completed with 252 sites mapped, 15 surveyed, 17% designated sites, 83% countryside.

Kilkenny County Council Pollinator Programme

Heritage week taking place on line from the 14th-22nd of August, this is an opportunity for communities to showcase their work and encourage communities to upload projects.

4. Fire services Update

John Collins gave an update from the Fire Station.

Capital Projects

Tender for a new emergency tender vehicle the new Emergency Tender vehicle will have the capacity to carry rescue equipment for all types of emergencies including Road Traffic Collisions, chemical incidents and Heavy Goods Vehicle Rescue to greatly enhance Kilkenny Fire and Rescue response to such incidents.

The tender documents for the new fire station for Urlingford fire station are near completion and will be going to tender in the next week or so.

Community Fire Safety

- Talks and information to various communities is on hold due to current Public Health restrictions.
- We are carrying out Home fire safety visits at present to the vulnerable people with COVID-19 precautions in place. In the Home fire safety visit we engage with them on fire safety advice and install smoke detectors where required.

5. Arts Update - Mary Butler

Mary gave a presentation and updated on the following: -

Professional Development & Artists Supports and feedback from participants which was very positive.

- Wednesday weeklies online
- Emerging Curator in Residence
- Knitted Together 2 projects
- Bookville partnership between the Arts Office and Library Service.
- Rhyme Rag -
- Regional and National Collaborations

A discussion took place on Villages and streetscapes changing, an audit took place on traditional shop fronts in Kilkenny, could be referred to forward planning department, local community groups and forward planning could work on this together.

It was noted that stone walls collapsing is a huge part of heritage and a very important part of heritage, there is no grant scheme available at the moment. It was agreed that Cllr. T. Breathnach would forward a motion to the Council and write to the Department.

Date for Next Meeting is Wednesday 22nd of September at 3.00p.m.

This concluded the business of the meeting.