

MONTHLY MEETING OF DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

9 November 2020

DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Chairpersons Report of the Community, Culture and Wellbeing Strategic Policy Committee

held via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 5.00 pm

Councillors Present

Baker, Marie (Chair)	Grainger, Anna
Ahmed, Kazi	Hanafin, Mary
Donnelly, Deirdre	McLoughlin, Sean
Dunne, Daniel	Moylan, Justin
Fanning, Martha	O'Brien, Peter

SECTORIAL REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Dr Josephine Browne, Olivia Dunne, Sheila Grace, Lyn Hagin Meade and Pierrott Ngadai

Apologies were received from Cllr Deirdre Ní Fhloinn

OFFICIALS PRESENT

Therese Langan, Director of Community & Cultural Development and Parks; Mary Ruane, Senior Executive Officer, Community and Cultural Development; Mary White, Community Worker, Community and Cultural Development; Simone Sav, Network Manager, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network (PPN). Siobhán Nic Gaoithín, Senior Staff Officer, Community and Cultural Development; Rachel Sherratt, Clerical Officer, Community and Cultural Development; and Paul O'Dwyer, Assistant Staff Officer, Community and Cultural Development.

Announcement

Cllr. Marie Baker (Chair) advised all participants that the meeting would be recorded for the purposes of minutes and the recording would be deleted, thereafter. She invited anyone with objections to this to inform her. No participant objected and at this point recording of the meeting began.

Confirmation of Minutes from SPC Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 9th September 2020 were agreed. The minutes were then adopted, having been proposed by Dr Josephine Browne and seconded by Cllr Kazi Ahmed.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

Information items submitted by members for written reply

No business.

Director's Business

a) Community Section – COVID Update

Therese Langan, Director of Community & Cultural Development and Parks:

Therese Langan gave an update on the DLR Community Response to the Covid-19 Public Health crisis, considering the potential for further restrictions from the Government's COVID framework being implemented.

The Community Call Helpline is still in operation but has not seen a significant increase in demand. If geographical distance becomes restrictive for older and vulnerable people (by moving into Level 5), further assistance may need to be provided by the inter-agency Stakeholder Forum which has been meeting on a weekly basis since September.

Ms Langan also highlighted the reactivation of the Health and Wellbeing Group, focusing on engaging in a targeted way, to reach elderly and vulnerable groups and supporting young people through inter-agency collaboration.

Some live and online events have been able to take place through dlr Libraries, Arts Office and DLR Sports Partnership and further outdoor and online events are being planned.

Ms Langan advised that she will bring a report on the initiatives of the Health & Wellbeing Group to the next SPC meeting in December. Cllr. Baker opened the floor for questions and suggestions following on from Ms. Langan's update.

b) DLR Age Friendly Strategy 2021-2026 – Preparation and Consultation

Mary White, Community Worker, Community and Cultural Development

Mary White presented on DLR's new Age Friendly Strategy 2021-2026. As DLR has the highest older population in the country (27% over 55, Census 2016), the aim of the new Age Friendly Strategy is to enhance the quality of life for older citizens by agreeing actions over the next 5 years with many County Council departments and agencies such as the HSE, Gardaí, Southside Partnership, Dublin Bus etc.

Physical consultation workshops would normally be held with many older peoples groups and support agencies. However, due to COVID restrictions, the public consultation will now take place using the dlr online Citizen Space platform and hard copies of the strategy questionnaire will be included in an Age Friendly Activity Magazine funded by Creative Ireland. Five thousand hard copies of the magazine will be distributed around the county and the strategy consultation will be publicised on all DLR County Council channels.

The highlights of the 2015-2020 Age Friendly Strategy and current issues such as isolation and digital access for older people were discussed and dependant on Covid restrictions, it is hoped that the Strategy will be launched during the Bealtaine Festival in May 2021.

Cllr. Baker opened the floor for questions and suggestions and Mary White was thanked for all the work taking place.

c) Update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)

Simone Sav, Network Manager, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown PPN

Simone Sav gave an update presentation on the work of the PPN informing the meeting that there are over 460 PPN member groups in DLR at present. Activities of the PPN include training and capacity building for members; providing updates and consultation with member groups and supporting DLR County Council activities, including support for the Community Response Forum for Covid-19. Community groups and individuals are also given a voice in decision and policy making, such as the SPC's, within the local government system.

Cllr. Baker opened the floor for questions following the presentation and Ms Sav was thanked for all her work with the PPN.

Business Referred from the Council (if any)

None.

Business Referred from the Corporate Policy Group (if any)

None.

Items for SPC Future Works Programme

Strategic policy issue relevant to the business of the SPC for consideration by the committee for inclusion in the Future Work Programme

None

Any other Business:

None

Date of Next Meeting:

Cllr. Baker thanked all members for their participation in the meeting.

5pm Wednesday 2nd December 2020 confirmed as date of next meeting with the meeting platform to be confirmed.

Owner: [_SystemItemOwner]