

**Minutes of Galway City Council
Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC Meeting
held on 4th Feb 2016, 3pm in City Hall, Galway.**

Presiding: Cllr. Pdraig Conneely

Present: **Councillors:** Noel Larkin; Niall McNelis, Donal Lyons, Cathal O Conchuir, Declan McDonnell,
Sectoral Representatives: Mark Lohan, Garry Lohan

Brendan McGrath, Chief Executive

Officials: Eileen Ruane, A/Director of Services
Liam Hanrahan, A/Senior Executive Officer
Gary McMahan, A/Senior Executive Officer
James Harrold, Arts Officer
Mark O'Donnell, Senior Executive Officer

Apologies: Cllr. Frank Fahy, Cllr. Mairead Farrell, James Seymour, Patricia Philbin

1. Confirmation of Minutes.

Meeting of the Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Culture SPC held on 9th February 2016

Proposed: Cllr Donal Lyons

Seconded: Cllr Niall McNeilis

Matters of Accuracy: None

Matters Arising:

The Following Questions were asked in relation to matters discussed at the previous meeting:

Cllr McNeilis – has the broadband issue in suburbs been addressed as coverage is poor and slow?

Cllr Donal Lyons – broadband issues need to be resolved, is there any update? Could the public wifi scheme be expanded?

Cllr Noel Larkin – Is there an update on Enterprise Space?

Cllr Pdraig Conneely – regarding the centenary programme. He was disappointed that Constable Whelan's name was not on the plaque at Carnmore.

-Any update on the Picture Palace?

RESPONSES:

Gary McMahan:

Centenary programme:

The Carnmore plaque was organised by the County Council only, and he was not in a position to

answer on their behalf. But the event in Bohermore cemetery was well attended and the family of Constable Whelan expressed their satisfaction at the event and the memorial renovation work by Fahy Memorials.

Liam Hanrahan:

The broadband issue that had been previously discussed was around the provision of public wifi in the city centre & this was trialled with a supplier for the food festival and would now be expanded. The expansion of this would be very expensive and beyond the brief of the council as it involved the involvement of COMREG etc.

The Enterprise Review is being undertaken by WESTBIC and Galway City Council. A terms of reference has been agreed and the work is ready to be tendered. The report will be finalised in September 2016.

Brendan McGrath

The Solas Picture palace funding is in place and confirmed. Two meetings have been held to further the project, but there is a lot to get through and unless Solas agree with the funders and contractor a plan of action by the end of the week (by Friday 6th May 2016) then as CE, he will be recommending to the Council meeting the following Monday (9th May) that the project funding & other support from Galway City Council will cease.

The SPC members were concerned at this development & agreed that the CE should contact SOLAS and express the SPC members concern that agreement on issues needs to be met as soon as possible and that the update to the Council meeting on Monday needs to ensure that the CE is in a position to confirm this to Councillors.

2. European Capital of Culture bid 2020

Mark O'Donnell provided a detailed update on the bid process to date, the deadlines and the process over the coming weeks which will culminate in the jury visit, the bid book and presentation to the jury and the final decision in mid July.

SPC members questions:

Clr Lyons – In the final presentation are the city's 'heavy hitters' lined up to participate?

Clr McDonnell – Sports groups etc must be involved? Could Pat Lam from Connacht rugby be brought on board. Macnas must also be highlighted and the FAI agm and football festival 2020 will be held in Galway in 2020.

Clr McNeilis – The 2020 pledge by businesses is to be recommended and shows that all are working together on this bid

Clr O'Conchuir – are the GRETB involved and what is the opposition looking like?

Clr Larkin – Will the jury go to the County? And is the county prepared?

Clr Conneely – the presentation personnel is vital – are they known and prepared?

Response:

Mark O'Donnell responded that the city and county will be 'dressed' for the jury visit, and that there are initiatives planned throughout the region for the visit and within the bid book for 2020. Materials are ready and the ideas of small towns, big ideas is being built upon. The timing of all events and 'dressing' of the city is crucial.

Brendan McGrath – the bid book is a complex document of 100 pages and 55 questions. The people who will present to the jury will have to be well versed in all aspects of the bid – budgeting, programming, governance etc. The team will use video to involve other heavy hitters who need to contribute. As CE he will be responsible for the team of presenters. The feeling is that the Galway narrative and story is obvious throughout the bid book and the process and that it will be strong enough to deliver upon.

3. Arts Plan

James Harold presented the draft Arts Plan for Galway City which forms part of the larger cultural strategy and the Galway 2020 bid book. The arts plan differentiates from the cultural strategy as it defines the ideas and projects within as artistic in nature and not in the broader cultural definition. Comments and feedback is required and further work will be prepared for the June Council meeting.

Gary McMahan confirmed that the Arts plan will need to go to the June council meeting and that a draft will be brought to the next SPC meeting in advance of that.

Gary Lohan commented that concern had been raised that the public consultation had taken place through the cultural strategy etc and that it was good to now have the document in circulation and the opportunity was there to give feedback on.

Cllr McDonnell asked if the County Council were also preparing an Arts Plan.

Gary McMahan explained that the Co. Co arts plan was already in place and not up for renewal.

4. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

Liam Hanrahan stated that the 2016 action plan was being circulated as a work in progress and that all lead bodies were asked to submit details on the actions they are undertaking this year. Further work was required on this document and as a 'living' document it would be updated and brought to the LCDC and SPC as required.

5. AOB