

**Chairman's Report of Strategic Policy Committee 5-Community, Cultural and Fire Services
held on Thursday 17th September, 2020 at 4pm via Teams.**

1. Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 12th February, 2020

Proposed by Cllr. Pat Dunphy, Seconded by Cllr. Martin Brett.

2. Grants: Creative Ireland

Original funding under Creative Ireland for 2020 was €96,000.

It is proposed to defer the processing of a grant scheme for 2020. It is recommended that this funding be retained to support existing projects experiencing financial difficulties.

- Knitted together
- One million stars
- Covid care concerts
- KCAT studio exchange

Grants: Decade of Centenaries Grant

The Kilkenny County Council Community Strand of the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2020 comprises seven projects focusing on the period 1920-1923. It is designed to raise awareness and encourage engagement with the significant events and people from county Kilkenny associated with this period in our history. It comprises online talks and workshops, films and commemorative postcards. The programme is coordinated by the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council.

Grants: National Bio-diversity Action Plan Grant

This grant is to assist Local Authorities to deliver projects that promote actions in National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021. Kilkenny were allocated a grant of €16,000 which was spent as follows: - "Gardening for Biodiversity Book" (2,000 copies posted in lockdown), Kilkenny Pollinator Programme (film & materials), Kilkenny Wildlife Detective (school's resources), Local Radio Adverts (hedges, pollinators)

3. County Heritage Plan Projects 2020

Kilkenny were awarded a grant of €23,000 through the Heritage Council to implement actions in the County Kilkenny Heritage Plan.

1. County Wetland Audit (Phase 1) – This will be a desk-based assessment of all potential wetland sites (250) plus 15 sites surveyed in detail.
2. Recording Kilkenny's Ogham Stones – To record ogham stones in 3d and raise awareness and facilitate public engagement with ogham stones in County Kilkenny. Kilkenny has the 4th highest concentration in Ireland.

Covid Stimulus Grant Schemes 2020

Heritage Council Covid Stimulus Funding – Talbots Tower a grant of €39,900 urgent works will be carried out between September – November.

4. Rural Funding Update

Town & Village.

In Round 3 6 applications were submitted and all were approved. The closing date for the next round is 30th September, 10 application can be submitted. The closing date for the Clar scheme was 28th August, 10 applications were submitted. Oris Scheme closing date end of September, Tourism submitted 7 applications and CKLP submitted 2 applications.

5. % for Art Scheme.

In 1978 the OPW established a scheme for the delivery of Public Art Works. In 1997 the Government approved the inclusion in the budgets for all Capital Construction Projects of up to 1% for Arts Projects to specifications. In June 2020 Government circular increase the budgets under this scheme.

The Public Art Policy for Kilkenny was prepared a number of years ago but was not formally adopted by Kilkenny County Council.

It is now appropriate to review this document at SPC level with a view to bringing forward a policy document for adoption by Council before year end. If any comments or suggestions for inclusion in the preparation of revised draft policy for Kilkenny County Council to be submitted to Cora Nolan at cora.nolan@kilkennycoco.ie before the 23rd of October.

6. County Fire Service – Update

John Collins Chief Fire Officer gave an update which included the following: -

- 2 jeeps have been delivered for Thomastown and Callan and 2 second hand engines have also been delivered to Urlingford Fire Brigade. Revised layout drawings and cost plans for the new Urlingford Fire Station have been sent to the Department for approval.
- Ongoing public messaging campaigns are being maintained through social media.
- Free home fire safety visits are offered to vulnerable people.
- Fire Safety Week is the 5th October, and the chair asked if Cleaning chimneys could be highlighted.