

**Arts, Culture and Recreation SPC  
Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016  
9:30 a.m., Council Chamber, City Hall**

## **Attendance**

### **Members:**

Cllr. Rebecca Moynihan (Chair)  
Cllr. Mary Freehill  
Cllr. Vincent Jackson  
Cllr. Emma Murphy  
Cllr. Greg Kelly  
Cllr. Gary Gannon  
Cllr. Damien O'Farrell  
Cllr. John Lyons  
Cllr. Aine Clancy  
Cllr. Séan Paul Mahon  
Cllr. Claire O Connor  
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan  
Willie White, Dublin Theatre Festival  
Ciara Higgins, Royal Irish Academy of Music  
Gerry Kerr, National Council for the Blind of Ireland  
Ciaran Reid, Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Area Partnership  
Jenny Murray, Children's Books Ireland

### **Other Councillors Present:**

Cllr. Mannix Flynn

### **Apologies:**

Simon O Connor, The Little Museum of Dublin  
Cllr. Claire Byrne

### **Officials present:**

Brendan Kenny, Assistant Chief Executive  
Vincent Norton, Executive Manager  
Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian,  
Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer  
Leslie Moore, City Parks Superintendent  
Jim Beggan, Senior Executive Officer  
Bernie Doherty, Senior Executive Officer  
Ruairí Ó Cuív, Public Art Manager  
Marc Coyle, Asst. Parks Superintendent  
Liz Coman, Arts Officer  
Bruce McDevitt, Sports Development Officer  
Oliver Hickey, Administrative Officer  
Jackie O'Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Paula Ebbs, Senior Staff Officer

- 1. Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016**  
**Action:** Agreed
  
- 2. Report on Street Performance Bye-Laws 2016**  
**2 (a) Draft Revised Street Performance Bye Laws 2016**  
**2(b) Appendix – Report on Public Consultation**

A report on the background of the review of the Street Performance Bye-Laws 2016 was brought before the Committee.

After a discussion at the March 2016 meeting of this SPC it was agreed to set up a forum consisting of two representatives from each of the interest groups, i.e. buskers, residents, businesses and including members of the SPC.

The forum met on two occasions and there was very useful dialogue between the interest groups. Broad agreement was reached on most of the contentious issues but the amplification issue was not resolved.

Cllr Lyons commended the progress made by the Forum but stated that he supported the wish of Dublin City Buskers to reform the current two tier permit system. He was of the opinion that the suggested alternative of a general permit costing €30 (including the use of amplification) for new applicants and a renewal fee of €10 should be considered by the SPC.

Management stated that it was felt the current fees (€60 amplification permit annually and €30 general permit annually) were not unreasonable as there were also administrative costs involved.

The Chair put the proposal to a show of hands. The proposal was defeated.

Recommendations were put before the members to consider. The Chair suggested that the members go through each of the recommendations for agreement and to leave the bye-law regarding amplification until the end.

- **Permits (Bye-Laws 1 – 3)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Definition of Street Performance**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Performance Locations and Prohibited Places (Bye Laws 1, 5 and Definitions)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Special Restrictions – Grafton Street (New Section)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed subject to an amendment to replace the wording “large bands” with “bands of 5 members or more”
- **Performance Times (Bye Laws 5 and 6)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Behaviour and Conduct (New Bye-Law)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Revocation and Refusals (Bye Law 23 formerly Bye-Law 27)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Appeals (Bye-Law 28)**  
**Outcome:** Proposed actions agreed
- **Sale of CDs/Merchandise (Proposed New Bye-Law)**  
**Outcome:** The issue of the sale of CDs and other merchandise to be considered as part of a review of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws
  
- **Amplification (Bye-Law 9)**  
Regarding the proposal to add a Bye-Law “**The use of backing tracks is not permitted in any circumstances**”, the Chair informed members that the Enforcement Officer had stated that a lot of amplification issues would be removed if backing tracks were not permitted.

The Chair called for a vote, to which the majority of members agreed to add this Bye-Law i.e. backing tracks were not permitted.

In an effort to address noise levels generated by amplifiers and backing tracks, 4 options were proposed:-

1. A total ban on the use of amplification
2. A ban on amplification at certain locations and/or at certain times
3. Amend the existing Bye-Law of a sound limit of 80 decibels to include a set measurement distance and recording interval.
4. Introduce a revised sound limit of 100 decibels at a distance of one foot from the front of an amplifier. This has been suggested by street performers on the basis that there is almost no ambient noise distorting the reading at such a distance and that the decibel level further away would be significantly lower.

The Chair asked members to vote on only one option:

- Option 1 received 2 votes.
- Option 2 received 9 votes.
- Option 3 received 6 votes.
- Option 4 received 0 votes.

Option 2 was agreed. It was also agreed to have a Street Performance Forum set up in September with a Chair from this Committee to convene meetings.

**Outcome:** Existing Bye-Law 9 to remain unchanged for the time being and that the alternative option of a ban on amplification at certain locations and/or at certain times will be examined and a report thereon prepared later this year.

**Action:** Bring report and Draft Bye-Laws to the July City Council meeting for approval. Arrange to have a Street Performance Forum set up in September with a Chair from this Committee to convene meetings.

### **3. Presentation on Arts in Education and Learning Policy – Liz Coman, Arts Officer** **3 (a) Policy Document**

The presentation was very strongly supported.

**Action:** A report and the Draft Policy Document to go to the September SPC meeting for recommendation to go to the full City Council for adoption.

Welcomed and noted.

### **4. Presentation on Audit of Sports Facilities – Bruce McDevitt, Sports Development Officer**

In terms of the audit of sports and recreational facilities, the first point of contact was within the South West Inner City. An update of observations were presented to members. After a discussion management informed members that the plan is to do an audit of the whole city, working very closely with the Planners and are specifically exploring ideas regarding the Z15 lands and how we can influence that.

It was stated that the whole idea around setting up the Sports Partnership was to influence greater sports and recreational facilities throughout the city.

**Action:** The Sports Partnership to carry out the audit and bring report and more detailed proposals back to this Committee in the Autumn.

### **5. Report on the National Cultural Institution – Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer**

Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer presented his report to the members.

**Action:** Members welcomed this project.

**6. Report on Implementation of Cultural Strategy, Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer**

This is a standing item on the agenda.

**Action:** Report Noted. Update on cultural audits in September.

**7. Report on Dublin City Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021**

The Chair suggested that members raise their queries in advance of the meeting in order to have the appropriate person in attendance to address the issues.

**Action:** Report noted.

**8. Report on the Legacy Project Pavilion at Merrion Square – Leslie Moore, City Parks Superintendent**

**Action:** Report noted. Part 8 to go to City Council.

**9. The proposed new City Library at Parnell Square – (Verbal report) – Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian**

Project Stage 2(a) Sketch Design report has now been approved by the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter Foundation. Work will commence on the stage 2(b) design and planning process. Libraries are working with the Hugh Lane Gallery to develop a new service for a city library visual arts and design collection which will be a combination of a collection of the research collection of the Hugh Lane Gallery and material from the Central Library.

The issue of the appointment of a member from this Committee to sit on the Parnell Square Cultural Quarter Foundation was raised.

**Action:** A comprehensive report to be brought to the September meeting to include the matter of representation on this board.

**10. Report on Draft Dublin City Tree Strategy 2016 – 2020 Marc Coyle, Assistant Parks Superintendent**

A presentation on The Draft Dublin City Tree Strategy 2016 - 2020 was presented to the March SPC meeting and to the 5 area committees. The members agreed to initiate a public consultation process. This process is now complete and further amendments have been included in the Draft.

A discussion took place regarding the issue of protruding tree roots. Cllr. Freehill requested that a works plan on the matter be included in the Draft Strategy. The Chair put this proposal to a vote and the majority of members present voted to include the amendment.

**Action:** Report on the Draft Dublin City Tree Strategy 2016-2020 is recommended to the 4<sup>th</sup> July City Council meeting for adoption subject to amendment outlined above.

**11. Management Update**

Brendan Teeling, Deputy City Librarian updated the Committee on Kevin Street Library works. Part 8 Notice was published last week and includes the provision of a lift to the outside of the building and the completion of the works.

Cllr. O Farrell requested an update on the planning process for Bull Island new park infrastructure works.

City Parks Superintendent informed the Committee that a report will be submitted to the next North Central Area Committee meeting and 3 Part 8's will be initiated in relation to car parking traffic improvements on Causeway, Interpretive Centre feasibility study and design for the recreation facility at North Bull Wall.

The Chair requested a full plan for greening strategy for Wolfe Tone Park be brought to the SPC meeting in September.

City Parks Superintendent informed the committee that Parks and Landscape Services are working on a design for Wolfe Tone Park and a full public consultation process will be initiated.

Cllr. Flynn requested a full report on International DUBLIN Literary Award.

**12. Motion submitted by Cllr Mary Freehill:**

*“George Bernard Shaw Birth House: 33 Synge Street, Dublin 2 previously in the ownership of Dublin Tourism has now been transferred by Bord Failte Ireland into the ownership of the OPW and described as surplus to requirements. Therefore this committee agrees to request that it be transferred into the ownership of Dublin City Council and that the Arts Officer prepares a report on the possible uses of this house in the context of delivery of Arts Programme for Dublin”*

**Action:** Agreed

**13. Breviate of Draft Minutes of Sport and Wellbeing Partnership Advisory Board meeting held 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

**Action:** Agreed

**14. Approved Minutes of Commemorative Naming Committee held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Action:** Agreed

**15. Approved Minutes of Commemorations Sub-Committee held 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

**Action:** Agreed

**16. Approved Minutes of the Arts and Cultural Advisory Group held 16<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Action:** Agreed

**17. Breviate of draft Minutes of Commemorations Sub-Committee held 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Action:** Agreed

**18. Breviate of draft Minutes of Commemorative Naming Committee held 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Action:** Agreed

**19. A.O.B.**

Cllr. O Farrell requested a report on the grass cutting service in the City.

**Action:** Report to be brought to the next SPC meeting.

Cllr. Clancy and Cllr. Flynn requested a report be brought to a future SPC meeting on traffic plan and security plan for Gay Pride Festival weekend.

**Cllr Rebecca Moynihan, Chairperson**