

## **Meeting Notes of Cultural programme Management Group (CPMG) held on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009 in Brú Ború, Cashel.**

**Present:** Cllr Jimmy O'Brien (Chairman), Helen Shanahan, Valerie Connolly, Mary Alice O'Connor, Marie McMahon, Martin Maher, Isabel Cambie and Kathleen Prendergast (Facilitator). **Apologies:** Labhaoise McKenna, Seamus Maher, Sally O'Leary, Mary Sarsfield, Jim Myers, Liam O'Brien.

### **1. Meeting Notes and Matters Arising**

The meeting notes of the November 2008 meeting were agreed. Proposed: Helen Shanahan, and seconded by Valerie Connolly.

### **2. Review of 2005-2008 Strategy.**

Cllr Jimmy O'Brien gave an overview of the review of the report which had been circulated. This included highlighting the Key Issues Pertaining to Assessing Achievement of Targets Set in 2005 – 2008 periods as follows:

- CPMG and the Cultural Providers Group working very well together with good co-ordination and an ability to leverage value from a variety of different activities
- Far better coordination of service providers and their programme of activity
- Co-funding of initiatives was particularly successful
- Strong voluntary contribution continues to be a key strength of this sector
- Some progress made on addressing the non dedicated and ad hoc funding for this service from a myriad of sources (e.g. Excel)
- Arts Officer appointed in late 2007 and an Arts Strategy in Place
- Heritage Officer appointed at the end of 2008 and Heritage Plan in place
- Sports Co-ordinator appointed, Sports Partnership Board set up and a Sports Strategy in place
- Great flexibility of professional staff to undertake additional areas of responsibility
- An increase in the disposable income arising from strong economic growth in the county 2005-2007.

Discussion took place under each result area. There was success under each of the result areas where all the targets were exceeded There was a cultural spend in the County in the years of 2005 – 2008 of €11,420,370. There was a great amount of additional actions also undertaken over the 4 year period in the Cultural Area - such initiatives included:

- Development of a Rural Arts Network which has enabled the outreaching of cultural events to the wider community.
- An 'Artist in the Community' project in Cahir in conjunction with the VEC Multi Media group, Colaiste Dun Iascaigh, Cahir Development Association and STCC enabled an eco-friendly creative experience for 16 youths and their families.
- County Libraries consulted, developed and are now progressing a five year strategy 2008-2012
- Many cultural events were organised and fully supported by the local communities and schools throughout the county. These included the Annual Heritage Week, South Tipperary Schools Heritage Project, Nature Day network
- A Public Realm Plan was developed for Fethard, Cashel and Clonmel
- Setting up 5 community houses in existing local authority estates where various activities associated with arts and craft were rolled out. This initiative was rolled out by the Tenant Liaison Officers and coordinated with activities of the Arts and Crafts Officers in association with the residents groups of these estates
- FAI Development Soccer officer was appointed on a 3 year basis to work with marginalised children and areas – this has worked very well and the officer has

coordinated his efforts and activities with the Sports Co-Coordinator. Failte Football Leagues have been run to meet the needs of the refuges/asylum seekers

- Links to the RAPID programme enabled children from disadvantaged communities to participate in cultural activities and events.
- 98 people were trained in Child Welfare and Protection in Sports
- The Capital Debt situation in relation to the Excel has been progressed and is now being positively managed
- South Tipperary hosted a national Youth Arts Forum.
- A River Suir Heritage Awareness project was developed by Clonmel Workman's Boat Club, creating a portal site for all information on the River Suir [www.riversuir.ie](http://www.riversuir.ie)
- Development of a number of cultural websites e.g.: [www.southtipperheritage.ie](http://www.southtipperheritage.ie) [www.southtipperculture.ie](http://www.southtipperculture.ie) [www.craftgranary.com](http://www.craftgranary.com) [www.stsp.ie](http://www.stsp.ie)
- A Conservation Plan was developed for Fethard, Cashel and Clonmel
- A Youth Arts Festival, for 13 to 20 year olds, was organised by the Arts Service in collaboration with cultural providers, schools and the wider community
- Significant interagency initiatives undertaken by and supported by the County Museum including the Museum Heritage in Schools outreach programme which was established as a pilot but is now an annual activity; promoting and illustrating the Traveller Culture and other initiatives

Following discussion there was agreement to adopt the report following some minor adjustments.

### **3. Priorities for the Cultural Programme Group for the period 2009-2012**

Full discussion took place on the areas of focus for the 2009-2012 periods. Agreement was reached on a final document to submit with a number of updates to be submitted to Kathleen Prendergast before submission. (Final Copy attached.)

### **4. Any other business**

Isabel Cambie provided information on the new Rural Development Programme for South Tipperary. A total of €11,200,000 has been granted but the initial funds for disbursement in 2009 are €360,000. She advised that applications would be invited over the next number of weeks for that funding.

Jim Myers submitted an email regarding the cut in funding for the Galloglass Theatre Group. The group would now have to apply for funding on a project by project basis. Jim requested that the Cultural Programme Group would consider their view on this funding cut and write to the Arts Council to recording the view of the group. It was agreed that a letter of concern be forwarded to the arts council regarding the loss of the annually committed funding.

Ann Ryan would be returning to her role and would organise the next Meeting of the Cultural Programme Management Group.

The meeting concluded.