

**Chairman's Report of Strategic Policy Committee 5- Community, Cultural and Fire Services  
held on Thursday 12th of November, 2020 at 3.00p.m. via Microsoft Teams.**

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**1. Minutes of last meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.**

Proposed by Cllr. Peter Cleere, Seconded by Cllr. Pat Dunphy.

**2. Town & Village Update**

Annette gave an update on the Town & Village applications. In total 15 applications were approved under Town & Village and work is underway on a number of projects. An extension had to be applied for under some of the applications, as outdoor seating/furniture etc is in huge demand and delays expected, it is hoped to have the majority of projects complete by the end of the year.

**3. Creative Ireland Programme**

Annette gave an update, since the last SPC meeting in September the majority of the projects went ahead with a few extra projects added, it is envisaged that all funding will be spent by the end of November.

**4. Keep Well Campaign**

On Thursday October 29th the "Keep Well" campaign was launched which aims to support people and communities to mind their physical and mental health over the coming months. Working groups are being set up under each theme, which will be supported by other agencies. The teams will meet over the next 2 weeks. A dedicated webpage will also be set up.

**5. Update from Fire Service**

**Community Fire Safety**

As per the Chairman's request at the last meeting, Kilkenny fire station used their social media platforms and the Kilkenny People to highlight the importance of cleaning your chimney.

During the build up to Halloween, public messaging campaigns were maintained through social media channels (Twitter and Facebook) of Kilkenny County Council to highlight the dangers of fireworks and bonfires.

**Fire Safety Certificates**

104 applications for fire safety certificates were received up to 3rd November 2020. This was a 19% increase in 2019 applications for the same period last year. These applications are administered by staff working from home and from our Headquarter station due to Covid-19.

**6. Community Helpline**

Josephine Coyne gave an update as the helpline is now managed through the library services the helpline is available 7 days a week from 8.00a.m to 8.00p.m. to provide practical supports to people while working closely with other agencies especially the HSE. The helpline number is 1800 326 522 or 056-7794145.

The Library doors may be closed but a lot of work is taking place inside the libraries with a door to door delivery service over 3000 items been delivered to 800 users. The mobile service is also back delivering books to schools.

## **7. AOB**

- No submissions were received in relation to the %Art Scheme.
- The CCFCS Scheme is not going ahead this year.
- Christmas lights going up in Castlecomer Discovery Park