

**Arts, Culture, Recreation and Community SPC**

**Minutes of Special Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015**

**9.30 a.m., Council Chamber, City Hall**

**Attendance**

**Members:**

Cllr. Mary Freehill (Chair)  
Cllr. Mannix Flynn  
Cllr. Rebecca Moynihan  
Cllr. Vincent Jackson  
Cllr. Séamas McGrattan  
Cllr. Emma Murphy  
Cllr. Áine Clancy  
Cllr. Greg Kelly  
Cllr. John Lyons  
Cllr. Claire Byrne  
Willie White, Dublin Theatre Festival  
Simon O'Connor, The Little Museum of Dublin  
Gerry Kerr, National Council for the Blind of Ireland  
Kristina McElroy, Dublin City Community Forum

**Officials Present:**

Brendan Kenny, Deputy Chief Executive  
Ray Yeates, City Arts Officer  
Oliver Hickey, Administrative Officer  
Coilín O'Reilly, Administrative Officer  
Paula Ebbs, Senior Staff Officer

**Non-Members**

Cllr. Chris Andrews

**Apologies:**

Elaina Ryan, Children's Books Ireland

A special meeting of the Arts, Culture, Recreation and Community SPC was held to discuss the Street Performers Bye Laws (Draft).

Following public consultation of Draft Bye Laws, 88 submissions were received from performers, residents, businesses and people who work in the city.

Up to now, there was no regulation in place to control Street Performance. The proposed Bye-Laws will allow the City Council and the Gardaí to regulate this activity. The main component of these Bye-Laws is based on a permit, and the power by Dublin City Council to refuse or revoke such a permit. Once a permit is revoked the Gardaí will be notified immediately. Flexibility around issuing temporary permits to visiting performers will also be taken into consideration.

In conjunction with the Bye Laws a Code of Practice will be formulated and will cover issues such as sound level, complaints from businesses, engagement with businesses, consideration of residents, control of audiences etc.

**ACTION:** Circulate Code of Practice to all City Councillors for their information.

The main issues discussed were:-

❖ **Excessive noise / amplification**

- ❖ **Recommendation:** Introduce a sound limit of 80 decibels in the immediate vicinity of the street performer.

72 submissions identified excessive noise as the main issue. Some members thought a total ban on amplification was necessary and also raised concerns that to monitor noise levels would prove very difficult. Other members thought a total ban on amplification was extreme but if the decibel level could be effectively controlled, 80 decibels would be considered reasonable.

❖ **Performance Times**

**Recommendation:** Commencement time - 11.00 a.m., finish time – 11.00 p.m. with no exception. It was further recommended a performer is only allowed to perform in a specific location for a maximum period of 2 hours. After this period they must re-locate to a different street.

The majority of members had no objection to this recommendation.

❖ **Obstructions**

**Recommendation:** A person shall not perform in a public place within 3 meters of the outer edge of the entrance to any business or residence or premises.

Some concerns were raised regarding the width of some streets i.e. Grafton Street and performers being restricted. It was stated that it is up to the performers to manage their own adequate space.

❖ **Ban of use of potentially dangerous props**

**Recommendation:** Bye-Law to be amended to allow the use of props and include the requirement for such Street Performers to hold Public Liability Insurance.

The majority of members had no objection to this recommendation.

❖ **Temple Bar**

**Recommendation:** Street Performance not to be banned in the Temple Bar area except on the street known as Temple Bar between the junction at Fownes Street and Temple Lane South and on East Essex Street between the junction at Temple Lane South and Eustace Street.

It was stated the reason for this is because the footpaths and the streets there are very narrow with some residents living over the shops.

The majority of members had no objection to this recommendation.

Following a detailed discussion, Cllr Mary Freehill, Chair, put a proposal to the members to agree on the recommendations as set down in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Brendan Kenny.

**ACTION:** A vote was taken by the members present and It was unanimously agreed that the recommendations as set down in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, to amend the Street Performers Bye-Laws and submit to the February City Council meeting for adoption with a proviso to review in six months.

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**Cllr. Mary Freehill,  
Chairperson.**

**Dated:** \_\_\_\_\_