

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 18th November 2015 at 11.00 a.m.
in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co.
Clare.**

In Attendance:

Cllr. Bill Chambers
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Mr. Andrew Dundas
Ms. Dóirin Graham
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Mr. Cillian Murphy
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. Christy Leyden
Mr. Padraic McElwee
Mr. Gerard Dollard
Ms. Esther Connellan
Cllr. Mike McKee
Mr. Martin McKeown
Mr. Jim Lynch
Mr. Gerry Kelly
Ms. Margaret Slattery
Ms. Helen Downes

Organisation:

Elected Member
Social Inclusion Interests
Agricultural Farmers Sector
Clare Local Development Company
Education & Training Board
Community & Voluntary Interests
Elected Member
Community & Voluntary Interests
Head of Enterprise
Chief Officer
HSE
Elected Member
Environment Interests
Department of Social Protection
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Youth Sector
Employers/Business

Also Present

Mr. Michael Neylon Tourism & Community
Ms. Ailish McMahan Tourism & Community

Apologies

Ms. Mary O'Donoghue Social Inclusion Interests
Cllr. Richard Nagle Elected Member
Mr. Tom Coughlan Chief Executive
Ms. Monica Meehan Tourism & Community

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 22nd October 2015 and matters arising. (attached).

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 22nd October 2015 were proposed by M. Slattery and seconded by A. Haverty.

Matters Arising

It was stated at the meeting held on the 22nd October, 2015 that a meeting had taken place with J. Lynch and A. Haverty regarding SICAP. D. Graham clarified that a meeting has yet to be held with J. Lynch and A. Haverty in relation to SICAP.

2. Declaration re Conflicts of Interest.

G. Dollard requested any declaration from the members regarding a Conflict of Interest for any item on the agenda.

D. Graham advised the meeting that she has a Conflict of Interest in relation to Item No.4 and 5 on the agenda – Draft Local Development Strategy and Update on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and would leave the meeting for these items.

3. Draft Local Economic and Community Plan – Draft Objectives and Actions.

The Draft Local Economic and Community Plan – Draft Objectives and Actions was circulated to all members. G. Dollard outlined that the report includes the themes and high level goals which were developed under stages 1 and 2 of the plan-making process. It also lists the Draft Objectives with measurable benchmarks and targets where data is available.

G. Dollard outlined that the next stage in this process will be consultation with agencies/organisations with a view to agreeing which agency/organisation is prepared to lead on the delivery of an action and which agencies/organisations are prepared to partner on actions.

J. Flynn referred to the benchmarks outlined in the Plan. He referred to page 7 of the Plan and that a campus has yet to be developed in County Clare.

J. Flynn and C. Leyden outlined that benchmarks need to reflect 2007 levels.

C. Leyden outlined that County Clare is an ideal location for the delivery of high quality jobs. He outlined that this needs to be identified in the Plan, with particular reference to Roche. He outlined the need to keep Roche or whoever buys it to retain high quality jobs.

H. Downes referred to page 6 of the Plan and the need to show ambition to attract Foreign Direct Investment.

C. Murphy referred to page 4 – increase in no. of international visitors. He outlined that there is a need to look at yield per person

rather than numbers and the need to measure economic benefit to the county.

J. Flynn referred to the fantastic report commissioned by Fitzpatrick & Associates on the Greenway and what it meant, €7.3m in a year spent on the local economy.

M. Slattery referred to page 7 of the Plan in which she outlined that the University prepare students in terms of technical skills but don't equip them with soft skills. She also referred to page 12 – q4.2 "Support older people to continue living as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution and heeding their particular needs". M. Slattery outlined that a similar action needs to be developed for teenagers with regard to being actively involved in the community.

M. Slattery also outlined that Clare Youth Service are also identified as Lead Partners in the Plan. She outlined that all comments in relation to same would be forwarded to M. Neylon by the end of the week. J. Flynn requested that all members would be copied on this email.

A. Haverty outlined that the ETB are committed in terms of delivering the strategy.

H. Downes outlined to all members that there is a need to start cross selling each other products.

D. Graham referred to page 10 and to Action q2.2 "Deliver RAPID type intervention where deprived small areas are clustered". She outlined that Gateway and Job Path needs to be added to the list and that RAPID was no longer a Government Programme.

J. Flynn referred to the loss of Ennis Town Council and the need to engage with the youth and capacity building in those areas. He referred to the County of Culture for 2016 and the social well being of this event needs to be captured

After a lengthy discussion took place in relation to the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan, G. Dollard informed the meeting that the key areas as outlined by the members are as follows:-Tourism, Jobs, Youth, SICAP and Community Activation. He referred to points outlined by C. Murphy in relation to tourism in which there is a need

to move away from visitor numbers and the focus to be on visitors staying longer and tourists who are high spending.

With regard to jobs, G. Dollard outlined that with regard to the key agencies delivering on the jobs, there is a need to work towards delivering Regional Action Plan for Jobs. The key agencies involved are the IDA, Enterprise Ireland and LEO.

G. Dollard requested the members to have all their comments submitted to M. Neylon by the end of the week.

M. Neylon thanked the agencies for data submitted to date. He outlined that it is the first time nationally that bench marks and targets are set. He welcomed people's desire to set ambitious targets.

He referred to the EU 2020 targets and how the LECP was expected to demonstrate how the LECP would contribute to these.

4. Draft Local Development Strategy

D. Graham left the meeting for this agenda item.

G. Dollard pointed out that D. Hayes was recently elected to the board of Clare Local Development Company and would likely have to leave for this item. D. Hayes outlined that he was elected by his peers on the Clare Local Development Company and to the board of Clare Local Community Development Committee.

G. Dollard outlined as the LCDC and Clare Local Development Company are both preparing a Draft Local Development Strategy there is in his view a conflict of interest and under good governance there is a requirement for him to leave the meeting for this agenda item.

D. Hayes then left the meeting.

The Draft Action Plan for the Local Development Strategy was circulated to all members.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that this document is confidential to the members of the LCDC and should be retained as such. He outlined that this is the core of the strategy and a complete financial draft including financial plan will be presented at the next meeting of the LCDC scheduled for the 16th December, 2015.

J. Flynn outlined that great work has been done on the Plan. He referred to the difficulty re the focus of certain allocations to specific geographical areas outside Mid and South Clare. The focus should be on all six areas.

C. Murphy outlined that there should be a focus on bed nights and a system should be developed to measure bed nights.

M. Slattery outlined that the plan is very good. She suggested that the order of the wording should reflect people first and economy second. This was agreed.

A. Dundas asked if there was any programme in place regarding rural isolation. J. Lynch outlined that groups in "Deprived Areas" could benefit from SICAP.

5. Update on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

G. Dollard referred to meeting that took place on the 2nd November with Pobal representatives and the Clare Local Development Company. He outlined that Pobal have made changes in relation to the methodology nationally. G. Dollard outlined that 2 out of the 3 main targets will be met. Correspondence that was sent to and from Clare Local Development Company was circulated to all members for their information. G. Dollard pointed out while good progress had been made all items were not yet satisfactorily resolved.

A Haverty outlined that the ETB is currently planning for 2016 with regard to budgets etc. It was agreed that a meeting would be held with J. Lynch, A. Haverty and D. Graham. J. Lynch agreed to call the meeting.

6. PPN Update.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the County Plenary of Clare Public Participation Network is scheduled for Tuesday, 24th November at 7.30 p.m. in the Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis. He outlined that the position of a Resource Worker is currently advertised.

As part of this event, G. Dollard envisaged that the reps nominated by the PPN to the SPC's and JPC will be available to meet with the groups from the PPN that elected them in order to feedback any information and progress to date.

7. Date of next meeting –

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 16th December, 2015 at 3 p.m.** in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

8. AOB/Correspondence.

G. Dollard referred to The National Women's Council of Ireland who is hosting two workshops on *Making Women Central to Local Government* in Dublin and Limerick on Tuesday, 24 November, and Wednesday, 25 November, respectively. These workshops are organised in cooperation with the National Collective of Community-based Women's Networks.

A. Haverly updated the meeting in relation to the following:-

The Department of Education and Skills is leading on the development of a new National Skills Strategy to cover the period to 2025. The Strategy will aim to ensure that Ireland's current and future workforce needs are met through increased participation, educational attainment, skills development and skill use to achieve greater productivity and support economic and social prosperity and growth. DES have launched a public consultation to gather the views of stakeholders on the development of the new strategy. This consultation process will allow people to have an input into the strategy's development. The consultation paper provides an overview of the education and training system, the labour market and business in Ireland and provides a series of questions for people to provide their views on. The consultation paper is available to download from the Department's website to nss@education.gov.ie or post to Higher Education Policy and Skills Unit, Department of Education and Skills, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 RC96 by the 1st December 2015:

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Chair **Chief Officer**