

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 25th May 2016 at 3.00 p.m.in the
Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

In Attendance:

Cllr. Bill Chambers
Mr. Andrew Dundas
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Mr. Gerry Kelly
Mr. Cillian Murphy
Ms. Helen Downes
Mr. Gerard Dollard
Cllr. Mike McKee
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. Christy Leyden
Mr. Padraic McElwee
Ms. Margaret Slattery
Cllr. Richard Nagle
Ms. Dóirin Graham

Organisation:

Elected Member
Agricultural Farmers Sector
Education & Training Board
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Community & Voluntary Interests
Employers/Business
Chief Executive
Elected Member
Elected Member
Community & Voluntary Interests
Head of Enterprise
Youth Sector
Elected Member
Clare Local Development Company

Also Present

Ms. Monica Meehan Chief Officer
Ms. Ailish McMahon Tourism & Community

Apologies

Fran Igoe Regional Co-ordinator, Local Authorities
Water & Communities Office.
Mr. Dermot Hayes Social Inclusion
Mr. Jim Lynch Department of Social Protection
Mr. Martin McKeown Environment Interests
Ms. Mary O Donoghue Social Inclusion Interests
Ms. Esther Connellan HSE
Mr. Michael Neylon Tourism & Community

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 30th March 2016 and matters arising. (attached)

Minutes of the LCDC meeting held on the 30th March 2016 were proposed by G. Kelly and seconded by H. Downes.

2. Declaration re Conflicts of Interest

Cllr. B. Chambers requested members to declare any conflicts of interest which they may have in relation to any item on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Presentation by Mr Fran Igoe, Regional Co-ordinator, Local Authorities Water and Communities Office (LAWCO)

B. Chambers outlined that this item was being deferred at the request of LAWCO as they were called to an urgent meeting with the OPW at short notice.

4. Local Economic and Community Plan Implementation Framework (documentation attached)

M. Meehan informed the meeting that the Local Economic and Community Plan was adopted by Clare County Council on the 18th April, 2016. She outlined that the Plan was also sent to the Department as per the requirements of the legislation.

M. Meehan outlined that there are two structures identified within the Local Economic and Community Plan for its implementation. She outlined that it is proposed that all actions under the themes: Economic Development, Enterprise, R & D, Climate Change and Energy will be co-ordinated by an Economic Implementation Team. All actions under the themes: Quality of Life, Health & Wellbeing, Education & Training will be co-ordinated by a Community Implementation Team.

M. Meehan gave a brief overview of the Terms of Reference of the Economic Implementation Team and the Community Implementation Team (as circulated) and invited comments from the members on the proposed structures. She also referred to the roles and responsibilities of the members of each team.

M. Slattery stated that the chairperson for the Community Implementation Team should be a member of the LCDC. With regard to the Community Implementation Team, M. Slattery outlined that Clarecare should be included on this membership and asked the question is there an intention to consult with other groups.

M. Meehan outlined that it is expected that the lead organisations will be consulting with other organisations that do not have a direct role in the Local Economic and Community Plan.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the terms of reference for the Economic Implementation Team will go before the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC for approval.

The adoption of the terms of reference for the Community Implementation Team was proposed by M. Slattery and seconded by G. Kelly.

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

M. Meehan informed the meeting that a review meeting was held on the 28th April, 2016 with the Programme Implementer regarding the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. She stated that each of the twelve actions under the three goals were discussed in detail.

M. Meehan outlined that Action 9 (Back to Learning) is the most challenging but that the Programme Implementer is confident that this action will be achieved by year end.

With regard to SICAP, M. Meehan outlined that everything is working well and it was also noted that the Programme Implementer will not be facing an under spend for 2016.

M. Meehan advised that the mid year review process will commence in July. The Programme Implementer will have to enter expenditure details on the IRIS system by the 14th/15th July and the report will need to be approved by the LCDC by early August at the latest.

6. Local Development Strategy

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the Local Development Strategy as submitted by Clare Local Development Company has been approved by the Department. He stated that it is disappointing for the LCDC as the Local Development Strategy that was prepared is a very good document and a lot of thought, time and widespread consultation went into it.

G. Dollard referred to written feedback from Pobal which was received on Friday 20th May, 2016 regarding the LCDC Local Development Strategy. He referred to one specific comment from Pobal in which the strategy was marked down due to gender balance.

G. Dollard outlined to the members that a decision needs to be made if they wished to appeal the decision in relation to the Local Development Strategy. He outlined that the appeal process is tight and restricted.

The following issues/concerns were raised by the members:-

C. Murphy stated that from a community group/Loop Head tourism point of view that a delay in the Leader programme would be catastrophic.

H. Downes highlighted the importance of fostering positive working relationships between organisations. The CLDC/LCDC working arrangement will be important for the delivery of the Leader Programme to the benefit of the county. She felt that the decision regarding the Strategy should not be appealed.

C. Leyden and Cllr. R. Nagle outlined that the Department now needs to clarify the role of the LCDC in the delivery of the Leader programme.

A. Haverty stated that the public consultation that took place as part of the LDS process has strengthened the role of the Local Economic and Community Plan. She also stated that an appeal should not be made.

J. Flynn outlined that as an LCDC group they should apply for funding. He asked the question is the LCDC entitled to apply for funding under the Leader programme?

G. Dollard summarised the following points raised by the members in relation to the Local Development Strategy:-

- No appeal process.
- Media statement to issue congratulating the Clare Local Development Company and to outline what the LCDC is about.
- Formally write to the Department to request clarity on the role of the LCDC in relation to the LEADER programme.
- Write to Clare Local Development Company congratulating them – assuring them of full co-operation.

7. **Date of next meeting**

M. Meehan informed the meeting that while the next meeting has been scheduled to take place on the 6th July 2016, that this may change when notification is received from the Department with regard to the midyear review process for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

8. **AOB/Correspondence**

M. Meehan reminded all members to complete and return the LCDC progress report questionnaire by the 27th May, 2016.

M. Meehan also referred to the Regional Workshops for LCDCs to be held in Limerick on the 28th June, 2016. The purpose of the workshop is to support both Local Authority staff and LCDC members in undertaking the mid-year review process for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. She requested that two members of the LCDC attend – members to advise of their availability as soon as possible.

M. Slattery referred to a Clare Youth Services information evening to be held on the 14th June for the age group 18-25.

G. Dollard referred to the announcement by the Taoiseach at the National Ploughing Championships regarding a €30m fund for village & town renewal which is to be administered through the LCDC. He stated that further details are awaited.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____

Chair

Chief Officer