

Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 30th March 2016 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. Dóirín Graham
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Mr. Gerry Kelly
Ms. Mary O'Donoghue
Mr. Cillian Murphy
Mr. Martin McKeown
Ms. Helen Downes
Mr. Tom Coughlan
Mr. Jim Lynch
Cllr. Mike McKee
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. Christy Leyden

Organisation:

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

Also Present

Mr. Gerard Dollard	Chief Officer
Ms. Monica Meehan	Tourism & Community
Mr. Michael Neylon	Tourism & Community

Apologies

Mr. Pádraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise
Ms. Esther Connellan	HSE
Ms. Margaret Slattery	Youth Sector
Cllr. Richard Nagle	Elected Member

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 3rd February 2016 and minutes of special meeting held on the 17th February 2016 and matters arising.

The minutes of the LCDC meeting held on the 3rd February 2016 and the minutes of the special meeting held on the 17th February 2016 to consider the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme were proposed by G. Kelly and seconded by C. Murphy.

2. Declaration re Conflicts of Interest

G. Dollard requested members to declare any conflicts of interest which they may have in relation to any item on the agenda for the

meeting. D. Graham and D. Hayes declared a conflict in respect of agenda item 6, Local Development Strategy.

3. Declaration of Interest/Code of Conduct

G Dollard reminded members to return completed Declaration of Interest/Code of Conduct forms as soon as possible.

4. To adopt a statement on the consistency of the Draft Clare County Council Local Economic and Community Plan 2016 – 2021

G. Dollard advised the meeting that the requirement to prepare a Local Economic and Community Plan is set out in the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Departmental guidelines set out a number of steps for the preparation of the plan which is now nearing completion. A socio-economic statement was prepared early in the process and the plan contains high level goals, objectives and a detailed action plan. The process has included a number of public consultation events, consultations with the Municipal Districts and the Southern Regional Assembly. The Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee of the Council recently adopted a statement on the consistency of the plan and it is now before the LCDC for the same purpose. The final step in the process will hopefully see the County Council adopt the plan in April which will then be forwarded to the Department.

G. Dollard referred to the documentation which was circulated for consideration by the members. This included the Action Plan, the statement by the Senior Planner and the report on submissions (item 5 on the agenda which will be taken with this item). The role of the members is to adopt a statement on the consistency of the plan and to adopt the community element of the plan. G. Dollard invited discussion on the draft plan.

H. Downes enquired regarding the communications strategy for the plan and how it will be implemented. G. Dollard advised that a monitoring structure will need to be considered.

Cllr. G. Flynn referred to a submission which he made on the plan.

D. Graham advised that she felt that the public consultation period was too limited for the most recent stage in the process. She also referred to the submission by Clare Local Development Company and

requested that the lead stated in the Action Plan for LEADER actions would be named as the LEADER LAG as opposed to the LCDC. She felt that the rationale offered in the report on submissions was incorrect.

G. Dollard confirmed that there was no requirement for a public consultation event for the most recent stage in the process but he felt that it was important that it be done. He advised that the LCDC will have a role with regard to the LEADER Programme regardless of the outcome of the competitive process.

D. Graham advised that the LCDC is not an implementing body.

C. Leyden queried if the term 'implementing body' could be used instead.

Cllr. J. Flynn suggested the term LCDC and the LAG.

It was agreed that the term LCDC/Leader LAG be included where relevant.

C. Leyden requested that the Vision be revised so that 'wellbeing' be mentioned first. M. McKeown requested that reference to the environment would follow.

It was proposed by A. Haverty and seconded by M. McKeown that the statement on the consistency of the plan be adopted and that the community element of the plan be adopted.

5. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

M. Meehan advised that implementation of the 2016 plan is underway and that a review meeting will be arranged shortly with the Programme Implementer.

J. Lynch informed the meeting that the Department of Social Protection will be doing some promotion work on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme in the coming weeks.

6. Update on the Local Development Strategy

G. Dollard updated the meeting and confirmed that the LDS was submitted to the Department on the 16th January 2016 and that no correspondence had been received from the Department to date.

D. Graham confirmed that she had been in contact with Pobal who advised that the two Clare strategies will be going before the March assessment meeting which takes place tomorrow and that a decision will be known soon after that date.

7. **PPN Update**

G. Dollard referred to the matter of the database and that Clare County Council had issued an agreement to the PPN with a view to getting the database transferred. He confirmed that the Council was still providing a resource to ensure that communication with the registered member organisations is maintained and that this will continue until the database issue is resolved.

C. Murphy advised that the Secretariat organised a Strategy Day which was useful. He referred to the database and felt that the work of the Secretariat is being curtailed due to the fact that they do not have direct access to the database. It is hoped that the matter will be resolved by the end of April.

8. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 25th May at 3pm.**

9. **AOB/Correspondence**

Cllr. Bill Chambers offered condolences to J. Lynch on the recent loss of his mother.

He also advised the meeting that T. Coughlan was retiring as Chief Executive of Clare County Council and wished him well in his retirement.

T. Coughlan expressed his thanks to all present for guiding the LCDC through its establishment and implementation.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____

Chair

Chief Officer