

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee meeting (LCDC) on Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016 at 11.00 a.m. in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Johnny Flynn  
 Mr. Andrew Dundas  
 Ms. Aobhan Haverty  
 Ms. Margaret Slattery  
 Mr. Dermot Hayes  
 Mr. Jim Lynch  
 Ms. Dóirin Graham  
 Mr. Christy Leyden  
 Cllr. Mike McKee  
 Cllr. Bill Chambers  
 Ms. Helen Downes

**Organisation:**

Elected Member  
 Agricultural Farmers Sector  
 Education & Training Board  
 Youth Sector  
 Social Inclusion  
 Department of Social Protection  
 Clare Local Development Company  
 Community & Voluntary Interests  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 Employers/Business

Ms. Monica Meehan  
 Ms. Ailish McMahon  
 Mr. Michael Neylon

Chief Officer  
 Tourism & Community  
 Tourism & Community

**Apologies**

Mr. Pat Dowling  
 Ms. Esther Connellan  
 Mr. Gerry Kelly  
 Ms. Mary O Donoghue  
 Mr. Cillian Murphy  
 Mr. Martin McKeown  
 Mr. Padraic McElwee  
 Cllr. Richard Nagle

Chief Executive  
 HSE  
 Age Friendly Alliance Board  
 Social Inclusion Interests  
 Community & Voluntary Interests  
 Environment Interests  
 Head of Enterprise  
 Elected Member

**1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 and matters arising. (attached).**

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were proposed by A. Haverty and seconded by D. Hayes.

**Matters Arising**

M. Meehan outlined that at the last meeting the matter of financial thresholds under Goal 1 and Goal 3 of the SICAP Programme was raised. She stated that a meeting was held in October with D. McSorley, Pobal, D. Graham, Jim Lynch, M. Meehan and L. Cleary. M. Meehan stated that this was a very useful meeting and issues in relation to the IRIS system were clarified. She stated that D. Graham outlined that she is confident that the financial thresholds for 2016 can be met and therefore will be in compliance with Schedule D of the contract.

## **2. Consideration of the SICAP Annual Plan 2017 – Presentation by Ms. Dóirín Graham.**

M. Meehan advised that three meetings of the SICAP sub-committee have taken place to date. An introductory meeting was held in September which Pobal attended. The other two meetings were held in October and November where the actions for the Annual Plan for 2017 were discussed. At the last meeting, the members discussed in detail the proposed actions and agreed that all actions were relevant and appropriate. M. Meehan indicated that there is a requirement for the actions to be aligned to the objectives and actions of the Local Economic and Community Plan and the reference to the LECP is evident in the draft 2017 Action Plan.

The Headline Indicators were circulated at the meeting. M. Meehan stated that the indicators for 2017 are the same as the 2016 indicators and were notified by the Department. She confirmed that the Programme Implementer is confident that the indicators/targets will be achieved for 2017. She stated that in terms of the meeting today that the members' role is to approve the plan in principle and that the final approval will be some time in February 2017 once the 2016 End of Year Review process is completed.

D. Graham gave a comprehensive presentation on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme – 2017 Plan.

D. Graham stated that the 2016 targets have been exceeded and that following discussions with Pobal, she believes that the targets for 2017 can be met. She advised that 2017 will be the third year of the three year programme. In her presentation, D. Graham outlined twelve actions across the three goals as follows:-

### **Goal 1 Actions**

- Forming Community Groups
- Collective Action
- Influencing Decision Making
- Solutions to Social Exclusion

### **Goal 2 Actions**

- Incredible Years
- Afterschool Projects
- Developmental Youth Work
- Youth Mental Health
- Back to Learning

### **Goal 3 Actions**

- To Employment
- To Self Employment
- Young People to Self Employment

She clarified that the target caseload is 600 and not 540 as outlined in the Headline Indicator template.

D. Graham outlined the Budget Summary for 2017. She stated that the financial thresholds for each goal have to be within 28% - 38%.

- Goal 1 – €197,491 – 31% of budget.
- Goal 2 – €228,171 – 36% of budget.
- Goal 3 – €215,844 – 34% of budget

The total budget for 2017 is €855,341.

The members thanked D. Graham for her comprehensive presentation. The members discussed the programme in general and it was agreed that the actions as presented met the Programme Requirements and would be to the benefit of the target groups and disadvantaged areas.

The members agreed that the 2017 plan for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme would be approved in principle. This was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by A. Dundas.

C. Leyden outlined that there needs to be a progress report done on what has been achieved to date in relation to SICAP. He outlined that the community groups need to see what is done.

### **3. Update from the Community Implementation Team on the Local Economic and Community Plan.**

M. Meehan reminded the members that the LCDC is responsible for preparing and implementing the community elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan which was adopted by the Council in April 2016. She informed the meeting that the LCDC is to review and monitor on an ongoing basis the implementation of the community elements of the plan and invited M. Neylon to provide an update on progress.

M. Neylon gave a brief presentation on the work of the LECP Community Implementation Team to date. He advised that the team is made up of LCDC and non-LCDC members who are members and that three meetings have taken place so far this year; one in July and two in November. Two issues have arisen and he has asked the members to consider the following:-

- How Benchmarking Actions will be funded?
- How the achievement of a single target will be reported when multiple agencies and interventions are involved?

J. Lynch suggested that other LCDCs be asked as to how they are approaching these issues. He felt that Clare is at a more advanced stage in the process compared to other LCDCs.

M. Meehan stated that the bench-marking actions within the Plan that need to be addressed are:-

1. Study of the County's Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life
2. Examine the root causes of Poverty and Social Inclusion
3. Socio-economic analysis of the county's Towns and Villages
4. Transport

With regard to funding, C. Leyden and J. Flynn stated that this needs to be discussed at the Chief Officer's meetings that are held nationally. They outlined that benchmarking is essential.

M. Meehan stated that both items require further consideration and should ideally be discussed again at the next meeting of the LCDC when a greater attendance should be present.

J. Flynn suggested that consideration should be given to lobbying for funding for good quality research and likewise for transport research.

#### 4. **REDZ/CLÁR Funding.**

M. Meehan outlined that in October the Council was notified by the Department of the possibility of funding under the REDZ/CLÁR initiatives. €5m is being made available nationally for REDZ and €3m nationally for CLAR. She stated that the CEDRA Working Group of the Council met on a number of occasions and agreed that a number of projects be submitted under both initiatives.

M. Meehan outlined that one Flagship project for a Regional Innovation Office led by the Western Development Commission was submitted. She further advised that two small projects, Scatterry Island and the Music Makers of West Clare and one medium project for the Lough Derg Blueway were submitted. M. Meehan outlined that The Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs has allocated €200,000 under the Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) initiative for the marketing, development and promotion of The Lough Derg Blueway, which includes the soon to be completed Lough Derg Canoe Trail.

With regard to CLAR, M. Meehan stated that an application has been submitted for Safety Measures at Schools and Community Facilities to the value of €284,000. She stated that it is hoped that funding will be received in relation to same.

## 5. AOB

It was noted that G. Kelly's term in office representing the Clare Age Friendly Alliance Board comes to an end in December, 2016. It was also noted that his term on the LCDC is now complete. M. Meehan stated that this would be discussed at the next CPG meeting.

D. Graham expressed concern regarding the late advertising by the Department of the REDZ scheme. She felt that early engagement with communities was vital in order to identify good quality projects. C. Leyden outlined that each town/village should have a plan in place so that if these projects are advertised towards the end of the year, the communities will be ready to submit projects.

### **Schedule of Meeting for 2017**

The following meeting dates for 2017 were agreed by members:-

- Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 at 3 p.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 3.00 p.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Wednesday, 8<sup>h</sup> November 2017 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 3.00 p.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed:



**Chair**



**Chief Officer**

