

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) meeting on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 11.00 am. in the Boardroom, Level 3, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**In Attendance:**

Mr. Andrew Dundas  
Mr. Pat Dowling  
Cllr. Cillian Murphy  
Cllr. Gerard Flynn  
Ms. Ann Marie Flanagan  
Mr. Padraic McElwee  
Ms. Margaret Slattery  
Ms. Mary O'Donoghue  
Mr. Paul Patton  
Ms. Dóirín Graham  
Ms. Helen Downes  
Mr. Martin McKeown  
Mr. Jim Lynch  
Mr. Christy Leyden

**Organisation:**

Agricultural Farmers Sector (Chairperson)  
Chief Executive  
Elected Member  
Elected Member  
Social Inclusion Interests  
Head of Enterprise  
Youth Sector  
Social Inclusion Interests  
Education & Training Board  
Clare Local Development Company  
Employers/Business  
Environment Interests  
Department of Social Protection  
Community & Voluntary Interests

Ms. Monica Meehan  
Ms. Deirdre Power

Chief Officer  
Rural Development

**Apologies**

Ms. Esther Connellan                      HSE  
Cllr. Bill Chambers                        Elected Member  
Cllr. Johnny Flynn                         Elected Member

A. Dundas welcomed all to the meeting and expressed thanks on behalf of the members to Cllr. M McKee and former Cllr. R Nagle for their commitment and work while sitting on the LCDC. He also welcomed new members Cllr. C Murphy and Cllr. G Flynn.

**1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2019 & 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019 and matters arising**

As there were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meetings the minutes were proposed by M. McKeown and seconded by C. Leyden.

**2. AOB (a) Correspondence**

A. Dundas referred to the letter regarding the next LEADER Programme which was circulated to the members in advance of the meeting.

M. Meehan advised the members that the letter was for information purposes and outlined engagement with CLDC and a proposal to establish a working group in preparation for the next Programme.

M. O'Donoghue queried if the letter issued on behalf of Clare County Council.

P Dowling advised the members that he wanted to keep the LCDC informed as to what his intentions were for the next LEADER Programme as it comes under the remit of the LCDC committee. While the nature of the delivery is different in Clare to other counties his hope is that there will be a joint collaboration between Clare County Council and Clare Local Development Company when applying for the next round of LEADER funding. He felt that it was not right to leave the possibility of a joint collaboration until the last minute and discussions had already taken place with Clare County Council and members of CLDC to see how the two organisations could approach this issue.

A.M. Flanagan asked would Clare County Council be putting in a bid for the tender and if the letter was only for information why was it moved to the top of the agenda.

P Dowling told the group that he was due in Dublin and that he had asked the Chairperson if this matter could be dealt with first. He told the group that he wanted to approach this as a partnership between the two organisations and that a joint tender would be preferable.

D. Graham advised the members that CLDC and Clare County Council met last summer and discussed the LEADER Programme and Clare County Council did clarify that they would be interested in tendering for the next programme. She felt that there was collaboration and a good working relationship between the two organisations however the main focus of CLDC at this time was the delivery of the current programme and to ensure it was delivered successfully. She also told the committee that the EU framework for the next programme had not been decided yet. She told the meeting that there will be a clearer picture next year when the current programme is finalised and delivered. CLDC will then discuss the new Programme with Clare County Council.

M. O'Donoghue said that it requires everybody; LCDC, Clare County Council and CLDC to know what role they will be playing and it needs to be made clear from the start.

C. Leyden felt that everyone needed to work together to maximise the funding we could receive. A discussion took place regarding community development and the voluntary sectors and how in some areas groups are still fighting to be heard and funding is not reaching them.

P Dowling thanked the chairperson for facilitating the discussion around the LEADER Programme. He also congratulated Clare Youth Services on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **(b) Universal Access Design**

A.M. Flanagan spoke about the need for Universal Access Design to be embedded in every project/programme being undertaken as it aids greater social inclusion.

She referred to Clare County Council's role in this regard and queried the role of the Access Officer appointed by the County Council. She highlighted that when the resources are in place they should have a high standard of universal access design and not the bare minimum. She referred to the new public toilets in Lahinch in particular and felt that they did not meet the required standard in terms of design. She requested that this issue be raised with the Council's Access Officer. She also raised an issue at the Local Elections where a person with a hearing difficulty was not accommodated.

Cllr. C. Murphy told the committee that there is a breach of law if access conditions are not being met.

A.M. Flanagan asked if universal access could be built into the funding criteria for the funding streams going forward. A discussion then took place among the group regarding Universal Access Design in new builds and retro fitting existing ones. Part M of the Building Regulations must be adhered to and Clare County Council should strive to implement Universal Access Design to the highest standards possible, to allow for as much inclusiveness as possible. The group agreed that they needed more information on this matter and agreed that a presentation or information from an expert in this field would be beneficial. It was agreed that a request would issue to the Chief Executive of Clare County Council to ensure that staff are knowledgeable on the requirements of universal design. It was also agreed that the executive would source information on access and engage with the Access Officer and this information would be circulated to the members of the LCDC. If a presentation was required after that, it could be considered.

### **3. Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP): Report on Actions**

A report on the implementation of the 'community' actions within the LECP was circulated in advance of meeting. D. Power referred to the report and advised the members that there are 43 community actions in total listed in the plan, the majority of which are under way or completed. The 6 actions highlighted in yellow in the report have not been actioned due mainly to having no contact in the lead agency. D. Power said that she would be contacting these agencies to acquire new contacts or that the action may have to be amended to allow for them to achieve the end goal.

There was a general discussion around meeting the targets within the plan and if funding was an issue. The meeting was told that any funding stream under the management of the LCDC requires applicants to show that their projects are aligned with the LECP. The Community Implementation Team met in October to clarify actions and further amendments were made at that stage. D. Power advised that she engages with lead agencies to record all updates on the CRM system.

D. Power informed the group that the Department of Rural and Community Development has advised that the LECP review will not be completed until after the RSES (Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy) is completed.

M. Meehan advised that the next LECP is due in 2021. She said that there could be a new process for the LECP in 2021. She also said that the Clare Survey which

was the most recent target to be met can be used for benchmarking in the 2021 plan. M. O'Donoghue asked could the survey be used to update some of the targets for next year which would mean having some work to do before the next meeting in October. D. Power said she would circulate the link for same to the Community Implementation Team. A.M. Flanagan asked would she be able to join the Community Implementation Team or attend the next meeting. It was agreed that she could join.

#### **4. Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2019 Funding Approvals**

M. Meehan confirmed that the Department funded CEP is in its third year and is being administered through the LCDC. The scheme was advertised locally and the closing date for applications was the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The total fund for Clare is €139,257 and 81 applications were received. She confirmed that the evaluation criteria and scoring as agreed by the LCDC was applied to each application and the executive had carried out an evaluation and a report was circulated at the meeting with the recommendations.

D. Power presented on each proposal and explained the basis for the recommended funding amounts. Cllr. G. Flynn sought clarity regarding signing off on the completed works and if the works were checked by an engineer. The issue of universal access was again raised in the context of the completed works. M. Meehan confirmed that all relevant invoices and receipts are checked and before and after photographs are also submitted. Site visits also take place. Cllr. G. Flynn felt that there may be an issue with quality control if an engineer hasn't inspected the works.

J. Lynch said that a small amount of money supports a lot of these groups and it would be onerous on them if they had to employ an engineer as it would add cost to the job. Cllr. G. Flynn said that going forward that all projects should have access for all and that they should be fit for purpose.

A brief discussion then took place and M. Meehan told the meeting that if the committee wanted the criteria to be changed for next year's scheme to include Universal Access Design that could be considered. D. Power told the meeting that a lot of the applications coming forward from the groups were for raised beds, sensory gardens, accessible outdoor furniture etc. P. Patton said that small funding amounts are not all that helpful as larger scale projects need more funding. He felt that consideration should be given to funding a lesser number of projects in the future rather than giving every project some funding. He highlighted the RAPID funded project in Kilrush as a great example of how that fund was utilised to fund 2-3 projects at that time and indicated that the project wouldn't have materialised if it hadn't received the substantial amount of funding that it did receive. He suggested that the assessment process be reviewed.

Cllr G. Flynn agreed that small amounts of funding could delay the delivery of projects and this then leaves the group thinking they need to deliver something which may not be of a high quality. AM Flanagan agreed with the previous speakers but also felt that if groups meet the criteria they should be entitled to some funding. She also said that with small amounts of funding the groups have to take out loans to make up the balance and it can be difficult for them to pay back.

Cllr. C Murphy told the group that with other funding schemes the groups are asked can the project go ahead if only partial funding is awarded and it is up to the groups to ensure that part of the project can be completed with the funds or they have finances coming from other funding streams. M. McKeown said that it should be looked at that fewer communities get more funding to allow them to complete the project. H. Downes said that groups should be asked what the start date and end date of the project is. AM Flanagan asked are the other funding streams communicated to the groups?

The committee were then asked if they were happy with the grant recommendations. The report as presented was proposed by J. Lynch and seconded by M. McKeown.

Cllr. G. Flynn said that going forward it should be looked at giving maximum funding to fewer projects in order for the project to be completed. J. Lynch stated that the assessment process could be looked at to include Universal Access Design. M. Meehan said that this could be discussed when the sub-committee is reconvened.

#### **5. Healthy Ireland Fund**

M. Meehan referred to the Healthy Ireland Funding and confirmed that notification had been received for Round 3 funding under the Healthy Ireland Fund. Clare LCDC will receive €184,000 which will cover the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Full guidance and criteria have yet to be received and will be circulated to the group. The LCDC will be putting out a public call for applications. As with previous years she recommended a joint process between Clare LCDC and Clare CYPSC (Children and Young People's Services Committees). CYPSC received their own funding of €96,000 but the joint application with Clare LCDC as the lead allows them to meet their targets. A.M. Flanagan asked would it be possible for her to be part of the Healthy Ireland Committee.

#### **6. Men's Shed Fund**

M. Meehan advised the members that notification has been received from the Department in relation to specific funding for men's sheds. All organisations must be affiliated with the National Men's Shed organisation. More details to follow.

#### **7. Presentation by Clare Youth Services re: Healthy Ireland Funding Round 2**

M. Slattery told the group the Clare Youth Services took on a project under Healthy Ireland and just wanted to show the group what was done. It was a joint project where the Clare Youth Service worked with a group of young adults and older people from the area. A short video was then shown to the group.

The members commended the work of Clare Youth Service and congratulated M. Slattery on the project.

M. Slattery issued an invitation to all members to the launch of the Community Garden in Cloughleigh which will take place on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

**The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at 3.00 p.m., Training Room, Level 0, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare**

**Signed:** Andrew Dudas  
**Chairperson**

[Signature]  
**Chief Officer**