

**Minutes of
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
Meeting held on
10th April 2024 at 11.00am
[Hybrid Meeting at Quin Road Business Park Ennis]**

In Attendance

Ms. Bernie Haugh
Cllr. Gerry Flynn
Mr. Paul Patton
Mr. Maurice Harvey
Cllr. Rita McInerney
Mr. Brian Mc Manus
Cllr. Cillian Murphy
Mr. Pádraic McElwee
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Ms. Bedelia Collins
Ms. Sheila Lynch
Ms. Dóirín Graham
Ms. Theresa O'Donoghue

Organisation

Chief Officer
Elected Member (Chair)
LCETB (Vice Chair)
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Elected Member
Clare Youth Service
Elected Member
Head of Enterprise
Elected Member
HSE
Ennis Chamber
Clare Local Development Company
Environmental Interest Representation PPN

Rural Staff Support

Mr. Brendan Boyce Rural Development
Ms. Anita O'Loughlin Rural Development
Ms. Catherine O'Hara Rural Development

Apologies Received

Ms. Anne Haugh Director of Services
Serg. Catriona Holohan Garda Siochana
Mr. Dermot Hayes Social Inclusion Interests
Ms. Bridgie Casey Social Inclusion Clare PPN
Mr. Thomas Lane Agricultural Farmers Sector
Mr. Frank Cullinan Rural Development

Guests

Karen Fennessy Age Friendly Regional Coordinator
Monica McKenna CLDC
Darina Greene CLDC

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Issue: Chair Cllr. Gerry Flynn welcomed members and guest speakers to the April LCDC meeting. He advised the members that Brendan Boyce is moving to a new role as an Integration officer and acknowledged his work in supporting the LCDC since Autumn 2022 and especially his work in the development and completion of the LCEP 2024 -2030 and the Implementation plan 2024- 2025. He welcomed Catherine O'Hara to the team.

Condolences to Frank Cullinan on his recent family bereavement for his mother-in-law Kathleen Collins.

Approval of Minutes from LCDC Meeting 21st February 2024

- No matters arising

Proposed: Mr. Paul Patton

Seconded: Maurice Harvey

TOPIC 2: LCDC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Issue:

- PPN membership
- IFA membership
- Healthy Ireland Membership

Members were advised that Thomas Lane of the IFA he is no longer the County Chair of the IFA, the Chief Officer will be contacting the IFA for details of his replacement.

PPN nominees to replace Hillary Tonge & Eddie O' Gorman for the Community and Voluntary pillar have been submitted for ratification at the Clare County Council meeting in May 2024.

The nominees from the PPN are Tracey Lynch & Bernie O'Gorman. A copy of their Bios was circulated to the Members.

Proposer: Theresa O'Donoghue

Seconded: Cllr.Cillian Murphy

Healthy Ireland Correspondence was shared by the Chief Officer from the Healthy Clare working Group. The nominations by Chief Officer for Chair and Deputy Chair for Healthy Clare Working Group were:

Chair – Mary Mc Mahon
Deputy Chair – Tim Forde

Nominations were approved:

Proposer: Mr .Paul Patton

Secunder: Doírin Graham

TOPIC 3: FUNDING UPDATE

Issue: Presentation update was provided by Catherine O’Hara on the following Funding schemes:

- CRF 2024 – Correspondence circulated.
- LEP Update
- Dormant Account LGBTI+



LEP Presentation
LCDC April 24.odp

Feedback:

Several members acknowledged the work of the team in allocating funding to Community Groups.

In relation to the CRF 2024 Doírin Graham of CLDC queried whether the Department had set the 50k minimum spend for the CRF 2024 scheme.

Chief Officer confirmed that this is set by the department, and that it is not possible to amalgamate projects under the 2024 scheme to meet the €50k minimum required. Chief Officer confirmed that there is some flexibility in interim drawdown/ claims depending on the size of the project, and the projects must be standalone projects. Members were also advised that projects 200k plus are subject to a business case and to contact the Chief Officer if they had any queries.

Chief Officer confirmed that the CRF 2024 will be officially launched on the 11th April 2024 and will be open for applications until 9th May 2024, with the Rural and Community Development Officers running information Clinics throughout the county.

Paul Patton commented that it will be challenging to get applications submitted that comply with criteria especially the eligibility clause as co-funding not allowed under the scheme.

Chief officer advised that the applications submitted will be assessed by an independent assessment panel. 20% of the fund is required to be retained to support eligible projects for new locations arising in 2024/2025.

Cllr. Cillian Murphy asked if scheme has been rolled out yet and if Local Authorities could apply. The Chief Officer advised Cllr. Murphy that it must have a community gain with a long-term benefit and confirmed that Local Authorities can apply for funding to buy land/ buildings for communities with clear long-term benefit.

Cllr. Johnny Flynn welcomed this Funding programme and that he has seen the benefits that this fund can have on communities, with Ennis MD having secured funding through this scheme last year which provided lighting from the Auburn Lodge to Ballyallia Lake.

Chief Officer advised that host communities will be made aware of this funding and advised that monies previously available was not sufficient to support every group that sought funding. With the support of the RCDO's efforts will be made to get communities to collaborate on one large project for their area.

Paul Patton asked if the amended criteria/stipulations that could have weight given to collaboration between organisations.

Chief Officer advised that the LCDC would be briefed regarding the level of interest in the scheme at a future meeting.

Proposer: Cllr.Cillian Murphy

Seconder : Mr. Paul Patton

TOPIC 4: SICAP

Issue:

SICAP Presentation form Clare Local Development Company, delivered by Monica Mckenna and Darina Greene.



SICAP to LCDC april
24.pptx

Feedback:

Cllr Gerry Flynn thanked speakers for their presentation and asked for the presentation to be presented to the Housing & Social Directorate.

Theresa O'Donoghue asked Darina and Monica if the programme was only available to DEIS schools and if early school learners where been tracked. Darina advised Theresa that priority is given to DEIS schools, but focus would also be given to schools with a high level of need and how they can do to best respond.

Maurice Harvey thanked CLDC for the presentation, he feels that it is a broad canvas and noted that nearly every issue is covered in the programme. He queried weather there was adequate budget and resources to cover everything. Darina advised Maurice that they have to prioritise under the programmes.

Bedelia Collins echoed other members previous comments about the presentation and highlighted that the HSE would benefit from the programme. The programme is a benefit to other services, as it shows clear targets. Bedelia queried if CLDC get to showcase their work to other agencies and services providers.

Darina Greene advised that each year a case study is showcased, focusing on external communities and showcasing positive projects and work at raising the profile of SICAP under CLDC.

Cllr. Rita McInerney suggested that the Easy Programme with Digital Meath /Louth CC is something the CLDC team may consider.

Paul Patton asked if CLDC could look at mapping the 10 actions against the Goals, objectives, and actions in the LECF. Darina advised Paul that this has been done. He also asked if they had looked at new census data regarding HP Deprivation. Darina said that there hasn't been a huge amount of change since the last census and advised that the return rate of forms being filled out is low in some areas and that they rely a lot on local people and schools for information.

Paul Patton advised that in relation to Social Farming they may get some concept information from LCETB with some learnings from Doon Social Farm.

Cllr. Johnny Flynn says that it's good that CLDC don't rely on the Census data and it good to see them on the ground, with Community Gardens they could be a great benefit, he would see a lot of deprivation in some areas through Ennis Municipal District.

Theresa O' Donoghue asked if anyone is counting early school leavers. Paul Patton advised that LCETB has information in relation to the above from all schools.

The Chief Officer thanked CLDC team and Doírín for the presentation and read out correspondence from SICAP DRCD in relation to ESF Communication and Funding acknowledgement requirements, the details of same to be circulated to members after the meeting. The Chief Officer acknowledged the importance of ongoing updates to the LCDC members who have oversight of the programme and would welcome the detail of the alignment of SICAP actions with the Goals & Objectives and Actions of the LECP for circulation to the members of the LCDC.

Anita to circulate Email to LCDC members for DRCD Sicap

Action

Doírín Graham of CLDC thanked staff for their work, there is a lot that CLDC are trying to achieve as they are trying to reach the most disadvantaged and these groups are their priorities. They are clear on the programme and need to get results in this area. Doírín confirmed that the focus for 2024 is measuring the impact on the numbers CLDC is working with under national KPI's as it is important to measure the work with communities and what progress is been made within the resources that are been made available. She also confirmed that they want to map all and change the CLDC approach to actions to maximise impact.

Bedelia Collins advised that her public health colleagues would be able to help the CLDC team with developing qualitative data and measurement of actions.

TOPIC 5: HEALTHY AGE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

Issue:

Karen Fennessy as the Regional Healthy Age Friendly Homes Coordinator provided an update to the LCDC members . Supports for older people in County Clare was identified in the objectives of the new LECP and is the focus of targeted actions.

Feedback:



Healthy Age
Friendly Homes Proc

Chair Gerry Flynn suggested that Karen make her presentation to Social Development Directorate. He noted that the biggest problem with the Housing Aid grant is that it is oversubscribed, but that the process has been simplified through the SPC. The SPC has also looked at right sizing in

terms of housing but due to the significant work involved this hasn't progressed yet and this maybe followed up by the new SPC in September.

Maurice Harvey stated that this is a very important scheme, and it is important that it is not constrained by the lack of funding and that people are not waiting for a long period for funding to start upgrading their homes. The scheme could be life changing for a lot of people.

Theresa O' Donoghue sees so much opportunity here especially around Just Transition. She queried if a smaller group outside of the LCDC could be set up for all information in relation to getting housing in the county up to BER rating, given the 2-year waiting list under the warmer homes project.

Cllr. Cillian Murphy thanked Karen and thinks it is an amazing pilot Programme and it's great to see it been rolled out nationally and noted that implementation is crucial. Cllr Murphy looks forward to Clare County Council implementing the right size policy.

Cllr. Johnny Flynn feels it is important that Local Authorities look at this area and that greater support is needed from government to improve the quality of life and independence of older people.

Paul Patton agreed this is an important initiative. He pointed out that LCETB provides care of the older people and that the various campuses are Age Friendly. The LCETB provides training for community activities to help volunteers support older people in their community. LECTB is available to help by providing courses as required.

Karen Fennessy advised members that there is a need for more Funding with a report submitted to the department identifying issues arising from the pilot to support a request for increased funding. They are currently awaiting a response. There is a national group that has oversight of the programme and that they feed back to departments at national level. She noted that the home help support through the HSE is a challenge as it is over subscribed and also that grants are not covering the full amount of work to be done in the home.

In relation to right sizing policy, she noted that the SPC are working on developing a policy and age friendly has some data that can be made available to Clare County Council. Karen noted that "Referrals" are important, and that older people do not delay in engaging in the programme as it can take up to 6 months from application to having the work completed.

Paul Patton commented that the level of grant available does not seem to have been increased to reflect inflation and increased construction costs.

Cllr Gerry Flynn concluded the discussion by saying that he would like to see this initiative being more streamlined.

TOPIC 8:AOB

<p>Issue:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LECP Update • Next Meeting Update <p>Chair Cllr Gerry Flynn advised the LCDC members that the Local Economic and Community Plan 2030 was adopted at the Council meeting on April 8th, 2024, and he expressed his thanks to Paul Patton for his contribution as former Chair and support of the process and to acknowledge the contribution from all the LCDC members, and Agencies past and present and our colleagues in Clare PPN for their support.</p> <p>The Chief Officer thanked Brendan for the enormous contribution he made to the LECP to date and to Paul Patton as Vice Chair of the LCDC and Chair of the LECP Advisory Steering Group and all contributors from the LCDC and PPN reps on the pilot project.</p> <p>Brendan outlined the next steps in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalisation of Consultation Report & publication on website • Submission of LECP to the Department of Rural and Community • To complete the Socio-Economic Profile with Dr. Sean O’Riordain for the LCDC • Baseline Data for KPI’s and Lead Agency Reporting Arrangements – Follow up meeting with Advisory Steering Group on Implementation Process • Official Launch of LECP <p>Brendan also advised that he will be consulting with the members of the LCDC when developing Sports and other strategies.</p> <p>Tin terms of future meeting Agendas, the Chief Officer proposed that each member of the LCDC has the opportunity to make a presentation to the LCDC members on their area of work and the synergies with the LECP 2024- 2030. Presentation from the following agencies could include:</p>
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	<p>Integration Team, Clare Volunteer Centre, An Garda Síochána, IFA, HSE, Older persons Council, LCETB, CLDC which would inform the implementation plan and delivery of the actions.</p> <p>A key focus of the implementation of the LECP includes roles and supports required including funding opportunities. As agreed with the members Doirín Graham of CLDC will present and update on the LEADER programme at the May meeting.</p>
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TOPIC 8: Next LCDC Meeting

Next Meeting: 22nd May 2024

Signed:

LCDC : Chairman:


Mr. Gerry Flynn

Signed:

LCDC Chief
Officer:


Bernie Haugh

