

Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 16th December 2015 at 3.00 p.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. Dóirin Graham
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Mr. Christy Leyden
Mr. Padraic McElwee
Mr. Gerard Dollard
Cllr. Mike McKee
Cllr. Richard Nagle
Mr. Gerry Kelly
Ms. Mary O'Donoghue

Organisation:

Elected Member
Social Inclusion Interests
Agricultural Farmers Sector
Clare Local Development Company
Education & Training Board
Community & Voluntary Interests
Head of Enterprise
Chief Officer
Elected Member
Elected Member
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Social Inclusion Interests

Also Present

Ms. Monica Meehan Tourism & Community
Ms. Ailish McMahan Tourism & Community

Apologies

Mr. Cillian Murphy Community & Voluntary Interests
Mr. Martin McKeown Environment Interests
Mr. Tom Coughlan Chief Executive
Ms. Margaret Slattery Youth Sector
Mr. Jim Lynch Department of Social Protection
Ms. Helen Downes Employers/Business
Ms. Esther Connellan HSE
Mr. Michael Neylon Tourism & Community

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 18th November 2015 and matters arising. (attached).

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 18th November 2015 were proposed by Cllr. M. McKee and seconded by G. Kelly.

Matters Arising

D. Hayes congratulated C. Murphy and 'Loop Head Tourism' which was awarded gold in the 'Culture and Heritage' category of the 12th annual awards, announced at World Travel Market.

2. Declaration re Conflicts of Interest.

G. Dollard requested any declaration from the members regarding a Conflict of Interest for any item on the agenda.

D. Graham advised the meeting that she has a Conflict of Interest in relation to Item No.3 and 4 on the agenda – Draft Local Development Strategy and Update on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and would leave the meeting for these items.

G. Dollard informed D. Hayes that as he is a Director of CLDC and a member of the LCDC there is a conflict of interest and he should leave the meeting for Item No. 3 and 4 on the agenda i.e. Draft Local Development Strategy and on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

3. Draft Local Development Strategy

D. Graham and D. Hayes left the meeting for this agenda item.

The final draft of the Clare Local Development Strategy was circulated to all members. The appendices were listed at the end of the document. G. Dollard outlined that at the LCDC meeting held on the 18th November Section 4 of the document was circulated for review. This followed the workshop held for LCDC members on the 22nd October, 2015. He outlined that this section is now updated to include financial allocation and indicators. The profile information is drawn from the Local Economic and Community Plan profile and the other sections are framed around the strategy making process and general management of the Programme over its lifetime.

There had been an extensive consultation process through public meetings and focus groups.

G. Dollard also referred to the Financial Plan which was also circulated.

G. Dollard outlined to the members the table of contents as follows:-

- Section 1 – The LAG – Governance Model
- Section 2 – LDS Area Profile (on page 12)

- Page 44 – Section 2.4.12 – Gaps in Service provision – data collated and gaps have been identified.
- Section 3 – Participative Planning – (page 53) – all information gathered was collated and presented to the members of the LAG to discuss the objectives and actions in order to establish priorities and suggest budgets.
- Section 4 – The LDS Action Plan – reflects the socio economic data, gaps and needs identified.
- Section 4.3 – (pg 57) Indicative Budget Allocation per Theme and Sub-theme
- Section 5 – Strategic Integration
- Section 6 –Networking & Co-operation – The Clare LAG acts as a public private community networked organisation combining the efforts and resources of State Bodies, Local Authorities, Local Communities and individual entrepreneurs for the benefit of the local areas. In it capacity as a LAG, the LAG is proactive in a range of networks and working groups including Clare Youth Service, SOLAS, Limerick Clare Education and Training Board, IFA, Department of Social Protection and the Age Friendly Alliance Board.
- Section 7 – Monitoring, Review and Evaluation.

G. Dollard outlined that a key section is Section 4 – The LDS Action Plan and the indicative budget allocation per theme and sub-theme. With regard to budget for accommodation, rates etc he outlined that no cost is included in the programme as these will be covered by Clare County Council.

G. Dollard thanked M. Meehan and M. Neylon for their comprehensive work in compiling the strategy.

A questions and answers session ensued. M. O'Donoghue outlined that the LDS is a very comprehensive document and queried if two Development Officers was sufficient to deliver the programme?

Cllr. M McKee outlined that the LDS is a very comprehensive strategy and stated that he had gone through it in detail.

Cllr. R. Nagle outlined that he is very supportive of the LDS and stated that there is much credit to the people involved in compiling same.

G. Kelly referred to page 17 of the document (Table 3) – Population by Age Groups and by LDS sub-area. He referred to the age category 60-64 and the high level of unemployment. G. Kelly referred to a meeting he attended in Dublin recently in which he outlined the challenge regarding the age profile.

C. Leyden stated that more needs to be done among groups to synergise and streamline the process and to maximise funds available. He outlined that budgets should be better streamlined.

G. Dollard replied to the query raised by M O'Donoghue regarding the number of Development Officers. He outlined that the Council as implementing partner would be heavily supporting the strategy. Staff throughout the Council would be undertaking work on the programme at no cost to the programme. For example, the Local Enterprise Office would be heavily involved in enterprise development but this input would not be a cost on the programme. The Local Development Strategy showed 21% for payroll and animation costs which was well below the 25% maximum threshold. In reply to C. Leyden he indicated that this meant additional funding for actions and implementation of the order of €400,000.

After a lengthy discussion took place, G. Dollard informed the meeting that the Draft Local Development Strategy was before the members for adoption.

There were nine members present for the discussion on the Draft Local Development Strategy.

In order to comply with the Standing Orders, Cllr. R. Nagle left the meeting for the vote and P. McElwee, LEO, abstained from voting.

The adoption of the Draft Local Development Strategy was proposed by Cllr. M. McKee, seconded by C. Leyden. The Chairman then declared the Local Development Strategy to be adopted unanimously.

4. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

D. Graham and D. Hayes left the meeting for the initial discussion on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

A copy of the 2015 plan in which the detail of the 12 actions to be implemented by the end of the year and the target groups and the areas was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. This was to facilitate the identification of new actions, new target groups and new areas as required.

G. Dollard referred to meeting that took place with D. Graham, CLDC, J. Lynch, Department of Social Protection, A. Haverty, LCETB, P. McElwee, LEO and M. Meehan of LCDC. He outlined that in the area of Action 9 and the target of 503 persons into Lifelong Learning, it was felt that the target of 503 was unrealistic and would not be reached. G. Dollard outlined that the provision of the ETB matched the needs in the area and that anything done under SICAP would be unnecessary or would cause duplication. He stated that it was proposed by the meeting that Action 9 could be redirected away from lifelong learning and into actions looking at other categories of disadvantaged people for example those on One Parent Family Payments. G. Dollard informed the meeting that CLDC were satisfied that they would meet their referral targets.

D. Graham and D. Hayes rejoined the meeting for the discussion on the 2016 Annual plan for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

A note of the planning process for the 2016 Annual plan for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme was circulated to all members for discussion. The members were asked to consider as to the likely actions that could be included in the plan.

D. Graham and A. Haverty updated the meeting on the outcomes of meeting that was held between CLDC, J. Lynch, Department of Social Protection, LCETB, P. McElwee, LEO and M. Meehan of LCDC in order to look at the actions, targets and the SICAP plan for 2016.

D. Graham outlined that a discussion took place in relation to the area of action 9 and the target of 503 persons into Lifelong Learning.

It was felt that the target of 503 was unrealistic and would not be reached.

D. Graham outlined that the ETB have a very strong programme in County Clare and they are small numbers coming in from the community.

D. Graham confirmed that a number of options were discussed including the definition of lifelong learning and outlined how resources could be focused at earlier age groups. She outlined that the current definition of lifelong learning would need to be broadened.

A Haverty referred to a report produced by Barnardos which focused on childhood poverty. She suggested that the LCDC prioritise early childhood education and supports under SICAP.

M. O'Donoghue outlined that a full time youth worker for disadvantaged children under 12 is needed in Kilrush. M O'Donoghue outlined that the Family Resource Centre are setting up a club for under 12's.

G. Dollard asked the question what can SICAP do in 2016 to progress this? Can SICAP deal with this?

D. Graham outlined that there are 3 goals in SICAP. She outlined that the section action is lifelong learning (pre school years) and the target is 400. With regard to the homework project (target is 85) but 190 was achieved in 2015. She outlined that for the 2016 plan there is a need to expand the homework club targets and youth mental health. She outlined that there are approximately 150 disadvantaged people in Kilrush living in the John Paul Estate (12 year +) and that Kilrush would benefit from a Youth Development Project Worker.

G. Kelly referred to a meeting he attended in Dublin recently chaired by Mr. Jack Keyes. He referred to the older age profile of the county and the high level of unemployment among older adults. He outlined that SICAP can only deal with this under the disadvantaged category.

C. Leyden outlined that for the 2016 Plan the focus should be on the following:-

- Preschool
- Homework Clubs

- Mental Health

M. Meehan informed the meeting that there is limited flexibility within the Department with regard to the targets. M. Meehan outlined that Pobal and the Department are currently reviewing Lot specific targets and Lot specific budget for 2016 and it is hoped to have same received by the end of the week. She outlined that the Department have indicated guidance on the importance of engaging women who are in disadvantaged areas, disadvantaged youth, people who are experiencing homelessness or people who are in need of housing for the 2016 plan.

M. O'Donoghue outlined that there is a need to target lone parents. She outlined that it is the worker on the ground that builds on relationship and deals with those who are experiencing depression etc.

It was also suggested that some of the resources allocated to Action 9 could be redirected away from lifelong learning and into actions looking at other categories of disadvantaged people for example those on one Parent Family Payments.

In conclusion G. Dollard asked that all comments would be taken on board by CLDC in formulating the 2016 Plan.

G. Dollard outlined that the 2016 SICAP plan is to be submitted by the 15th January, 2016. The Plan is to be reviewed, appraised and signed off on by the LCDC by 19th February 2016. It was agreed that there would be a presentation by the CLDC on the 2016 Plan at the next meeting of the LCDC - (3rd February, 2016).

D. Graham requested a formal recommendation from the LCDC outlining their objectives for 2016. This was proposed by A. Haverty and seconded by M. O'Donoghue.

5. **PPN Update.**

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the County Plenary of Clare Public Participation Network took place on Tuesday, 24th November, 2015. Due to other commitments three members of the Secretariat resigned and new members have been elected.

G. Dollard outlined that interviews took place last week and a Resource Worker will be appointed shortly.

D. Graham outlined that Clare Local Development Company will host the Resource Worker on behalf of the PPN.

M. O'Donoghue outlined that much training needs to be done in relation to the secretariat of the PPN and outlined that it needs to be well supported and there needs to be a strong focus on social inclusion.

C. Leyden outlined that the Plenary meeting was confusing. He outlined that there needs to be a bottom up approach in relation to PPN. He outlined that a 'quick win' needs to be highlighted.

6. Schedule of meetings for 2016. (attached)

A schedule of meetings for 2016 was circulated to all members. It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on the 3rd February, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

7. AOB/Correspondence.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Chair **Chief Officer**

I, Gerard Dollard, Chief Officer of Clare Local Community Development Committee confirm the above as draft minutes of the LCDC meeting held on the 16th December 2015 which will be circulated to the LCDC for formal adoption at its meeting scheduled for the 3rd February 2016.

Signed: _____
Gerard Dollard
Chief Officer

Dated this _____ day of January 2016