

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
meeting (LCDC) on Tuesday, 28th July 2015 at 11.00am in the
Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare**

In Attendance:

Cllr. Bill Chambers
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Mr. Tom Coughlan
Mr. Gerard Dollard
Mr. Andrew Dundas
Ms. Dóirin Graham
Mr. Martin McKeown
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Mr. Jim Lynch
Ms. Mary O'Donoghue
Ms. Esther Connellan
Mr. Cillian Murphy
Mr. Gerry Kelly

Organisation:

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

Also Present

Ms. Monica Meehan Tourism & Community
Mr. Michael Neylon Tourism & Community

Apologies

Ms. Margaret Slattery Youth Sector
Ms. Helen Downes Employers/Business
Cllr. Johnny Flynn Elected Member
Mr. Christy Leyden Community & Voluntary Interests
Cllr. Richard Nagle Elected Member
Cllr. Mike McKee Elected Member

Cllr. B. Chambers welcomed all in attendance to the meeting.

1. Minutes of meeting held on the 8th April 2015 and 20th April 2015 and matters arising

D. Graham referred to the minutes of the 8th April 2015 and requested that the minutes be changed to indicate that CLDC requested that the targets set under SICAP would be revised. She also advised that there was a proposal that Pobal would attend a meeting of the LCDC to advise on their role. G. Dollard confirmed that SICAP was on the agenda.

Both sets of minutes were proposed by D. Hayes and seconded by G. Kelly.

2. Declaration re Conflicts of Interest

G. Dollard advised that this item would be a standing item on the agenda. He requested that at this point in the meeting that those in attendance declare any conflicts that they might have regarding any items on the agenda. He confirmed that it is mandatory to declare a conflict.

D. Graham declared a conflict in relation to the LEADER LDS Selection EOI Stage 1 – Clare LCDC Submission item.

3. Summary of Submissions in relation to the Socio-Economic Statement – Local Economic & Community Plan

G. Dollard referred to the report on submissions which was circulated by email last evening and available in hardcopy at today's meeting. He confirmed that the public consultation process commenced in mid June and the deadline for receipt of submissions was extended to the 24th July 2015. There were four public consultation workshops and 26 submissions were received. While the consultation focused on the high level goals, the process of identifying actions also commenced. He informed the meeting that the report on submissions will now be sent to the four Municipal Districts and to the Regional Assembly for their input. The document (Socio-Economic Statement and high level goals) will then be revised and brought before both the LCDC and the SPC for adoption before commencement of stage 3 of the plan-making process.

D. Hayes advised that he attended the meeting in Ennis at which there was good interaction and discussion.

M. McKeown enquired if submissions could be made at this stage. G. Dollard confirmed that as an LCDC member he could input to the process as necessary.

M. O'Donoghue thanked M. Neylon for his input to date.

4. PPN Circular

G. Dollard referred to the circular which issued from the Department indicating that €80,000 would be available to support the work of the Public Participation Network in the County. This funding will be mainly used towards the cost of employing a Resource Worker, office accommodation, overheads etc.

He confirmed that the PPN Secretariat is currently considering the content of the circular and how best to implement same. M. O'Donoghue enquired if the Council had agreed to provide the €30k matching funding, if funding was guaranteed annually and if the PPN would have a say on how the Resource Worker position would be managed. G. Dollard confirmed that the elected members as part of the Budget had agreed to provide the €30k and funding will be considered annually by the DECLG. The matter of the Resource Worker was one for the PPN Secretariat.

5. Progress Report on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

M. Meehan circulated a report on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme which outlined the aim/purpose of the Programme and provided an update on the contract and targets. It also addressed the issues which were raised by CLDC at the meeting on the 8th April 2015. There was a lengthy discussion on the programme which mainly focused on the targets/performance indicators and the sub-committee suggestion.

G. Dollard referred to a letter which was submitted by CLDC requesting that a SICAP sub-committee be established and that the members should consider the request.

J. Lynch expressed some concern regarding the targets and suggested that this would be looked at in the context of next years programme. He indicated that he was available to meet with CLDC particularly in the context of referrals to SICAP.

D. Hayes enquired if backdating of work with clients was permitted. M. Meehan confirmed that if a client engaged with the previous programme that the same client can also engage with the current programme. To be counted on the caseload, two interventions would be necessary.

T. Coughlan indicated that he would have concerns about a sub-committee being set up to oversee the delivery of the programme. He stressed that this is the first opportunity that the LCDC has to manage a programme and that this was a very important function.

M. O'Donoghue felt that a sub-group would be useful and that the focus of the programme seemed to be on numbers as opposed to the quality of the support being provided. She suggested that the mid-term review may be an opportunity to explore such matters.

C. Murphy advised that perhaps a sub-committee could be considered in the future and that familiarisation with the programme is a must at this stage. He referred to quantitative and qualitative measurement and stressed the importance of qualitative measurement.

G. Kelly enquired if an outside check on targets/measurement formed part of the programme. M. Meehan advised that Pobal carry out a technical check on data entered on IRIS. She also confirmed that while the name of the programme has changed, the programme has been in existence for a number of years. The main difference between this programme and its predecessor is that the performance indicators are clearer in that they are framed so that those who need to benefit from the programme actually do benefit from it.

D. Graham said that the programme is about quantity at the expense of quality. She advised that there must be several interventions with clients. She indicated that while the programme is not new, it has a lot of new elements including the need to interact with communities such as Roma, travellers, migrant communities etc. She highlighted that they had no choice in the targets and that they are making every effort to meet them. She also indicated that the Department and Pobal have indicated to her that the targets cannot be achieved and that they will be reviewed at the mid year review. She requested that the LCDC take a different perspective and proposed that the LCDC indicate that a qualitative approach would be preferable. She advised that the LCDC should take a position on the matter. She clarified that the board of CLDC requested that a sub-committee be formed as the LCDC hasn't met since the 8th April and that more input was required. She suggested that the purpose of the sub-committee would be to advise and inform the LCDC of any issues and these could be discussed at a meeting of the LCDC. She referred to the referral process from the Department of Social Protection and the new Job Path Programme. She felt that this programme would impact on SICAP. J. Lynch stressed the importance of eliminating duplication and that the nature of the SICAP programme will ensure that the people that are hardest to reach will benefit from the programme. He indicated that the Job Path Programme will not impact on the SICAP Programme.

T. Coughlan said that the discussion so far makes a very strong argument for not delegating to a sub-committee. He advised that the LCDC has a monitoring role for SICAP and expressed concern regarding targets not being met.

A. Harverty outlined how most programmes have targets and suggested that the LCDC meet more regularly which would afford an opportunity to review progress. It was agreed that a schedule of meeting dates would be circulated.

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Wednesday, 2nd September 2015 and that SICAP would be discussed for the first hour of the meeting from 10am – 11am and that this would be followed by the regular LCDC meeting at 11am. It was also agreed to request a representative of Pobal to attend the meeting at 10am.

6. LEADER LDS Selection EOI Stage 1 – Clare LCDC Submission

D. Graham left the meeting for this discussion.

G. Dollard advised that the expression of interest process had concluded and that there were 20 areas where the preparation of one LDS for an area was agreed and that there were some 8 where more than one LDS was being pursued. He confirmed that there are two LDS's being prepared for Clare; one by the LCDC and one by CLDC. He referred to a meeting with the Department which was attended by himself, Cllr. B. Chambers, D. Graham and S. Walsh (Chairperson of CLDC). He advised that at that meeting he suggested that there would be a joint public consultation process. He also indicated that CLDC felt that the Leader Programme was its programme.

G. Dollard circulated a proposal dated 12th June 2015 which he had received from D. Graham regarding an alternative LAG composition which would be made up of the CLDC and LCDC members. He indicated to the meeting that he felt that the proposal was an insult to the LCDC. He expected that there would be further meetings arranged by the Department.

J. Lynch, A. Haverty and C. Murphy expressed disappointment that we are in this position and felt there will be a lot of confusion amongst the general public about the process.

The members also pointed out that the expression of interest process was now underway and it remained to be seen what the outcome would be. The LCDC did not agree to engage in discussion on the basis of the CLDC proposal circulated.

G. Dollard advised that the Local Development Strategy must now be prepared and the timeline is approximately 6 months. An independent assessment panel has been set up by the Department and this panel will be responsible for assessing all strategies. The LCDC was now progressing the preparation of this strategy.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 2nd September 2015 commencing at 10am with a discussion on SICAP. This will be followed by the regular meeting at 11am.

8. AOB/Correspondence

G. Dollard requested members to note the letter received from Limerick LCDC regarding the preparation of their Local Economic and Community Plan. He also requested that members sign and submit the contact details permission form.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Chair **Chief Officer**