

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 2nd September 2015 at 11.00 a.m.
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis,
Co. Clare**

In Attendance:

Cllr. Bill Chambers
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Mr. Gerard Dollard
Mr. Andrew Dundas
Ms. Dóirín Graham
Mr. Martin McKeown
Ms. Aobhan Haverty
Mr. Jim Lynch
Ms. Mary O'Donoghue
Mr. Cillian Murphy
Mr. Gerry Kelly
Ms. Margaret Slattery
Ms. Helen Downes
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. Christy Leyden
Cllr. Richard Nagle
Cllr. Mike McKee
Mr. Padraic McElwee

Organisation:

Elected Member
Social Inclusion Interests
Chief Officer
Agricultural Farmers Sector
Clare Local Development Company
Environment Interests
Education & Training Board
Department of Social Protection
Social Inclusion Interests
Community & Voluntary Interests
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Youth Sector
Employers/Business
Elected Member
Community & Voluntary Interests
Elected Member
Elected Member
Head of Enterprise

Also Present

Mr. Michael Neylon Tourism & Community
Ms. Ailish McMahon Tourism & Community

Apologies

- Mr. Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive.
- Ms. Esther Connellan, HSE.
- Ms. Monica Meehan, Senior Executive Officer.

Cllr. B. Chambers welcomed Mr. Padraic McElwee, Head of Enterprise, Local Enterprise Office, Clare to the meeting.

1. Minutes of meeting held on the 28th July, 2015 and matters arising. (attached).

Minutes of meeting held on the 28th July, 2015 were proposed by G. Kelly and seconded by C. Murphy.

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 advised the meeting that she has a Conflict of Interest in relation to Item No. 5 on the agenda – the Local Development Strategy and would leave the meeting for this discussion.

3. Consider report on submissions on the Local Economic and Community Plan (previously circulated).

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the report on submissions will be discussed at the four Municipal District meetings, the Strategic Policy meeting for Economic Development and Enterprise and has been sent to the Regional Assembly for their input. He stated that the consultation focused on the high level goals and the process of identifying objectives and actions also commences.

J. Flynn referred to the Ennis Municipal District meeting which he attended on the 1st September in which the Local Economic and Community Plan was discussed. He referred to the Ennis 2020 Framework document and it should be included in the Plan.

M. O Donoghue outlined that there should be reference to the Community, ARTS and the Creative sectors.

4. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) – Mid-term review process.

G. Dollard outlined that this item had been dealt with at the briefing prior to the meeting which Mr. Donnacha McSorley, (POBAL) attended and gave a presentation on SICAP.

5. Update on the Local Development Strategy (LDS).

D. Graham left the meeting for this discussion.

Mr. G. Dollard informed the meeting that two expressions of interest have been submitted in respect of the LEADER programme for County Clare, despite the efforts of LCDC to secure one expression of

interest. Both applications have passed the first stage and both have been asked to prepare a Local Development Strategy (LDS) as part of the next stage in the process. An Independent Assessment will follow.

The members referred to the meeting on the 28th July in which they requested the agreement of a joint public consultation process to avoid public confusion and dissatisfaction regarding the preparation of two strategies by different groups. G. Dollard outlined that Clare Local Development Company has declined to be involved in such a joint approach.

G. Dollard outlined that Clare Local Development Company is currently holding public consultation workshops throughout the county. He outlined that the LCDC would wait until these public consultation workshops are complete before the LCDC would initiate its own public consultation process.

A. Dundas questioned the cost involved in drawing up the Local Development Strategy. G. Dollard stated that a sum of €25,000 had been sought but no allocation had been made.

The members expressed their disappointment that this was the position and felt that there will be a lot of confusion amongst the general public about the process.

The members questioned the working relationship between the Council and the Clare Local Development Company. G. Dollard outlined that they had one of the best working relationships in the country. He stated that it is with surprise to be in this position. Under the Local Government Reform Act, a new structure has been put in place. The CLDC appear to have difficulty in accepting this. The approach seems to be that they always ran the LEADER Programme and want to hold onto it.

G. Dollard stated that it was his understanding that of the 28 sub-regional areas throughout the country, in which the LEADER programme will operate, a joint expression of interest has now been agreed in relation to 23 of those areas.

After a detailed and lengthy discussion the members agreed in a final attempt to write to the Clare Local Development Company to secure a joint expression of interest as per the guidelines put forward by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.

As per the guidelines, Clare Local Development Company would be the implementing partner on behalf of the LCDC for the LEADER programme. It was agreed that this letter would be sent and that a final decision would be sought within 10 days.

6. PPN – Update on proposals for Resource Worker.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the matter of the Resource Worker was one for the PPN Secretariat. C. Murphy outlined that he is a member of the PPN Secretariat but is unable to avail of the PPN Database to communicate with members.

G. Dollard outlined that he has sought national advice in relation to the Database and under Data Protection is unable to release it. Any correspondence that needs to be issued can be done so through the staff member administering the PPN.

7. LCDC Information Sessions.

G. Dollard referred to previous documentation circulated from the Department in relation to capacity building session for the LCDC members. He asked the members if they could submit suggestion/topics in relation to the content of the sessions.

G. Dollard referred to items previously noted by M. O Donoghue such as Social Inclusion, Equality and Community Development.

8. Schedule of meetings to year end. (attached)

M. McKeown requested that the meeting scheduled to take place on the 30th September be rescheduled to the first week in October. G. Dollard outlined that due to the mid term review the meeting would have to take place on the 30th September.

A schedule of meetings was circulated.

The following was agreed:-

- Wednesday, 30th September, 2015 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Thursday, 22nd October, 2015 at 3.00 p.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

- Wednesday, 18th November, 2015 at 11.00 a.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.
- Wednesday, 16th December 2015 at 3.00 p.m. Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

9. AOB/Correspondence.

M.McKeown requested to increase the representatives on the environmental pillar on the LCDC to two members. G. Dollard outlined that he did see this as being possible but would seek clarification from the Department in relation to this matter.

It was also agreed that a travel expenses sheet would be circulated to all members for their completion for attendance at the LCDC meetings.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Chair **Chief Officer**