

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 8th April 2015 at 12 noon in the
Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare**

In Attendance:

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

Organisation:

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

Also Present

Ms. Monica Meehan	Tourism & Community
Mr. Michael Neylon	Tourism & Community
Ms. Ailish McMahon	Tourism & Community
Ms. Sue Targett	Clare Local Development Company

Apologies

Ms. Esther Connellan	Health Service
Mr. Jim Lynch	Department of Social Protection
Cllr Mike McKee	Elected Member

1. Minutes of meeting held on the 4th February, 2015 and matters arising.

Minutes of meeting held on the 4th February, 2015 were proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by H. Downes.

Matters Arising

G. Dollard outlined that the closing date for submissions in relation to the Draft Framework Policy on Local Community Development has been extended to the 16th April, 2015. G. Dollard requested that if the members had any submissions to email Monica Meehan. A draft of the Draft Framework Policy would be circulated to all members for their comments before it was submitted to the Department. The framework was already circulated at the LCDC meeting on the 4th February 2015 and observations were invited.

2. Welcome to New Members

The following new members were welcomed to the meeting:-

- **Dermot Hayes, Social Inclusion**
- **Mary O'Donoghue, Social Inclusion**
- **Cillian Murphy, Community & Voluntary**
- **Christy Leyden, Community & Voluntary**
- **Martin McKeown, Environment Interests**

- **Role of the LCDC Members**

G. Dollard informed the meeting that in order to support the work of LCDCs in 2015, the Department intends to deliver a series of information sessions/workshops during the year.

- **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

In relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), G. Dollard updated the meeting in relation to same. The Clare Local Development Company was the only tender received for the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). The tender was awarded to the Clare Local Development Company (CLDC).

G. Dollard outlined to the meeting the process that took place with the Evaluation Team and the Evaluation Sub-Committee in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

An Evaluation Team was set up internally and an Evaluation Sub-Committee was also set up by the LCDC at a meeting which took place on the 4th September, 2014.

G. Dollard outlined that at the 4th February, 2015 meeting, the LCDC formally ratified the tender as submitted by Clare Local Development Company. He outlined that there was a procurement process and that Clare Local Development company are the service providers for the delivery of the programme.

3. Presentation on the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

S. Targett gave a comprehensive presentation in relation to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). In her presentation she outlined the following:-

Outcome of Area Profile

Outcome of Target Group Profiles

Action Plan (9 months) Goal 1 – Empowering Disadvantaged Communities

Action Plan (9 Months) Goal 2 – Lifelone Learning

Action Plan (9 Months) Goal 3 – Employment & Self Employment

Revised targets 2015 (9 months)

Issues with the SICAP targets

The members thanked S. Targett for her comprehensive presentation. A questions and answers session ensued.

S. Targett and the members expressed huge concern particularly in relation to delivery of the targets as outlined by Pobail as follows:

- *"Young People/Children: 914 – this is the Pobail target, but we strongly believe CLDC should focus on more targeted work with smaller number of disadvantaged children/young people".*
- *In relation to the Community Groups- Sue Targett outlined that 39 is outlined, which is 7 fewer than the Pobal target. She stated that this is a very aggressive target to achieve as they have no work with these groups in the previous Local Community Development Plan (LCDP).*
- *In relation to Education/Training: 588 – this was the 2014 target; same resources, more intensive 1-2-1 work, no room for increase.*
- *Individuals into Employment: 38 – this is the stated target.*

- *Individuals into Self Employment: 138 – this is the stated target.*

The members expressed concern that the programme was very urban focused. Concern was also expressed that the Lone Parents group in West Clare was under targeted. There is focus on Ennis, Shannon, Kilrush and Ennistymon. There are social inclusion issues in Kilmihil, Kilrush, West and East Clare that need to be addressed. Also additional funding would be required.

The question was also raised with regard to the 9 month proposal. S. Targett outlined that if the delivery of the programme is satisfactory it will be rolled out for a three year period.

S. Targett also outlined that the Personal Action Plan is required, but is not an "intervention" The Personal Action Plan should be counted as an intervention.

SICAP requires two interventions with a client before they can be registered on the caseload in IRIS. Clients should be registered on caseload from the first intervention Targets.

S. Targett emphasised that the targets as outlined need to be achieved and if they were not achieved, funding would be deducted.

D. Graham outlined that Clare Local Development Company was not happy with the signing of the SICAP contract but had to sign under duress. She referred to a meeting that took place with Mr. Ger Dollard and Cllr. Bill Chambers (Chair) in which concerns were outlined.

4. Local Economic and Community Plan – socio-economic profile

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the Plan will include two elements:-

- an economic element (prepared by the Strategic Policy for Economic Development and Enterprise and
- a community development element (prepared by the LCDC)

The Socio-Economic Profile of Clare and the Local Economic Community Plan was circulated to all members. G. Dollard referred to the five High Level Objectives. He requested the members to study the documentation. In the near future the statement will be an

agenda item for the SPC meeting. The statement will then go on public display.

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the guidelines recommend that each Local Authority should establish an Advisory Steering Group to assist in the preparation, drafting, adoption and monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

At the SPC meeting held in February, Cllr. P. J Ryan was elected as the nominee of the Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee.

G. Dollard outlined that one member of the LCDC is required to be a representative on the Advisory Steering Group.

D. Hayes proposed that M. O'Donoghue be the LCDC member on the Advisory Steering Group. This was seconded by Cllr. J. Flynn and agreed by the committee.

G. Dollard thanked M. Neylon for his comprehensive work in preparing the Local Economic and Community Plan – socio-economic profile.

It was agreed that the Local Economic and Community Plan – socio-economic profile would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

5. Annual Report 2014

The Annual Report 2014 on the Clare Local Community Development Committee was circulated to all members. G. Dollard outlined that the document was a factual statement of what happened in 2014 over a six month period from the date of establishing of the LCDC.

The adoption of the Annual Report 2014 (LCDC) was proposed by Cllr. J. Flynn and seconded by D. Hayes.

The Annual Report 2014 (LCDC) will be an agenda item for the May 2015 Council meeting.

6. Update on the Public Participation Network

An update in relation to the Clare Public Participation Network was circulated to all members. 175 groups have registered to date. G. Dollard stated that the Council will organise the election process for the Strategic Policy Committee and the Joint Policing Committee and these will take place on the 21st April 2015 in Ennis.

In relation to the Public Participation Network elections D. Hayes and Cllr. J. Flynn outlined that it was a very good democratic process and the elections were very well run and efficient.

7. Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 Guidance on LEADER Local Development Strategy Selection Process; Stage 1: Local Action Group Expression of Interest

G. Dollard gave an update on the background on the Rural Development Programme. Ennis was initially excluded but is now included. He stated that the main purpose of Leader is to give priority to local development in rural areas. The total budget allocation for County Clare 2014-2020 is €8.92m. G. Dollard explained the working mechanism of the programme. He informed the meeting that it is open to any local action group (LAG) to apply. The Local Action Group is a group that can show local and community participation.

G. Dollard stated that an expression of interest has to be submitted to the DECLG by the 15th May, 2015. The Local Community Development Committee will have to prepare a Local Development Strategy in which the members will have a central role.

G. Dollard replied to the following concerns that were raised by the members:

If there is more than one applicant for the LEADER programme, the Department will bring people together and try and secure one Local Development Strategy for each area.

Concern was also raised by the members with regard to the legal standing of the LCDC. G. Dollard stated that the LCDC was set up in law under the Local Government Reform Act 2014. He stated that the LCDC was a sub committee of Clare County Council but

independent in its functions. The LCDC is a county led structure with a membership of nineteen members.

D. Graham stated that the European Commission have outlined that there should be one LEADER Programme in a geographical area. She indicated that the board of Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) has decided to submit an expression of interest for the LEADER programme.

Members asked as to what decision they would have to make at today's meeting. G. Dollard stated the following is required:-

1. An expression of interest to be submitted in relation to the LEADER Programme.
2. A Local Development Strategy to be prepared.

G. Dollard referred to response to Parliamentary Question from the Minister on the 20th January, 2015 in relation to same. The members requested that clarification would be sought from the Minister.

A discussion took place with regard to the Leader programme.

G. Dollard outlined that the preferred model was that the LCDC would be the Local Action Group and that the Local Development Company (CLDC) would be the implementing partner for the Leader programme. After a detailed discussion in relation to the programme, it was decided to discuss this agenda item again on the 20th April.

8. Circular AL 2/2015 Joint Protocol between the LCDC and a relevant statutory structure/committee

G. Dollard informed the meeting of the joint protocol template that could be used between the LCDC and any relevant statutory structure/committee/organisation in respect of elements of the LECP when adopted.

9. Circular 2/2015 – Annual Declaration Form

G. Dollard referred to Circular 2/2015. He stated that elected members, and relevant local authority officials, are required under the Local Government Act 2001 to complete and submit to the Ethics

Registrar an Annual Declaration form which is held on the public record, as set out in the Circular. For members of the LCDC not covered by above a declaration as a non public record should be made. The Annual Declaration Form is to be submitted by all members by the 30th June, 2015.

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be held on the 20th April 2015 at 3.30 p.m. in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

It was agreed that the following would be the agenda items:-

- **Local Economic and Community Plan – socio economic profile.**
- **Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020 Guidance on LEADER Local Development Strategy Selection Process; Stage 1: Local Action Group Expression of Interest.**
- **Agree time of meetings and schedule.**
- **AOB.**

11. AOB.

D. Hayes requested that additional items be included on the agenda. It was agreed that any agenda items could be emailed to G. Dollard/A. McMahon for discussions with the Chairman prior to agenda issuing.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Chair **Chief Officer**