

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 30th September 2015 at 11.00
a.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
Ms. Mary O'Donoghue
Mr. Cillian Murphy
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. Christy Leyden
Cllr. Richard Nagle
Mr. Padraic McElwee

Organisation:

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

Also Present

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

Apologies

- Mr. Tom Coughlan, Chief Executive
- Mr. Gerard Dollard, Chief Officer
- Ms. Esther Connellan, HSE
- Cllr. Mike McKee, Elected Member
- Mr. Martin McKeown, Environment Interests
- Mr. Jim Lynch, Department of Social Protection
- Mr. Gerry Kelly, Age Friendly Alliance Board
- Ms. Margaret Slattery, Youth Sector
- Ms. Helen Downes, Employers/Business

Apologies noted.

M. Meehan informed the meeting that G. Dollard, Chief Officer and T. Coughlan, Chief Executive offered apologies for meeting as they had to attend a meeting in Dublin with the Minister in relation to Housing

1. **Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 2nd September, 2015 and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) meeting held on the 2nd September and matters arising. (attached).**

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 2nd September, 2015 and Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) meeting held on the 2nd September were proposed by R. Nagle and seconded by D. Hayes.

2. **Declaration re Conflicts of Interest.**

M. Meehan 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. 5 on the agenda – **Consultation Plan on the Local Development Strategy** and would leave the meeting for this discussion.

3. **Adopt Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan (documentation attached).**

M. Meehan informed the meeting that the draft Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals of the Local Economic and Community Plan have been circulated to all members for their input. She also outlined that the Socio Economic Statement has been discussed at the four Municipal District meetings and was sent to the Regional Assembly and the Economic Development and Enterprise SPC for their input. M. Meehan outlined that the consultation focused on the high level goals and the process of identifying objectives and actions also commenced. She referred to the four public consultation workshops that were held in July and outlined that there have been revisions to the high level goals.

M. Meehan confirmed that the Advisory Steering group met on the 25th September, 2015 to review the draft. She thanked Mary O'Donoghue and Cllr. P.J. Ryan for their input to date.

M. Meehan stated that the draft Socio Economic Statement and the High Level Goals were before the members for adoption today.

D. Hayes outlined that it is a very good document but referred to page 23 Section 6.5.2.3 which used the phrase 'unable to work'. He stated that perhaps a more suitable phrase/wording could be used.

M. Neylon stated that this wording comes from the national Survey on Income and Living Conditions (SILC) and is taken directly from the survey.

C. Leyden outlined that it is an excellent document. He stated that he hoped that it is in accordance with all the strategies that are currently in place. He referred to the Vision and outlined that the terms "Well Being" (people happy in their environment) should be used in the Vision.

Cllr. J. Flynn outlined that that is a good document and referred to page 27 the Vision and outlined that the terms "Well being and happiness" should be used in the Vision. He referred to a Danish study which measures happiness. C. Leyden also complimented the data/evidence base which is incorporated into the Plan.

D. Graham enquired about the timelines in relation to the Plan. M. Meehan outlined that the plan will be finalised by January, 2016.

It was agreed that the vision will be changed to include the word "Wellbeing".

The adoption of the Socio Economic Statement and High Level Goals for the Clare Local Economic and Community Plan was proposed by A. Haverty and seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle.

4. Mid-term review of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

M. Meehan referred to a report on the mid-term review of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) which she circulated to members by email last evening. She stated that it was a nine month programme covering the period April to December 2015. The mid term review looked at work completed up to the end of August.

M. Meehan referred to the guidelines issued by POBAL on how to conduct the review. The review looks at the achievement of targets and actions, expenditure, data quality and other elements of the programme delivery. M. Meehan outlined that four main areas are to be assessed by LCDC:

- (a) That mid-term targets have been met
- (b) Adherence to budget parameters set out in the Annual Plan
- (c) Additional programme delivery considerations
- (d) Quality of data inputted on IRIS and actions.

M. Meehan informed the meeting that the Headline Indicator Report sets out the two key performance indicators and the thirteen headline indicators. The mid-year target has been surpassed on one KPI and not achieved on the other. There are a number of indicators with mid year targets set out that have not been met across three goals. Pobal has advised that a KPI or a headline indicator should be greater than 40% of the year end target at the mid-term stage.

With regard to the budget, M. Meehan outlined that the total budget is €641,506 for the nine month period 1st April 2015 to 31st December 2015. With regard to the Programme Requirements, administration costs cannot exceed 25% of the overall costs. The Council has received the sum of €427,671 and this has been paid to the Programme Implementer (Clare Local Development Company). The overall costs for each goal are in line with budgets.

With regard to the quality of data inputted on IRIS and actions, M. Meehan outlined that a number of gaps have been noted and these have been advised to the Programme Implementer. She informed the meeting that discussions will take place with Clare Local Development Company on how the targets can be achieved.

With regard to the Action Plan, M. Meehan referred to the target groups that were prioritised. She outlined that the target groups recorded on the IRIS system as receiving supports do not fully match the target groups on the Action Plan.

The target groups on the Action Plan are:

- Long Term Unemployed (esp. Those with Leaving Cert of less)
- Young Unemployed People (15-24 years) not in Education, Employment or Training
- Roma
- Travellers
- New Communities.

The target groups on the IRIS system are:

- Unemployed
- New Communities
- Lone Parents
- People with Disabilities
- Travellers

A discussion took place with regard to the issues outlined above. D. Hayes referred to the caseload of 224 individuals and queried if the figures could be amended. He also felt that the 8% from disadvantaged areas seemed quite low.

D. Graham outlined that the full budget will not be spent at year end. She expressed concern with regard to the programme delivery in particular regard to education and training.

D. Graham referred to the requirements of 50% of people within disadvantaged areas. She said there is a difficulty with this as a lot of disadvantaged groups are not living in disadvantaged areas. Reference was made to the ROMA group living in Harmony Row which is not a disadvantaged area but there are disadvantaged people living there.

D. Graham expressed concern that there are a lot of people on rent allowance living in private rented accommodation but these people are not showing as living in a disadvantaged area. She outlined that there is problem with geography of the disadvantaged areas, and how this information is recorded on IRIS.

D. Graham outlined that Clare Local Development Company are undertaking the LTI programme and that they are endeavouring to achieve quality and skills as opposed to achieving numbers. She outlined that there is less demand for services and that the Department will have to be made aware of this. She also advised that the targets set for this year have doubled and they are not achievable.

C. Murphy requested that all documentation be sent one week in advance of the meeting. M. Meehan outlined that with regard to the Mid Year Review, Pobal carried out a review and submitted a report on Monday. A number of queries were raised with Clare Local Development Company on Friday and a response was received last evening. M. Meehan apologised for the lateness of the report.

J. Flynn commented as follows on the Mid Term review.

1. Geographical difficulty in identifying disadvantaged areas (in particular young people)
2. Interested in capacity building and quality rather than churning (LTI approach)
3. Problem re doubling of target figures
4. Have a product at the end rather than statistics.

M. Neylon outlined the following:

Disadvantaged Communities are not identified on the basis of their address. IRIS may have to be adjusted.

Disadvantaged Individuals are identified on the basis of their address as to whether or not they live in a “disadvantaged area”. The number of SICAP qualifying individuals who live in “disadvantaged areas” (whether EDs or Small Areas) can be obtained from the Department of Social Protection, using the IRIS address code file.

The number of SICAP qualifying individuals who are engaged on other programmes (e.g. TUS and LCETB) needs to be estimated so that the total number for the county is known and progress reported.

C. Leyden stated that M. Neylon’s comments need to be taken on board and need to be included and reported back to Pobal.

A. Haverty stated that the LCETB was also recruiting some of the people who qualified for SICAP. Some people were also being referred by CLDC and it would be good if the same people were not being approached by both agencies.

D. Graham expressed concern with regard to the IRIS system. She stated that there are twelve actions in SICAP under three goals. There is a gap between actions and output figures. D. Graham referred to 13 Community Groups registered on the IRIS system but she knows there are more.

M. O’Donoghue outlined that it is important that this information is relayed to Pobal.

It was recommended that the Mid-year review be approved by the LCDC on the understanding that remedies will be agreed with the Programme Implementer to address the issue regarding targets. This was proposed by C. Murphy and seconded by A. Dundas. M. Meehan outlined that targets are set nationally and the advice from the Department is that they have to be met. She confirmed that a meeting will be arranged with the Programme Implementer to discuss the issues.

It was also recommended that in planning for the 2016 SICAP Programme that the members of the LCDC identify and agree target groups and disadvantaged areas so that no deviation from the agreed Programme occurs. The members agreed to the need to have an

active role in agreeing the target groups and the disadvantaged areas, in developing the 2016 Action Plan.

5. Consultation Plan on the Local Development Strategy (LDS).

D. Graham left the meeting for this discussion.

M. Meehan informed the meeting that the Clare Local Development Committee is progressing the preparation of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) for County Clare. She informed the meeting that the LDS will guide the implementation of the LEADER Programme in the County. She referred to the public consultation workshops which are currently being held throughout the County. M. Meehan informed the meeting that to date the number of people attending the workshops is low but the level of engagement is very good. She asked the members to inform their networks etc of the public consultation workshops to encourage more people to attend.

M. Meehan stated that after the public consultation workshops, focus groups meetings with different organisations and agencies will take place. The focus group meetings will aid in identifying the objectives and projects for inclusion in the LDS. She referred to the three themes: Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation, Social Inclusion and Rural Environment and the nine sub-themes, Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Rural Towns, Broadband, Basis services targeted at hard to reach communities, Rural Youth, Protection and Sustainable use of Water Resources, Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity and Development of Renewable Energy.

M. O'Donoghue outlined from the Social Inclusion point of view the Community Centre in Kilrush should also be used for the public consultation workshops.

M. Meehan updated the meeting in relation to the extensive advertising that was undertaken in relation to the public consultation workshops; public consultation notice circulated to each member for their attention; advertised on Community Diary on Clare FM; ad in Clare Champion; Council's website; facebook and Twitter; text alerts were also sent out to people who have signed up to the Text Alert.

C. Leyden asked the question could there be a joined up thinking approach between the LCDC and Clare Local Development Company.

M. Meehan informed the meeting that the Local Development Strategy

must now be prepared. An independent assessment panel has been set up by the Department and this panel will be responsible for assessing all strategies. The LCDC are now progressing the preparation of this strategy.

M. Meehan advised the meeting that it is proposed to undertake an LDS consultation session with the LCDC on the 22nd October commencing at 1.00 p.m. and that this meeting will be followed by the LCDC meeting.

6. PPN update.

M. Meehan informed the meeting that a Circular issued in June from the Department regarding the support for the PPN structures.

M. Meehan outlined that there are ten members on the PPN Secretariat. She confirmed that the Secretariat met last evening and that they are focusing on a number of matters including the Resource Worker post, communications etc. She advised that the County Plenary is required to hold two meetings annually and the Municipal District Plenaries are also required to hold meetings and the Secretariat is working on co-ordinating these.

C. Murphy outlined that the PPN is a slow process. He outlined that in some other counties, the CCF rowed in behind the PPN. He informed the meeting that a Legal Entity needs to be set up for the PPN. It is hoped to have the first County Plenary meeting before the end of the year.

M. O'Donoghue raised the issue in relation to the Database. M. Meehan advised that this matter has been addressed at length. The Council holds the database and is the owner of the data. Data Protection rules must be adhered to. Any correspondence that is issued is done through the Council staff member servicing the PPN, currently.

M. O'Donoghue also queried the status of the Resource Worker and indicated that host organisations is an option to be considered and that this decision needs to be made by the wider PPN. M. Meehan advised that the Secretariat is the co-ordinating body for the PPN, that each member was elected through an open and transparent process and that such matters are the responsibility of the Secretariat.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, 22nd October, 2015 commencing at 1.00 p.m. with a consultation session on the Local Development Strategy. This will be followed by the LCDC meeting at 3 p.m in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare

8. AOB/Correspondence.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: _____
Chair **Chief Officer**