

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee  
meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 3.00 p.m.  
in the Council Chamber, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis,  
Co. Clare.**

**In Attendance:**

Cllr. Johnny Flynn  
Cllr. Richard Nagle  
Mr. Andrew Dundas  
Ms. Aobhan Haverty  
Mr. Cillian Murphy  
Mr. Pat Dowling  
Mr. Gerard Dollard  
Mr. Padraic McElwee  
Ms. Margaret Slattery  
Mr. Dermot Hayes  
Mr. Jim Lynch  
Mr. Martin McKeown  
Ms. Mary O Donoghue  
Ms. Dóirín Graham  
Mr. Christy Leyden  
Mr. Gerry Kelly

**Organisation:**

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

**Also Present**

Ms. Monica Meehan	Senior Executive Officer
Ms. Ailish McMahon	Tourism & Community
Mr. Michael Neylon	Tourism & Community
Ms. Gloria Callinan	Clare Local Development Company
Mr. Donnacha McSorley	Development Co-ordinator, Pobal.

**Apologies**

Cllr. Mike McKee	Elected Member
Cllr. Bill Chambers	Elected Member
Ms. Esther Connellan	HSE
Ms. Helen Downes	Employers/Business

G. Dollard informed the members that the Chair, Cllr. B. Chambers was unable to attend the meeting as he had to attend a meeting in Dublin. The Vice Chair, H. Downes was also unable to attend. It was agreed by the Committee that Cllr. R. Nagle would chair the meeting.

Cllr. R. Nagle welcomed the following members to the meeting:-

- Mr. P. Dowling, Chief Executive.
- Mr. D. McSorley, Development Co-ordinator, Pobal.
- Ms. G. Callinan, Clare Local Development Company.

**1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and matters arising. (attached)**

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were proposed by G. Kelly and seconded by M. McKeown.

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

G. Dollard requested members to declare any conflicts of interest which they may have in relation to any item on the agenda for the meeting. D. Graham and D. Hayes declared in respect of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.

**3. Briefing by Mr. Donnacha McSorley, Development Co-ordinator, Pobal on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.**

Mr. Donnacha McSorley, Development Co-ordinator, Pobal gave a briefing on the 2015 Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. A report on the progress and achievements of the programme since its inception in April 2015 was circulated to all the members.

D. McSorley confirmed that the budget and targets for 2017 will be the same as they were for 2016 and are indicative until confirmed by the Department. He stated that by the 7<sup>th</sup> November, the 2017 plan should be submitted by the P.I. on the IRIS system and Pobal will then undertake a technical check of the plan. The LCDC is asked to have considered the plan by the 8<sup>th</sup> December and to approve it in principle.

D. Hayes queried the supports for the Traveller Community. D. McSorley outlined that he didn't think that the issue being raised was a direct link to SICAP but was more a general query.

J. Flynn referred to Indicators 4 and 9 and referred to employment schemes such as Community Employment Schemes, TUS etc He outlined that the rules in such schemes make it difficult for participant progression. He advised that previous participants who are taken off the schemes often cannot take up progression options.

There are several barriers to progression including;

- o Lack transport to take up alternative scheme.

- Huge costs to own & run a car for participants incl insurance cost.
- Low population in rural area to fill vacancies in Rural CE Scheme.

He advised that participants in the 50+ age group can play a mentoring role for younger participants on CE schemes and that the training and capacity gained is lost to schemes once participants are removed.

C. Leyden also outlined that eligible participants are moved off schemes, especially after training for years. He stated that there is a need to look at the 50+ age group who are a huge benefit to the community.

Cllr. J. Flynn requested that the LCDC write to the Department with regard to community led projects with the proposal of extending contracts.

D. Graham referred to the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme and progress on implementation of the 2016 plan. She advised that in terms of the financial thresholds applied to the goals that she felt that she wouldn't be able to meet them under goals 1 and 3.

D. McSorley advised that as per the Programme Requirements, it is best to stay within the parameters of the thresholds. He referred to Goal 3 Activity and confirmed that the target has been reached already for the year. He also confirmed that the thresholds provide a flexibility of 28%-38% for each goal. Penalties may be applied if the Programme Requirements are not adhered to.

D. Graham expressed concern that one month's payment for quarter four has been made at this stage. M. Meehan confirmed that the issue regarding the thresholds has been raised with Pobal and it is hoped that a solution can be agreed to this operational matter. She suggested that it can be dealt with through the SICAP sub-committee and this was agreed.

#### 4. **Presentation by Clare Local Development Company – LEADER Programme.**

G. Callinan, Clare Local Development Company gave a comprehensive presentation in relation to the LEADER Programme.

In the presentation she outlined the following:-

- Themes and Sub themes
- LDS Action Plan which includes actions on
  - Economic Development/Rural Tourism
  - Economic Development/Enterprise Development
  - Economic Development/Broadband
  - Social Inclusion/Basic Services targeted at hard to reach communities
  - Social Inclusion/Rural Youth
  - Rural Environment
  - Rural Environment/Biodiversity
  - Rural Environment/Renewable Energy

G. Callinan also referred to the changes as follows:-

- Reduced budget
- Calls and managing timing of calls
- Expression of Interest forms
- Rates of aid are between 50% and 75%
- Matching funding may be used from other public sources e.g. Failte Ireland, County Council, Waterways Ireland providing it does not derive from another EU source.

The members thanked her for her presentation and wished CLDC well with the delivery of the Programme.

#### 5. **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme.**

C. Murphy expressed concern that the issue of the thresholds had not been communicated to the LCDC in advance of the meeting. M. Meehan advised that she felt that the issue was an operational one and that the Programme Implementer, Pobal and the executive to the LCDC should be able to deal with it.

M. Meehan informed the meeting that Pobal recently advised that they are responsible for carrying out the verification and audit role for the Programme on behalf of the Department.

She stated that five lots were audit last year as a pilot programme and confirmed that the Clare lot was audited in the last week.

### **Items for Decision**

**Item No. 1** - M. Meehan outlined that West Clare Early Years childcare facility closed in March/April 2016. She stated that Clare Local Development Company now run two of the childcare facilities; one in Kilkee and the other in Kilrush. M. Meehan confirmed that Clare Local Development Company has advised that there is a shortfall of funding of €30,000 and has requested that a sum of up to €10,000 be allocated from the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme to support the work of the Cairde Beg childcare services in Kilrush and Kilkee in supporting pre-school children from disadvantaged in these towns. M. Meehan outlined that Pobal has confirmed that this can be done and will require the amendment of one action. The action is the Incredible Years Pre-school action which can be amended to include the support of the Cairde Beag pre-school services for the remainder of 2016 and the preparation of the staff for the roll-out of Incredible Years Pre-School in Kilrush and Kilkee in 2017. The members discussed the matter and agreed to sanction the funding if it was needed. This was proposed by M. O'Donoghue, seconded by C. Murphy and C. Leyden.

**Item No. 2** - M. Meehan stated that Ms. Sue Targett, Programme Manager for SICAP with the Clare Local Development Company ceased employment on the 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. She informed the members that the Department wrote to advise that they have agreed to a statutory redundancy payment for Ms. Targett and have requested that the future arrangements for the management of the Programme be agreed with the LCDC. M. Meehan advised the meeting that D. Graham has confirmed that she will take over the role of Programme Manager, that she will be supported by three SICAP coordinators and a newly recruited HR and Operations Manager and that there will be no impact for the delivery of the Programme. The LCDC were in agreement that a letter of endorsement would issue to CLDC confirming arrangements for the delivery of the programme. This was proposed and unanimously agreed by all the members of the LCDC.

### **6. Progress report on the Town and Village Renewal scheme.**

G. Dollard informed the meeting that the Town and Village Renewal Scheme was announced recently and that the scheme requires that the funding to be spent by the end of December. There are a limited number of projects across the county. G. Dollard outlined that the

total allocation is €380,000 with a project in each municipal district receiving €95,000. There is a requirement of 15% match funding. He stated that four projects (Clarecastle, Kilkee, Shannon and Scariff) will be submitted to the Department by this Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> September. G. Dollard stated that it is hoped that the 2017 scheme will have a much longer lead-in timeframe. The committee noted the position regarding the proposed allocation under the 2016 scheme.

**7. Date of next meeting.**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on **Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 11.00 a.m.** in the Training Room.

**8. AOB/Correspondence.**

M. O'Donoghue requested that in future any items on the agenda that need a decision be dealt with first.

G. Dollard advised that the Department of Health is developing a new National Drugs Strategy and that members may be interested in inputting to this process. As part of the public consultation, the Department is organising two more regional consultation events in Galway and Kilkenny, in addition to the four consultation events previously announced. The dates and venues for the additional events are provided below:

- The Ardilaun Hotel, Galway, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 11am - 3pm
- Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, 2pm - 5pm.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed: 

**Chair**



**Chief Officer**