

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 11.00 a.m. in Training Room, Level 0, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

**In Attendance:**

Mr. Andrew Dundas  
 Cllr. Bill Chambers  
 Cllr. Johnny Flynn  
 Cllr. Mike McKee  
 Ms. Margaret Slattery  
 Ms. Dóirín Graham  
 Mr. Christy Leyden  
 Ms. Mary O'Donoghue  
 Mr. Dermot Hayes  
 Mr. Paul Patton  
 Mr. Jim Lynch

**Organisation:**

Agricultural Farmers Sector (Chairperson)  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 Elected Member  
 Youth Sector  
 Clare Local Development Company  
 Community & Voluntary Interests  
 Social Inclusion Interests  
 Social Inclusion  
 Education & Training Board  
 Department of Social Protection

Ms. Monica Meehan  
 Mr. Michael Neylon  
 Ms. Deirdre Power  
 Ms. Siobhán Brennan

Chief Officer  
 Rural Development  
 Rural Development  
 Rural Development

**Apologies**

Mr. Pat Dowling  
 Cllr. Richard Nagle  
 Ms. Esther Connellan  
 Ms. Helen Downes  
 Mr. Martin McKeown  
 Mr. Pádraic McElwee  
 Mr. Cillian Murphy

Chief Executive  
 Elected Member  
 HSE  
 Employers/Business  
 Environment Interests  
 Head of Enterprise  
 Community & Voluntary Interests

**1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and matters arising.**

A. Dundas welcomed everyone to the meeting and referred to the minutes of the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2017. As there were no matters arising from the minutes, they were proposed by Cllr B. Chambers and seconded by M. O'Donoghue.

M. Meehan advised the members that a meeting of the Funding sub-committee and a meeting of the Community Implementation Team is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

She also confirmed that the Healthy Ireland Fund application outcome is expected to be announced next week as advised by the Department.

M. Meehan invited D. Graham to provide an update on the current SICAP programme regarding the achievement of targets. M. Meehan advised that following the previous meeting and as requested by the members she forwarded correspondence as received from CLDC to the Department/Pobal which highlighted the difficulty in achieving the targets by the end of the year. D. Graham confirmed that she met with J. Lynch of the Department of Social Protection regarding same. M. Meehan advised the members that Pobal reverted to her confirming that they would notify the Department of the issue, however Pobal felt that the targets could be achieved as the figures had improved. D. Graham said that CLDC has a plan in place and that over the next 6 weeks she hopes that there will be an improvement and that the targets could be met. She indicated that at the beginning of the year that CLDC had an option to reduce the targets by 10% but they didn't avail of it.

M. Meehan also referred to the site verification audit which was undertaken by Pobal in 2016. She advised the meeting that the Department arranged a conference call on the matter on the 21<sup>st</sup> September and that L. Cleary, A/Director of Service, S. Quinn, Department, M. Farry and D. McSorley, Pobal and herself were party to the discussion. The Department requested that further information be provided on the staffing costs by CLDC. A meeting was arranged with D. Graham and N. Garvey, Chairperson of CLDC and also attended by A. Dundas. D. Graham has drafted a response regarding the further information and this will be forwarded to Pobal.

## **2. Local Economic and Community Plan-Monitoring**

D. Power gave a presentation on the tracking system which has been developed by the IT section of Clare County Council. The purpose of the system is to enable reporting on the delivery of actions and targets contained within the Local Economic and Community Plan. It is a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) IT system which allows the lead agencies to populate up-to-date data and progress details regarding the delivery of actions. Each agency is provided with a login and all the plan information has been pre-loaded to the system. The login is specific to each agency and allows them to update their assigned actions only.

D. Hayes complemented the work and enquired if other County Councils had developed tracking systems. M. Meehan advised that she was not aware of any other systems having been developed and also confirmed that the Department is currently drafting LECP guidelines which will include information on reporting and implementation.

M. Meehan also advised the meeting that the Department has confirmed that a review of LCDCs will commence shortly and members may be contacted for their input.

Cllr. J. Flynn queried the relevance of the LCDC and its role and the possible duplication of efforts between the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and the Rural Development Strategy.

M. Meehan explained that the LCDC has been established under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and its functions are set out in this Act. She also confirmed that the requirement to prepare a six-year LECP is stated in the same Act and the process for its preparation is set out there also. The Departmental guidelines for both the LCDC and the LECP are also a useful information aid and were previously circulated to members. She indicated that there is no conflict or duplication of effort between the LECP and the Rural Development Strategy and advised that the Rural Development Strategy contributes to the achievement of many of the objectives of the LECP.

M. Meehan assured the members that the LCDC has an important role to play in terms of local and community development and advised that if any members had any concerns or queries of national relevance that they would like addressed that she would bring them to the attention of the Department. She referred to her October letter to the members which advised of supports being put in place by the Department for LCDCs. M. O'Donoghue queried why the training as referred to in the letter had to be in Dublin and felt that it would be more practical to have it in local areas. She also stressed the importance of the PPN and that more resources should be made available. Cllr. J. Flynn agreed with M. O'Donoghue regarding the location of training and felt e-learning and the use of Skype should be explored.

### **3. Census 2016-Update and Deprived Areas Presentation and RAPID National Capital Grants Programme 2017**

M. Neylon gave a presentation on the Deprived Areas within County Clare based on the 2016 Census. The presentation highlighted that there are 7,426 people living in the deprived electoral districts of Ennis Urban, Kilrush Urban, Kilkee, Kilofin, Kilballyowen and Moveen and also listed the electoral districts containing deprived small areas. The total population in these small areas is 9,851. He pointed out that the information would assist the members in making a decision on the Urban areas which would benefit from the €64,500 funding which had been announced for the RAPID programme. He highlighted that the funding was for deprived Urban areas and for capital works only. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the urban areas that would benefit from the RAPID programme would be Ennis, Shannon and Kilrush/Kilkee.

M. O'Donoghue thanked M. Neylon for his presentation and she pointed out that most of the areas of deprivation were in West Clare with the main urban centre being Kilrush/Kilkee. She also referred to the UN Declaration on People with Disabilities and felt all Government Department should sign up to it.

C. Leyden enquired if this data would be used when planning strategies are being prepared as he felt that if it was used correctly then the necessary supports would be targeted to those areas most in need and particularly those areas that are in decline. D. Hayes pointed out that the areas that are in decline are clearly visible and asked what the public services were doing to address all of the issues. He stressed that services such as transport and housing needed to be provided for people with disabilities and that a proactive way of doing things should be looked at as he felt there was deliberate exclusion for this group.

P. Patton advised the members that the LCETB invests €52m per year in Clare, Limerick City and Limerick County. €2.2m per annum is invested in Clare in literacy and €14m is budgeted for Shannon Training Centre for apprenticeship training.

M. O'Donoghue said that Economic Development and Community Development should not be separated and by doing so will result in no real change occurring. She advised that if jobs are created then the community will grow. J. Flynn said that it was necessary to target areas that need the assistance and that he was shocked to find out that 50% of people in Ennis were in areas of deprivation and that the number of people with disabilities had doubled. C. Leyden asked how difficult would it be to set up a pilot scheme in one of these areas with the funding rather than giving a little bit here and there to groups. He felt that if a scheme was set up it could possibly make a big change in one of these areas and it would show the ordinary person that change can happen.

A discussion then took place around the possibility of establishing a pilot project for apprenticeship training for trades in West Clare i.e. carpentry, plastering etc. in conjunction with the LCETB as they could match funding given under the RAPID programme and they could also provide the personnel to carry out the training.

M. Meehan advised the group that the deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November and that the decision on applications must be recommended by the LCDC with the final decisions made by the Municipal Districts. The total fund available is €64,500. C. Leyden stated that the pilot programme should be considered as it was a meaningful project.

Cllr. J. Flynn said that the pilot project was a great idea however some monies should be considered for Ennis. It was agreed that relevant member organisations be requested to consider suitable projects for consideration i.e. CLDC, Clare Youth Service, Shannon FRC, West Clare FRC, LCETB and Clare County Council.

**4. Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2022-Tender Evaluation**

D. Graham excused herself from the meeting. M. Meehan advised the members that a meeting of the sub-committee was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 to evaluate the tender for the SICAP 2018-2022 programme. She also advised that a clarification request issued to the tenderer on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and was considered by the sub-committee at their meeting. The clarification request related to a query regarding the breakdown of sub-contracted work. She advised that it was the recommendation of the sub-committee that the tender be approved. J. Lynch advised that he chaired the sub-committee meeting and commended the work of the members and the time given to the process. The members unanimously agreed to its approval. This was proposed by Cllr. B. Chambers and seconded by D. Hayes.

**5. Any Other Business**

M. Meehan advised that the Draft submission to the National Planning Framework will be sent to the Department in the coming days.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017 at 3.00 pm in the Training Room, Áras Contae an Chláir.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

**Signed:**

  
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**Chairperson**

  
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**Chief Officer**

