

Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee meeting (LCDC) on Wednesday, 18th July 2018 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. Richard Nagle
 Ms. Margaret Slattery
 Ms. Dóirín Graham
 Ms. Mary O'Donoghue
 Mr. Paul Patton
 Mr. Jim Lynch
 Mr. Christy Leyden
 Mr. Cillian Murphy
 Mr. Martin McKeown
 Mr. Padraic McElwee

Organisation:

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

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

Chief Officer
 Rural Development
 Rural Development

D. Enright

Fruition (Consultant for Healthy Clare Strategy)

Apologies

Mr. Pat Dowling
 Mr. Dermot Hayes
 Ms. Helen Downes
 Ms. Esther Connellan
 Cllr. Mike McKee
 Ms. Deirdre Power

Chief Executive
 Social Inclusion
 Employers/Business
 HSE
 Elected Member
 Rural Development

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 16th May 2018 and matters arising

A. Dundas welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. He referred to the minutes of the meeting of the 16th May 2018 and asked if there were any matters arising from them. As there were no matters arising, the minutes were proposed by Cllr. B. Chambers and seconded by M. O'Donoghue.

2. Attendance of Mr Leonard Cleary, Director of Service – Rural Development Strategy/Rural Development Forum Discussion

L. Cleary, Director of Service thanked the members for inviting him to address the meeting. He outlined where the LCDC sits in terms of the Rural Development Forum. He explained that the LCDC is an overarching structure in Clare in terms of local, economic and community development while the Rural Development Forum is a discussion forum. He explained that the Rural Development Strategy is a sectoral strategy and sits under the LECP. He provided an update regarding the eight target areas of the Rural Development Strategy and the appointment of four Rural and Community Development Officers.

P. Patton requested that the names of the Officers be made available to the LCDC and referred to the need for a geographical and sectoral focus. He advised the meeting that the LCETB has appointed a staff member to co-ordinate education and training in West Clare.

D. Graham referred to the jobs target in the Rural Strategy and the potential for social enterprise and rural tourism.

Cllr. J. Flynn felt that it was important to build the capacity of groups in the county and that the Officers will need to play a key role in this area.

Cllr. R. Nagle said that the Rural Development Strategy needs to focus on the issue of rural depopulation and economic activity and that there is a requirement to extend the tourist season given the importance of tourism to the county.

C. Murphy commented that there is a need to develop a marketing strategy to sell our coastal communities and raised concerns regarding the cost of compliance i.e. GDPR, HR etc.

M. O'Donoghue stated that there is a real need for agencies to work together to identify the gaps. She stated that economic development goes hand in hand with community development. We must tackle the root causes of poverty.

3. Healthy Clare Strategy Consultation

M. Neylon introduced Deirdre Enright to the Committee. He advised that Deirdre had been appointed to undertake the Healthy Clare Strategy.

D. Enright gave a detailed presentation to the meeting and advised that the strategy was in its consultation phase and that once completed the delivery of the plan would be monitored by the LCDC

through the LECF. The Healthy Clare Strategy would link up with the Goals under the Healthy Ireland programme and the other strategies and plans under the Department of Health.

The Clare strategy will focus on all six national themes with two being prioritised for additional actions. At a recent workshop it was discussed that Mental Health and Sexual Health would be the two main themes that would be worked on. There will be a need for a Steering Group from the LCDC to deliver and monitor the strategy which would have an independent chair. A discussion took place regarding the themes and some members of the committee felt that Physical Health should also be a main priority. They felt that Physical Health plays a bigger role as it helps tackle obesity and that physical activity is good for a person's mind and well being.

A. Dundas thanked Deirdre for her presentation and wished her well in finalising the strategy.

4. SICAP Mid Year Review

D. Graham stepped out from the meeting as a decision regarding approval of the mid-year report was to be made. M. Neylon circulated a report to the meeting and presented the findings of the mid-year review of the SICAP Programme. He advised that targets are being met and that the Programme is working well and recommended that the members approve the process.

Approval of the mid-year review was proposed by C. Murphy and seconded by Cllr. B. Chambers.

In relation to the 2019 Action plan it was proposed that a ½ day workshop would be held with the LCDC Committee and CLDC. A facilitator and a guest speaker would also attend on the day. The committee expressed how this would be a great opportunity and a real chance to discuss and explore new opportunities for the Programme. M. Slattery and J. Lynch welcomed the proposed planning event and indicated that it would be important for the next plan in order to shape the future of the programme. Cllr. J. Flynn asked if reports on SICAP could be presented in a different format on the achievements of SICAP to date so that the LCDC could easily identify what areas needed to be worked on. C. Leyden also asked if it could be possible to invite a person who has gone through the SICAP programme and would be happy to talk about their experience. It was agreed that the workshop would be held on the 11th September 2018 commencing at 10am and finishing at 1pm.

5. Community Enhancement Programme

M. Meehan reminded the group that the closing date for the receipt of applications for the Community Enhancement Programme was the end

of July 2018. There is €139,000 funding available to community groups for capital works/purchases. The Community Enhancement Programme is an amalgamation of the RAPID Programme and Community Facilities Scheme. The remit of the LCDC is to approve the grant amounts. M. Meehan proposed that the LCDC consider the grant recommendations on the 11th September 2018 at 9.30am in advance of the workshop. It was agreed by the group that they would discuss and approve the Community Enhancement Programme from 9.30 am to 10.00am on the day of the workshop.

6. Update on revisions to strategic actions for agreement.

M. Neylon advised the meeting that the revised wording to some of the actions within the LECF was discussed and agreed with the relevant leads and requested agreement to the revisions which were circulated. This was proposed by Cllr. B. Chambers and seconded by Cllr. R. Nagle. M. Neylon also advised that the LECF data will be updated to reflect the 2016 census data shortly.

7. The Clare Survey on Health, Wellbeing, Jobless Households and CarShareIT.

M. Neylon referred to the survey which is an action within the LECF. He confirmed that it is hoped that this survey will take place every 2-3 years and ideally it will follow the progress in jobless households. For the Health and Wellbeing section of the survey questions will be taken from the Healthy Ireland questionnaire. Questions are also being devised for the Rural Transport element of the survey. In relation to the jobless households questions these are being discussed and agreed with the LCETB who are contributing €10,000 towards the cost of the survey. There will be 1,000 households surveyed and it is hoped that 250 jobless households will be surveyed.


8. AOB

M. McKeown asked what the situation is in relation to the Irish Open in Lahinch in 2019. P. McElwee advised that there is a project team in place under the leadership of the Chief Fire Officer, Adrian Kelly.

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 11th September 2018 at 09.30 am with details of the venue to follow.

With no other business the meeting concluded.

Signed:



Chairperson



Chief Officer