

**Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
meeting held on Wednesday 16th February 2022 at 11.00am remotely via
ZOOM**

In Attendance:

Mr. Paul Patton
Cllr. Gerry Flynn
Ms. Hilary Tonge
Ms. Colette Bradley
Ms. Niamh O'Callaghan
Ms. Cornelia Wahli
Mr. Brian McManus
Ms. Sheila Lynch
Ms. Mary Moloney
Cllr. Cillian Murphy
Mr. Maurice Harvey
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Mr. Thomas Lane
Ms. Bernie Haugh
Ms. Deirdre Power
Ms. Anita O'Loughlin

Organization:

Education & Training Board (Chairperson)
Elected Member (Vice- Chairperson)
Community & Voluntary Interests
PPN Representative
Community & Voluntary Interests
Environmental Interests
Youth Service
Ennis Chamber
Dept. of Social Protection
Elected Member
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Elected member
Agriculture Sector
Chief Officer
Rural Development
Rural Development

Apologies Received

Mr. Pat Dowling	Chief Executive
Cllr. Bill Chambers	Elected Member
Ms. Dóirín Graham	Clare Local Development Company
Ms. Bedelia Collins	HSE
Mr. Padraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise
Mr. Dermot Hayes	Social Inclusion Interests

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Issue: Consideration of minutes from meeting held on 24th November 2021.

There were 2 items which were agreed at the last meeting but need to be formally approved as we did not have a quorum. Bernie gave a brief overview of these items regarding SICAP expenditure for the Jump a grade programme with an expenditure of €4375. Also, item number 5 regarding the Healthy Clare Strategy extension.

Item 3: SICAP Expenditure

Proposed: Niamh O'Callaghan
Seconded: Hillary Tonge

Item 5: Healthy Ireland Clare Strategy

Proposed: Maurice Harvey
Seconded: Cllr. Gerry Flynn

Action: D. Power to circulate Jump a Grade brochure to members.

Proposed: Hillary Tonge,

Seconded: Maurice Harvey

Responsibility: N/A Acknowledgement of the passing of Dóirín Graham sister Noírín Byrne nee Graham. A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect.

The chair welcomed a new member to the LCDC. Sheila Lynch of Ennis Chamber of Commerce. Sheila was ratified at the January council meeting and is replacing Margaret O'Brien. Margaret O'Brien was also acknowledged for her contribution to this committee.

Update on items raised at November meeting:

- Pobal have been requested to give a presentation on the Deprivation Scores and they are happy to facilitate same.
- Department of Social Protection have been requested to present information to members regarding the CE scheme in Clare. Mary Moloney of the DSP has advised that her colleague; Manager of the Employment Programmes for Clare and Kerry will present to the LCDC regarding the operation of CE scheme in Co Clare.

The Possibility of these sessions been recorded if members are in agreement. B. Haugh is currently awaiting availability of presenters and will include these in the march meeting agenda.

Proposer: Niamh O Callaghan

Secunder: Hillary Tonge

TOPIC 2: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES & SOCIAL ENTERPRISE FUND

Issue: D. Power gave an update on the **Social Enterprise Fund**.

It was launched in September 2021 with a fund granted to Clare LCDC of €29,000. 9 applications were received and assessed by the LCDC funding sub-committee and 7 were recommended to the Department for approval. The successful applicants include.

- Shannon Swimming and Leisure Centre Ltd.
- The Burren Centre, Kilfenora
- Kilmihill People's Park
- Kilkee Waterworld
- Radio Corca Baiscinn
- Mná Ag Gáire, Women's Shed, Ennis
- Irish Aerial Creation Centre, Corbally

Projects include purchase of equipment and upgrading of facilities. These projects were awarded in the region of 3k to 5k each and must be completed before the end of 2022. There may be another round by the end of the year.

Issue: D. Power gave an update on the **Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme**

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with their running costs such as utility (Electricity, Heating charges) or insurance bills, as well as with improvements to their facilities.

Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and to purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies, and training equipment.

The closing date for applications is February 25th and there are currently 150 applications in the online system. Projects must be completed by the end of the year. We have received 278k for this programme which 60% will go to running costs and 40% for capital costs.

The funding sub-committee met on the 6th of December to review the application form and the categories for funding before it was launched. The sub-committee will meet again on March 9th to assess and approve the grant applications. Successful applicants can be duly notified, and a further update can be presented at the March LCDC meeting for ratification.

Proposed: Gerry Flynn

Seconded: Cillian Murphy

Actions:

- Update to be given at March's LCDC meeting on Community Activities Fund.
- Funding sub-committee to meet on the 9th between 11.00 and 12.00
- Further clarification needed on definition of Social Enterprise Fund. The department is aware off issue.
- B. Haugh is to look at arranging the Rural and Community Development Officers and CLDC to give a presentation to the LCDC members re: Social Enterprises

Responsibility: B. Haugh and Funding sub-committee.

TOPIC 3: SICAP**Issue: SICAP Annual Plan for 2022 and End of Year Review 2021**

Deirdre gave details on the SICAP Annual Plan for 2022 it has been approved by the sub-committee and Pobal pending some slight amendments regarding carry-over spend and breakdown of costs. This will be updated to the system in the coming week. The Annual Budget has increased by 13% for 2022

A summary of the financial and non- financial items from Pobal regarding the 2021 end of year review was provided by D. Power

- Based on the level of information provided in the 2021 End of Year report, Lot 16-1 can be approved.
- The LDC has achieved both KPIs. KPI 1 – Community Groups 116% and KPI 1Individuals 112% this is well over target.
- The expenditure for 2021 is within the required thresholds therefore no remedies apply.
- An end of year narrative report and a case study has been uploaded.
- CLDC have been commended regarding responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Proposed: Johnny Flynn

Seconded: Colette Bradley

Actions: Formal approval of above items to be communicated to Pobal.

Responsibility: D. Power

TOPIC 4: AOB

B. Haugh provided the following updates

- Members are advised that the Regional Chief Officers were contacted by the DRCD for input on training on the areas that will be covered by the LECP. DRCD training on thematic areas will also take place between now and the end of April.
- Conflict of interest Form to be circulated to all members with a copy of the Standing Orders and the LCDC Code of Conduct, which include proposed amendments submitted by members. To be included in the next meeting's agenda.

Responsibility: Anita O Loughlin, All members

Other Items raised under AOB:

Issue: Cllr. J. Flynn discussed the Annual Report including more infographics into the document for a more accessible presentation of information.

Action: Chair and Chief Officer.

LCDC Administration

- Michael Neylon's replacement; Pdraig MacCormaic will be joining the LCDC administration team in March.
- Deirdre Power has been assigned a new position to the finance section of Clare County Council.

TOPIC 5: NEXT MEETING DATE

Issue: Not currently possible to accommodate blended meeting due to availability of equipment in the Council Chamber.

Members discussed the merits of in-person and online meetings. Consideration given to hosting every second meeting online.

Actions:

- Agreed by members to host next meeting online. Meeting link and agenda to be forwarded to members.
- B. Haugh to forward an e-mail to Corporate Services to address the IT Issues.
- Next meeting will be hosted online on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 12pm.

Responsibility: A.O' Loughlin/ B. Haugh

Proposer: Cillian Murphy

Seconder: By Chair

Signatures:



Chief Officer:

Bernie Haugh

Signatures:



Chairperson:

Paul Patton