

**Minutes of
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
meeting held on
16th November 2022 at 11am
[Hybrid meeting Ennis Hub and Zoom]**

In Attendance

Mr. Paul Patton
Ms. Bernie Haugh
Ms. Bridget Ginnitty
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Cllr Cillian Murphy
Ms. Hilary Tonge
Ms. Anita O'Loughlin
Mr. Brian McManus
Ms. Dóirín Graham
Mr. Brendan Boyce
Ms. Bedelia Collins
Mr. Padraic McElwee
Ms. Bridgie Casey
Mr. Maurice Harvey
Mr. Frank Cullinan
Mr. Thomas Lane

Organisation

Chairperson - Education & Training Board
Chief Officer
Environmental
Elected member
Elected Member
Community & Voluntary Interests
Rural Development
Clare Youth Service
Clare Local Development Company
Rural Development
HSE
Head of Enterprise
Social Inclusion
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Rural Development
Agriculture Sector

Apologies received

Mr. Dermot Hayes	Social Inclusion Interests
Ms. Mary Moloney	Dept. of Social Protection (Retiring)
Mr. Pat Dowling	Chief Executive
Mr. Cllr. Gerry Flynn	Elected Member
Ms. Niamh O'Callaghan	Community & Voluntary Interests
Ms. Colette Bradley	PPN Representative
Cllr. Bill Chambers	Elected Member
Ms. Sheila Lynch	Ennis Chamber

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Issue: Minutes from October 26th taken as read

Proposed: Bridget Ginnitty

Seconded: Maurice Harvey

Matters Arising

LCDC Meetings

Paul Patton commented on the excellent meeting facilities at the Ennis Hub. He noted that a conversation needs to be had to address how future meetings are to proceed in 2023. It was suggested that all members consider the options available; face to face in person, online meetings, or a combination of both. The Chief Officer Bernie Haugh highlighted the fact that the Council Chamber is equipped for Zoom only. There are several meetings to take place in 2023 for the Local Economic and Community Plan working group and Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Steering committee which will all be in person. Maurice Harvey noted that his experience of Hybrid meetings does not always work and agreed meetings should be face to face. Brian Mc Manus suggested that if a presentation were being delivered that this could be done online, but that decision making meetings should be in person. Brendan Boyce suggested a poll be issued to members to seek everyone's view.

Action: Survey Poll to be forwarded to all members

Responsibility: Frank Cullinan / Anita O Loughlin

TOPIC 2: UPDATE FROM WORKSHOP ON LCDC HOSTED WORKSHOP - "TOWARDS AN ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY FOR CO. CLARE -11TH NOVEMBER 2022

Issue: Chief Officer Bernie Haugh gave a briefing on the Workshop which was moderated by Sean O Riordain. An overview of the process and the background for the workshop was detailed and Dr Conor Mc Cabe presented his findings. Chief Officer noted the groups involved in the production from Clare Public Participation Network including Clare Immigrant Support Centre, Clare Women's Network, Clare leader Forum, Shannon, and West Clare family resource centre and Traveller Community Development Project.

After the presentation there was a Q & A session and attendees were given 6 questions to provide feedback on how this can be fed into the LECP process. One of key findings of the workshop was the lack of poverty data for the County and general concerns that all data available is regional as opposed to specific to Co. Clare noting the importance of such data to make informed decisions. Feedback from the questionnaire will be given to Sean O Riordain who will produce a summary outcome report for the LCDC to consider as part of the LECP process.

Feedback

Cllr Johnny Flynn noted that there was a good turnout and engagement at the workshop. Another key factor from the workshop was transport poverty which affects every facet of life. He was also concerned that some groups have a lack of understanding of the role of Clare County Council, in that they don't have a role or input into social welfare policy or health.

Bridget Ginnity echoed Cllr Flynn's comments on transport, but believed Local Authority have some control over transport. A more imaginative approach to transport, i.e., subsidised taxi's, car sharing, more cycle and walking trails could reduce emissions, transport poverty, and improve quality of life was suggested.

Paul Patton pointed out that Local Authorities do not have a direct influence on transport policy but should be engaging with the transport agencies on future policies. Maurice Harvey noted that due to the geographical spread of the County it is difficult to provide services to all Rural areas but acknowledged there is room for improvement. Cllr Cillian Murphy pointed out the lack of data was stark, and the Council needs to address this and analyse data over a number of metrics. Important that good quality data is collated and interpreted correctly. Paul Patton noted the last survey was the Clare Survey 2018. He agreed that a new survey should be commissioned and to include questions on Poverty in Clare as part of the Local Economic and Community Plan process. Paul Patton of Limerick Clare Educate Together Board advised that same would provide match funding towards the survey.

Dóirín Graham noted it highlights gaps in the system and the new survey is timely and will feed into the Local Economic and Community Plan process. Should be an impetus to Local Economic and Community Plan planning process.

Bedelia Collins suggested an advisory group be established to advise on what data needs to be collected and possibly reach out to other sectors to see what is required.

Paul Patton proposed that there should be more interaction between the economic and community sectors throughout the LECP process. Paul Invited LCDC members to attend the Kilrush shed to see how it has improved quality of life for those attending. Chief Officer Bernie Haugh suggested possibility of hosting a future LCDC meeting in Kilrush and visiting the shed in the future.

This concluded the discussion.

TOPIC 3: LECP Update:

- **Public Sector Duty Webinar 8th Nov**
- **Approval of Advisory Steering Group Terms of Reference**
- **Approval to Include Library Services Representative on Advisory Steering Group**

Issue:

Department of Rural and Community Development facilitated a webinar on the public sectors obligations in relation to the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty, and how this should be incorporated into the Local Economic and Community Plan

Chief Officer Bernie Haugh advised that the draft tender document for the next LECP has been prepared. She acknowledged the input received from the Economic Directorate through Padraic McElwee on the draft tender documents. She advised that the first meeting of the Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Steering Group was due to be held on 22nd November 2022 where it is intended that the Steering Group will review and approve the tender documents for engagement of a consultant to oversee the LECP process.

Brendan Boyce gave an overview of the Advisory Steering Group terms of reference which are based on the department's LECP Guidelines 2021.

Actions: Copy of Adopted Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Steering Group terms of reference to be forwarded to all members.

Responsibility: Anita O Loughlin / Frank Cullinan

Correspondence received from the Department of Rural and Community Development re the importance of the library service and having their input on Local Economic and Community Plan. Paul Patton and Chief Officer suggested that Helen Walsh, County Librarian be invited on to the Local Economic and Community Plan Working Group, once the membership of same has been determined.

Question/ Information:

Cllr Johnny Flynn looking for clarity on the distinction between the role of the LECP Advisory Steering Group and the LECP Working Group. Chief Officer Bernie Haugh gave a brief overview of the responsibilities noting that the Advisory Steering Group is the oversight body for the LECP process, with the LECP Working Group having a more hands-on approach to the preparation, consultation, and engagement throughout the process.

As a clarification, Paul Patton noted that the LECP Advisory Steering Group may need to assign specific tasks to the LECP Working Group from time to time throughout the process.

Proposed: Cllr Johnny Flynn

Seconded: Bedelia Collins

TOPIC 4: Update from DRCD on Community Enhancement Programme 2022:

Issue: Update

Frank Cullinan advised the members on recent correspondence from the Department. It is proposed to run a 2022 iteration of the Community Enhancement Programme. Details of the scheme are to be announced in the coming weeks by the minister with projected funding nationally of approximately

€10 million split evenly between capital and current funding. The Department also advised that a separate Energy Stability Fund administered by Pobal aimed at larger groups and organisations will also be run. Details of the schemes will be in the documentation when it issues. Due to the late notification of this funding Local Authorities will have flexibility on the closing date to allow for distribution of the funding. Once further details come to hand, we will notify the members and we hope to have further details at our next meeting on the 7th of December.

Question/ Information:

Paul Patton welcomed the announcement of further funding. Also highlighted the delay in receiving equipment / furniture is up to 6 weeks and this needs to be factored into the process. Chief Officer Bernie Haugh advised that the possibility of funding had been raised at a number of network meetings and that the department had noted concerns around flexibility on the closing dates. Cllr Johnny Flynn questioned if Clare's allocation would be in the region of €250,000. The Chief Officer advised that previous funding for Clare under this scheme was in the region of €150,000 and would expect funding levels to be similar.

Maurice Harvey commented that the specific allocation for Clare is likely to be oversubscribed.

TOPIC 5: AOB

Issue: N/A

TOPIC 10: Next Meeting

Wednesday 7th December @ 11am

Signed:



LCDC

Mr. Paul Patton

Chairman:

Signed:



**LCDC Chief
Officer:**

Bernie Haugh

