

**Minutes of  
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)  
meeting held on  
Wednesday 30th MARCH 2022 at 12.00 noon  
[remotely via ZOOM]**

**In attendance**

Mr. Paul Patton  
Ms. Bernie Haugh  
Mr. Pádraig MacCormaic  
Ms. Margaret Ryan  
Ms. Anita O'Loughlin  
Cllr. Johnny Flynn  
Cllr. Cillian Murphy  
Cllr. Bill Chambers  
Ms. Hilary Tonge  
Ms. Niamh O'Callaghan  
Ms. Colette Bradley  
Ms. Cornelia Wahli  
Mr. Brian McManus  
Ms. Dóirín Graham  
Mr. Padraic McElwee  
Mr. Dermot Hayes  
Ms. Sheila Lynch  
Ms. Mary Moloney  
Mr. Maurice Harvey  
Mr. Thomas Lane

**Organisation**

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

**Apologies received**

Mr. Pat Dowling                      Chief Executive  
Cllr. Gerry Flynn                      Vice Chairperson – Elected member  
Ms. Bedelia Collins                      HSE

## **TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING**

**Issue:** Consideration and approval of the minutes of the meeting of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and matters arising.

**Proposed:** Hillary Tonge

**Seconded:** Maurice Harvey

### **Matters Arising**

**Action:** Pádraig MacCormaic addressed the following matters arising from the last meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022:

- Updated Standing Orders
- Conflict of Interest forms
- Corporate issues accessibility with the height of the press buttons & changes to accommodate Hybrid Model Pádraig read out letter from Chief Executive Pat Dowling.

**Proposed:** Johnny Flynn

**Seconded:** Maurice Harvey

## **TOPIC 2: PRESENTATION – DEPRIVATION INDEX**

Juan Carlos Azzopardi, Pobal Social Inclusion Supports Coordinator give a presentation on the Pobal Deprivation Index.

A number of points were raised in relation to Rural vs Urban deprivation.

Cllr Johnny Flynn queried whether there was a shift from rural to urban deprivation as deprivation seems to becoming very centralised into urban settings. He also felt that distances to 3rd level education is causing depopulation in rural areas especially in North and West Clare

Niamh O’Callaghan commented that all of Clare is designated as rural, but we have urban areas such as Ennis and Shannon. She also commented that Shannon and Kilrush were classed as deprived and felt that that maybe the volume of housing estates within these towns was affecting the figures as with industry in the areas figures should possibly be higher in some parts and lower in others. She also queried, if possible, to extrapolate data to Municipal District level and whether there was an argument for changing Clare from rural to partly urban?

Cllr Johnny Flynn added that he is aware from a national planning framework that the only urban areas are the 5 cities in Ireland

Dermot Hayes queried if there anything to identify ethnic people. And the presenter confirmed that ethnicity did not affect Deprivation Index, although Ethnicity is recorded when people register with SICAP

Doirín Graham highlighted the strong view in groups that rural disadvantage is more hidden than urban. Deprivation Indices are used to aim assistance and they regularly favor urban areas which impacts the supports and targets for rural areas.

Cillian Murphy also referred to National planning framework which is looking at delivering housing/water into our settlements and there will be an increase in deprivation numbers. Rural areas are a hidden deprivation.

Paul Patton outlined ERSI Report 2018 in relation to Social Inclusion in Ireland stating there is an urban shift in County Clare:

*“With respect to whether an individual was domiciled in a rural or an urban location, after controlling for all other factors, beneficiaries living in urban locations were between 4 and 10 percentage points more likely to report each of the five potential barriers. The level of urban disadvantage was highest for lone parents and jobless households. The results suggest that urban environments influence an individual’s risk of experiencing potential barriers in ways that are unrelated to the level of deprivation in the area where they live. The models suggest that individuals living in urban locations experience additional difficulties beyond the level of deprivation, or population density, in their immediate area”*

**Actions:** Presentation to be forwarded to members & weblink to the 2018 ERSI Report.

**Responsibility:** Anita O Loughlin

### **TOPIC 3: CE SCHEMES, CO. CLARE - PRESENTATION**

Kieran Barry, Assistant Principal from the Department of Social Protection who gave an overview of the various Community Employment Schemes in Co. Clare which outlined the eligibility, background, roles, and participant summary. A key message from the presentation was that a CE Scheme is not a lifetime scheme, and it is used as a transition and stepping stone to securing some form of work.

Maurice Harvey acknowledged the importance of CE schemes and highlighted lack of available applicants, conditions of the scheme and in relation to loss of a job people should be allowed to access the schemes quicker.

Colette Bradley pointed out that if younger people could enter in sooner with a mentor after school that would be of more benefit in the long run, it would give them the opportunity to get further education.

CLlr Johnny Flynn highlighted that start up jobs are essential for young people. The PUP scheme destroyed jobs in the retail and hospitality areas.

**Actions:** Presentation to be forwarded to members

**Responsibility:** Anita O Loughlin

#### **TOPIC 4: LOCAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PLAN**

**Issue:** Pádraig MacCormaic gave an overview of what is required for the new LECP plan.

**Proposed:** Dermot Hayes

**Seconded:** Colette Bradley

**Action:** Sub-committee members to meet on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April for a one Agenda Item on the LECP plan

**Responsibility:** Anita O Loughlin to send meeting link

#### **TOPIC 5: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FUND**

**Issue:** Pádraig MacCormaic give a breakdown of the current Community Activities Fund. Letters of acceptance & rejection have been sent out to be returned by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

**Action:** Letter of offers posted

**Responsibility:** Margaret Ryan

**Proposed:** Dermot Hayes

**Seconded:** Colette Bradley

#### **TOPIC 6: DRAFT LCDC ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

**Issue:** There was a delay on the Annual Report 2021 due to the Ukrainian Response. Pádraig MacCormaic and Margaret Ryan are currently working on finalising it

**Actions:** Report to be submitted and members updated at next meeting

**Responsibility:** Pádraig MacCormaic/Margaret Ryan

## **TOPIC 7: UKRANIAN COMMUNITY REPOSE**

**Issue:** Presentation by Pádraig following last Wednesday's meeting that was held with the Community Response Forum. Aobhán Haverty also gave a presentation on the REALT emergency response to Education

Cllr Johnny Flynn raised the issue for the need for On-line doctors to prescribe drug prescriptions. Pharmacies cannot continue on an emergency basis as it is dangerous and some items like Calpol are not covered on medical card.

Cllr Cillian Murphy raised concerns around Hall Insurance, child protection and Garda vetting. Also, no GPs on the ground to issue prescriptions. Sporting organisations to look at Annual insurance policies. Cillian also advised that 30 people had just arrived in Kilbaha into as he feels is unsustainable accommodation

Bernadette Haugh to advise Pat Dowling on the situation in Kilbaha. Also acknowledged there are concerns around the above issues and they were raised with Pat Dowling including the issue re the IPAS contract.

Colette Bradley proposed that funding could go towards getting small hygiene packs ready for people arriving.

Doirín Graham advised CLDC have been approved for SICAP funding of €5k to help with the crisis and they have €3k already spent so asked for approval on spending received.

**Proposed:** Cillian Murphy

**Seconded:** Maurice Harvey

**Actions:** Pádraig & Aobhán's presentations to be forwarded to all members

**Responsibility:** Anita O' Loughlin

**Proposed:** N/A

**Seconded:** N/A

**Issue:** Funding for Ukrainian Crisis

Bernadette advised the members that The Chief Executive, Pat Dowling has provided €10k through the LCDC for the Ukrainian Community Response. Bernie to follow up with details on Funding and put a document together in the coming days and report back on Funding

**Responsibility:** Bernie Haugh

**Proposed:** Cillian Murphy

**Seconded:** Hillary Tonge

**TOPIC 8: AOB**

**Issue:** Community Response Forum Letter

**Actions:** Bernie Haugh sought the approval of the members for a letter to be issued to the Department, outlining the current issues that are currently happening locally

**Responsibility:** Bernie Haugh

**Proposed:** Paul Patton

**Seconded:** Cillian Murphy

**TOPIC 9: NEXT MEETING**

**Issue:** Future LCDC Meetings

Meetings to continue to be held online during current restrictions until further notice. Next meeting agreed for Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of May at 11am

**Actions:** Anita to forward meeting link

**Proposed:** Hillary Tonge

**Seconded:** Brian McManus

**Signed:**



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**LCDC  
Chairman:** Paul Patton

**Signed:**



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**LCDC Chief  
Officer:** Bernie Haugh