

**Minutes of
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
meeting held on
26th January at 11am
[Hybrid meeting online and The Hub, Quin Road Business Park Ennis]**

In Attendance

Mr. Paul Patton
Ms. Bernie Haugh
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Cllr Cillian Murphy
Ms. Dóirín Graham
Mr. Maurice Harvey
Mr. Cllr. Gerry Flynn
Ms. Niamh O'Callaghan
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Mr. Thomas Lane
Ms. Sheila Lynch
Ms. Bridget Ginnitty
Ms. Hilary Tonge

Organisation

Chairperson - Education & Training Board
Chief Officer
Elected member
Elected Member
Clare Local Development Company
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Elected Member
Community & Voluntary Interests
Social Inclusion Interests
Agriculture Sector
Ennis Chamber
Environmental
Community & Voluntary Interests

Apologies received.

Mr. Pat Dowling	Chief Executive
Mr. Padraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise
Mr. Brian McManus	Clare Youth Service
Ms. Bedelia Collins	HSE
Ms. Bridgie Casey	Social Inclusion
Cllr. Bill Chambers	Elected Member

LCDC Support Staff

Mr. Brendan Boyce	Rural Development
Mr. Frank Cullinan	Rural Development
Ms. Anita O'Loughlin	Rural Development

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Issue: Minutes from December 7th taken as read
Proposed: Gerry Flynn
Seconded: Hillary Tonge

Issue: Minutes from LECP Advisory Steering Group of November 2022 and January 12th, 2023 taken as read.

Proposed: Paul Patton

Seconded: Johnny Flynn

Matters Arising:

Doírín Graham noted that the minutes from the 13th of December require attendance, proxy vote nominees and the meeting location to be updated.

Action: Anita O' Loughlin to circulate once Minutes are updated.

TOPIC 2: UPDATE ON LECP PROCESS

Issue: Brendan Boyce gave an overview of the tender process and advised members that 2 qualifying tenders were received. An overview was given of the marking scheme and who received the highest marks. Details had been brought before the LECP Advisory Steering Committee who had recommended that Sean O Riordain be appointed as Consultant on the LECP subject to formal approval of the LCDC.

Feedback

Dermot Hayes requested background on the Consultant appointed which was provided by Brendan and the Chief Officer Bernie Haugh. Councillor Johnny Flynn noted that he was at the LECP Steering committee meeting of the 12th January 2023 and was impressed with the analysis carried out of the qualifying tenders and marking scheme.

Action:

Chief Officer advised that there had been a good level of interest expressed in the tender to date.

Members were advised of an introductory workshop with Sean O Riordan taking place on the 3rd of February 2023.

Members were advised to save the date.

Proposed: Niamh O Callaghan

Seconded: Cllr Johnny Flynn

TOPIC 3: Community Support Fund 2022: Update on Fund

Issue:

Brendan Boyce gave update on the Community Support Fund scheme which went live on 13th January 2023. He advised members that the scheme and the Clare Local Area Grant Schemes had been advertised in the local media and that the council had organised several workshops in the 4 municipal districts. All the workshops were well attended by a variety of organisations. Issues that came up were rising operational costs and new board membership compositions since Covid.

Feedback

Frank Cullinan provided an update on the number of applications received so far. Early indications would suggest that both the current and capital funds would be oversubscribed. It was noted that many queries on the capital funding related to community centre and halls. The feedback from the public on the workshops was hugely positive and complementary of the Council for organising same.

Several LCDC members complemented the council for organising the workshops and engaging with various groups and organisations. Dermot Hayes queried if it is possible to contact European counterparts to see how they operate. Councillor Johnny Flynn suggested an MEP could brief the members. Paul Patton also suggested we reach out to LEARGAS.

Niamh O'Callaghan raised the issue of having no Rural Development Officer currently assigned to Shannon. The Chief Officer advised that the positions had been advertised. Interviews are due to commence shortly, and we should have new Rural Development Officers in place in the near future.

Paul Patton remarked that there has been a new grant scheme announced by the government, the Community Recognition Fund 2023 to support communities with large numbers of Ukrainian refugees and this will be launched in the near future.

Cllr.Cillian Murphy remarked that it was important that this new funding stream should be seen as recognition for these host communities and should be regarded as an extra funding source and not affect communities in applying for other grant sources.

Niamh O Callaghan stated that the residents of the Shannon community were concerned due to a meeting that is taking place on Saturday regarding a proposed new refuge centre located in an industrial area of the town. Niamh remarked that there is a lot of anger and distrust among the residents as the correct information is not being shared with the Community. Guidance was sought on this matter from LCDC members.

Cllr. Gerry Flynn remarked that he has received several calls on the matter and stated that he would not be in attendance at any meeting regarding same. He noted that the OPW on the direction of the government are required to make these buildings available, however councillors will only be notified after the buildings have been prepared and councillors have no engagement with OPW on this situation but noted that he is not in support of same.

Cllr. Johnny Flynn queried if the government department should be written to in respect of the situation in Shannon. Paul Patton advised that correspondence can be issued to Roderic O Gorman on behalf of the LCDC.

Action:

Chairperson to write to Roderic O Gorman Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to note the concerns of the LCDC member.

TOPIC 4: Membership Update

Issue: Details of the current board membership were circulated to all members advising the makeup of the Committee and when members are due to rotate as per statutory law. Chief Officer advised the members that she has written to the Department of Social Protection with a view to them nominating a replacement for Mary Moloney and is currently awaiting a response. There are a number of vacancies on the SICAP Subcommittee, and it was proposed that Dermot Hayes or Bridgie Casey be appointed to this committee as a PPN social inclusion representative. Dermot Hayes advised that he is happy to put himself forward as the Social Inclusion PPN Rep. A proposer and seconder were sought.

Proposed: Hillary Tonge

Seconded: Maurice Harvey

TOPIC 5: Healthy Ireland Update

Issue: Healthy Clare Co- Ordinator Dena Mc Grath gave a detailed overview of progress to date, and to seek approval for Round 4 funding programme. Round 4 funding has been released. Clare was due to get €40,000 but have received an extra allocation of €35,000. Dena gave an overview of the two areas they aim to focus on which are Healthy Weight and Mental health. Dena provided a detailed breakdown of the 5 proposals they are aiming to fund this year.



2023_01_26_Healthy
Clare LCDC Update_

Feedback

Several Members commended Dena on her excellent presentation. Cllr Cillian Murphy requested the PowerPoint be forwarded to all members. Both Cllrs Cillian Murphy and Johnny Flynn praised the blue passport initiative. A general discussion took place around life skills and cookery courses, and some of the obstacles that are preventing same from taking place. Paul Patton reminded members that their organisations could tap into the resources of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board to run some of the proposed activities. He also suggested that LCETB may be in a position to fund some of the proposals and that a meeting between Dena and Paul should take place to explore this option.

Bridget Ginnity noted that insurance is an issue for smaller groups when hosting community events, she raised the query if small groups could come under the Clare County Council Insurance. Chief Officer informed members that Playgrounds are Insured through the Clare County Council which are bound by a detailed inspection regime by IPB and subject to a risk assessment & other conditions. Clare County Council does not provide Insurance support for Community run events at this time.

Paul Patton stated that groups can engage with the LCETB and if they run Community Education Events through them, they would automatically be considered for cover.

Action: It was further suggested that a presentation from the LCETB on their Programmes, Funding and Strategy Statement would inform the LCDC members.

Anita O Loughlin to circulate Dena's PowerPoint to the LCDC Members.

Proposer: Niamh O Callaghan

Seconded: Hillary Tonge

TOPIC 6: Upcoming LCDC Workshop on Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making

Issue: We received correspondence from the Department of Rural and Community Development to host a workshop on the above in conjunction with Tipperary County Council. Brendan Boyce gave an overview of the correspondence received from the Department. Some clarification is required from the Department. It is proposed to hold the event on the 23rd February from 10am to 2pm.

The Chair advised Members to save the date:

Actions: Meeting request to be sent to all members

Responsibility: Anita O Loughlin

TOPIC 8: AOB

Issue:

- SICAP annual plan review has been submitted. CLDC SICAP plan to be considered an agenda item for the February LCDC meeting.
- Chairperson advised members that the outcome of LEADER EOI phase 1 is due in the coming days.
- Cllr. Johnny Flynn remarked that Sean O Riordan should address the Rural and Urban issues in the forthcoming LECP with a focus on youth to be highlighted in the process.

TOPIC 10: Next Meeting

Wednesday February 22nd 2023

Signed:



LCDC
Chairman:

Mr. Paul Patton

Signed:



LCDC Chief
Officer:

Bernie Haugh