

**Minutes of
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
meeting held on
24th May 2023 at 11am
[Hybrid meeting online and The Hub, Quin Road Business Park Ennis]**

In Attendance

Mr. Paul Patton
Ms. Bernie Haugh
Mr. Jason Murphy

Cllr. Gerry Flynn
Mr. Maurice Harvey
Cllr. Bill Chambers
Ms. Sheila Lynch
Brian Mc Manus

Attending (On-Line)

Ms. Dóirín Graham
Ms. Hilary Tonge
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Cllr. Cillian Murphy

Rural Staff Support

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

Apologies Received.

Mr. Padraic McElwee
Mr. Thomas Lane
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Ms. Bedelia Collins
Ms. Bridgie Casey

Guests

Dr. Sean Ó'Riordáin

Organisation

Chairperson - LCETB
Chief Officer
Acting Director of Services Rural Development
Directorate
Elected Member
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Elected Member
Ennis Chamber
Clare Youth Service

Clare Local Development Company
Community & Voluntary Clare PPN
Elected Member
Elected Member

Rural Development
Rural Development
Rural Development

Head of Enterprise
Agricultural Farmers Sector
Social Inclusion Interests
HSE
Social Inclusion Clare PPN

Consultant (On-Line)

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

- Issue:** Chairperson Paul Patton welcomed members to the meeting.
- Minutes from LCDC Meeting 19th April 2023 taken as read.
 - Minutes from Special LCDC Meeting 08th May 2023 taken as read.

No matters arising.

Proposed: Hillary Tonge

Seconded: Sheila Lynch

TOPIC 2: LECP UPDATE- ULDATE BY CONSULTANT (PUBLIC CONSULTATION PLAN PROCESS)

Issue: Consultant Sean O' Riordain gave an update on the LECP Process

Sean outlined that LECP Process is moving on in a timely manner and is happy with the progress it its taking. He advised the members that the public consultation will be taking place between June 12th2023 – June 15th, 2023. The public consultations will be in each Municipal District in the evenings of this week and there will be stakeholders meeting during this week also.

The consultation will be accessible through an On-Line portal for the public "Have Your Say" .

Paul Patton advised that each member would have received a copy of the Draft High -level Goals Document and consultation document by now. He also advises 36 views have taken place since it went live.

Sean O' Riordain advised that the team will be meeting on June 01st 2023 prior to the LECP public consultation process. In relation to the Clare survey this should be finalised by this Friday 26th May 2023.

Brendan Boyce outlined the Communication Plans in relation to the Public Consultation and the media streams being used.

Sean O Riordan is happy with the progress, but it may change depending on if the EPA come back with any changes.

Feedback Hillary Tonge queried what are the target groups mentioned.

Sean O Riordain says that they are open to suggestions but will be engaging with the Community Forum, The older people's council, Business Sector, PPN and Comhairle na nÓg and others. This survey will also target specific groups.

Action: N/A

TOPIC 3: CLARE SURVEY

Issue: Sean O Riordain gave an update on the status of the Clare Survey.

Members were advised that there has been 2 meeting with the Clare working Survey group to date. The survey is nearly at completion stage, and it is hoped that it should be finalised by this Friday May 26th, 2023, for circulation.

Paul Patton thanked the participation of the Clare Survey working group and their feedback throughout the process.

Brendan Boyce advised that the final survey will be circulated to the working group before final sign off.

Feedback Brian McManus asked if the survey will be available to under 18-year-olds. He pointed out the age for national surveys is 16 yrs. There would also be targeted engagement with Comhairle na nÓg.

TOPIC 4: COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

Issue: Frank Cullinan gave up to date feedback on the Community Support Fund:

This funding is for the **Community Support Fund** under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022, launched by the Department on 23rd November 2022.

Details of the scheme were presented to members in December 2022.

The scheme was advertised in January with a closing date for receipt of applications of 31st March 2023

This total amount is €301,325.00. Department guidelines were:

- €147,649 Current funding (non-Pay) for use towards energy running/operating costs.
- €150,663 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €3,013 ring-fenced for Women's sheds.
- €15,066 maximum administration fee (5%) allowed based on total allocation which has not been taken up and is used to top up the fund.

In general, the Department requests that LCDCs ring-fence 30% of its funding for grants of €1,000 or less. This is guidance only, and the LCDC can adjust this depending on the needs in its area.

A total number of 195 groups made applications to the value of €932,532.22. The majority of were for running cost as outlined under the terms of the scheme.

Category	No of groups	value
Running cost 1000 or less	53 groups	€48,195.07
Running costs in excess of 1000	41 groups	€226,329.85
Combined running and Capital	29 Groups	€254,837 (€89,142.54 running costs, €170,694.46 Capital)
Capital projects	72 Groups	€403591.30
Total	195	€932,532.22

€3,013.00 was ring fenced for women's sheds and two applications were received for this funding. Capital projects, many requested funding for repairs and or improvements to their community facilities. There were a cohort of applications that requested funding for what would be deemed energy efficiency works and these have not been funded under this scheme. A round of Climate action funding is to be launched shortly.

The majority of these applications will be eligible for this funding. The Rural and Community Development Officers will be in contact with these groups in due course to advise them of this funding stream which may address these works.

Some applications were for lawn mowers, office equipment, CCTV and these could not be considered for funding at this time.

All applications were processed and evaluated.

The LCDC funding subcommittee met on Monday the 17th of April to evaluate the applications. It was agreed that all qualifying applications for day-to-day costs under €1,000.00, 80% of their application be granted.

For day-to-day costs in excess of €1,000.00 all qualifying applicants receive 39% of their application.

In the combined category where funding was sought for capital and day-to-day running costs, where applicants were successful in day-to-day funding, the same criteria as outlined above would apply.

38 applications did not meet the criteria for funding. 158 groups will benefit from the scheme.

We have forwarded the proposed grant allocations to the department and are awaiting confirmation from the department that we can notify applicants.

TOPIC 5: APPROVAL OF LCDC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Issue: Frank Cullinan advised the members that they would have received a draft copy of the LCDC 2022 Annual Report and if members had any queries or amendments that they could contact him prior to formal publication of the report.



Action: The Draft Report was approved by the members as presented, subject to any minor amendments.

Proposer: Cllr. Johnny Flynn

Secunder: Cllr. Gerry Flynn

TOPIC 8: AOB- FUNDING SUB COMMITTEE ROLE

New SICAP Contract – 2024-2028 - Update

The Chief Officer outlined the email received re the forthcoming procurement of the new SICAP contract 2024-2028. It is anticipated that the new procurement will commence in July 2023 for the new programme 2024-2028 on the basis of separate competitions for circa 51 individual contracts across the 31 local authority areas/33 LCDCs. The email contained confidential programme information which will form part of the Request for Tender for SICAP 2024-28 requesting LCDC's to give due consideration to any conflicts of interest or possible breaches of procurement rules.

In that regard the DRCD are recommending that the LCDC delegate responsibility for the new procurement of SICAP (approving the 2024 KPIs and Local Priority Target Groups) to a subgroup to reduce the possibility of sensitive information relating to the SICAP Request for Tender being compromised during

the procurement process. All subgroup members will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement in advance and those with potential conflicts of interest should recuse themselves from the group.

The Chair proposed that the LCDC assign responsibility to the LCDC Funding Sub-Committee with confidentiality agreements to be completed in advance by both staff and LCDC members who are engaged in the process. That group currently consists of the following:

Paul Patton
Sheila Lynch
Cllr. Cillian Murphy
Cllr. Johnny Flynn
Padraic McElwee
Brian McManus
Dermot Hayes

Members sought clarification as to whether being a funding beneficiary of SICAP would affect their position on the Funding Sub Committee. The Chief Officer agreed to seek clarification on this from Pobal.

Dorin Graham advised that Dermot Hayes may have a conflict of interest so this may have to be addressed. She requested that in the event that this occurs she would expect that another PPN rep would be represented on the Funding sub-committee.

There was a general discussion on this matter, and it was agreed that Hillary Tonge would be appointed to the Funding Sub Committee to ensure that should any conflict of interest arise there would be PPN representation on the committee.

Proposed Cllr. Gerry Flynn
Seconded Cllr. Cillian Murphy.

TOPIC 6: LEADER UPDATE

Brendan gave an update on progress on the LEADER Local Development Strategy.

Brendan advised that 18 consultants were contacted to tender on the LDS of which 2 tenders were received that both met all the requirements and were deemed valid tenders. Tenders were evaluated as per the criteria in the tender document and Turley's was deemed to be the most economically advantageous

and proposed to be appointed as consultants for the LEADER LDS on behalf of the LCDC.

Chair Paul Patton noted that outside of the 6 statutory meetings, LCDC members have extra meetings to attend this year due to the work programme and thanked the members for their commitment.

TOPIC 10: Next LCDC Meeting

Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 11.30 a.m.

Signed:



**LCDC
Chairman:**

Mr. Paul Patton

Signed:



**LCDC Chief
Officer:**

Bernie Haugh