

**Minutes of
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
In -Person meeting held on
22nd November 2023 at 11.30am
[Quin Road Business Park Ennis]**

In Attendance

Organisation

Ms. Bernie Haugh	Chief Officer
Ms. Dóirín Graham	Clare Local Development Company
Cllr. Gerry Flynn	Elected Member (Vice Chair)
Mr. Maurice Harvey	Age Friendly Alliance Board
Ms. Sheila Lynch	Ennis Chamber
Mr. Brian Mc Manus	Clare Youth Service
Cllr. Cillian Murphy	Elected Member
Mr. Padraic McElwee	Head of Enterprise
Mr. Dermot Hayes	Social Inclusion Interests
Sgt. Triona Brooks	An Garda Siochana
Ms. Bridgie Casey	Social Inclusion Clare PPN
Mr. Jason Murphy	Acting Director of Services
Ms. Bedelia Collins	HSE
Mr. Thomas Lane	Agricultural Farmers Sector

Rural Staff Support

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

Apologies Received

Cllr. Johnny Flynn	Elected Member
Ms. Theresa O'Donoghue	Environmental Interest Representation PPN
Mr. Eddie O'Gorman	Community and Voluntary Representative PPN
Cllr. Bill Chambers	Elected Member (Retired)
Mr. Paul Patton	Chairperson - LCETB

Guests

Ms. Monica McKenna	Clare Local Development Company
Maja Syncerz	Clare Traveller Community Development Programme
Martin Mc Donagh	Clare Traveller Community Development Programme

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

- Issue:** Vice Chairperson Cllr. Gerry Flynn welcomed members to the meeting and also guest speakers.
- Approval of Minutes from LCDC Meeting 13th September 2023
 - No matters arising.

Proposed: Cllr.Cillian Murphy

Seconded: Brian Mc Manus

TOPIC 2: TRAVELLER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Issue: Bridgie Casey gave an update on progress on the Traveller CDP which is in year 2 of a 3-year programme. Presently they have four staff in place including an outreach support worker and dealing with young traveller men.

They have had good input from the travelling community to the strategic plan which was launched earlier this year. The key challenge for 2024 will be accommodation. They are currently carrying out needs analysis for traveller accommodation with stakeholders including Clare Local Development Company, HSE, SICAP and Clare County Council. They are in the process of preparing a joint strategy on Traveller Accommodation for the county with Clare County Council, which is the first of its kind, and will be used as a template for other counties to follow.

2024 will also see cultural awareness programme rolled out to schools and communities.

Maja Syncerz gave a brief presentation on her work as a Community Development Worker which predominately deals with women's groups. It involves outreach to women in the travelling community to establish women's groups, build confidence and self-esteem. They have received funding from LCETB to set up a learning hub which is culturally appropriate and the target for 2024 is to address early school leavers and low employment rates. They will have their Christmas party

with the community in December to strengthen the community and celebrate the work that has been done to date.

Martin Mc Donagh gave a presentation on his work with Men's support groups in the travelling community. The highest suicide rate in Ireland for young men is among the travelling community. Martin works with men aged from 17 to 45 and has steadily built up the numbers accessing the group in the last six months. A WhatsApp group has been established to encourage men to reach out and stay in contact. A number of successful courses have been run with 18 completing the Safe Pass course and 3 starting employments. A security officer course and literacy hub will be commencing shortly, with a mediation group already established. The aim is to build self-confidence and esteem and to change the narrative around the travelling community.

Feedback: Cllr. Gerry Flynn congratulated them on their invaluable work to date.

Doírin Graham noted that with the help of their stakeholders they were putting their vision into practice with traveller staff delivering the project. The overall aim is to develop the project and continue it into the future and continue to build bridges with outside communities and agencies.

Brian Mc Manus advised that Clare Youth Service have a Young Voices Group and that it would be good to have a member of the travelling community on the board .

Cllr. Murphy suggested there may be an opportunity to build capacity between traveller groups and settled communities on co-joint activities.

TOPIC 3: SICAP

Issue:

Councillor Gerry Flynn advised the members that Clare Local Development Company had been successful in the tender process for the new SICAP programme 2024-2028. He expressed his thanks for their work in delivering the previous programme and wished them luck with the new programme.

Monica Mckenna of Clare Local Development Company gave a presentation on the work carried out in 2023 with the Ukranian community.

Feedback

Members welcomed the presentation and wished CLDC well in the delivery of the new SICAP Programme.

TOPIC 4: Membership update

Issue:

Vice Chair Councillor Gerry Flynn informed the members of the following changes.

Hillary Tonge resigned from the LCDC on the 16th October 2023. The vice chair thanked her for her contribution and commitment to the committee.

Clare PPN will be holding elections shortly to seek a replacement for Hillary and also a nominee for the environmental seat on the committee which is being filled on a temporary basis by Theresa O'Donoghue.

Councillor Bill Chambers has resigned from the Council on 14th November 2023. The vice chair thanked him for his invaluable contribution to the committee and wished him well on his retirement.

Chief officer advised members that An Garda Siochana has submitted a nomination to replace Sergeant Triona Brooks and that the nomination should be ratified by the council at their next meeting

Paul Patton's term as chair has also come to an end.

Feedback: Members discussed the role of the Chair going forward with a proposal from the Chief officer that the roles of chair and vice chair would rotate with Cllr. Gerry Flynn assuming the role of Chair of the LCDC and Paul Patton as vice chair. For business continuity it was suggested that Paul Patton to stay on as chair of the LECP Advisory Steering group until the LECP process is complete.

Proposed: Councillor Cillian Murphy

Seconded: Sheila Lynch

TOPIC 5: LECP Update

Issue: Brendan Boyce gave an update on progress on the LECP noting that the Framework document is currently on public consultation until the 22nd December 2023.

A draft implementation plan is available for members to view and comment on and for partner agencies to take responsibility to lead out on some of the actions.

Feedback: Maurice Harvey noted that success of document will be based on the number of actions implemented over the lifetime of the plan.

Councillor Murphy noted the importance of this document for local community groups and organisation in being able to tap into funding streams.

Chief Officer advised there may be some revisions to the framework document in terms of graphic design and further revision of the socio-economic profile. She advised members that the LCDC need to be mindful that only actions that can be delivered at a local level with the collaboration of local agencies should be included in the implementation plan.

Thomas Lane stated that there were some concerns for the agricultural sector stating that Climate change, training and support would be a key requirement for the agricultural community in the LECP, for example: Solar panels on rooftops, Afforestation programme and other opportunities for the agricultural sector.

TOPIC 6: Community Support Fund 2022

Issue:

Frank Cullinan gave members an update on progress on the Community Support Fund 2022.

As members are aware, the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Community Support Fund 2022 awarded Clare a total of €301,325.00.

- €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.
- There was also funding of €3,600.00 that was unused from the Community activities Fund which was used to top up the scheme.
- In total there was €304,925.00 available

A total number of 195 groups made applications to the value of €932,532.22. The majority of applications were for capital expenditure.

156 groups were successful in their applications and received funding.

- To date we have processed and paid grants amounts totaling €249,684.66.
- At present there are 15 groups or organisations with outstanding claims to be processed. We are currently processing these claims.
- There are a number of reasons why these claims are still being processed.

- Some groups have been unable to complete their capital work projects due to inclement weather and delays with contractors, while others have had issues with their tax clearance certificates.
- The majority of these applications, if not all, will be processed on our next pay run which is on the 1st December.
- We would also like to make members aware that the Department of Rural and Community Affairs will be launching another Community Enhancement Programme shortly.

Once the details of the new scheme come to hand, we will notify the members.

TOPIC 7: AOB-

Meetings 2024 - Members agreed to keep same format as this year i.e. 3 in person and 3 hybrid statutory meetings

Councillor Murphy requested hybrid meetings to continue to be held on Zoom.

Meetings to be held on Wednesday mornings. All other meetings will be based on the agenda requirements.

Vice Chair Councillor Gerry Flynn thanked the members for their contributions and work throughout the year. This year was exceptionally busy with 8 meetings, 11 steering group meetings and associated workshops.

TOPIC 8: Next LCDC Meeting

Next Meeting: Schedule to be issued shortly.

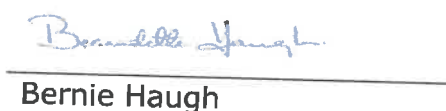
Signed:

**LCDC Vice
Chairman:**


Mr. Gerry Flynn

Signed:

**LCDC Chief
Officer:**


Bernie Haugh

