

**Minutes of
Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
In -Person meeting held on
24th January 2024 at 11.00am
[Quin Road Business Park Ennis]**

In Attendance

Ms. Anne Haugh
Ms. Bernie Haugh
Ms. Dóirín Graham
Mr. Paul Patton
Cllr. Gerry Flynn
Mr. Maurice Harvey
Ms. Sheila Lynch
Mr. Brian Mc Manus
Cllr. Cillian Murphy
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Serg. Catriona Holohan
Ms. Bridgie Casey
Cllr. Rita McInerney
Ms. Bedelia Collins
Mr. Thomas Lane

Organisation

Director of Services Rural Development
Chief Officer
Clare Local Development Company
Chairperson – LCETB (Vice Chair)
Elected Member (Chair)
Age Friendly Alliance Board
Ennis Chamber
Clare Youth Service
Elected Member
Social Inclusion Interests
An Garda Síochána
Social Inclusion Clare PPN
Elected Member
HSE
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
Mr. Padraic McElwee Head of Enterprise

Guests

Dr. Sean O'Riordain LECP Consultant

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Issue: Chairperson Cllr. Gerry Flynn welcomed members to the meeting and Dr Sean O’Riordain.

- Approval of Minutes from LCDC Meeting 22nd November 2023
- No matters arising.

Proposed: Cllr.Cillian Murphy

Seconded: Maurice Harvey

TOPIC 2: LCDC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Issue: New members to the LCDC Committee:

Chairperson Cllr. Gerry Flynn updated the members in relation to membership of this Committee.

He welcomed Cllr. Rita McInerney who replaces Cllr Bill Chambers on the LCDC and was co-opted at Januarys Council meeting held on Monday 08th January 2024.

He also welcomed Sergeant Cathriona Holohan of An Garda Síochána who replaces Sergeant Catriona Brooks. In 2008 she was promoted to the rank of sergeant and stationed at the Garda Síochána Training college until 2010. Having transferred to Ennis in 2010, she was appointed Community Policing Sergeant in 2017. Over the last thirteen years the focus of her work has been the identification and management of social issues, the support of vulnerable people and the prevention of crime. Inter-agency work has been crucial to the successful prevention of crime and support for victims. She is the Domestic Violence Sergeant for Ennis and the current Chairperson of the Clare Local Area Network Opposing Violence Against Women.

The Chair also welcomed new Director of Rural & Community Anne Haugh deputising for Pat Dowling CE as a prescribed member on the LCDC.

TOPIC 3: Funding update

- Issue:**
- **Local Enhancement Programme 2024**
 - **LGBTI Funding**

Frank Cullinan gave an overview of the new Local Enhancement Programme 2024.

In December 2023 the Department of Rural and Community Affairs launched the Local Enhancement Programme.

The programme will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and/or to purchase equipment, etc. This funding will help communities, community groups and committees, allowing them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together.

Funding of €166,056.66 has been awarded to Clare for capital funding. The fund has been broken down into €138,380.55 for capital expenditure including necessary repairs, improvements to facilities and purchase of equipment.

€27,676.11 has been ring fenced for Capital Spending for women's groups.

The Department has recommended that LCDCs ring-fence 30% funding to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less. Ring-fencing funding at this level will allow a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive some funding. The programme can also fund or partially fund larger scale projects to address disadvantage.

The finance subcommittee met on Monday 22nd January 2024 to discuss the above. Some amendments to the guidelines were recommended and that they be brought to the full LCDC Committee for their approval.

It was recommended that the following project types be given priority by the committee members.

- Small / Medium Development/renovation of community centres
- Development of youth clubs or facilities
- Development of /recreation facilities
- Purchase of equipment (Non play)

- Accessibility improvements
- While these types of projects be given priority consideration will be given to all applications received

The subcommittee also suggested that the draft LECP High Level Goals be referenced in the guidance notes.

Subcommittee members were advised that €7,250.00 Capital funding has been unspent in the Community Support Fund 2022. We notified the department of this and requested to know if this could be used to top up the Local Enhancement Programme.

The department have advised that we may use these funds to top up the grant. Closing date for applications as per department guidelines is the 8th March. We would recommend closing date of 1st March as the department requires details of all proposed successful applicants by the 28th March 2024, and announcement to be made in early April. This will allow sufficient time to process applications and have finance committee to propose recommendations.

LGBTI + Funding

Frank also outlined the following in relation to the LGBTI+ Funding scheme.

On the 11TH October Department of Rural and Communities Affairs reached out to the Chief Officers of the LCDC's to advise of Dormant Account Funding 2023 that has become available

We reached out to Clare PPN to reach out to their network to see if any groups were interested in applying.

As a result, 4 organisations expressed an interest in applying. They were.

- Quare Clare
- Goshh
- Common Knowledge
- Clare Youth Service

The application process by the department was not an open call. Applications will be assessed on local knowledge and expertise. Specify their funding needs and how it compares with the funding requirements A total of €200,000.00 funding was available nationally.

The 4 Clare applicants have applied for a total of €60,200.00. We have been notified by the department that €24,243.90 has been made available.

Details of the four applications were presented to the subcommittee. The subcommittee has recommended that we write to each applicant and request further information on their proposals and if they were to receive less than the amount they specified in their proposals, would they be able

to proceed with their project and could they have collaborated with other stakeholders.

Feedback:

Dermot Hayes asked if the LEP fund was the same as last year. Frank advised that this year's fund was aimed at capital projects. No provision has been made for day to day running costs in the scheme.

All members happy to launch scheme as proposed above.

TOPIC 4:

Presentation on LECP update next steps by Dr. Sean O' Riordain

Issue: Dr Sean Ó'Riordáin gave a presentation on the LECP next steps.



LECP Presentation
24th Jan 2024.ppt

Feedback:

Brendan Boyce thanked the HSE, LCETB, and CLDC for their submission to the LECP, he also alluded to the fact that there is still 60 strategic actions in the draft implementation document. He advised that the actions that are deliverable and achievable need to be considered in the first 2-year implementation plan.

Doírín Graham enquired if an action included in the 2-year implementation plan is time restricted and would it be achievable in the time frame?

Brendan advised that some actions may be deliverable within the first 2 years whereas other actions would span the lifetime of the LECP.

Dermot Hayes questioned Bedelia Collins of the HSE if the Hospital overcrowding was something that she could visualized changing. Bedelia responded to Dermot advising that this issue comes up a lot, and that the HSE were committed to primary care services in the Shannon and Ennis region. There are area service managers in place to engage with the public.

Chief Officer Bernie Haugh read out a Memo to LCDC members outlining changes that were made at the LECP steering group meeting held on the 15th and 22nd January 2024.

She also thanked the LECP Advisory Steering group members for their commitment, this was also echoed by Mr. Paul Patton. The steering group assessed all submissions. Some submissions were of a national nature and therefore outside the remit of the LCDC to address.

General discussion took place on accessing the information gathered in the LECP process and how the monitoring and evaluation process will work. It was noted that there was a good level of engagement by the public in the consultation phase of the process and the numbers engaged compared favorably with the consultation for the county development plan.

There was a discussion around improved communication from the LCDC. It was highlighted that this is one of the proposed actions in the plan. This is the second iteration of the LECP. Documents need to be user friendly and easy to navigate.

The LECP Framework document will be presented to the LCDC and Economic SPC Members at their meetings in February for sign off in accordance with the guidelines. Thereafter the framework will be submitted to the Regional Assembly and the MD's before going to full council for adoption.

The changes made to the LECP Framework by the Advisory Steering Group were endorsed by the Members.

Proposed: Brian McManus
Seconded: Cllr Cillian Murphy

TOPIC 5: AOB

Issue:

Bridgie Casey advised members that Clare County Council is currently engaged in consultation on a new Traveller Accommodation Programme.

TOPIC 6: Next LCDC Meeting

Next Meeting: Schedule for 21ST February 2024

Signed:



LCDC Chairman:

Mr. Gerry Flynn

Signed:



LCDC Chief Officer:

Bernie Haugh