

## **Minutes of fifth Meeting of Tipperary Local Community and Development Committee held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 at Littleton Community Centre, Thurles.**

### **Present**:-

Public Sector: Joe Mac Grath, Rita Guinan, Cllr. John Carroll, Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Donal Mullane, Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan

Private Sector: Tim Cullinane, Charles Stanley-Smith (Chair), Anita Clancy, Michael Murray, Sara Bourke, Frank Higgins, John Lupton,

### **Apologises** :-

Public Sector: Fionuala Mc Geever, Adrian Cunneen, Angela Joy,

Private Sector: Niall Morrissey, Brian O'Donnell, Brian Cleary

**In attendance**: Sinéad Carr, Margo Hayes, Ann Ryan, Breda O'Connor, Attracta Lyons. Phil Shanahan, South Tipperary Development Company and Michelle Putti, North Tipperary LEADER Partnership were in attendance for the first part of the meeting relating to SICAP.

1. Approval of draft Agenda. It was agreed that item no 4 on the agenda would be taken at the start of the meeting

### **2. SICAP - Management & Oversight - 2015 Programme**

Phil Shanahan, South Tipperary Development Company and Michelle Putti, North Tipperary LEADER Partnership gave a comprehensive presentation on the 2015 SICAP programme (copies of presentation attached) for their respective lots in relation to delivery of the SICAP programme in 2015. Ms Shanahan and Ms Putti thanked the members for making the decision to select the South Tipperary Development Company and the North Tipperary LEADER Partnership respectively to implement the SICAP programme in Tipperary. The members thanked the presenters for their comprehensive overview of the SICAP plan for 2015.

Members discussed the importance on focusing on quality delivery of services and that the focus should not just be on numbers.

Rita Guinan on behalf of the LEO welcomed the opportunity to work in partnership with the Development Companies around their clients interested in self employment, especially in the area of Micro Finance Loans.

The members also noted that there was opportunities for both Development Companies to share best practice in relation to some excellent projects/programmes in each lot. The importance of having sub committees was raised by members and it was agreed that proposal regarding sub committees required by the LCDC would be brought to the next meeting for discussion.

It was noted that while the 2015 programme for SICAP was already developed and was part of the tender documents submitted, there would be a greater role for the LCDC in feeding into the development of the annual SICAP plans going forward and that the plan would need to reflect the key priorities and action of the Local Economic and Community Plan going forward.

Ann Ryan gave an overview of the role of the LCDC, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) and Pobal in relation to the SICAP contract (copy of presentation attached).

Ms Ryan also updated the LCDC on the arrangements being put in place in relation to roll out of SICAP and contracts:

- SICAP contracts to be signed by 25<sup>th</sup> March to ensure implementation of SICAP on 1<sup>st</sup> April
- Both the contract between the LCDC and implementing body and between the DECLG and LCDC are currently being finalised in discussion with the Chief State Solicitors Office (CSSO)
- DECLG has consulted with a number of Local Authorities and has considered comments received from implementing bodies on the draft contracts
- Final contracts with implementers will not be negotiable
- A SICAP contract will be in place between the DECLG and each LCDC and will be co-signed by the Local Authority
  - Pobal, as agent and acting on behalf of DECLG, will manage the activities and day to day oversight of the contract
  - DECLG will have a funding agreement with each LCDC and all SICAP funding will be channelled through the Local Authority
  - Contract will set out the role and responsibilities of each party ie DECLG, LCDC, LA and Pobal
  - Synergies between this contract and the LCDC contract with the implementing body

It was noted that there was not a requirement for the LCDC to approve the first payment as the first payment was an advance payment but that there would be a greater role for the LCDC for the next payment as it would have to review work completed to date before making the next payment. Pobal will be working with the LCDCs around the process for reviewing SICAP work programmes and making payments.

### **3. Confirmation of Minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting – 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the 12<sup>th</sup> February meeting of the Tipperary LCDC were agreed.

Proposed by: John Lupton and Seconded by: Cllr John Carroll

Matters Arising:

Sinead Carr confirmed that the letter in relation to the reduced national budget for the Local Development Strategy was sent to the Department as requested by the members.

### **4. Local Community Development Programme Oversight**

Ann Ryan referred to the LCDP report that was issued with the agenda. Ms. Ryan confirmed that Pobal have no issues to report in relation to the current LCDP programme report. These reports were coming to the LCDC for information purposes in relation to the role regarding oversight of the current programme.

### **5. Update - Public Participation Network - M Hayes**

Margo Hayes gave an update on the Public Participation Network as follows:

- PPN has in the region of 350 groups registered
- PPN Municipal meetings took place across the five Municipal Districts took place
- Tipperary County Council Management Team has taken a decision that any consultations taking place for all new policies and strategies should be specifically forwarded to the PPN Secretariat for submissions. It will also be a condition of any Council Grants that community group recipients must be registered with the PPN.
- The PPN Nominees onto the JPC have been elected.
- There has been no update on the budget for the PPN from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.
- The elections of the PPN representatives onto the LCDC is currently being organized. The nominations will be sought on March 19<sup>th</sup> and the new PPN members will be sitting at the LCDC meeting in May (following ratification by the full council).

John Lupton expressed his view that in the review of the PPNs at national level, the flat structure recommended in the initial guidelines for the PPN should be reviewed. Mr. Lupton also noted that it was felt that the Council's management team decision that any groups getting a council grant would need to be members of the PPN was unhelpful. Ms Carr pointed out that overtime it would prove to be a useful decision and would encourage groups to join and is a mechanism for demonstrating the Councils commitment to the PPN.

Sara Burke noted that the critical issue in relation to the development of the PPN was the need for the government to commit resources to support the PPN to do its work. Sarah welcomed the support of the council to match fund the PPN once the national fund was in place.

## **6. Update on LECP – Advisory Committee**

Attracta Lyons gave an overview of the membership and role of the LECP Advisory Group. MS Lyons also gave an update on the key issues arising from the Public consultation in relation to the LECP held in January and February 2015.

The first meeting of the Co. Tipperary LECP Advisory Steering Group was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015 with the second meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> March. The purpose of these meetings is to provide an opportunity for the LECP Advisory Steering Group to:

- Receive a briefing on the role of the LECP Advisory Steering Group.
- Consider, comment and recommend for approval the Draft Economic and Community Framework Priorities Document further to the public consultation process which took place in early 2015.
- Agree additional members of LECP Advisory Steering Group.

## **7. Update - Local Development Strategy**

Sinead Carr informed the members that the Expression of Interest for the Local Development Strategy had not been made yet and that discussions were ongoing with the Development Companies in relation to how the Local Development Strategy could be implemented in the County.

The members expressed their concern about the significant reduction in the budget for Tipperary for the Local Development Strategy relative to the last LEADER programme.

It was noted that because the fund was significantly reduced the LDCD will have a vital role in making strategic decisions about how the fund will be allocated and that hard decisions would have to be made in the future.

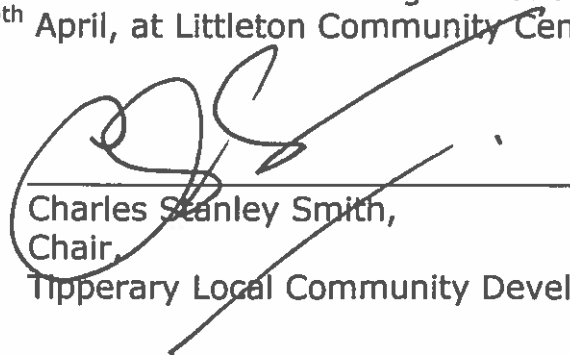
#### **8. AOB**

Ann Ryan noted that the Department had issued Circular (LG 2/2015) in relation to requirements regarding the Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest. It was noted that the members had already completed their code of conduct and declaration of interest forms and that they would be reviewed annually in June.

#### **9. Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place at 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, at Littleton Community Centre, Thurles.

**Signed/**



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Charles Stanley Smith,  
Chair,

Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

**Date/**

**7<sup>th</sup> April, 2015**