

Minutes of 20th March, 2018 Local Community and Development Committee Meeting held at Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre, Thurles

Present:

Public Sector: Councillor John Carroll (Chair), Councillor Joe Hannigan, Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, Adrian Cunneen, Rita Guinan (5)

Private Sector: Charles Stanley-Smith, Isabel Cambie, Michael Murray, Clare Cashman, Cora Horgan, Imelda Walsh, Sean O'Farrell, Sara Bourke (8)

Apologies:

Public Sector: Matt Shortt, Eileen Condon, Maria Bridgeman, Donal Mullane

Private Sector: Catherine Guest, John O'Shaugnessy

In Attendance: Sinéad Carr (Chief Officer), Michael Moroney, Margo Hayes, Fiona Crotty, Fiona Hughes

1. To Note Adherence to Meeting Procedure Requirements

1.1 Quorum

Margo Hayes confirmed that a quorum had been achieved to proceed with the meeting.

1.2 Conflict of Interest & Decision Making - LEADER

No COI because no projects for consideration at today's meeting.

1.3 Decision – Making Requirements to include written decision

M. Hayes confirmed that this was not applicable at today's meeting since there were no projects for discussion.

2. Approval of Draft Agenda

Councillor John Carroll, Chair, declared the meeting open. Apologies were noted. Draft Agenda was approved on the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Isabel Cambie.

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting held on 19th February, 2018 were agreed on the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Sara Bourke. Furthermore, the minutes of Tipperary LCDC additional meeting held on the 26th February, 2018 were agreed on the proposal of Sean O'Farrell and seconded by Clare Cashman.

4. **LCDC Sub-Groups & Election of Representatives**

Margo gave details of the revised proposed composition of the three sub-groups as follows:-

Social Inclusion Sub-Group Committee:

Members to include Clare Cashman, Sara Bourke, Adrian Cunneen, Maria Bridgeman & Eileen Condon.

Sustainable Communities Sub-Group Committee:

Councillor Joe Hannigan, Donal Mullane, Imelda Walsh, Catherine Guest, Cora Horgan, Sean O'Farrell & Councillor Mary Hanna-Hourigan to be members of the sub-group.

Finance & Audit Sub-Group Committee:

Rita Guinan, John O'Shaughnessy & Charles Stanley-Smith to be members of this sub-group.

The revised membership as outlined above was agreed upon the proposal by Cllr Mary Hanna-Hourigan and seconded by Imelda Walsh.

5. **SICAP**

5.1 2018 Annual Plan Review Meeting

Margo presented this Item and indicated that a review of the Annual Plan is a requirement of the tender process. A meeting was held on the 22nd February as part of the Social Inclusion group with Sara Bourke and Clare Cashman in attendance. It was agreed that both PI's would act on referrals from other agencies within the remit of the Annual Plan. They were asked for monitoring reports.

A schedule of meetings to take place for the annual planning process to commence in September and PIs were asked to outline 4 key actions that they plan to undertake in working with the emerging needs areas. It was agreed that the SI sub-group would meet the PI's twice a year in April and September to look at two local community groups. Both PI's were asked to hold funding for monitoring to do an evaluation piece of SICAP in Tipperary in 2018 and to send in a monthly financial update (Excel spreadsheets). STDC were asked to provide an update on their feasibility work for the non-RAPID areas to be undertaken in 2019. STDC have been asked to amend their annual plan in the absence of the inter-agency traveller group. The emerging needs areas to be Wallers Lot or Heywood Road.

NTP to focus on the gap in youth work provision and lone parents in Newport and liaise with the ETB Youth Officer who has completed some research in this area

Sean O'Farrell queried whether plan set out for Rural Youth and Margo stated that it is included in emerging needs area for North Tipperary Lot - Newport is the designated town focusing on the lack of youth work provision and also lone parents. Michael Murray informed the Board that a meeting of rural youths is scheduled to be held on the 26th April, 2018.

5.2 SICAP Audit Management Responses (LCDC & STDC)

Margo stated that an audit of SICAP for 2015 & 2016 was held in January 2018. Issues raised were as follows:

- ❖ Council's internal audit limited to desktop review and no physical transactions carried out to date i.e. no actual site visits to offices and scrutiny of files.
Response: resource issue but PI's are now being requested to provide monthly statements of expenditure and bi-annual visits to be held in April and September.
- ❖ File inspections of the LCDC and SICAP Programme Implementer files will be built into the work programme of the Local Authorities Internal Auditors Office at various times over the course of the current SICAP programme.
- ❖ Also requesting development of more robust I.T. system at Pobal.
- ❖ Payments Procedure - concern that staff could request payment and issue payment.
Response: no longer an issue with introduction of MS4 (upgrade of financial management system).

Clare Cashman sought clarification as to who conducted audits and Margo confirmed it was the Local Government Audit Service. Sinéad stated that audit checks are required for both PI's and that the internal auditor is expected to include this in their work programme. Clare expressed dissatisfaction at this process as not respecting internal checks of PI's and also raised resources issue with regard to auditing process. S. Carr indicated that as the LCDC held the contract, there was an expected responsibility on them to ensure it was delivered as intended and the most effective way of doing this was to carry out regular monitoring (through the monthly financial reports) and audit checks.

6. LEADER

6.1 Draft of Basic Services Targeted Calls 2018

Michael Murray presented this Item and referred to a document entitled "LEADER - Targeted Call 2018". He stated that a sustainable communities meeting would be held on the 12th April. Originally the Basic Services Call was to issue on the 9th of April as presented at the January LCDC meeting. Michael Murray now requested that the Call be deferred to 16th of April date due to three issues:-

- Submitted Annual Plan to the Department and awaiting their decision on deviations.
- Capital grants that local authority will award will be known after 9th April.
- Sustainable Communities Sub-Group Committee to agree policy prepared by the IP's on what sports facilities will be eligible to be allowed apply for funding.

NTLP have a Draft of this Call and the advertisement is similar to 2017 but a number of policies are to be reviewed in tandem with this Call following which public meetings and workshops will be held. The closing date for Expressions of Interest will be 26th April or 2nd May, 2018.

The proposal and Call which will be presented at the April LCDC will account for the maximum and minimum thresholds. Capital grants with a minimum value of €10,000 have been requested by Michael Murray and the maximum level to be agreed with the previous amount being €80,000 and also grants less than €10,000 to account for business plan development for community centres.

A policy is to be prepared by the IP's in relation to sports facilities as three organisations in North Tipperary have made enquiries about obtaining LEADER grants. Imelda stated that concern was expressed at the February Sustainable Communities meeting that grants would not be inclusive. Michael Murray indicated that the sub-committee will agree policy at the meeting on the 12th April for LCDC to consider at its meeting on the 16th April, 2018. Sinéad Carr commented that the sub-committee will develop policy which will go to LCDC for discussion and agreement of structure for expected approval at May meeting.

6.2 IEC Replacement Panel

Fiona Crotty informed the Members that the LCDC had advertised for the IEC in October, 2016, and following this a panel was in place in both NTLP & STDC. NTLP had advised that 2 of their IEC members are not in a position to continue as members of the IEC. F Crotty recommended that we would advertise for a full replacement panel to provide for replacements for the duration of the LDS until 2020. Both IP's asked that they would discuss with their IEC's before advertisement of same and this was agreed. Sinéad stated replacement panel should ensure that it includes people with specific skills as required by the LDS and Clare also re-affirmed this requirement.

6.3 Independent Evaluation Project Score sheet and Assessment

Isabel Cambie presented this Item and outlined the difficulty in trying to arrange the Committee to meet (Chairs of North and South IEC's and relevant members of LCDC) in order to discuss how social inclusion scoring marking is addressed.

Concern was expressed by members that no evaluation meetings should be held until such time as there was clarity and consistency as to how social inclusion and environmental markings were dealt with by each of the IEC's. Particular mention was made of the duty of care that the IEC had to implement the requirements and objectives of the LDS and that this needed to be transparent through the evaluation system. Several other members expressed concern for the need to develop clear criteria. Sinéad requested that the IEC Chairs and appropriate LCDC members should meet before the 28th March (when NTLP are due to hold their next IEC) on the basis that it would not be appropriate to further delay

projects submitted by applicants but that it was critical that the marking scheme issues around environment and social inclusion was clarified before these took place.

It was agreed that Fiona Crotty would liaise with the two IP's and the appropriate LCDC members to arrange a meeting before the 28th March and work with the IEC's to progress this matter. It was also agreed, following this meeting, that the two CEO's of the IP's would meet with the IEC committee before their next meetings and go through the changed marking scheme and purpose of same with the IEC members prior to their assessment of the next round of projects. This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

6.4 Update on Co-operation projects

An update on the four co-operation projects was delivered by Michael Murray including a brief summary which was circulated at the meeting.

River Nore: The partner local authorities involved in this project are Tipperary, Kilkenny, Offaly, Laois, Carlow & Waterford with Kilkenny being the lead authority. A consultation meeting was held on the 7th March was well represented with a draft of the vision document expected in early April and the final document will be circulated to all Members. Isabel Cambie distributed a flyer promoting a meeting to be held in Killenaule on the 26th March, 2018. Isabel asked whether the LCDC would be willing to consider projects from Kilkenny IEC since Kilkenny was the lead authority, in a bid to fast-track the process. Kilkenny had pre-empted this matter and had contacted the Department to determine whether this would be acceptable and affirmation was received from the meeting to Kilkenny acting as Lead if this was acceptable to the Department.

Community Shops involving a budget of €6,000 from each LAG in Tipperary, Kilkenny & Laois. Michael Murray stated shops opened in areas where there were gaps or deficits identified in Basic Services and this included consideration given to displacement of existing businesses. Cllr Joe Hannigan expressed some concern about the level of supports and benefits afforded to such shops in the context of the difficulties encountered by private shops who struggled to maintain a viable business in rural areas including having to pay rates and compliance with other taxes and legislation. Other members also supported Joe in his views.

Sinéad stated that the LCDC can only make policy in areas that it is responsible for but that the meeting could raise it for consideration at a more national level (in the context of sustaining existing rural isolated shops). However, it was also pointed out that where existing community shops had opened, that no private enterprise had been in place in that area for over 40 years and that the community shop provided a very valued support for local people and indeed purchased some of their needs from local shops in other neighbouring parishes. It was broadly agreed that these community shops do provide a very important service in these instances.

The community shops co-operation project was proposed by Clare Cashman and seconded by Cllr Mary Hanna Hourigan.

Lough Derg Roadmap 2018-2022: This consists of three LAG's from Tipperary, Clare & Galway contributing €6,000 each for pre-development works/consultancy works to develop a series of actions on how to obtain funding to further develop the tourism potential of this region. Michael Murray informed the Board that the NTLP have agreed to be the Lead. Cllr Joe Hannigan mentioned the future launch of the Shannon Corridor and queried whether this was duplication. Sinéad pointed out that Fáilte Ireland is an umbrella organisation for tourism initiatives and had 2 main marketing initiatives in train which included the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Ancient East. The Shannon Water Region would be a third marketing brand for them. There was a requirement for a structure to pull together the product providers in potential tourism areas under any one of these 3 marketing banners, and assist them to get traction with Fáilte Ireland. This was the intention of this particular initiative and it has delivered for the tourism trade in that area in the past (Lough Derg Blueway, walking trail improvements etc). Therefore it was not duplications but adding value.

In response to a query raised as to the remit of co-operation projects, Isabel Cambie welcomed any new ideas to provide supports or promotion in other areas outside of tourism.

Michael Murray mentioned three groups in Clare Local Development Company who want to query eligibility to obtain LEADER funds:-

Carlsford Group which is an athletics and rugby club and membership has been received by Michael Murray. €140,000 funds sought to further develop sports facilities.

Ballina/Killaloe Tennis Club has membership comprising 70% Tipperary and 27% Clare who are seeking €200,000 LEADER funding.

Killaloe Sailing Club is seeking €100,000 in grants with 33% Tipperary Committee and 44% Clare Committee membership.

NTLP emphasised that if Tipperary membership and value was verified, there would be no impact on County funds as grants from the co-operation fund were provided from national fund. Sinéad requested that any support would include the requirements that funding for sports facilities would be inclusive for all membership and this should be conditional. This discussion was agreed upon the proposal of Cllr Joe Hannigan and seconded by Imelda Walsh.

Isabel Cambie raised the issue of promotion plaques for projects in excess of €50,000. The design is being finalised for approval by the sub-committee on the 12th April and final approval by the LCDC on the 16th April, 2018. One or two projects require payment but plaques are required for payment according to Isabel. Michael Murray stated that going forward, these costs would be inbuilt into project costs. The meeting was satisfied to allow the two IPs to progress with this without returning for a decision.

6.5 Income and Expenditure Report

Michael Moroney circulated a financial report to March 2018 to the Board. On the administration side, fully paid up to 2017 and IP's are finalising February claim. This income & expenditure summary report was accepted upon the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Cllr Joe Hannigan.

7. Healthy Ireland

7.1 Healthy Ireland 2017 Fund Update

Fiona Crotty circulated a report with details of the 20 action items and expenditure to date. The Healthy Ireland fund is expiring on the 31st March, 2018. The Play Assessment baseline will have an under-spend but Pobal have confirmed re-allocation of future under-spends. €138,000 was budgeted in 2017 with €100,000 for LCDC and €38,000 for CYPSC. The Regional Tobacco Action item will have a showcase in Farnleigh on 31st of May which marks World No Smoking Day. Fiona requested that all Members complete the online survey for Healthy Tipperary that was previously circulated and that 110 online surveys had been completed to the end of February. She stated the PPN community wellbeing event held in Thurles had been a great success and very well organised. Cora Horgan said it was a disappointment that the Healthy Ireland initiative received no financial supports for administration. She commended Fiona for the huge volume of work that she has achieved and the range of people and groups that she has included from balance bikes to tobacco programme. Sara Bourke requested the need for a transparent process for allocation of funds in the future.

8. Update on Various Community Capital Funding Schemes/Programmes

Michael Moroney outlined details of the following Grant Funding Schemes:

- 2017 Town & Village Renewal Scheme - €850K funding for 13 projects; projects being implemented with many already submitting drawdown requests.
- 2018 Town & Village Renewal Scheme due to be launched by Department next month. Michael does not envisage major changes to the format and will seek Expressions of Interest before the Department's formal launch. In this regard, advertisements will be placed within the next 2 weeks seeking project outlines.
- CLÁR Programme 2018 - launched last week and is an investment programme in rural disadvantaged areas. No community infrastructure measure this year - focus on road safety and play infrastructure with closing date end April. Sinéad said that playground must comply with Playground Policy and Michael stated that assessments under Healthy Ireland funding of playgrounds are ongoing.
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme - €50,000 funding recently awarded for Lough Derg sited project from 2017 Scheme and 2018 scheme due to be launched next month.

- Communities Facilities Scheme (CFS) and RAPID 2018 - Department currently reviewing these schemes and may be streamlining them with anticipated launch mid-year.
- Scheme of Capital Grants 2018 - final stages of evaluation with grant approvals to be ready for Council meeting on the 9th April.

9. **Presentation by Derek Fanning (Manager) Tipperary Volunteer Centre**

Derek Fanning delivered a presentation to the Members and gave an overall summary of the origins and structure of the organisation. It is a registered charity and is affiliated to Volunteer Ireland. He highlighted a difficulty in finding projects for young people and the issue of Garda Vetting. However, the centre is trying to develop programmes and supports that encourage young people to volunteer. A query was raised concerning the implications of the new General Data Protection Regulations and Derek informed the Members that the PPN has conducted several sessions and that the Garda Vetting process has changed. Another Member raised the ongoing issue of conflict between Child & Family Act and Garda Vetting Act and requested the LCDC to investigate this matter.

Derek emphasised that this service is free and creates linkage with valuable services available. National Volunteer Week begins on the 14th May and promotion of the services will be run at this time. Sinéad Carr thanked Derek for this presentation and linking the presentation to the LECP. She questioned whether any new initiatives to assist people to cope with loneliness & isolation could be looked at and followed up by the Volunteer Centre and also suggested that the Volunteer Centre needed to look at developing an all-county Volunteer Strategy which would help focus its priorities and also assist in creating greater awareness.

10. **Correspondence, Submissions & Consultations**

Correspondence: Margo Hayes informed the Members that there was no correspondence to note at this meeting.

Submissions: Margo advised the requirement for the Annual Plan to be submitted by the end of March. Comhairle na nÓg and the JPC need to be included and any comments or suggestions should be sent by e-mail to Margo. She also mentioned the RSES submission and workshops will be held in April and an e-mail will be sent by Margo.

Consultations: Margo stated that the Healthy Ireland survey is ongoing and that Fiona Crotty has circulated material. The RAPID consultations for Clonmel, Carrick and Tipperary were ongoing and a consultant had met with the AIT's. The last stakeholder meeting will be held in Carrick on the 20th March and then revert to the AIT's around the end of April/early May.

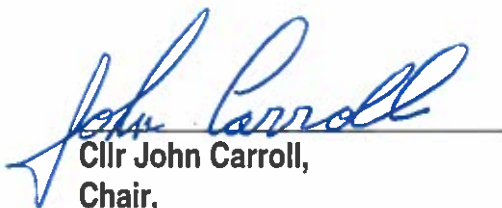
11. **AOB**

Sinéad Carr raised the matter of the PPN and expenses. With the Department's agreement and with co-operation of the local authority, members of the PPN travelling to Council related business (meetings of SPC, JPC, LCDC) will get expenses and subsistence paid. This would only apply to the formal meetings which are called by the Council/LCDC.

Cllr. John Carroll informed the Committee of Sinéad's new role in Housing effective 26th March, 2018 and how she will be hugely missed by the LCDC as well as by the C&E Department, where she has developed a very close-knit team. He outlined her massive contribution to the LCDC since 2014 which was a very challenging process. However, her significant inter-personal and managerial skills greatly assisted her with resolving various issues. She has a great way with people to motivate them to achieve the maximum output and has received co-operation from various groups, he said. She had a huge amount of interaction and involvement with sub-committees and always brought information to the Board. Sinéad has previously worked in the Housing and Planning Departments and Cllr. Carroll wished her every success in her new endeavours. Sinéad's contribution was acknowledged by everybody present including Clare Cashman, on behalf of the PPN, who expressed her sincere appreciation for her great support to the PPN services. Sinéad thanked the LCDC for their good wishes and their ongoing commitment and work in the area, which was very challenging and expressed her hopes that it would continue to drive on and lead the way nationally.

Next meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 16th April 2018 in the Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre

Signed/



Cllr John Carroll,
Chair,
Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/

21/5/18

