

Minutes of 21st May, 2018 Local Community and Development Committee Meeting held at Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre, Thurles

Present:

Public Sector: Councillor John Carroll (Chair), Rita Guinan, Eileen Condon, Councillor Joe Hannigan, Maria Bridgeman, Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan & Donal Mullane (7)

Private Sector: Clare Cashman, Michael Murray, Catherine Guest, John Lupton (Alternate for Cora Horgan), Imelda Walsh & Seán O'Farrell (6)

Apologies:

Public Sector: Joe MacGrath & Adrian Cunneen

Private Sector: Isabel Cambie, Charles Stanley-Smith & John O'Shaughnessy

In Attendance: Pat Slattery (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

Margo advised of one COI for the Lough Derg project which had been advised by Michael Murray.

1.3 Decision – Making Requirements to include LEADER written decision

M Hayes confirmed that a written decision was received from Charles Stanley-Smith in relation to the LEADER projects for decision at the meeting.

2. Approval of Draft Agenda

Councillor John Carroll, Chair, declared the meeting open. Apologies were noted. The Chair welcomed Pat Slattery who has replaced Sinéad Carr on the LCDC as Chief Officer, and indicated his full support to him. He also welcomed John Lupton, alternate member for Cora Horgan (Social Inclusion Pillar) and mentioned the ongoing elections in the PPN.

Draft Agenda was approved.

3.	<p><u>Confirmation of Minutes</u></p> <p>The minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting held on the 20th March, 2018 were agreed on the proposal of Imelda Walsh and seconded by Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan.</p>
4.	<p><u>SICAP</u></p> <p>Margo informed the Members of a mid-term review to include works from January 1st – May 31st inclusive. All Local Development Companies must update Iris by the 15th June and LCDC need to approve before the end of July. Margo and the Social Inclusion sub-group will arrange a date to meet in June.</p> <p>SICAP Iris training was held on May 16th with the main focus on performance of KPI 1 and KPI 2. KPI 1 relates to local community groups with North Tipperary achieving 55% under this indicator. South Tipperary achieved 23% for KPI 1 and 20% for KPI 2 and have acknowledged the necessity for improvements.</p> <p>Margo stated that more site visits for monitoring are needed and to observe SICAP personnel working with community groups.</p> <p>Michael Murray requested approval to allocate Trisha Purcell to work 3 days per week on RDP and 2 days per week on SICAP, whereas currently she is working 5 days on RDP. This change will assist with progressing LEADER projects in the absence of a manager at present. On the proposal of Cllr Joe Hannigan and seconded by Eileen Condon, this request was approved.</p> <p>Fiona Crotty advised the group of Sara Bourke's recent employment with STDC, having previously served as a PPN representative on the LCDC. She acknowledged that Sara had notified everybody by e-mail and Councillor John Carroll requested that a card be sent to Sara adding that she was very enthusiastic and will be missed. On the proposal of Eileen Condon and seconded by Clare Cashman, this proposal was approved.</p>
5.	<p><u>LEADER</u></p> <p>It was agreed to defer item 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 until later in the meeting as projects before the LCDC for consideration today were being progressed on the Article 48 checks. No decision could be taken on one of the projects unless the Article 48 check was completed and with the agreement of the LCDC Members this item was deferred to later in the meeting to allow the stage to be progressed on the Leader ICT System.</p> <p>5.2 Deviation update in relation to Annual Plan and LDS Deviation</p> <p>Fiona Crotty presented this item and mentioned ongoing discussions concerning the Annual Plan which together with the LDS deviation, including amendments, was presented at the February LCDC. This was subsequently submitted to the Department on the 23rd of February and the LCDC are awaiting confirmation that the changes, as recommended in the Annual Plan to allow for deviation to broaden the areas previously excluded by the Pobal Deprivation Index, are accepted.</p>

There was an expectation that confirmation would have followed that the deviations were in order from the Department and that the Basic Services call would issue in April 2018. Discussions and communication had taken place with JP Mulherin in the Department in relation to the Deviations as proposed and it was considered that there would be no objections to these proposals. It should be noted that as at May 21st, no written confirmation had yet been received.

However, on the basis that this approval will be forthcoming, the IP's will proceed with advertisement of the Basic Services Targeted Call. Further delays will impact on the timeline for EOI's, assessment and submission of applications to meet the 2018 Budget commitments.

M Murray therefore circulated a draft advert and revised timeline for the Basic Services:

- ✓ Advertisement for inclusion in newspapers week of the 21st May, subject to LCDC approval;
- ✓ Public Meetings on 31st May, promoted by both IP's to maximise public attendance ;
- ✓ EOIs close on Monday 18th June;
- ✓ Formal notification of eligibility on 2nd July;
- ✓ Applications closing date of 10th September ;
- ✓ IEC to be held on the week of 22nd October;
- ✓ Projects presented to the LCDC on 19th November for recommendation ;
- ✓ Contracts to issue to successful promoters by the 17th December, 2018.

Clare wanted to clarify whether the LCDC are proceeding on the assumption that everything is in order and the extension of areas as provided in the Deviation will be endorsed. Fiona agreed that the LCDC had to proceed on the basis that the formal endorsement would be forthcoming and that the LCDC support staff will pro-actively engage with the Department to achieve this formal endorsement and that it would be anticipated to have this before the public meetings on the 31st May and certainly before the EOI closing date. Further delay in advertising the Targeted Call will have impacts on the timelines as circulated and ensuring that projects can come before the LCDC for consideration and approved for budget allocation in 2018 is a key priority.

Michael Murray stated that the timelines were selected and dependent on the advert being approved today and would facilitate the budgets being utilised by year-end. He referred to a slight amendment to the advert which was presented to the Sustainable Communities sub group. Fiona Crotty confirmed that the LCDC are working on the basis of approval of the Annual Report and therefore inclusion of all county for Basic Services who must now demonstrate their target groups within their application. C Cashman raised concerns arising from last year's constraints which led to unease amongst communities. Fiona agreed that the challenges were mostly attributed to time constraints.

5.3 Budget Template 2018 Targeted and Rolling Call

Fiona Crotty presented this item and distributed the most recent version of the 2018 RDP Budget to the Members, which sets out the overall budget for that theme for the duration of the LDS, the budget available for 2018 including carryover from 2017, the budget available for each IP and the projects approved or for consideration at the LCDC today.

Rural Tourism has an overall budget of €1,229,664.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €873,946.00: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €480,670.30 while NTLP has 45% at €393,275.70. Projects to the value of €12,750.31 are for consideration at the LCDC today.

Enterprise Development has an overall budget of €1,415,716.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €439,758.00: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €241,866.90 while NTLP has 45% at €197,891.10. Projects to the value of €92,824.71 for STDC and €263,865.44 for NTLP are for consideration at the LCDC today.

Rural Towns has an overall budget of €1,109,378.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €494,760.00: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €272,118.00 while NTLP has 45% at €222,642.00. Projects to the value of €14,989.95 for NTLP are for consideration at the LCDC today.

Broadband has an overall budget of €46,924.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €35,192.00: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €19,355.60 while NTLP has 45% at €15,836.40. No projects for consideration on this theme today.

Basic Services has an overall budget of €1,565,275.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €1,156,443.00: there are existing commitments from 2017, therefore a remaining budget of €889,959.17. This corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €19,355.60 while NTLP has 45% at €15,836.40. No projects for consideration on this theme today.

Rural Youth has an overall budget of €554,485.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €336,053.25: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €184,829.29 while NTLP has 45% at €151,223.96. No projects for consideration on this theme today.

Water Resources has an overall budget of €278,947.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €185,756.67: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €102,166.17 while NTLP has 45% at €83,590.50. No projects for consideration on this theme today.

Bio-diversity has an overall budget of €472,662.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €288,852.95: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €158,869.12 while NTLP has 45% at €129,983.83. No projects for consideration on this theme today.

Renewable Energy has an overall budget of €889,533.00 for the duration of the LDS with a 2018 budget including carryover from 2017 of €578,433.35: this corresponds to STDC which has 55% of the budget at €318,138.34 while NTLP has 45% at €260,295.01. No projects for consideration on this theme today.

Fiona Crotty also provided an extract for the LCDC from an e-mail received from Ivan Clarke on 20th March 2018, Department of Rural & Community Development, addressed to Attracta Lyons which stated "You can move budgets around within the Sub Theme but you cannot, at present, exceed your budget for the year in the Sub Theme". Michael Moroney also referred to Circular 01/2018 which provides that the LAG will only be permitted one amendment of the Strategy during the lifetime of the programme and

that at least 50% of the project budget must be allocated for that amendment.

Fiona indicated that discussions and requests to meet with the Department to discuss budget allocation and the requirement to achieve 50% of the overall Budget spend before the LCDC can move budgets to different themes were ongoing, but at present the Department have remained resolute that the LAG must have allocated at least 50% of the project budget outlined in the LDS before an amendment to the LDS can be submitted for approval by the Department.

She reminded the group that from the outset, discretion was used in setting budgets and therefore will be challenging the Department to have more flexibility to move budgets. Further to a query, Fiona confirmed that there was no proposal to change the budget today as the LCDC are not permitted to change the budget as per the Operating Rules and guidelines.

Michael Murray, however, would like a portion of the budget to be moved from Rural Tourism to Enterprise and Rural Towns which have lots of projects because Rural Tourism has not attracted the same quantity of projects. He stated that from a technical point of view, Fiona Crotty and Michael Moroney are correct in their assumption that the Department will not facilitate changes in the budget across different sub-themes until 50% of the overall budget spend is achieved.

Michael Murray stated that the Rural Tourism budget of €873,946.00 is almost twice that of Enterprise Development of €439,758.00 and wants to re-allocate a portion to Enterprise since there is a large under-spend projected for Tourism. Fiona re-iterated the Department's stance on this matter. Councillor Hannigan acknowledged the practicality of Michael Murray's request in allocating budgets to different themes where there was greater demand. He questioned the lack of flexibility for adjustments to be made. Michael Murray understood budgets were fixed but believed there was flexibility around sub-themes.

Fiona stated that both Implementing Partners have budgets to work with across various themes. Under Operating Rules, there is only one opportunity to move budgets and that is when 50% of spend is achieved, therefore there is no option to make adjustments at present. Pat Slattery is liaising with the Department concerning the 50% threshold to enable the LCDC at a local level to move themes. Michael Murray believes the LCDC should approach the Department and indicate concerns, particularly the potential threat to jobs. Michael Moroney referred to Circular 01/2018 issued by the Department early this year to all LAG's concerning changes to budgets. It is very clear in the Circular that 50% must be spent or allocated across the programme before substantial change to strategy can occur, supported by critical analysis.

Clare Cashman raised two issues of serious concern to her. Firstly, there is a need to determine resources and requirements for Rural Tourism and what are LCDC doing with the IP's to support this – what is being done with companies to use rural tourism spend which is seen as a tool for enterprise and job creation. Secondly, there was a major discussion about 18 months ago to determine what hotels, B&B's and other types of accommodation exist to accommodate the tourism sector. Councillor Joe Hannigan questioned the percentage of budget spend at present and was informed that 20% has been allocated to date and is unlikely to reach 50% in 2018. Pat intervened and stated that JP Mulherin in the Department had confirmed to him that they would not entertain movements in the budget until 50%

target achieved but they would accept Deviations.

Michael Moroney mentioned the 50% threshold was equivalent to €3.75 Million and considerable movement on sub-themes was needed to reach this target. Last year €1.2 Million had been approved and to date there was a cumulative amount of €2.6 Million pending approval of all projects. He cautioned that the LCDC cannot legally approve projects if moved to different themes until the 50% threshold had been reached. Councillor John Carroll questioned whether the group should write to the Department about this matter.

Rita Guinan stated the reason for no take-up in Rural Tourism is attributed to the narrow focus resulting in lots of projects which are now currently ineligible. De Minimis rule is an issue for the private sector and possibly will remove Tourism from LEADER. Rita believes there is a need to re-evaluate the criteria for Rural Tourism. Historically, there has been a great demand for funds and she questioned the need to determine the sharp decline in projects in this theme.

Donal Mullane questioned the take-up on water management and Michael Murray indicated it was not favourable. Donal mentioned 20 people to be recruited by mid-June with Teagasc who might be able to assist with animation for the IP's, LAWCO, the County Council and Teagasc.

Cllr Hannigan queried how to deal with Michael Murray's issue with several enterprise projects but insufficient budgets to progress them through the process. M Murray stated that they would not receive funds if LCDC did not switch budgets and three projects were for decision today in excess of budget available. Perhaps the first two out of three budgets could be discussed or LCDC could reduce the grant rate to all three but none of these options were palatable.

Cllr Hannigan questioned whether reduced grants would affect viability and Michael Murray stated that he would need to check the Business Plan. M Murray stated that the cumulative spend in NTLP was less than STDC last year and this year the spend should be reversed.

Clare had a difficulty with NTLP and STDC and the separation or distinction of both with regard to budgets. Both PI's had been allocated contracts and it was incumbent on them to bring the projects to the LCDC to approve on a county level approach. Cllr Hanna Hourigan asked what was agreed in 2014 and Michael Moroney replied that the overall strategy, the overall amount and yearly amount had been agreed. Approvals and grants had been made in good faith. LCDC had believed there was flexibility with moving funds from themes to the following year but the Department now states that the LCDC must adhere to the annual budget of 55% to 45% split between STDC and NTLP.

Rita cautioned the need to be cognisant that the LCDC is dealing with businesses and people engaging in risk. The LEADER process has forced a company in Borrisoleigh to sign a 5-year lease to engage in this process and incurred costs associated with this lease adding that it was very dangerous to be dealing with peoples' livelihoods. LEO cannot now willingly direct them to LEADER for funding. She requested the need to review the Memo of Understanding between the two IP's and question the basis of need rather than scaling back on percentages. Projects can only be progressed if budgets are available. Allocating funds is one matter but drawing down funds is another issue and might end up de-committing funds at year-end. Cllr Carroll suggested writing to the Department to highlight the needs of

the LCDC. Fiona indicated that only two projects can be approved at present because final Department checks have yet to be completed on the third project. Michael Murray responded that the former Managing Director of C&C had signed a contract at the weekend for the Borrisoleigh project and involved lots of effort. He had received four queries from Pobal and had responded to three including royalties, lease and contract. Clare agrees with Cllr John Carroll's proposal to highlight concerns even though the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

Cllr Hannigan proposed to use all money available in Tipperary to move projects ahead and Donal queried whether Members have a difficulty with Joe's proposal. Mary Kinane informed the LCDC that STDC have projects under Enterprise Development with an overall value of €800,000 but they are not ready at present, mostly due to planning issues. Pat told Cllr Hannigan that the LCDC were criticised last year for similar action. Clare stated that the main project is not yet ready for decision and therefore should progress matters.

Maria Bridgeman summarised the detailed debate as trying to reach the end of the 5 years to ensure no money is returned. She questioned whether any projects could be re-packaged under a different theme where money is available and whether projects can be changed. Rita queried whether the Cross Fabrication project could be allocated to Rural Towns.

Michael Moroney read from an extract of the LDS relating to Local Objective 3.1 Rural Towns which mentioned conversion of derelict buildings into enterprise spaces and therefore was satisfied that this project could be transferred to the Rural Towns theme. He stated that the Independent Assessment Panel should be updated with budgets at each IEC and the 55:45 split was not an explicit clause in the Service Level Agreement but entered into on good faith and could not compromise partnership approach.

Rita would like the Department to give a flexibility clause to the LAG and indicate that the 50% threshold is too rigid. Michael Murray would like the Chair or Chief Officer to meet the Department and Pat indicated that this was due to happen. Councillor John Carroll expressed his thanks to everybody after this lengthy debate.

On the proposal of Maria Bridgeman and seconded by Clare Cashman, this proposal to move Cross Fabrication project [NTP106949] with a value of €58,938.28 from Enterprise Development theme to Rural Towns theme was approved. Projects to the value of €73,928.23 from NTLP are now for consideration at the LCDC today under Rural Towns.

It was also incumbent on the IP's that they properly appraise their respective IEC's on the budget available when assessing applications for both rolling and targeted calls to ensure that applications, as presented to the LCDC, are within the annual permitted budget and specific theme.

5.4 Updated score sheet and prompts for Social Inclusion and Environment as recommended by the Sustainable Communities Committee

Fiona referred to a meeting that had been held in Thurles on 26th March to discuss challenges for the IEC's in dealing with projects. The IEC's had sought advice from the LCDC in relation to marking for

Social Inclusion and Environmental marks on a project. Documentation was circulated to the LCDC including slight amendments to the overall evaluation committee scoring record, a Venn diagram created by Seán O'Farrell and social inclusion questions that the IEC must consider. On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Eileen Condon, this documentation was approved.

Michael Murray indicated that 12 Members of the IEC had now been reduced to 10 Members and requested the quorum to be changed to 50% of current Members. At a February meeting, advertising had been mentioned in seeking replacements for the IEC panel which would not occur until the IP's had briefed their IEC, therefore the advertisements would commence to fill current vacancies in NTLI IEC and to create a panel for any future vacancies.

5.5.1 Sports Facilities Recommendation

A draft sporting facilities policy document had been circulated to Members with the agenda. Michael Murray stated that the sub-committee had looked at the policy before creating the advert for Basic Services. In the case of an application received from a GAA club, there has to be benefit to the community. Clare stated that the document was too vague and that MUGA's were more suitable for mainstream activities. She questioned who will oversee the policy and was informed that it will be guided by the LCDC. She also questioned the car park area and it was agreed that this would be merged with disability access. John Lupton stated it was an opportunity for more involvement of ladies in clubs such as football clubs. Maria added that it was an opportunity to open parks to the public and to encourage more transformation in Healthy Ireland initiatives. Cllr Carroll agreed that it promoted social interaction and enhanced clubs. Fiona stated that both IP's have to review social inclusion policies of promoters and that the IP's are also obliged to following drawdown of the grant to undertake a follow up with the promoter to assess their level and measure of social inclusion. On the proposal of Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by Imelda Walsh, this policy was agreed with the slight adjustment to be made to merge the car park area and disability access.

5.5.2 Christmas Lights Recommendation

A document had been circulated to all Members with the agenda and Councillor Carroll asked for any comments on same. John Lupton had concerns that the commitment of funding had been made to areas with local authorities and that a town with a local authority will get more funding and this divergence needs to be acknowledged. Roscrea receives less funding than Nenagh for lights and he is not sure about excluding villages and the LCDC should be promoting inclusiveness. Cllr Hanna Hourigan stated that more funding is allocated to lights under the new structure of local government. Clare questioned why LEADER are giving funding for lights and Michael Murray indicated that the local authority wanted to create a scheme for all towns and villages to receive funding for lights, after representations were received from various Chambers of Commerce. Michael Murray stated that Christmas lights impact on re-juvenation and driving economic activity because the successful towns are obliged to include a festival or event in conjunction with the lights. Cllr Hannigan mentioned that Roscrea did not have a town council and now different grants are being issued to different towns and decision-making process will be very difficult for the Evaluation Committee. John Lupton believes this policy focuses on capital grants and larger towns and does not focus on disparity. If a larger town organises a festival and needs funding for the festival, they should not receive funding for lights also.

Michael Murray agreed to revise the meaning of towns for the next LCDC meeting following discussion with STDC. Rita sought confirmation that it was a competitive process with scoring etc. Clare requested that when revising the meaning of towns, to include a population limit also to ensure equity or fairness and provide a history of previous grants.

5.5.3 Revised Schedule of dates for Basic Services Targeted Call

As per 5.2 the schedule was circulated at the meeting by Michael Murray. On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Eileen Condon, this schedule was agreed.

5.5.4 Draft Advert and Promotional Campaign

This Agenda item was dealt with in Item 5.2.

5.5.5 Update promotion of youth, LAWCO and arts themes

Michael Murray had met with youth service providers and Margo had met with stakeholders to discuss the LECP. A meeting is scheduled to be held on the 6th June. Michael informed the Members that the ETB's and local authorities have agreed to allow use of their databases.

5.6 Circulate any ineligible expressions of interest, if applicable.

Michael Murray advised the Members that no ineligible expressions of interest had been received.

5.7 Update on Co-operation projects

Michael Murray presented co-operation projects as follows:

- **WLR106078 The Shannon-Erne Pilgrim Way Baseline Study (West Limerick Resources).** The total cost of this project of €71,986 will be divided equally between its thirteen project partners including NTLP. The purpose of this study is to develop a route that will attract tourists to spiritual sites along the waterways. West Limerick Resources is the Lead partner of this project which was welcomed by Councillor John Carroll. Michael Moroney clarified that the study will identify the feasibility for such a waymarked route. On the proposal of Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by John Lupton, this project was approved to cover NTLP's participation of €5,537.39 (100% grant), as recommended.
- **NTP107287 Lough Derg Roadmap 2018-2021.** The partners of this project are Clare Local Development Company, Galway Rural Development and NTLP (Lead) who will actively promote and market this project in their regions. This project aims to develop a revised comprehensive destination strategy to be developed for the Lough Derg Marketing Group and to build on existing successes to date. It will aim to place Lough Derg at the centre of the "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" campaign and continue to develop Lough Derg as a key destination for superb water-based activities. Michael Murray, having presented the project, left the meeting at this stage due to a declared a Col. Eileen Condon, public sector member, left the room to ensure public-private balance for the project decision.

The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by John Lupton, this project was approved for €18,000.00 (100% grant/€6,000 grant per LAG), as recommended.

Michael Murray read from an e-mail and Clare requested clarification that the Tipperary LCDC budget was not being used for any of these projects. He mentioned community shops and links with Kilkenny, Carlow & Laois and pre-development workshops will be held. Each LAG can approve €6,000 for pre-development costs and then further approvals can be made for capital expenses. Lough Derg Marketing Group has been discussed. Mary Kinane indicated that Lingaun Valley has been passed. Munster Vales is another co-operation project and is a marketing plan for developing strategies for tourism, based on walkways in various mountain ranges. Fiona confirmed that there is a separate administration budget for Co-operation Projects. The overall administration budget is 25% and this is inclusive of the Article 48 allocation of 1.25% which the IP's must factor into their proposal.

5.8 Note Debt Recovery Policy STDC & NTLP

Fiona Crotty indicated that a policy had been circulated with the agenda. On the proposal of Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan and seconded by Clare Cashman, this policy was approved.

5.9 Income and Expenditure Report

Michael Moroney outlined the LDS Administration & Animation financial expenditure and income report to April 2018 inclusive which was circulated at the meeting. The report sets out the monthly IP Administration & Animation expenditure claims, payments to promoters and details of income received from DAHRRGA. €69,900 had been paid to STDC promoters up to 31st April, 2018. On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by John Lupton, the report was approved by the Members.

LEADER Food Initiative

Fiona Crotty noted that Margo had circulated details of the launch of the LEADER Food Initiative, as per Circular 06/2018, to all Members of the LCDC on 2nd May, 2018. The Initiative will provide financial supports, including for the renovation and extension of production facilities and the purchasing of processing equipment, as well as supporting participants in the artisan food and beverage sector in areas such as market development, competitiveness, and innovation. The indicative budget for this Call in 2018 is €5million on a national level on a competitive basis.

Fiona noted that as per the guidelines of the Scheme, applications are managed through the LGA. Each LAG can decide whether or not to accept project applications under this initiative, and should animate this funding opportunity in the same manner as for other LEADER projects. Clare questioned whether the LCDC are legally obliged to fund the Leader Food Initiative projects under the Tipperary Leader allocation if projects are not successful at a national level. Michael Murray replied that the LCDC do not have legal obligations in this situation. Rita said that if a food project is approved by the LCDC, then it progresses nationally.

5.10 LEADER AOB

- **NTP103006 Templemore Approach Roads (Templemore Community Development Association).** Michael Murray addressed the Members by stating this project had previously been presented to the November LCDC and was originally deemed ineligible by the IEC. However, at the November LCDC following discussion that further clarification was sought, it was agreed to ring-fence the grant request pending resolution of the matter and that Michael Murray would progress clarification of issues arising associated with the project. He circulated copies of the October IEC and decision for this project and confirmed that the licence agreement was now in place and the identified weaknesses in the proposal were resolved and that it had been sent to the IEC for re-evaluation but that they asked the LCDC to make a decision on this project. There was considerable unease amongst the Members that the IEC had refused to re-assess the project further to a request to do so from the LCDC.

Michael Murray referred to correspondence from the Department where the IEC had not evaluated a project and where the LCDC could make a decision. NTLP consider this to be a community project. The funding is requested to renovate and repair the existing limestone boundary wall to the Town Park on the Dunkerrin road approaching Templemore, which was part of the original 18th century garden. A restoration project was carried out under the last LEADER programme and Town & Village Renewal funding had been used to complete the old swimming pool site on the grounds of the Park. Templemore Tidy Towns have been involved in trying to improve the area for some time. This project is under Rural Towns sub-theme and subject to Article 48 check. 75% grant of total expenditure of €42,344.70 is requested amounting to €31,758.52.

Michael Murray stated that the IEC was aware that the LCDC could review the project without the need for the IEC to re-evaluate it again. Michael Moroney read an extract from the Operating Rules, Section 5.5 which provides guidelines and clarity on this issue. Members felt that a written recommendation is needed from the IEC and the written recommendation was/is included in IEC minutes of the 19th May, 2018.

NTLP was requested to communicate back to the IEC that the LCDC was requesting the IEC to re-evaluate the project in light of the additional information now available since the IEC first evaluated the project. Rita Guinan stressed the importance of confirming to the IEC that the local authority will not be receiving a grant for these works; that it is the community group who will receive the grant aid and that this distinction is vital.

6. 6.1 Healthy Ireland 2017 – note extension of contract

Fiona circulated a document at the meeting which dealt with the extension of a contract for Healthy Ireland. The initial fund provided for the 2017 fund Strand 1 to be concluded by March 31st, 2018. Requests for additional time to progress actions and in particular the Strategy Development was sought from Pobal and the Department by LCDC support staff nationally. On March 16th, an extension was provided to progress Strand 1 actions. An extension of 1, 2 or 3 months was available. The LCDC sub-group recommended availing of the 3 month extension with all actions to be completed by June 30th, 2018. This extension will allow the conclusion of the plan and progress the implementation plan for the

Healthy Tipperary Strategy.

All actions under the 2017 plan have been delivered and Fiona requested retrospective endorsement from the Members. Pobal have been informed of the extension requirement and LCDC will also be required to sign an Addendum to the original agreement which will be endorsed by the Chair and the Chief Officer. On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Michael Murray, this request was accepted.

6.2 Healthy Ireland 2017 Fund Actions Update

Fiona distributed a document at today's meeting which set out the summary of the Healthy Ireland Strand 1 fund. This document set out the % proportion of actions under the Strand 1 fund as follows: 21% Healthy Childhood, 32% Healthy Eating and Active Living, 16% Overarching, 3% Positive Ageing, 15% Sexual Health, 8% Tobacco and 5% Wellbeing and Mental Health. 90% of the fund has been received to date with the remaining 10% to be received on satisfaction from Pobal on completion on non-financial and financial report submission. She had requested I.T. to map the projects and will provide an update on the 2017 fund Strand 1 actions when available.

Fiona also circulated 2 documents in relation to the Regional Tobacco Action. This action involved Carlow LCDC, Kilkenny LCDC, Waterford LCDC, Wexford LCDC and Tipperary LCDC & CYPSC. The document summarised the action and an overall regional report is currently being prepared. The second document detailed the expenditure in relation to this regional fund as Tipperary were the administrators of this fund, and this was being circulated from a governance perspective with details of funds and additional training that had been provided. Fiona referred to a positive messaging campaign that youth providers/facilities had participated in and circulated some samples for inspection at the meeting. This work will be available at a conference to be held in Farmleigh House on May 31st, 2018 to mark World No Smoking Day. Councillor John Carroll complimented Fiona and Maria for their hugely important work.

6.3 Tipperary Healthy Ireland Strategy for Consideration

The Draft Healthy Tipperary Strategy had been circulated with the agenda. Maria stated that funding had been received from both Pobal and Healthy Ireland in Strand 1. For the purpose of the Strand 1 funding, there were two different working groups. One working group monitored actions and allocation of funding and the other working group managed the development of a Healthy Tipperary Strategy. A very significant feature on Strand 1 funding was contracting in a person to develop a Healthy Tipperary strategy in a limited timeframe. The direction given nationally was connectivity. Monitoring, implementation and identifying common traits was essential. The report overview provided an extremely important strategy for the next 3 years and included methodology, Tipperary at a glance, the voice of people in Tipperary, steps to a healthier Tipperary and implementation. A request was submitted to obtain an extension to prepare a strategy document to be sent with the Implementation Plan. An approach was developed where action was agreed for implantation and to have one lead agency. Teleconferences or actions to be progressed at the end of strategy.

Fiona stated that Curley Consultants had been appointed in January 2018 to provide a strategy by March 31st, 2018. The consultants had used the PPN community awareness day on the 7th March as a

valuable tool in preparing this document. The consultants also attended RAPID meetings and met with RSS participants, arranged by the NTLF to get a rural perspective, and had significant input from stakeholders and agencies at various meetings. Fiona and Maria complimented Curley Consultants for the level of engagement, delivery and quality of the plan given the timeframe involved.

Councillor John Carroll fully endorsed the plan and its work to promote healthy and active communities. Clare supported the appointment of a co-coordinator as a key recommendation of the Strategy, to develop the work that has commenced under Strand 1 and implement actions and co-ordinate resources and acknowledged that the success of the strategy will be the provision of this additional resource. Clare did question where this person would be employed. Fiona replied that the employee would be employed by Tipperary County Council on a part-time basis subject to the funding being approved for the period of the fund. Fiona outlined that the recruitment of the co-ordinator was an integral part of the 2018 Strand 2 fund recommendation for consideration at the meeting today.

Fiona Crotty stated that local development companies will be part of working groups while Maria informed the group that if people signed up to a partnership, they need to be clear and understand that they will have deliverables. Several Members expressed satisfaction with the document and compliments were made on the work by both Fiona and Maria. Maria cautioned that the implementation plan will be imperative and impact on the outcomes, measures of success and accountability. Eileen will check actions they are involved in and she will notify Maria in the HSE or other lead agency of any overlap. Maria added that only one lead agency will be needed to drive actions. On the proposal of Clare Cashman and seconded by Eileen Condon, this strategy was agreed by the Members.

6.4 Healthy Ireland 2018 Fund Recommendation

Fiona presented this item and stated that the induction date was the 1st May with a closing date of 11th May which was then subsequently extended to May 25th, 2018. A joint application was made between Tipperary LCDC and Tipperary CYPSC. The fund available for CYPSC is €37,100 and LCDC €75,000 with a total limit of 12 actions. This is a reduction in LCDC funding for Strand 2.

- ✓ Proposals for the 2018 Strand 2 Funding were discussed at the CYPSC May meeting and with the existing working group, taking into account the actions also identified in the Draft Healthy Tipperary Strategy
- ✓ Maximum number of actions is 12 and minimum threshold for action is €5,000.00
- ✓ The application is being prepared and is due by Friday, 25th of May
- ✓ Following submission of the application, it will be evaluated and a further addendum to the original agreement will issue to account for the 2018 fund
- ✓ Full approval will not be received until August
- ✓ Actions will commence subject to funding and approval in September
- ✓ 15% of overall Strand 2 funding paid following receipt of application and subsequent addendum completed
- ✓ 75% of overall Strand 2 funding paid in September/October 2018 following completion of check in and non-financial report
- ✓ Actions must be fully completed by March 2019

✓ Final 10% paid following submission of fund financial and non financial report

Fiona circulated the recommendation for the 12 actions for 2018 as follows and also acknowledged that this is a fund to implement actions identified in existing plans as opposed to a call for applications:-

Proposed Action	LCDC Budget	CYPSC Budget	Total Budget Available	Demographic	Geographic	National
1 Coordinator Sept to March 19	€20,000.00	€10,000.00	30,000.00	All Population	All County	Overarching
To appoint a coordinator to provide support and co-ordination of actions under the Healthy Ireland fund and oversee the development of the health Profile for the Tipperary Strategic Plan.						
<i>Lead Partner</i>	Tipperary Co Co		<i>Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp</i>	Outcome 1		
2 Sports Ability	€7,000.00	€1,780.00	8,780.00	Disability Children & Family	All County	Healthy Eating and Active Living
To roll out a physical activity programme with a particular focus on education and awareness training for parents, teachers and healthcare workers that work with children with Dyspraxia and DCD.						
<i>Lead Partner</i>	Tipperary Sports Partnership		<i>Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp</i>	1.2, Outcome 1		
3 Tipp Movers	€10,000.00		10,000.00	Older Adults	All County	Positive Ageing
Tipperary Sports Partnership will roll out a specific adapted training programme with older people - to increase their level of physical activity.						
<i>Lead Partner</i>	Tipperary Sports Partnership		<i>Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp</i>	1.2, 8.1, Outcome 1		
4 Communication	€5,000.00		5,000.00	All Population	All County	Overarching
To build on the "Whats on Tipp" web site as a portal for agencies, voluntary & community sector to use						
<i>Lead Partner</i>	LCDC		<i>Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp</i>	1.3,5.2,6.2, Outcome 1 and 5		
5 Sign of The Times	€6,000.00		6,000.00	All Population	All County	Overarching
To design an interactive video based learning tool and mobile App to enable the community to learn basic Irish Sign Language.						
<i>Lead Partner</i>	HSE Gold Star		<i>Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp</i>	1.3,5.2,6.2, Outcome 1 and 5		
6 Steps and Strokes	€6,500.00		6,500.00	30 plus	5 MD's	Healthy Eating and Active Living
A dual physical activity programme consisting primarily of Walking & Swimming						
<i>Lead Partner</i>	Tipperary Sports Partnership		<i>Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp</i>	1.2		
7 Social Farming	€5,500.00		5,500.00	adults	5 MD's	Wellbeing & Mental Health
Social Farming is the practice of offering activity on family farms in the Tipperary areas as a form of social support service.						

	Lead Partner Anticipated to match fund through SICAP NTLP & STDC	STDC		Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp	2.1c, Outcome 1,5	
8	Regional Action	€5,000.00	€0.00	5,000.00	under 30	5 MDS Tobacco Free, Sexual Health, Healthy Eating
	Incorporating Tobacco, Cook It and Sexual Health Conference					
	Lead Partner * 25,000 fund for Region 5 Counties South East	LCDC/HSE CHOS		Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp	5.2,7.1,10.1, Outcome 1	
9	Active Tots	€9,476.00		9,476.00	under 5	5 MD's Healthy Childhood
	Tipperary Sports Partnership will roll out an adapted physical training programme for pre school participants to increase their level of physical activity.					
	Lead Partner	Tipperary Sports		Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp	1.2, Outcome 1	
10	Healthy Eating	€10,000.00	€0.00	10,000.00	All Population	5 MD's Healthy Eating & Active Living
	Promoting healthy eating programmes, through school, community e.g. Men's Shed programmes					
	Lead Partner	Health Promotion Unit/LCDC		Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp	3.1,6.2 , Outcome 1	
11	LGBTI	€9,845.00		9,845.00	12 to 18	5 MD's Sexual Health
	20 young people will participate in six youth groups focusing on workshops surrounding positive body image, confidence and self esteem.					
	Lead Partner	YWIT		Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp	10.1,10.2 , Outcome 1 and 5	
12	Ascend Healthy Relationships	€6,000.00		6,000.00	12 to 18	North Tipperary Sexual Health
	This programme will be rolled out in 15 Secondary Schools over a six week period to promote the implementation of evidence-based programmes which positively engage with young people re: sexual and health and behavior					
	Lead Partner	Ascend		Healthy Tipp/CYPSC Tipp	10.1,10.2 , Outcome 1 and 5	
		€75,000.00	€37,101.00	112,101.00		

Maria is very positive about these actions and its partnership approach with CYPSC. She mentioned the limitations because of reduced overall budget and the resulting need to combine different aims in different actions. Fiona added the hope to ensure good demographic and geographic spread and believed mapping would be positive demonstration.

Clare is exasperated with the extremely tight deadlines imposed by state agencies and cited an e-mail received from Ruairí Ó'Caisleáin, CYPSC, who informed them last Thursday of expressions of interest that had to be submitted by the following Tuesday and this was not acceptable. She is frustrated by these short timelines. Fiona has met with Pobal who have been informed of the issue with these timelines and stated that this is the second year of the programme and expects to see improvements.

Clare replied that the timeline was the same in 2017 but criteria has changed and it is not acceptable the way county representatives have been treated in the process.

Clare also mentioned the imposition of the requirement to spend a minimum of €5,000 as this excludes lots of groups and questioned who created this guideline and under whose authority.

Finally, she mentioned a communications issue as there has been confusion between CYPSC and LCDC in its allocation and welcomed the clarification that it is a fund to implement actions as opposed to a call for applications.

Clare has an issue with "Active Tots" Action 9 for 2018. Under pre-school, PIP is a key element and she raised the possibility of double-funding. There is a quality agenda in childcare and it's a criteria of funding under the ECCE to be built into such funding.

Fiona replied that of the 2017 providers, there has been strong feedback from Buntús and others and that this introduced these programmes to facilities. Clare argued that they are governed under quality childcare and repeated her request to note the ridiculous timelines being imposed by the State. Maria said that 2017 was very difficult due to challenging timelines but expected a similar timeline in 2018. Michael Murray publicly thanked Fiona and Maria and Margaret Ryan in the HSE for all their work in this area. The 12 action items as recommended for Strand 2 Actions for 2018 were proposed by Clare Cashman and seconded by Councillor Joe Hannigan and approved by the Members.

6.5 Age, Health and Wellbeing Tipperary

A document was circulated at the meeting by Fiona who informed the group it was a summary proposal to have age, health and wellbeing encompassing disability, Age Friendly and Healthy Ireland under one category and not dealt with as three separate groups. The strategic advisory group will link with the PPN and other stakeholders including LCDC, TSP, LEO and the guards. One sub-group of the LCDC will encompass all three themes. Maria expressed concern about the title "Age, Health and Wellbeing Tipperary" as "Age" might focus on a particular age group whereas "Health and Wellbeing Tipperary" would include all age groups. On the proposal of Catherine Guest and seconded by Seán O'Farrell, this proposal was agreed by the LCDC in addition to the slight amendment to the title.

7. Update on Funding Grant Schemes

Michael Moroney outlined details of the following Grant Funding Schemes:

- CLÁR Scheme
 - Scheme of Capital Grants 2018
 - Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- CLÁR Scheme - Michael indicated that under CLÁR, which deals with rural disadvantaged areas, three funding applications under Measure 2 (play areas) had been submitted to the Department as follows: Gortnahoe and Cloughjordan who had applied for new playgrounds while Drangan had applied for refurbishment works. This is a national process and a decision is expected within the next four weeks.

- Scheme of Capital Grants 2018 – Michael informed the LCDC that 109 applicants had received grants between €10,000 - €40,000 totaling €2.1 million. Workshops had been held with promoters and the majority had returned acceptance documentation at this time.
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2017 - This involved 13 projects of which 2 were completed with 11 ongoing. The 2018 scheme was announced in April and 40 Expressions of Interest had been received of which the majority were community-led with some made by the Council. An assessment of these applications will take place on the 22nd May to select the 12 which then have to be submitted to the Department by the end of June for decision on a national basis.

5.1 **LEADER**

At the start of the LCDC meeting, not all projects for consideration had yet reached Stage 10 on the LEADER Pobal system. It is a requirement that all projects must reach Stage 10 for consideration at the LCDC meeting. The Agenda item for consideration of projects was deferred to allow this approval process to be completed so that all projects could be considered by the LCDC. During the course of the meeting, all projects had fully passed the Stage 10 process and were therefore available for consideration.

Councillor Mary Hanna Hourigan, public sector member, departed the meeting at this stage. This reduced the number of public sector attendees in attendance to 6. Mary Kinane, Project Development Officer, STDC joined the meeting at this stage.

5.1.1 To Decide on NTLP Rolling Call Applications

Documents circulated for consideration by the Members were the Project Evaluation Assessment Report and completed IEC Scoring Sheet for each application together with IEC meeting minutes. In addition, an Implementing Partner CEO Report to LCDC Chief Officer with details of each project including deadweight, displacement, rationale for grant aid, consistency with the Local Development Strategy and Operating Rules, IEC score and recommendation, and A48 Checking process undertaken was circulated for the consideration of Members.

Rationale for projects, deadweight and displacement were discussed individually in respect of each application, however, there were no issues raised or arising. In relation to the NTLP Projects, the Members were taken through these by Michael Murray. Approval of each project, on the basis of the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee, was as follows:

- **NTP106452 Pure Oil Ltd.** – grant of €54,927.16 which is 50% of overall expenditure of €109,854.32. The aim is to expand the existing oil packing and distribution business and no double-funding or de minimus issues have arisen to date. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of John Lupton and seconded by Councillor Joe Hannigan, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **NTP104726 Roscrea Community Hall** – grant of €6,300 which is 90% of total expenditure of €7,000. The aim is to create a feasibility and development plan/project for existing community hall and no double-funding or de-minimus issues have arisen to date. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of

Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by John Lupton, this project was approved, as recommended.

- **NTP106949 Cross Fabrication** – grant of €58,938.27 which is 50% of total expenditure of €117,876.55. The aim is to modify recently purchased premises to suit the needs of a metal fabrication company, as the building was previously used for manufacturing but is currently unused. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. It was proposed to change the project theme from Enterprise Development to Rural Towns. On the proposal of Clare Cashman, seconded by John Lupton, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **NTP103007 Templemore Town 5 Year Plan** – grant of €8,689.95 which is 90% of total expenditure of €9,655.50. Michael informed the group that SICAP staff had worked with Templemore Community Development Association in developing this project. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by Catherine Guest, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **NTP106418 Fuchsia Lane Farm** – grant of €12,750.31 which is 50% of total expenditure of €25,500.63. The grant will assist increasing leisure facilities and amenities to existing rural tourism enterprise. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by Seán O’Farrell, this project was approved.
- **NTP106825 Borrisoleigh Bottling** – grant of €150,000 which is 50% of total expenditure. This company has a bottling contract with C&C and provides 20 full-time jobs. The funds will be used to facilitate its growth stage and purchase machinery/equipment for bottling. They have worked with LEO for soft supports. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. As this was a project seeking greater than the €70,000 grant, more detailed consideration was given. On the proposal of Councillor Joe Hannigan and seconded by John Lupton, this project was approved.

5.1.2 To Decide on STDC Rolling Call Applications

Documents circulated for consideration by the Members were the Project Evaluation Assessment Report and completed IEC Scoring Sheet for each application together with IEC meeting minutes. In addition, an Implementing Partner CEO Report to LCD Chief Officer with details of each project including deadweight, displacement, rationale for grant aid, consistency with the Local Development Strategy and Operating Rules, IEC score and recommendation, and A48 Checking process undertaken was circulated for the consideration of Members.

Rationale for projects, deadweight and displacement were discussed individually in respect of each application, however, there were no issues raised or arising.

In relation to the STDC Projects the Members were taken through these by Mary Kinane, in the absence of Isabel Cambie. Approval of each project, on the basis of the recommendation of the Independent Evaluation Committee, was as follows:

- **STP106910 Tipperary Food Tour Education Programme** (Tipperary Food Producers Network) - grant of €20,000 (100% grant on total expenditure of €20,000). This is a linked project with one to be also submitted by NTLP, therefore total project cost €40,000. The aim is to produce a children's educational booklet to complement an educational programme to primary schools across Tipperary. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Eileen Condon and seconded by Seán O'Farrell, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **STP107082 Community Hall Car Park Extension and Upgrade** (Newcastle Muintir na Tíre) – grant of €67,711.56 (62.02% grant of total expenditure of €109,178.49). Voluntary labour costs amounted to €1,008.00. The project aims to enhance and develop the existing car park across three elements: tarmac, enhance gate and tree lines. This is under the sub-theme of Rural Towns. Mary indicated that there was a slight downward amendment from figures in the IEC minutes for the overall cost as a result of Article 48 check. Members noted this. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of John Lupton and seconded by Councillor Joe Hannigan, this project was approved, as recommended.
- **STP106926 Tipperary Military Exhibition** (Tipperary Excel Heritage Company Ltd.) – grant of €5,113.15 which is 75% of total expenditure of €6,817.54. This project will showcase memorabilia and information about Tipperary military barrack and the War of Independence. The rationale for the project, deadweight, displacement and innovation were discussed in respect of the application. On the proposal of Eileen Condon and seconded by Seán O'Farrell, this project was approved, as recommended.

8. **Correspondence, Submissions & Consultations**

Correspondence: Margo mentioned the Membership of the PPN and the upcoming elections and at least three seats are to be available. Two seats to fill slots vacated by Sara and Catherine while Clare will remain in situ. The correspondence received from the PPN recommended staggered replacements to minimise disruption to the group and its activities.

Margo had received details of Mens Health Week which will be held from 11th - 17th June.

LAWCO had sent a document received by the Department entitled "Working Together" which detailed strategy and opportunities available.

Consultations: Margo referred to the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and consultations were held between 15th – 17th April which both Margo and Charles had attended. Consultations were ongoing regarding RAPID plans and a draft was sent to both Carrick and Clonmel and a draft was due to be sent to Tipperary this week.

9.	AOB Michael Murray notified the LCDC of approval of a salary increase to a manager using SICAP and RDP budgets. Fiona stated that this is within the parameters and will be reflected in the budget.
10.	Next Meeting The next meeting of the Tipperary LCDC will be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 18 th June in the Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre.

Signed/



Councillor John Carroll,
Chair,
Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/

17-09-2018