

**MINUTES OF THE
LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
12th OCTOBER, 2015**

Present: Cllr. Pat Casey (Chair), Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin, Bryan Doyle, Niamh Wogan, Mai Quaid, Judy Osborne, Liam O'Loughlin, Peter Brennan, Tom Gregan

Apologies: Cllr. Pat Kavanagh, Martina Cronin, Brian Ogilvie, Rory Benville, Kevin Lewis, Chris Hill, Maurice Farnan, Sheelagh Daly

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson (Chief Officer), Deirdre Whitfield, Jackie Carroll, Patricia Reilly

As there was no quorum to commence the meeting proper, it was agreed that the members present would receive presentations prior to the meeting.

Update on the Local Economic and Community Plan

DW made a presentation to the members on the update to the LECP and advised of the outcome of the workshops held in this regard. The Workshops sought to focus on the most acute matters facing County Wicklow and:

- Social and Community Services
- Education Support & Training
- Social Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Local Development

The recurring themes that came from the Workshops were as follows:

- Requirement to undertake an audit of community services
- Greater interagency collaboration with regard to many critical areas – mental health, youth services, unemployment
- Demand for improved transportation and the significant impact on a wide range of social and socio-related areas

The next steps to be undertaken are:-

- Prepare DRAFT objectives and programmes/actions
- Prepare criteria for prioritisation
- Obtain buy-in from lead agencies for delivery
- Build in monitoring and evaluation system
- Submit to Municipal Districts, Regional Assembly and County Council

Presentation on Co. Wicklow Development Plan

Sorcha Walshe, Senior Executive Planner gave a comprehensive presentation on the County Development Plan and its links with the LECP. She advised the

members that the Local Government Reform Act 2014 requires that the LEC be consistent with the core strategy and objectives of the development plan of the local authority and any Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (presently Regional Planning Guidelines). The current Development Plan is the 2010-2016 plan; this includes a Core Strategy and various goals and objectives relating to both economic and social / community development

Following the arrival of one further member at 10.50, a quorum was now present and the meeting proper commenced.

Item 1 Adoption of Minutes of 30th June 2015

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Mai Quaid and seconded by Liam O'Loughlin

Item 2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 3 SICAP Mid Term Review Reports from Programme Implementers

MN reminded the members that they are required to approve the Mid Term Review Reports for SICAP and that both Partnerships would be making a presentation detailing progress to date.

Co. Wicklow Partnership & Bray Area Partnership

Both Partnerships gave comprehensive presentations outlining their achievements and performance to date in achieving their SICAP targets.

Both Partnerships also highlighted the fact that there are some difficulties with the online IRIS monitoring system and that some information and figures from Pobal are incorrect. This is being addressed.

The Chair thanked the Partnerships for their work to date. PR outlined that the funding for SICAP is streamed from the Department to the LA and is then distributed from the LA to the Programme Implementers. Pobal makes sure that the programme implementers, in this case the Partnerships, are compliant with the tender and the criteria. She noted that the Mid-term Review Report that the members are required to approve had already been verified by Pobal who are satisfied that the Partnerships have fulfilled all criteria to date.

The members requested that in future the figures be circulated prior to the meeting so they would have time to read them in depth before being required to make a decision on them.

The Chair advised that, going forward, a subcommittee would be set up which would examine the Programme Implementers Review Reports and would come back to the LCDC with a summary report. It was suggested that the Sub Committee would have members from KWETB, DSP, HSE and an elected representative from the Community side.

Peter Brennan and Tom Gregan were excused from the meeting, Niamh Wogan had already left and a vote was taken on approving the Mid Term Review Reports.

Yes – Cllr. Pat Casey (Chair), Cllr. Grainne McLoughlin, Liam O’Loughlin, Mai Quaid (4)

Abstain – Judy Osborne

The Mid Term Review Reports for both Programme Implementers were approved by a majority of the members.

JO wished it to be noted that she was abstaining on the grounds that she had not been given time to read the reports but that she fully respected the work that the Partnerships were doing.

Item 4 Update on LEADER/LDS

Frank D’Arcy, CEO, Co. Wicklow Partnership introduced Siobhan Geoghegan who gave an update on the LDS and the recent public consultations.

Emerging themes were:

- Economic Development
- Enterprise Development and Job Creation
- Social Inclusion
- Rural Environment

Cross cutting themes were:

- Innovation
- Climate Change
- Environment

Other issues included Enhancement of Rural Towns, Rural Isolation, Broadband, Rural Youth, Rural Environment, Biodiversity and Renewable Energy.

Next steps include ongoing stakeholder consultation and prioritisation of actions based on specific needs in Wicklow.

PC thanked SG for the valuable presentation and the members discussed it at length.

Item 5

LEADER – Local Action Group (LAG)

MN outlined the background to the LAG. Originally, following respective approvals from the Board of County Wicklow Partnership (CWP) and the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), it was agreed that the Wicklow Local Action Group would be a partnership between the LCDC and the CWP.

On that basis, an Expression of Interest application was prepared under the first phase of the LEADER Programme, by the LCDC/CWP as partners. This Expression of Interest was subsequently accepted by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG).

The preparation of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) by the LCDC/CWP is now taking place, and will be finalised and submitted to the DECLG by the end of the year.

On the 1st October 2015, draft LEADER Operating Rules were received from the DECLG. The operating rules are the framework to support and ensure the compliance of LEADER interventions with EU and National requirements. In particular the rules set out the general basis on which each Local Action Group (LAG) will deliver the LEADER element of the Rural Development Programme (RD) 2014-2020. The rules apply to the implementation of each LAG's LDS and supplement the terms and conditions of the contract between each LAG and the Department.

It is clear from the operating rules and from a Governance perspective, that the LCDC has to be the LAG and that the joint approach is not feasible. The Department, while not specifically stating that it is their policy that the LCDC should be the LAG in each County, is desirous that it should be so. The recommendation is that the LCDC operates as the LAG and that County Wicklow Partnership as the lead implementation partner administer and deliver the projects under the LEADER Programme, by way of a Service Level Agreement (SLA). An Evaluation Committee will be required to be set up also.

TG advised that he would bring the matter to the Board Meeting of the CWP and requested that no decision would be made before that meeting. The Committee discussed the matter at length and it was agreed that the decision would not be made until after TG had advised the Board as a matter of courtesy and in acknowledgement of the excellent working relationship with the CWP.

Item 6

Any Other Business

There was some discussion regarding timing and frequency of meetings and this will be further discussed by the Chair and the Chief Officer.

Item 7

Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.