

**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 26TH MAY, 2014
IN CHARLESLAND GOLF CLUB, GREYSTONES**

Present: Rory Benville, Peter Brennan, Cllr Pat Casey, Sheelagh Daly, Tom Gregan, Chris Hill, Cllr George Jones, Michael Lawlor, Eamonn McCann, Judy Osborne, Mai Quaid, Eddie Sheehy, Eugene Waters

In Attendance: Joe Lane, Deirdre Whitfield, Phil O'Rourke, Jackie Carroll, Mary Tuite

Cllr George Jones (outgoing Chair of the Wicklow County Development Board) welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Wicklow Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). He explained that the LCDC was being set up as part of local government reform and the Department had instructed that the first meeting should be held before the end of May. He drew attention to the documents provided to members:

- § Guidelines for the establishment of Local Community Development Committees
- § Draft Guidelines for the Community Element of the Local Economic and Community Plans March 2014.

He indicated that membership would be reconsidered by the new Council in September but in the meantime the LCDC would form and deal with issues as they arose. Joe Lane indicated that the three local government representatives would have to be reviewed at the August/September meeting of Wicklow County Council (after the Local Elections) and at that time the Board might also be increased to 17 members.

Wicklow County Council formally agreed the process at the meeting of 28th April, 2014.

{1} Election of Chairman (Interim)

The election of Cllr Pat Casey for Chairman was proposed by Tom Gregan and seconded by Chris Hill. Cllr Casey then took the Chair and thanked Cllr George Jones for his valuable contribution to the County Development Board in his position of Chairman.

{2} Election of Vice-Chairman (Interim)

The election of Cllr Christopher Fox as Vice-Chairman was proposed by Eddie Sheehy and seconded by Tom Gregan.

{3} Standing Orders

Standing Order to be forwarded to members at a later date.

{4} Establish Committees

Joe Lane paid tribute to the County Development Board and particularly the Chairperson, Cllr George Jones, for his contribution to the CDB process.

Cllr George Jones, in particular, and the Executive of the CDB had provided a decision making forum as matters arose. Indications from the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is that timeframes facing the LCDC could be challenging and therefore it would be prudent to have a similar sub-structure of the LCDC in place to deal with issues as they arise. He indicated that this was an interesting time in Local Government. He indicated that the CDP started the process which provided stakeholders with a forum at local level to meet and share information on issues that affected them. The LCDC would

provide a similar forum and would develop to be a co-ordinating body for services at a local level.

He drew attention to the need for the LCDC to prepare and adopt the Community Element of the LECD and the need for a steering committee to ensure liaison between the local authority prepared economic plan and the LCDC proposed Community Element of the plan.

Joe Lane also indicated that the guidelines suggested that the steering committee should comprise six Members – three representative of the local authority and three of the LCDC. In response to questions he referenced the draft guidelines indicating that preparation of the LECP would involve a large number of stakeholders. The process is to be overseen by the LCDC and the local authority and that the steering committee comprise members of both. The guidelines suggested that local bodies with a background and relevant expertise in the area of local development (particularly the Local authority and the Local Development Companies) provide the key operational resources.

It was agreed that the following members would make up the Steering Committee. Eddie Sheehy, Tom Gregan, Peter Brennan.

An Executive committee was also agreed that would be available when necessary.

It was agreed that the following members would make up the Executive Committee. Judy Osborne, Mai Quaid, Eugene Waters and Cllr Pat Casey.

{5} Work programme 2014/2015

A draft Work Programme to be circulated as soon as available.

{6} Local Economic and Community Development Plan

Joe Lane outlined the work programme which include preparing the shared and separate elements of the LECDP Plan. This required that the LCDC would prepare the Community Element of the LECP and the local authority would prepare the economic element of the plan. It would involve public consultation and a report on same being prepared. This would identify high level objectives and measurables being included.

{7} Socio Economic Profile

Joe Lane informed members that a socio-economic profile of the county would need to be prepared as to provide an evidence based foundation for the LECDP Plan. This would also involve consultation with key agencies. The Department were currently working on this profile and had intimated that they would be providing socio-economic data at DED level. He felt that data from DED level was not in-depth enough and could mask socio-economic problems. It was agreed to ask the Department to provide data for street or small area level.

{8} Local Community Development Programme Overview

Deirdre Whitfield presented (and circulated) a powerpoint demonstration outlining an overview of the LDCP. She indicated that the initial focus of the LCDC was to

- § Draft t the community elements of the LE& CDP.
- § Create a framework for operational and other plans
- § Agree priorities for the area and agency roles in addressing these
- § Place onus on parent bodies of agencies at local level to enable them to respond to the plan

Patricia Reilly gave an overview of the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). She explained that the SICAP programme was the successor programme to the

Local Community Development Programme. It is a social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in Irish society. It aims to reduce poverty, promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration and will operate across the Republic of Ireland in each of the 32 local authority areas. The framework included:

- § An initial consultation phase
- § Developing the socio-economic framework
- § Identifying high level needs and opportunities
- § Identifying high level objectives and associated indicators
- § Consultation

{9} Leader Programme Overview

Joe Lane provided an overview of the Leader Programme which was established initially by the European Commission in 1991 as the Leader Initiative and as evolved over the years. The new programme is currently being prepared and following selection of the strategies the new programme will commence in early 2014.

{10} Any Other Business

Items clarified as a result of discussion included:

- § The LECP will be a high level plan with an oversight of SICAP and LEADER
- § It has not been confirmed whether LCDC will apply for LEADER funding.
- § The LCDC will have an input through the SICAP tender process

Signed: _____

Date: _____