

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 15th FEBRUARY 2023 at 3.45pm via zoom

Present: Peter Brennan, Frank Quaid (vice chair and taking the meeting today), Amanda Mooney Carina Holmes, Brian Carty, Patrick Mboci, Jim Ruttle, Brian Gleeson, Vibeke Delahun, Stephen Fitzgerald, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and Eileen Cullen.

Apologies: Jason Mulhall, Aisling Heffernan, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr. Dermot O'Brien and Cllr. Peir Leonard. Pat Ó'Suilleabháin and Lorraine Hennessy were unable to join the meeting as there was an error in circulating the login and neither were able to attend due to this.

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson (CO), Patricia Carmody (WCC), Patricia Reilly (WCC), Deirdre Whitfield (WCC), Jennifer Darcy (BAP), Keith Coburn (CWP) and Barbara Mason (WCC).

Item 1 Welcome & Apologies

Frank Quaid welcomed everybody to the meeting and the apologies were given.

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the LCDC meeting of 15th February 2023 were adopted with no matters arising.

Proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan
Seconded by Carina Holmes

Item 2 SICAP update

Annual Plans 2023

Presentations were given by each of the Programme Implementers on their Annual Work Plans for upcoming year. The range of work being undertaken by each PI was commented on by LCDC members as particularly extensive and comprehensive within the budget allocated. The LCDC were also advised that the Plans have been reviewed by the SICAP Sub-group and by Pobal and have been found to be compliant with all programme requirements and to be of a good standard.

Bray Area Partnership Annual Plan –

Proposed by Eileen Cullen

Seconded by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan.

Co. Wicklow Partnership Annual Plan –

Proposed by Amanda Mooney

Seconded by Carina Holmes.

End of Year Reports 2022

All elements of the end of year reports -including the annual progress reports as circulated to the LCDC and the financials- have been reviewed by the SICAP Sub-group and by Pobal. The assessment overall of both end of year reports has been very positive with over-achievement of Key

Performance Indicators. Pobal have stated that based on the level of information provided in both End of Year reports they can be approved by the LCDC.

Bray Area Partnership End of Year Report -

Proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Seconded by Carina Holmes.

Co. Wicklow Partnership End of Year Report –

Proposed by Jim Ruttle

Seconded by Frank Quaid.

Approval of Publicity Protocol: A draft publicity protocol was circulated to the LCDC for review.

Proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Seconded by Eileen Cullen.

Item 3 LECP -

Deirdre Whitfield spoke about the progress of the preparation of the new LECP. She explained the following -

- This is still a work in progress and we will be refining it in the next few weeks
- Any input from the LCDC members can be emailed to Deirdre in the next week
- The final draft will be presented at the next LCDC meeting
- Work is nearly complete on the other elements of the final LECP framework document

Vision

Our vision is for a vibrant and sustainable County which provides a high quality of life and well-being for all; which values socially inclusive urban and rural communities; is driven by a dynamic and innovative economy; promotes sustainable development and the rights of all; building on the County's unique and rich natural and cultural heritage

Core Principles

Commitment, Co-operation and Partnership

All those involved will commit to the process and work together for the common good of the County

Agents of Change

All those involved will be open to change and be receptive to new ideas and approaches to the development of the County

Maximising Outcomes

The LECP will focus on maximising the use of resources and achieving value for money

Sustainable Development, Resilience and Social Inclusion

The principles of sustainable development, resilience and social inclusion will underpin the LECP

Equality

The plan will be underpinned by the Public Sector Duty Act

Community Consultation and Engagement

Citizen engagement is a core element of this process

Simplicity - The LCDC and SPC will avoid duplication of effort and keep structures as simple as possible and communicate clearly.

Goal	Objective	Possible Resources
Health, Resilience and Well-being	Drive the environmental, economic and social regeneration of County Wicklow towns and villages and their hinterlands	Our Rural Future – DRCD Funding schemes Town Centre First Policy LEADER Smart Villages Programme Climate Change Strategies Creative Ireland Heritage plan Vacant Homes Plan
	Provision of community, culture, sport & recreational infrastructure for communities	Our Rural Future – DRCD Funding schemes Town Centre First Policy LEADER Local Sports Partnership Strategy and funding schemes Co. Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy Audits of Community Sport & Recreational facilities Creative Ireland
	Improving the health and quality of life of people of all ages in Wicklow, especially those most vulnerable	Healthy Wicklow Plan 2023 – 2026 Sláintecare LSP Strategy
	Strengthen and sustain a strong civil society with actively engaged and connected communities	LEADER SICAP Age Friendly Programme DCRD and DCEDI&Y supports A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement (DRCD) Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five Year Strategy to Support the Community & Voluntary Sector 2019 – 2024 (DRCD) National Volunteering Strategy 2021 - 2025
	Slaintecare Programme	TBD
	Supporting the well-being of communities through the Community Climate Action Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals	Community Climate Action Programme Sustainable Development Goals Sustainable Energy Communities LEADER Smart Villages Programme
	Public Sector Duty Act proofing/statement	

Goal	Objectives	Resources
Enterprise Innovation and Creativity	A well-educated and skilled workforce and diverse employment opportunities, aligned to the labour	Co. Wicklow Skills Audit Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024

	market	KWETB SICAP SETU Carlow LDCs
	Sustainable tourism	Fáilte Ireland Co. Wicklow Tourism Strategy Wicklow Uplands Council LEADER Smart Village programme Biodiversity Officer WCC
	A strong and vibrant creative and screen sector	Co. Wicklow Content Creation Hub Co. Wicklow Screen Sector Development Strategy 2022 – 2026 Mid-East Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024 Co. Wicklow Craft Strategy Creative Ireland (Co. Wicklow)
	Lead in the sustainable expansion of the food & beverage sector	Co. Wicklow Food & Beverage Strategy LEADER Dept. Agriculture Food & Marine Failte Ireland Food & Drink Strategy Food Vision 2030 Connected Hubs
	Build on natural resources such as the maritime economy and renewable energy	Co. Wicklow Maritime Strategy FLAG Climate Change strategies/resources
	Support the greening of existing and new enterprises, including decarbonisation and energy and resource efficiency	Climate change strategies and resources Green for Micro (LEO) SEAI Business Supports
	Support the development of the circular economy and community wealth building	International examples best practice RSES Co. Wicklow Social Enterprise Strategy Climate change strategies/resources National Circular Economy Strategy Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy
	Public sector duty act proofing	

Goal	Objectives	Resources
Climate Change	Leading the Community Climate Action Programme to build capacity and initiate and support community climate action initiatives	Climate Change team WCC
	Supporting communities and enterprises to deliver on climate change programmes	Climate Change team WCC Co. Development Plan RSES
	Protecting promoting and enhancing biodiversity	Climate Change team WCC County Development Plan RSES

	Leading in renewable energy opportunities	
	Public sector Duty Act proofing/statement	

Goal	Objective	Resources
A Connected County	Improve transport infrastructure in the county	
	Sustainable transport infrastructure development throughout the county	Active Travel Programme and funding DRCD funding schemes
	Quality broadband rollout in the county	WCC Broadband Officer
	Continue to develop the digital society/economy including remote working and co-working facilities and the Smart Village Programme	DRCD funding schemes WCC Broadband Officer Remote Working Marketing Plan
	Improve access to and capacity for connectivity to services	Co. Wicklow Digital Strategy DRCD funding schemes Age Friendly Programme/Strategy
	Public sector duty act proofing	

Goal	Objective	Resources
Equality, Diversity, Inclusivity and Just Transition	Equality and prevent discrimination through the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty Act	Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty IHREC
	Fair and inclusive approach to climate action through just transition model	WCC Climate Change Team Community Climate Fund Windfarm community fund
	Support the diversity of groups in our society, including integration of minority groups	Migrant Integration Strategy SICAP PPN
	Implement community development principles of inclusion, equality and bottom-up approach	A Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement (DRCD) Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A Five Year Strategy to Support the Community & Voluntary Sector 2019 – 2024 (DRCD) SICAP
	Public sector duty proofing/statement	

There followed a discussion about the prioritisation of goals and the subject of Windfarms in the Wicklow area and the possibility of employment coming to the County through these. DW pointed out that all goals are equally important. She also explained that it would be envisaged that they would have a draft of the plan in March which would go out to the Councillors and the MDs.

Brian Gleeson spoke about the Mid-East Enterprise Plan and the development of Marine Enterprise Hubs – the Wicklow and Arklow Action Plan – to cover all marine industries.

Eileen Cullen spoke about the various possibilities for education and the KWETB would be providing the accredited side of this.

Item 4 – Community Recognition Fund 2023

Prior to the meeting, the document explaining the Community Recognition Fund 2023 and also the Scheme Outline had been circulated to the members.

Michael Nicholson spoke about the launch of the €50 million Community Recognition Fund. This fund is a major initiative to support communities that have welcomed people from Ukraine and other countries. The funding will be for sports clubs, community organisations, transport infrastructure and local groups. Every local authority in the country is to benefit.

MN went on to explain that Wicklow had been allotted €1.6 million. The funding will be divided among the five Municipal Districts and it is envisaged that rather than many smaller projects, one or two large projects in each MD would be funded. The department will have the final say in the decision on these projects. All projects have to be capital in nature and the funding will not cover ongoing running costs, and won't be allowed to cover projects already commenced. Whatever projects are put forward must be ones that will benefit the community as a whole and be available to everybody.

Item 5 Date of next meeting.

FQ thanked everybody for attending and the next meeting is provisionally scheduled for Wednesday 15th March. To be confirmed.

Signed: _____
Pat Kennedy
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____