

## **Minutes of 8th Meeting of Tipperary Local Community and Development Committee held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 at Littleton Community Centre, Thurles.**

### **Present:**

**Public Sector:** Joe Mac Grath, Cllr. John Carroll, Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Donal Mullane, Adrian Cunneen, Angela Joy

**Private Sector:** Charles Stanley-Smith (Chair), Sara Bourke, Clare Cashman, Cora Horgan, Catherine Guest, Tim Cullinane

### **Apologises: -**

**Public Sector:** Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, Fionuala Mc Geever, Rita Guinan

**Private Sector:** Niall Morrissey, Michael Murray, Brian Cleary

1. The Chair welcomed the new PPN representatives to their first meeting of the LCDC. He provided the members of the LCDC with the opportunity to introduce themselves and to outline who they were representing at this Committee.

Due to a conflict of interest position with Catherine Guest in relation to the bid for LDS the Chief Officer sought the permission of the members to take the SICAP and PPN updates before items no. 4 and item no. 5 on the agenda - the members agreed to this request. The draft agenda was agreed.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2015.  
Proposed by: Cllr John Carroll and Seconded by: Joe Mac Grath

### **Matters Arising:**

In relation to the targets set out by Pobal for the SICAP midyear review, it was agreed to hold a meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September to facilitate any necessary discussion in relation to the LECP, the RDP and the establishment of sub committees to include the social inclusion Sub committee which will need to be in place for the mid term review of the SICAP Plan which has to be completed by the end of September.

3. **Correspondence:**

Sinéad Carr, Chief Officer referred to the following correspondence;

**Trade Union:-** Brian O'Donnell was nominated by the ICTU. Unfortunately he was not in a position to attend the LCDC meetings, therefore, a further nominee was sought and the ICTU have nominated Vincent Savage. However, it was noted at this meeting that Mr. Savage is a staff member of Tipperary Co. Co., and therefore, may conflict with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of the LCDC. This matter will have to be clarified before this position can be ratified at the July Co. Co. meeting.

**ETB:-** Fionuala Mc Geever, CEO., Education Training Board has stepped down from the LCDC due to her extensive work load. Ms. Mc Geever will nominate a staff member shortly to

replace her on this Committee. However, Ms. Mc Geever has agreed to continue to sit on the LECP Advisory Group.

**Comhairle Na nÓg:** S. Carr referred to letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, from Clodagh Mc Donnell, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government which stated the need to ensure the involvement and participation by Comhairle Na nóg in all relevant Local Authority structures in particular the LCDCs, PPN and in the development of LECP. Ms. Carr confirmed that the LCDC are already engaging with Comhairle Na nóg and the Youth Services with these new structures.

Training for Chief Officer, Chair of LCDC and Elected Members will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Further details on location to be issued by the Department. The Department have confirmed that training will be provided to the other Board Members in due course.

**Expression of Interest:-** The EU Rural Development Section, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in conjunction with Pobal will host an information event that will introduce and outline the LDS framework for stage 2 of the selection process. The event will take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> July and full details of the event are in the process of being finalised. All EOI entities will be notified and asked to formally register.

**Dormant Account Fund:** Ann Ryan circulated a report on this funding line and outlined the key criteria and guidelines for this Fund. The closing date for this fund is 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015. It was noted that TRYS and STDC are making a joint bid for funding and Millennium Family Resource Centre are making separate application for funding.

**SERDATF:** Sinéad Carr, referred to a letter received from Declan Jones, Chairperson, South East Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force requesting that Tipperary LCDC would include the key priorities that they have outlined in their plan. Ann Ryan confirmed that this request has already been included in the draft LECP and SERDAFT are listed as a lead agency to undertake some actions in the Social element of the Plan. Ms. Carr, Chief Officer will acknowledge Mr. Jones letter and will confirm that his request has been included.

## 6. Update on SICAP

For the purpose of the new members on the LCDC Ann Ryan gave an overview of the SICAP programme and the role of the LCDC. Ms. Ryan confirmed that both Plans have now been approved by Pobal and are set up on their new IT system which is called IRIS. These plans were uploaded by the Development Companies, approved by the LCDC and checked and reviewed by Pobal to ensure the actions have been met as outlined in their plans. Ms. Ryan also confirmed that the 2<sup>nd</sup> payment was released to the Programme Implementers i.e the two Local Development Companies on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Ann Ryan outlined that the LCDC had to complete the SICAP mid term review by the end of September. It was outlined that the Social Inclusion Sub Committee of the LCDC will need to be established as they will have a key role in the Mid Term review and making recommendations to the LCDC in relation to same. It was noted that while the 2015 plan was agreed and in place and agreed, there would be an opportunity for the LCDC and its sub group to feed into the development of the 2016 SICAP PLAN.

There was some discussion around the SICAP and the role of Pobal with this programme- S. Carr confirmed that Pobal effectively are a support mechanism to the Department in the role out of the SICAP programme. This programme is in a transition phase and she acknowledged that further clarity needs to be provided to the LCDC on this area. The LCDC has an oversight role on SICAP through the IRIS reporting system. The relationship with the LCDC, Pobal and the Local Authority will be clarified in due course.

**7. Update on PPN:-**

Circular Letter CVSP1/2015 dated 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 outlines that 2.48 million has been announced nationally for the operation of the PPN. €80,000 has been awarded to Tipperary PPN; €50,000 of this will come from the Department and €30,000 has been provided by Tipperary County Council. Ms. Hayes confirmed that this funding is ring-fenced and can only be used for the purposes of developing and maintaining the PPN. The Members welcomed this announcement. A number of queries were raised which were dealt with to the satisfaction of members by Margo Hayes. Further updates on the PPN development will be issued as and when necessary.

**4. Update on draft LECP & LECP Advisory Committee:-**

On the basis that Tipperary Leader Group involvement in the competitive bid process for the LDS Catherine Guest left the meeting.

Attracta Lyons referred to her report on the draft LECP which was circulated prior to the meeting. Ms. Lyons outlined the progress of the plan to date and set out the various measures undertaken on the drafting of the LECP. It is expected that a concise LECP (combined Economic, Community & Social Inclusion elements) would be completed by end of July. This combined plan will be circulated to members and brought to LCDC and SPC in early September for comment. Ms. Lyons also referred to the screening process involved with the draft plan.

In relation to the Equality proofing of the Plan Ms. Lyons referred to the CCMA Economic, Enterprise and Tourism and Development Committee template recommendation which, in line with the LCDC's remit is to ensure membership and mechanisms are in place to ensure marginalised communities have an opportunity to participate in local decision making. Ms. Lyons suggested that the LECP Advisory Group would take on the Equality Proofing role of the LECP as outlined by the CCMA Committee. This was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. John Carroll and seconded by Angela Joy.

Ms. Lyons sought a replacement for Frank Higgins, PPN on the LECP Advisory Group; the PPN members selected Cora Horgan as Frank Higgins replacement on this Advisory Group. The Members requested that the Chief Officer write to Frank Higgins to thank him for his dedication and commitment to the LCDC and PPN process.

Sinéad Carr referred to and read out an email received from Niall Morrissey, CEO, STDC in relation to the LECP consideration process by the LCDC, his role on the Advisory Committee and the fact that he had been advised by the Chief Officer of the LCDC that his position could

potentially constitute a conflict of interest given the competing bid of South Tipperary Development Company for the Expression of Interest. Mr. Morrissey, in his email indicated that he felt that the LECP was a different process to the LDS and considered he ought to remain at the LCDC table for discussion on the content of same.

S. Carr indicated to the meeting that in the normal course of events the LECP would have been previously prepared and adopted and that all operational plans would draw from this. However, the current situation is very different due to the timelines involved between the LECP and the LDS and the changing platform around structures to deliver the LDS. She outlined to the meeting the extensive work undertaken on the draft LECP to date including the public consultations, gathering of data, meetings with the various key stakeholders and highlighting of target areas/groups etc. It is the intention of the LCDC to use a lot of this to inform its bid for the LDS. The high level draft Framework Priority Document, whilst not as detailed, was available for all community stakeholders (on the Council web page) and could assist in informing any potential LDS third party bid.

Following a detailed discussion on this request, the Members agreed that there is a conflict of interest with STDC engaging with the LECP consideration process and its structures as it's contents will inform a significant part of the LDS which is a competitive bid process. It was agreed in the interests of protecting the LCDC's own activities, that Mr Morrissey's request be declined.

## **5. Update on the Expression of Interest – LDS**

Sinéad Carr, Chief Officer provided an update on the LDS as follows; she confirmed that Niall Morrissey, CEO and Martin Quinn, Chair, STDC, Catherine Guest and Mary Ryan, Tipperary Leader and Charles Stanley Smith, Chair, Tipperary LCDC and herself met with Fionuala Moylett and Deirdre Maloney, EU Rural Development Section, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2015.

The Department Officials welcomed all and stated that their preference is for one LDS per sub-region and for the LCDC to be the LAG but they would work with and support whatever structure comes through the bidding process. The purpose of this meeting was to see if there were opportunities to bring the 3 entities together and agree a way forward for the delivery of the LDS.

The Department indicated that one option on the way forward could include an extension to the LCDC to accommodate other entities or any form thereof including a joint LAG which accommodated the 3 entities.

The Officials confirmed that the financial support for LDS preparation comes off the top of the €10 million allocated for the County at the outset. All entities have to be supported to develop the Strategy which would then be assessed by an external panel. This would have an impact on the amount of funds remaining to deliver the programme

Where there are multipliers which overlap, the Department will select one single Strategy. If multiply Strategies cover different areas of the sub region the Department may run with them all if no overlap occurs. Where an entity has made 2 EOI submissions for 2 areas of a sub region, that entity must select one over the other to work up to the next stage

The Department clarified that “de minimis” state aid rule is not an issue for the LAG as they will not be a “for profit entity” and therefore, this should not be an obstacle to any LDC partnering with the LCDC .

The Department indicated at the meeting that they had hoped that the full 25% administration fund would not be fully utilised on administration as it was very generous in their view – however they did recognise the significant cut in funds for Tipperary and that this may cause a difficulty. The Officials also indicated that there would be opportunities for access to other funds through the LAG structure and this should be borne in mind in the context of funding supports (such as the REDZ but in this instance alone indicated that the Local Authority would need to be a key stakeholder).

The Department also confirmed that there are no other funds on the table.

Department Officials indicated that the Expression of Interest on the LDS will be decided by mid July by an independent selection committee. An information event on the LDS will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> July and the criteria for assessing the LDS will be provided at this stage. A minimum of six months will be given to deliver a Strategy. If there are multiple Strategies for a sub region, the Department will have to wait until the last one is finalised before assessments can be undertaken. However, the Department’s preferred outcome is to have one Strategy to be well written and focused and they hoped that the 3 entities could come up with a structure to facilitate this. The Department Officials made the point that if Tipperary sub region went with 3 entities there would have to be 3 consultations; 3 entities receiving funds to draw up the strategy (and therefore less for projects) and general confusion amongst the community leading to a very poor perception on all entities involved.

Sinéad Carr, Chief Officer confirmed the LCDCs position at this meeting by stating that the LCDC are open to discussion with all entities provided it is on an all County basis; that it is on the basis that the LCDC are the contract holder; that the relevant entities have the capacity to deliver as implementing partners and that there are clear geographical roles.

Since then, Sinéad Carr, Chief Officer on behalf of the LCDC has made contact to meet with Tipperary Leader and also STDC.

The LCDC discussed in depth the various options open to them arising from the existence of the 3 entities and the 4 EOI submissions. Having considered all options and all of the comments as put forward by the Department from their meeting of the 2/7/15, the LCDC concluded unanimously that the Option 3 model is still the most appropriate model for Tipperary in terms of ensuring effective, inclusive and efficient delivery of the Programme. Tipperary LCDC, in partnership with NTLP, is still open to STDC coming on board in the context of this model. However, the LCDC also concluded that the Tipperary Leader proposal could be better accommodated through the PPN structure given the apparent

community based nature of this proposal and based on the information they had to hand on the entity. The LCDC requested that Ms. Carr meet with Tipperary Leader Group to see if their needs could be addressed through PPN structure.

The LCDC Members mandated Sinéad Carr, Chief Officer to engage with STDC on the basis of the Option 3 Model only and to engage with Tipperary leader on the basis of PPN structure. The Board Members to be notified of the outcomes of these meetings by 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2015. If no decision can be reached with STDC and/or Tipperary leader, the LCDC, in partnership with NTLF is to commence work on stage 2 of the process.

**8. AOB**

**Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) -- Pilot Initiative**

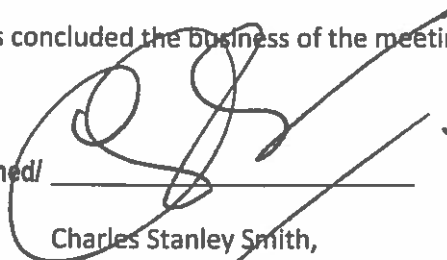
Attracta Lyons outlined the background details and the application process involved with the (REDZ) pilot initiative. Ms. Lyons identified from the CEDRA report the Rural Economic Development Zones and the funding opportunities available for the County. The Commission recommendation envisages full participation by communities at local level in order to foster a sense of ownership of the REDZ development process. If any groups had any projects which fitted the categories of relevance, they were advised to contact A Lyons directly as the Closing date for submissions is the 31/8/15. This Local Authority is currently working on selecting projects for consideration under this initiative a further update will be provided at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked the members for their contributions at the meeting and also thanked the Community & Economic Development Staff for their updates.

It was agreed that two meetings of the LCDC will be held in September the first meeting will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September and the second meeting to take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 as previously agreed.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed/



Charles Stanley Smith,  
Chair,  
Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/ 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2015