

**Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 Local Community and Development Committee Meeting held at Littleton and Moycarkey Community and Sports Centre, Thurles.**

Present:

**Public Sector:** Cllr. John Carroll, , Adrian Cunneen, Donal Mullane, Eileen Condon, Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, Cllr. Joe Hannigan, Rita Guinan, Adrian Cunneen

**Private Sector:** Charles Stanley-Smith (Chair), Michael Murray, Imelda Walsh (for Tim Cullinane), Isabel Cambie, Clare Cashman, Donal Mullane, Cora Horgan, Seán O'Farrell, Catherine Guest, Sara Bourke,

Apologies: -

**Public Sector:** Matt Shortt, Derval Howley

**In Attendance:** Sinéad Carr, Chief Officer; Michael Moroney, Fiona Crotty, Angela Sheehan.

**1. To Note Adherence to Meeting Procedure Requirements**

Michael Moroney confirmed that the quorum has been achieved for this meeting and confirmed requirements for decisions to comply with Operating Rules requirement regarding decision-making as follows:

- be voted on by at least 60% (rounded up to the nearest person) of LAG members – this applies to decisions validated by the LAG membership after all relevant conflict of interest issues have been addressed; and
- at least 51% of those voting on a decision are non-public sector partners.

Michael Moroney stated no Conflict of Interest (CoI) had been notified with regard to the LEADER funding applications being presented for decision at the meeting or for any other agenda item. He advised the above decision-making requirements were met for the meeting, and also that no written decisions from absent members were received for this meeting.

**2. Approval of Draft Agenda**

Charles Stanley Smith, Chair declared the meeting opened. Apologies were noted. He welcomed new member, Séan O'Farrell and alternate member, Imelda Walsh.

Draft Agenda was approved.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 were agreed on the proposal of Cllr. John Carroll and seconded by Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, subject to the following changes:

- Amend Item 5 SICAP Update on Consultation Event to state that Isobel Cambie also attended this event.

**Matters Arising**

The Source Eol: April minutes stated that this application had been ineligible. Michael Murray stated that the Eol has been reviewed internally and a meeting held with the applicant. It is now considered that the “design costs” are an eligible activity and he recommended that The Source Eol be approved to proceed to full application for “design costs” only. This was proposed by Cllr. John Carroll and seconded by Clare Cashman.

**4. LEADER Programme**

**Review of Local Development Strategy (LDS):-**

Isobel Cambie outlined the details of a Review Discussion Document Tipperary LDS 2014-2020, copy of which had been circulated.

It outlined concerns regarding major changes that have occurred at national level since approval of the LDS by the Department in June 2016. Since then many funding streams have come on board with the launch of the Government’s Action Plan for Rural Development in January 2017. The LDS was written without the knowledge of these funding streams. Resulting from this, the LDS will need to be revised to adjust targets accordingly.

Animation Costs will also have to be reviewed, following clarification by the Department, and following this, the LDS will have to be adjusted and amended accordingly.

A Protocol of Agreement with the LEO and the Local Authority will also have to be reviewed to amend strategies and plans relevant to the LDS.

Michael Murray outlined details of 9 Local Objectives under the LDS.

The following issues were raised by the members:

- List of issues and solutions need to be identified clearly for next meeting
- Statistics to be provided on applications to look at hard facts, which will help to amend necessary criteria
- Concern regarding Development Officers time being taken up by administration
- Project Development Officer needed to implement Social Inclusion theme in STDC.

It was agreed that time needs to be dedicated to this issue alone at the next LCDC meeting. The Sustainable Communities and Social Inclusion Sub-Committees and the IPs will meet before this date and the recommended key changes will be put to the June LCDC meeting for agreement.

S. Carr stated that the proposed amendments must be targeted and focused before going to the

Department and must be aligned with the relevant policies and strategies.

### Eol Appeals Process

S. Carr outlined details of an Eol Targeted Calls Appeals Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017, copy of which had been circulated, which outlined the Eol Appeals Process.

She then listed the following applications which were appealed:

- Gortagarry Community Hall
- Upperchurch
- Newcastle
- Duhill
- Boherlahan
- New Inn.

All of the above were deemed ineligible because of the Pobal Deprivation Index band, but a number of these were subsequently eligible to apply for the Clár Programme.

### To note Ineligible EOIs

The members noted details of ineligible Eols, copy of which had been circulated:

- Noel Madden, DJ Business – not consistent with the Tipperary LDS or Operating Rules.

### Approval of STDC Rolling Call Applications:

Isobel Cambie outlined details of the following Rolling Call Applications:

Project Applicant	Project Ref.	Theme & Sub-Theme	Project Funding Sought	Project Cost	Funding Recommendation & Rate of Grant Aid
Tipperary Boutique Distillery Limited	STP101376	Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation – Enterprise Development	Building Construction & Equipment	€309,378.48	€154,689.24 (50%)
Cashel Arts Festival Limited	STP102683	Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation – Heritage Tourism	Marketing Collateral	€10,319.05	€7,739.29 (75%)
Cahir Development Association CLG	STP101704	Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation – Rural Towns	Tidy Towns Plan	€2,700.00	€2,4300.00 (90%)

Documents circulated for consideration were the Project Evaluation Assessment Report and completed IEC Scoring Sheet for each application together with IEC meeting minutes. In addition, an Implementing Partner (STDC) 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 by members.

Rationale for projects, deadweight and displacement was discussed in respect of all applications, however, there were no issues raised or arising.

Queries were raised by the members in relation to the Tipperary Boutique Distillery application, as follows:

- Where is the barley being malted?
- Job creating element,
- LEO involvement.

Isobel Cambie responded to the queries, confirming that the barley was being malted at present in Scotland but the vision was to have this done locally; that the applicant states that FTEs will be required once project is completed; and spoke about the consultation with the LEO. Rita Guinan also confirmed the LEO/IP collaboration on this promoter.

No queries were raised in respect of the other two applications.

Approval of the funding sought for each of the 3 applications, in accordance with the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee, was proposed by Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, seconded by Cllr. John Carroll and unanimously agreed.

Sara Bourke requested that an Environmental Climate Change Impact box and a Social Inclusion box be included on future Project Evaluation Assessment Reports.

### **Report on Income & Expenditure**

Michael Moroney outlined details of a Financial Report to May 2017, copy of which had been circulated. The report detailed the monthly IP Administration & Animation expenditure to date and details of income received from DAHRRGA.

M. Moroney stated that when the LDS was being prepared, the Department allocated €20,000 to the LCDC. €18,511 of this was spent, so the balance has to be returned to the Dept. However, it will be also added to the other allocations in order the total Leader amount for the county to remain as per originally allocated.

### **Forum with Leader LAGS – Heather Humphries, T.D.**

S. Carr informed the meeting that a meeting will be held with Minister Heather Humphries, T.D., DAHRRGA, the purpose of which is obtain feedback nationally on how the Leader system is working. The Chair, Isabel Cambie, Michael Murray and Sinéad Carr will also attend. The Dept. has asked for each LAG/IP to identify the priority issues it wants discussed and S. Carr raised the following:

- Nature of queries raised by Pobal on IP administration claims
- Eol application process cumbersome – timelines tight
- IT system – slowing down process
- Specific person should be allocated by Pobal to each LA and telephone contact required
- Fear of targets not being met with 6/8 month timeline

- Myriad of funding calls coming on top of each other with little opportunity for consultation/input and extraordinary tight timelines
- Where there is greater than 2 IPs in a LAG – need to provide recognition of the time taken to address culture and transition to new arrangements
- Lack of ability by LDS to support rural public transport.

Charles requested that any other suggestions be e-mailed to S. Carr within the next day.

The members also raised the following issues:

- Plan too rigid, so a flexibility clause should be included in order for the programme to succeed
- National Rural Network meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> May where this issue will be discussed in detail
- Concerns on support from Department regarding queries on eligibility. Eligibility Review Group needs to be re-instated.

#### Other LEADER Matters

- Co-Operation Projects: S. Carr referred to the Call for Co-Operation Projects and requested the 2 IPs to examine possible projects in this regard.
- Sinéad Carr notified the members that the Tipperary LAG has notified the Dept. that it would like to see included in any proposed Artisan Food Open/Targeted Call to be issued by the Department that the LAG play a key role, applying for the funds and distributing it, in the case of Co. Tipperary, through the two IPs and the LEO.

#### 5. SICAP

- Sinéad Carr stated that Margo Hayes will issue Mid Year Review Process and Update regarding headline and targeted figures. Clare Cashman stated that this will be needed by 14<sup>th</sup> June for the mid-year review process.
- Isabel Cambie stated that there are still issues with the IT system (Knockanrawley) so the IRIS figures are not up-to-date. All agreed that this needs to be addressed.
- Michael Murray stated that a new employee started in NTLP in March, on a lower salary scale than their predecessor. He also has a request for a 4-day week from another employee, resulting in an underspend in administration?? He has 0% spend in monitoring budget to the end of May, but has a tender in progress. He may need to increase budget. On-line with targets but not with spend. He also stated that the IRIS system needs to be reviewed.
- SICAP Remedy Appeal by NTLP: Sinéad Carr stated that the LCDDC submitted an appeal in relation to the remedy of €1,500 for NTLP but that this has been rejected as per letter from the Department on 9<sup>th</sup> May. She outlined what the Dept. said in their letter and told the members that there is no further appeal process that she is aware of and that the penalty must now be met by NTLP.

#### Update on Roscrea Funds for Youth Facilities

Michael Murray stated that €50,000 was allocated by the Department towards youth facilities for Roscrea in 2016. Following a process, including carrying out a Needs Analysis and co-ordinating meetings with relevant stakeholders, it has been agreed that the funding will go towards developing projects in the following areas:

- Youth based counselling for 16/18 year olds
- Alternative Learning Programmes instead of Junior/Leaving Certificate.
- Work experience programme for younger men.

Michael Murray stated that NTLP will be tendering to appoint a service provider(s) for the counselling and alternative learning projects.

At this stage Charles Stanley-Smith left the meeting and Cllr. John Carroll took over the position of Chair.

**6. Presentation by Insp. Eddie Golden, An Garda Síochána**

Cllr. John Carroll welcomed Insp. Eddie Golden to the meeting who made a presentation to the members on actions being taken by An Garda Síochána linked to the LECP. Insp. Golden made his presentation under the following headings:

- An Garda Síochána Community Brief
- 'Know Your Patch' Initiative
- Identifying vulnerable people in the Community
- Effective communication mechanisms
- Crime Prevention Meetings
- Drugs Strategy
- Text Alert Systems
- Youth Initiatives.

Cllr. John Carroll, Sinéad Carr and the members thanked Insp. Golden for his interesting and informative presentation. The members then raised the issues with Insp. Golden, including:

- CCTV policy in County Tipperary
- Closing of rural Garda stations
- Necessity for maps in each sub-district identifying voids in each area
- Anti-social behaviour
- Process for re-offending criminals
- Use of radio as a communication tool.

**7. Update on Grant Funding Schemes**

Michael Moroney outlined details of the following Grant Funding Schemes:

- CLÁR Scheme

- Communities Facilities Scheme
- Town & Village Renewal Scheme
- Community Based CCTV Scheme
- Scheme of Capital Grants for Community Facilities & Amenities
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme.

All members agreed that there are many funding streams coming on board with very tight deadlines and putting pressure on community groups and TCC to keep up with these calls. Sinéad Carr agreed to raise this issue at the meeting with Minister Heather Humphries.

Michael Moroney will draft a short report outlining the key aspects of these schemes and circulate to members.

**8. Correspondence:**

- Sinéad Carr stated that a national protocol between the Department of Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation and the Department of Arts, Heritage & The Gaeltacht has been agreed regarding working arrangements at LEO and LEADER IP level. Staff locally will now agree a Memorandum of Understanding.

**9. PPN Update – Sara Bourke**

Sara informed the members that a new Co-ordinator, Dee Hennessey, has been appointed and will be working full-time from 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**10. Any Other Business:**

There was no other business.

Next meeting to be held at 10.00 a.m. on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 in the Littleton Community Centre.

Signed/



Charles Stanley Smith,  
Chair,  
Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/

19<sup>th</sup> June 2017

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