

Minutes of 9th Meeting of Tipperary Local Community and Development Committee held on Thursday 10th September , 2015 at Littleton Community Centre, Thurles.

Present:

Public Sector: Rita Guinan, Cllr. John Carroll, Cllr Joe Hannigan, Adrian Cunneen, Angela Joy

Private Sector: Michael Murray, Niall Morrissey, Sara Bourke, Cora Horgan, Clare Cashman, Catherine Guest, Tim Cullinane, Charles Stanley Smith.

Apologises: -

Public Sector:: Joe Mac Grath, Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan, Donal Mullane, Brian Cleary

1. The Members agreed the draft agenda.
2. **Confirmation of Minutes of Tipperary LCDC meeting –7th July, 2015.**
Proposed by: Tim Cullinane and Seconded by: Clare Cashman

Matters Arising:- confirmation on matters raised was provided on the following:-

- The Chief Officer confirmed she has written to the ICTU seeking a further nominee awaiting details
- Eileen Condon to replace Fionnuala Mc Geever as the Education Training Board nominee, ratification of the ETB replacement nominee will go before the full County Council on 14th September.
- REDZ Update:- Local Enterprise Office have submitted 4 applications under the Rural Economic Development Zones initiative. These include 1 flagship application for Clonmel encompassing; River Suir Community Sports Hub, South Tipperary Arts Centre, Clonmel Community Resource Centre Pilot Training Scheme and the Tipperary Chamber International Business Network. Two medium REDZ applications were submitted which included: (a) Tipperary Town - Rural Town Stimulus Programme, Capacity Building, Social Enterprise Project and Promotion of Tourism & Heritage and (b) Nenagh & Borrisokane REDZ encompassing the Ormond Way, Borrisokane capacity building & Old Church focal point & The Nenagh Arts Centre. 1 small application was submitted for the Fethard Business & Tourism Group which included progressing the development of the Tholsel Visitor Centre.

3. Terms of Reference for Tipperary LCDC Sub- Group

Ann Ryan referred to the amended report on the Terms of Reference for Tipperary LCDC Sub-Groups which was previously circulated.

Ms. Ryan confirmed that the framework for the establishment of three sub-groups was agreed at the May, 2015 meeting but that it was required to make a number of amendments to the terms of reference for the sub groups. Ms. Ryan made reference to the amendments outlined in the circulated report in red. The Members considered and reviewed the amendments. The revised Terms of Reference for the LCDC sub

groups was adopted as presented on the proposal of: Cllr. John Carroll and seconded by Angela Joy.

It was agreed that the establishment of the Finance & Audit sub-group would be deferred as it was still unclear what the role of this sub group would be.

The LCDC agreed that the following members would sit on the sub groups as follows:-

Social Inclusion sub- group:- Clare Cashman, Sara Bourke, Angela Joy, Eileen Condon, Adrian Cunneen.

Sustainable Communities sub group:- Cora Horgan, Catherine Guest, Tim Cullinane, Cllr. Joe Hannigan.

In order to achieve public /private sector representation on the sub groups it was agreed that Sinead Carr, Chief Officer would make arrangements to contact LCDC Members from the public side to seek nomination to sit on the Sustainable Communities sub-group.

Ms. Ryan confirmed that the first meeting of the Social Inclusion sub-group will take place on the afternoon of 16th September to carry out the SICAP Mid-Term Performance. This was noted.

4. LCDC obligations - New Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty

Ann Ryan referred to the New Public Sector Equality & Human Rights Duty paper that was issued with the agenda. Ms. Ryan outlined the detail in this paper and she highlighted the requirement for the LCDC to implement the Duty. Ann Ryan noted that it had been agreed that the LECP advisory group would fulfil this role in relation to the Local Economic & Community Plan and that the Department had issued a very useful guidance document in relation to the LECP. It was also noted that as per the terms of reference for the Social Inclusion sub group agreed earlier at the meeting, the Social Inclusion sub group would fulfil this role on behalf of the other work of the LCDC. Ann Ryan informed the members that training would be put in place for the sub group and any members of the LCDC who had an interest in relation to this new Equality and Human Rights Duty.

5. Comment on Economic element of draft LECP

Attracta Lyons gave a presentation on the "Draft Economic Plan" element of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). Ms. Lyons outlined the progress to date and set out the various steps that need to be met such as: further consultation with adjacent Local Authorities, MDs and relevant agencies; final screening of the LECP; formal sign-off of the LECP by the Regional Assembly possibly in early December. It is proposed that the final draft of the Plan will be presented to the full County Council in January 2016 for adoption. Ms. Lyons also highlighted some of the key strategic actions included in the economic section of the draft plan and invited the members to comments on the economic element of the draft plan.

Comments made and suggestions for consideration in the draft plan are:-

- Special investment for roads in key tourism areas required.
- Food important element of Co. Tipperary economy. TFP is good base to work from to grow the sector further.

- Roads infrastructure a key element of tourism infrastructure
- Follow- up supports critical for start-ups to help them to grow
- Adding value important in terms of agriculture
- Ambitious plan. Low level of commuting noted outside of the county noted which is welcome. Extension of rural transport provision to cater for rural employees travelling to work needs to be addressed in the Rural Transport Plan for the county. Plan to address ways of how rural transport provision can support the economic, social and cultural development of the county. No funding available for a needs analysis to be carried out.
- Measures to revitalise Rural Towns important - local businesses versus on line sales challenges experienced by rate payers in this market
- Importance of Youth Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Need to make reference to Sustainable Future and Food Wise 2025 in the draft integrated LECP
- Developing Social Economy Programmes to have a social inclusion focus – smaller SE companies prohibited from participating in some tender processes due to requirements of tender process.
- Intangible heritage such as cultural heritage e.g. folklore etc. needs to be supported
- The embargo on staff in the public sector will this have an effect on the actions being implemented in the Plan
- Key for economic development is the need to develop a mobile and broadband County Strategy.

Following the LCDC members' input into the economic element of the Draft LECP Ms. Lyons confirmed that this draft plan is a high level document and agencies and organisations will be working on a collaborative basis to implement the actions in this plan. Ms. Lyons thanked the members for their input and their comments these will be considered by the LECP Advisory Group as part of the consultation process.

It was agreed that Tipperary LCDC would liaise with other LCDCs' to look at Broadband and Mobile telephone service provision - this is a critical factor for the economic development of the County. Niall Morrissey informed the members that South Tipperary Development Company in conjunction with a number of other development companies are carrying out some research on community broadband and would welcome an opportunity at some stage to bring the outcome of this research to the LCDC. This was noted.

Attracta Lyons also noted that there was currently an opportunity to feed into the development of the National Broadband Plan Intervention Strategy. Ms. Lyons agreed to forward members a summary of the Tipperary County Councils' submission which may be of use to members in drafting their own submission.

6. Update on Expression of Interest - LDS

Sinead Carr, Chief Officer confirmed that four EOI submissions were originally submitted to the Department, however, at this stage the other three have been withdrawn which leaves the LCDC's EOI as the only remaining EOI for the County. Ms. Carr thanked the others for agreeing to the LCDC submitting a whole county Local Development Strategy.

It was noted that there are still a number of issues that need to be addressed, however the LDS sub-group are working on these issues on behalf of the LCDC.

It was agreed that Ms. Carr would arrange to meet with the new LCDC members to brief them on the issues outstanding which includes LDS Evaluation process, Article 27 Checks, and agreement on what size of projects would need to go the LCDC for a full discussion before decision on funding of project was made.

Michael Murray, CEO, North Tipperary Leader Partnership, briefed the members on the consultation process for the Local Development Strategy which included:-

- eight public meetings including five at municipal district level and three thematic meetings which have been well advertised in the local press and radio and also through the PPN channels. The public meetings at municipal district level has involved an update on the LECP, an overview of the new Leader Programme and facilitated workshops with participants to get their ideas/suggestions in relation to the Local Development Strategy. Three thematic meetings on Social Inclusion, the Environment and the Economy are arranged for the 14th, 15th and 16th September.
- A survey monkey questionnaire has also been developed which had been circulated by the PPN to community and voluntary groups and directly to agencies and other relevant stakeholders.
- 25 agencies have been invited to meet directly to feed into the Local Development Strategy. Mr. Murray noted that closing date for submission is the 18th September.

He outlined that it was expected that approximately €20,000 would be required for direct cost in relation to the development of the plan which includes cost of public meetings, advertising etc. Mr. Murray thanked the LCDC members, staff from both Co. Co. and Local Development Companies for their tremendous involvement at these consultations.

It was agreed that a workshop for LCDC members on the draft LDS plan would take place on the 15th of October. It is expected that the LDS will be submitted to the Department towards the end of October.

A query was raised by Niall Morrissey in relation to the costs associated with the preparation of the plan. Mr. Morrissey indicated that the €20,000 budget could not include Local Development salary costs. Ms Carr outlined that she had been informed that the Local Development Companies were getting an extension of their administration budgets to cover staff costs until the end of November and therefore it was not necessary to include staff costs in the preparatory support costs. Ms. Carr confirmed that she would request clarification in writing from the Department on this matter and will notify the LCDC members.

Ann Ryan confirmed that at the LCDC meeting on 29th September the members would review an outline action programme of the LDS and look at key priorities and also review the feedback from the public and agencies consultation process. Ms. Ryan highlighted the very short time frame in having the LDS plan with the Department and she encouraged all interested parties to have their input at this stage. The Members complimented all the staff involved with this process and the public and relevant stakeholders for their excellent engagement.

7. Update on the PPN

Sara Bourke confirmed that the PPN had now over 800 members and that Corena Ward has been appointed Co-ordinator of PPN and will commence employment on 14th September. Ms. Ward will attend the consultation meetings of the LDS and will arrange to meet various agencies over the coming weeks.

Ms. Bourke advised the members that the PPN newsletter is circulated every two weeks. Sinead Carr, Chief Officer thanked Ms. Bourke for her tremendous dedication and support in setting up the PPN structure.

8. Correspondence

Attracta Lyons noted the correspondence received from the Department in relation to the guidance notes regarding the development of the LECP and noted that she had covered this correspondence in her input on the LECP.

Ms. Carr confirmed that training will be rolled out by the Department to the remaining LCDC members over the coming months.

Ms. Carr also referred to an email from Niall Morrissey in relation to the SICAP programme it was agreed that this email would be referred to the Social Inclusion sub- group for consideration.

The Chief Officer and the Chairman wished Niall Morrissey every success in his new position with Kildare County Council- they both thanked him for his commitment and contribution to the LCDC and LDS process.

It was agreed on the proposal of Cllr. John Carroll and seconded by Rita Guinan that Michael Murray would replace Niall Morrissey as the Local Development Company representative on the Local Economic and Community Plan Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the LCDC will take place on the 29th September the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and contribution.

Signed/



Charles Stanley Smith,
Chair,
Tipperary Local Community Development Committee

Date/ 29th September, 2015