



Minutes of Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 7th December 2017 at 2p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall, Sligo

PRESENT

Cllr. Sinéad Maguire	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Cllr. Chris MacManus	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Mr. Chris Gonley	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Des Faul	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Seán Tempary	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Mr. Michael Kirby	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Ms. Bernadette Maughan	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Gerard O'Connor	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Ms. Sharon Boles	Social Inclusion	PPN

APOLOGIES

Mr. Ciarán Hayes	Local Government /CE	Sligo County Council
Mr. Kieran O'Dwyer	State Agency	Dept. Of Social Protection
Ms. Mary Brodie	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Ms. Patricia Garland	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Ms. Jackie Sweeney	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Dorothy Clarke	Chief Officer LCDC	Sligo County Council
Ms. Margaret McConnell	Senior Executive Officer	Sligo County Council
Mr. Jude Mannion	A/Senior Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Maria Collery	Clerical Officer	Sligo County Council
Mr. Martin McAndrew	Peace Manager	Sligo County Council

Ms. Ronnie Fay & Ms. Lynsey Kavanagh, Pavee Point – Presentation under LECP item

Ms. June Murphy, SLPCO – SICAP Update

1. Declaration of Interest

Mr. Chris Gonley (Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG) declared an interest in SICAP.

2. Minutes

Minutes of last meeting held on the 26th October 2017 were proposed by Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon seconded by Cllr. Chris MacManus and agreed by all.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Local Economic & Community Plan – Update

- **Presentation relating to LECP Theme 4 ‘Social Inclusion Equality and Poverty’ by Ms. Ronnie Fay, Pavee Point**
- **Projects for consideration under ‘Recast’ RAPID Capital Grant Scheme 2017**
- **Update on Healthy Ireland Fund**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke welcomed Ms. Ronnie Fay and Ms. Lynsey Kavanagh from Pavee Point who were in attendance to give a presentation to the LCDC. The presentation highlighted racism experienced by Travellers and the Roma community. It was noted that all public bodies have a responsibility to promote equality, prevent discrimination and protect human rights of their employees, customers and service users (Public Sector Duty)

It was also noted that Travellers and Roma are target groups under SICAP yet only 2% were engaged/supported under SICAP. Ms. Fay stated that there is a need to increase numbers of actions to engage with travellers and Roma communities. STSG to provide updated profile on Roma families in Sligo.

The 1st March will be a national celebration day to mark the formal recognition of Travellers as an indigenous ethnic minority (1.3.17). It is important to note when developing/implementing policy to ask what is the impact on Travellers and Roma – all policy should be equality proofed.

Ms. Fay is to forward the National Traveller Roma Inclusion Strategy (NTRIS) for circulation to the LCDC.

With regards improving uptake in secondary education for travellers, Ms. Fay advised of lost resources. Many Travellers experience identity based bullying in schools.

Universities are looking at proactive measures to get Travellers to take up third level education.

Cllr Sinéad Maguire thanked Ms. Fay and Ms. Kavanagh for their attendance and presentation.

- **‘Recast’ RAPID Scheme**

Report was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Jude Mannion outlined the report and advised of the tight timeline for delivery of the scheme. 15 No. applications were received with 14 deemed valid – all applications received are within Sligo Municipal District. The budget allocation for Sligo is €64,500 and as the total value of valid applications exceeded the budget available a

scaled reduction proportional to the project value was applied. Applicants were asked if funding amounts sought under the Recast RAPID scheme represented full or part funding of their projects.

Ms. Bernadette Maughan mentioned Social Inclusion measures and advised that one of the groups listed on Mr. Mannion's report will not allow entry to members of the Travelling Community. Ms. Maughan advised that all groups funded should be 'equality proofed'.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke acknowledged Mr. Mannion's work on preparing the report and considered approach taken as the fairest way of division of funds and outlined that the LCDC is to make recommendation to the MD.

Ms. Sharon Boles asked if there is a timeframe for groups to have spent funds and Mr. Mannion confirmed that 2017 funding will have to be spent in 2018. Ms. Boles expressed concern with spreading the funding thinly advising that the LCDC need to ensure that groups can deliver projects.

Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon welcomed funding of €64,500 and acknowledged the short timeframe as did Mr. Chris Gonley. Mr. Gonley went onto say that he has concerns with this new scheme being called the 'recast RAPID scheme' and advised that there will be an assumption among former RAPID groups which could result in negative feedback. Mr. Gonley noted that some projects listed on the report do not appear to be disadvantaged.

Cllr Maguire advised that she had attended a Chairs network in Tullamore recently and there were lots of issues raised in relation to the 'RAPID' scheme and that it was accepted by Pobal that the use of the name 'RAPID' was perhaps inappropriate in this instance.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised members that the new scheme is open to all urban communities and towns in the Local Authority area. Further to discussion on the report circulated Cllr Kilgannon suggested that the report go before the MD as is and that the LCDC can prioritise other groups for funding in 2018.

It was suggested that conditions be included in letters of offer for approved projects if appropriate.

Cllr Séamus Kilgannon proposed that the LCDC make recommendation to the Municipal District in line with Mr. Mannion's report. This proposal was seconded by Mr. Gerry O'Connor.

Ms. Bernadette Maughan abstained from this proposal.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke confirmed that the Local Authority has been advised that funding will be available in 2018 under the RAPID programme.

- **Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF)**

Report was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Jude Mannion went through the report and advised members of the 11 individual projects that constituted the application made to the Healthy Ireland Fund in September, 10 have since been approved by Pobal and 1 rejected. Total funding available is €96,500.

Mr. Mannion noted that 2018 projects must be new projects and not follow on from 2017.

A service level agreement (SLA) is currently being drafted.

Projects will be subject to an audit in 2018.

Cllr Sinéad Maguire advised that the HIF was also raised at the Chairs Network meeting in Tullamore and the short timeframe noted. Pobal are happy with the quality of projects submitted and the scheme will be run again in 2018.

5. SICAP

i. SICAP 2017 – update

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that budget of €585,514 is almost spent. A meeting of the SICAP Monitoring Committee took place on the 30th November. County Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG, as Programme Implementer are to submit 2017 end-year reports on IRIS by the 17th January 2018 for review by the LCDC. Pobal will carry out a parallel review before the 2nd February and the LCDC are to approve the 2017 End-year review by the 23rd February 2018.

Report was circulated to Members and Ms. June Murphy, SLPC gave a brief update on progress to date. Ms. Murphy advised members that both Key Performance Indicators will be achieved; however, there are 2 Headline Indicators (No's 11 and 14) which relate to self-employment and it is unlikely that targets under these indicators will be achieved.

Ms. Murphy mentioned the Barista skills course which is being run in collaboration with Sligo's Chamber of Commerce and is proving very successful.

Ms Margaret McConnell advised members of the recent audit of SICAP which was carried out by the Local Government Audit Services Unit in November. Feedback from the Auditors has been very positive and any recommendations made will be brought back to the LCDC. One recommendation raised at the closing meeting with the Auditors was that the LCDC become more involved in verification visits of projects.

Cllr Sinéad Maguire advised that the SICAP monitoring committee had discussed site monitoring visits at their recent meeting and that 2 members hope to visit the barista training.

Mr. Chris Gonley advised that this was the first time SICAP had been audited and that the Auditors were impressed with the working relationship that exists between SLPC, the LCDC and the team in Community & Economic Development and the collaboration with other agencies in Sligo.

ii. SICAP 2018 – Update on next steps

Mr. Chris Gonley and Ms. June Murphy excused themselves from the meeting while this item was being dealt with. Ms. Margaret McConnell gave update. Following on from the October meeting of the LCDC, where members approved acceptance of tender from Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG, the notification letter issued to SLPC on 24th November 2017 and is followed by a 16 day standstill period which will expire on the 11th December. The Department has instructed that Contracts/Funding Agreements be signed before the 18th December

Ms. McConnell suggested that the contract signing may be used as a photo opportunity for the LCDC.

Cllr Maguire mentioned that the topic of Public Relations for LCDCs had been discussed at a previous meeting and reiterated that it would be good promotion of the work being carried out by the LCDC.

6. PPN Update

Report circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell briefed Members on PPN update. The PPN Secretariat issued a Request for Quotations (RFQ) in relation to the commissioning of an Art Piece which will be funded from the 2017 PPN budget. Three responses

were received. The Art piece will acknowledge and reflect Sligo's role and designation as EVC 2017. It is hoped to place this Art Piece in Doorly Park early in 2018.

Elections to the Secretariat, LCDC and SPC's will be held in early 2018.

Mr. Michael Kirby noted error in report circulated in that there are 16 groups registered with the Environmental College and not 46.

7. Peace IV Programme Update

Hard copies of the Peace report were circulated to members at the meeting. Mr. Martin McAndrew briefed members on programme update. The Re-bid process was successful with SEUPB approving a further €87k for the Sligo Peace IV Programme. The total award is now €860, 866 which was the original indicative budget for Sligo.

Mr. McAndrew advised that two draft tenders have been submitted to SEUPB for their review. SEUPB have requested that Catholic/Protestant 80/20 participant ratio be clearly stated on all tender documents.

The PEACE IV Programme webpage on the Sligo County Council website has been updated. Banners for promotional events have been procured.

The Peace IV Team met with SEUPB recently for progress meeting. At this meeting the SEUPB stated that participation targets would be Catholic 80% /Protestant 20%. This will be a major challenge as Census figures from 2011 and 2016 clearly show that only 5% of the Sligo population as being Protestant.

It was further noted that the SEUPB have set an unrealistic interim target of 53 for Children & Young people participants for the end of 2018 which represents almost 25% of the target of 223 for the full programme. SEUPB had previously agreed to Children & Young People activities following academic year, starting in September 2018 and completing April/May 2019.

SEUPB had not included either of these conditions as part of the Letter of Offer.

It was proposed by Cllr. Séamus Kilgannon and seconded by Ms. Bernadette Maughan that the LCDC support Peace IV Sub Committee proposal to make a submission to SEUPB seeking an urgent review of these conditions.

8. Ongoing National review of LCDC and Work programme for 2018

Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised members that the Department are carrying out a review of LCDCs at national level. The designated contact in the Department is Mr. Neal Sullivan Smyth. The review is ongoing to establish an understanding of the LCDC structure, role and capacity building of LCDCs etc.

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that Members had been briefed on this matter at last meeting of the LCDC on the 26th October. Members could use the review as an opportunity to highlight issues around schemes/programmes which the LCDC have responsibility/oversight of such as;

- Town and Village Renewal
- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme & Communities Facilities Scheme
- LEADER Programme
- LECP,

- SICAP
- Healthy Ireland Fund,

It was noted that these programmes would continue to form the basis of the work programme for 2018.

In response to Ms. Sharon Boles on the matter of consultation with the PPN on the review Ms. McConnell advised that there has been some confusion with correspondence from the department but that comments and feedback are invited from all LCDC members on the review process.

9. Suggested Meeting dates for 2018

Date for the next meeting of the LCDC is Thursday 22nd February 2018. A provisional Schedule of suggested dates for LCDC meetings is to be circulated to members for feedback.

10. Correspondence

- **Dept letter to PPN reps re LCDC Review (23.11.17)**
- **LCDC membership seat change from Sligo Chamber Of Commerce (15.11.17)**
- **CYPSC - Request for Túsla Rep on Sligo LCDC (15.11.17)**

Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined correspondence circulated to members.

It was noted that the Department letter to PPN representatives was already discussed under Item 8.

Ms. McConnell extended gratitude to Mr. Des Faul for his contribution to the LCDC. Mr. Aidan Doyle, CEO, Sligo Chamber of Commerce will replace Mr. Faul as the Business Pillar representative on the LCDC. Cllr Sinéad Maguire, on behalf of the LCDC also acknowledged Mr. Faul's contribution to the Committee.

With regards CYPSC's request for Túsla to be represented on the LCDC, Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised that this request will be considered in the context of the review of the LCDC in 2018.

Meeting concluded at 4.00pm.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson