

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 29th April 2021

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Statutory

Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member), Ms Marcella Rudden (LEO), Mr John Kearney (CMETB), Carmel Denning (Dept of EA&SP).

Private Sector Interests

Mr Jim Maguire (Cavan County Local Development Company), Ms Bridget Boyle (Community & Voluntary Interests), Ms Ada Vance (Women's Interests), Mr Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber), Mr Tirloch O'Brien (Environmental Interests),

Apologies:

Mr. Brendan Jennings (Director of Service CCC, Chairperson) Aisling Tobin (Youth Issues), Ms Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests)

In attendance:

Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Mr Terry Hyland (CEO, Cavan County Local Development), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council) Ms Ann Flynn (Cavan County Council), Ms Jane Crudden (Cavan County Council)

The Chair (Jim Maguire) opened the meeting and read out the apologies.

The Chair welcomed Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council) to her first LCDC meeting.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Clifford Kelly and seconded by Ms. Marcella Rudden.

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Conflict of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their conflict of interest's responsibilities.

4. Peace Plus Programme Update – Presentation by Ms Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager, Cavan County Council

The Chair introduced Ms Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager and welcomed her to the meeting. Jane stated that the Peace Plus Programme (2021 to 2027) opened for public consultation from 10th March until 12th May 2021. Jane explained that views are being sought on the draft content of the PEACE PLUS Programme (2021-2027) which is worth approximately €1bn. It has been designed following a comprehensive cross border stakeholder engagement process, early last year that included 16 different consultation events, with over 1,000 people in attendance. Over 300 survey responses were submitted.

PEACE PLUS is a new funding programme designed to support peace and prosperity across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, building upon the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The design reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but also the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges faced.

Jane explained that the purpose of this public consultation is to provide citizens, and other key stakeholders, with an opportunity to share their views on the content and administrative arrangements of the PEACE PLUS Programme.

Jane asked members to forward any comments members wished to make to her by Friday 7th May, as Jane was compiled a response on behalf of Cavan County Council.

Cllr. Clifford Kelly congratulated Jane on all the work she had done on previous PEACE programmes and wished her well with this new programme.

The Chair asked what percentage of the funding will be going north and how much will be going south of the border. In response, the Chief Officer said there is no breakdown yet, but this consultation was an important opportunity for us to influence the programme and we need to focus on the areas that we feel are important and try to ensure that these areas were well represented and funded in the programme.

The Chair pointed out that in light of Brexit, this will be the last PEACE Programme and it was very important that we responded to the consultation.

5. Energy Master Plan

The Chair introduced Ms Mary McCabe, Cavan Local Development Company to present the Energy Master Plan. Mary also welcomed Mr Ray McNally from Sligo who will be assisting her with the presentation.

The main points of the presentation were:-

The Energy Master Plan was set up in 2018.

- The initial study found that industry showed 75% usage of energy and CO² emissions.
- Fuel poverty definition is 10% of disposable income is spent on energy to keep our house warm.
- 50% of households in Ulster experience fuel poverty.
- Highest prevalence in social housing – 70%.
- Unemployed, retired or out of labour force are most at risk.
- 10% of the County's population is at very high risk of fuel poverty.
- Most of Cavan's population is at medium risk of fuel poverty.
- Housing Retrofit to tackle fuel poverty in Cavan – most of Cavan is at medium fuel risk.

Ray McNally presented on the area of Energy in Agriculture in Cavan.

- Annual energy spend is €12m
- Cavan is unique as there is intensive livestock farming both significant energy user and sustainable energy opportunity.

- Annual energy spend is €12 million.

The Chair thanked Mary and Ray for their presentation.

Ms Seamus McGrath asked about the residential domestic user. Ray said that one of the main ones area of energy usage was residential and the study identified what measure would bring the housing stock up to standard and the savings to be realised from these interventions.

Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly asked about funding for the interventions required. Ray said this would be mainly through SEAI Grants.

Ms Connie Whelan enquired about potential funding sources for Anaerobic Digestion facilities and noted the cost of €38 million referenced in Ray's presentation. Ray said there are a number of different potential models and it may come from a private investment.

The Chair said the presentation was very interesting and thanked both Mary and Ray for their attendance at the meeting.

6. A.O.B

LCDC Training Survey

The Chief Officer stated that the LCDC Training Survey was sent by email to all members earlier this week, he wanted to remind all members that the deadline to complete this survey is tomorrow 30th April.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting will take place on Thursday 27th May 2021 online via Microsoft Teams.