

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 27th May 2021

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Statutory

Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (Elected Member), Mr Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC), Ms Marcella Rudden (LEO), Carmel Denning (Dept of EA&SP)

Private Sector Interests

Mr Jim Maguire (Cavan County Local Development Company), Ms Ada Vance (Women's Interests), Mr Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Ms Aisling Tobin (Youth Issues), Mr Tirloch O'Brien (Environmental Interests), Ms Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber)

Apologies:

Mary Rose Smith (HSE)

In attendance:

Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council), Mr Terry Hyland (CEO, Cavan County Local Development), Ms Donna Macklin (Cavan County Council).

The Chair (Mr Brendan Jennings) opened the meeting.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly and seconded by Ms Marcella Rudden.

2. Matters arising

The Chief Officer informed the members that they are still awaiting guidance from the department regarding the new Local Economic and Community Plan, but the work is continuing on the Socio-economic statement which is being led by Jane Crudden. There will be further updates in upcoming LCDC meetings.

3. Conflict of Interests

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

4. Youth Work Education – Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board – Maureen McIntyre.

John Donohoe informed members than unfortunately Maureen fell ill just before the meeting and could not attend. There was not sufficient time to get a replacement presentation. The Chair wished Maureen a speedy recovery.

5. SICAP – Quarter 1 Progress Report

SICAP Progress Report January - March 2021 was circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. Terry Hyland, CEO, Cavan Local Development Company, acknowledged the difficulties that the Covid restrictions had presented in carrying out programmes and is delighted with the progress that has been made in the first quarter. Terry talked the members through some of the highlights in the report and outlined in some detail, some of the work being undertaken under the SICAP programme.

The Chair thanked Terry for his comprehensive presentation and invited comments or questions. The Chief Officer asked Terry about the Syrian Men's Project and in particular the possibility of an extension given the disruptions brought due to Covid. Terry replied that they had applied for a 6 month extension to the department but so far, they have only been granted 4 months. He proposes to liaise with the Housing Department in Cavan County Council to see if they could persuade the Department to further the extension as there is a real need for this. The English language barrier is a huge issue for the Syrian people and may improve if classes were available in a face to face surrounding rather than online.

The Chief Officer also indicated that he thought it would be worthwhile for the LCDC to consider the legacy issues that will need to be addressed from the pandemic

across the whole social inclusion sphere. Terry agreed that the aftermath of the pandemic will leave a lot of pieces to be picked up. He said that SICAP has 50% of the budget that they had 10 years ago while having nearly double the volume of work to be done. He acknowledged that without the support of Cavan County Council, the ETB, LEO, Dept. of Social Protection etc. they would not be able to make the impact that they are currently doing.

Terry proposed maybe setting up a group to look at this issue. The Chief Officer and the Chair both agreed this would be a good idea as a sub-group of the LCDC. They will come back with a proposal for the next meeting. Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly also agreed this would be a good idea.

The Chair acknowledged and thanked Terry and all his colleagues for all the hard work done through SICAP

6. Peace Programme Update.

The Chief Officer informed members that an acknowledgement was received in response to the consultation that Jane Crudden submitted to SEUPB on 12th May 2021. He passed on Jane Crudden's appreciation to the members for their submissions and responses that she then collated and forwarded to SEUPB. Meetings are ongoing with the Department of Rural & Community Development inputting into the planning process and putting Cavan's perspective across with the objective of getting as much of a pot for the Southern border counties as possible.

7. AOB

The Chief Officer informed the members that the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 has been advertised and is now open for applications. He explained that the total allocation for the county is €135,000, and that it is for small capital projects. The deadline for applications is 16th July 2021 and the intention is to take the applications to the LCDC meeting in July for decisions to be made on them. All information on the Programme is available on the Cavan County Council website and he asked Deirdre Donnelly to circulate the website link to all members.


Seamus McGrath spoke about the upcoming Outdoor Dining Scheme and in particular to note the Cavan Disability Network's concerns regarding possible obstruction in paths for people with disabilities, people with buggies etc. The Chair clarified that the aim of Cavan County Council is to try and use carpark spaces rather than footpaths if possible and to re-divert paths when necessary. He explained that every town is different in how they are laid out and their needs.

The Chief Officer also acknowledged correspondence received from Cavan Disability Network regarding their concerns and advised this has been forwarded to the relevant departments. Seamus enquired if the changes made to accommodate outdoor dining would be permanent. The Chair responded that this is unknown at present and would be dependent on a number of factors including what Covid-19 restrictions were in place at a given time. Seamus said that it was great to see the county opening up again and that Cavan Disability Network welcomed it but that it was important that it was done correctly and that the Network were happy to input into any plans being made.

The Chair thanked everyone and agreed the date for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting.

Next meeting will take place on Thursday 24th June 2021 online via Microsoft Teams.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 24th June 2021