

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 30th October 2024

Time: 3pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams & Council Chamber, Cavan County Council Offices

Present:

Statutory

Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member), Ms Carmel Denning (Department of Social Protection), Mr Brendan Jennings (Cavan County Council), Ms Ruth Woods (HSE), Dr Fiona McGrath (CMETB).

Private Sector Interests

Mr Jim Maguire (Cavan County Local Development Company) - Chairperson, Ms Beth McEntee (Community and Voluntary Interests), Ms Frances O'Neill (Disability Interests), Ms Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber), Ms Aisling Traynor (Youth Issues), Ms Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests), Ms Gayathri Devi Soman (Social Inclusion Interests), Mr Barry Kavanagh (Environmental Issues).

Apologies:

Mr Conor Craven (Local Enterprise Office), Ms Aisling Traynor (Youth Issues), Cllr Val Smith.

In attendance:

Mr Terry Hyland (Cavan County Local Development), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council), Ms Siobhan Morgan (Cavan County Council), Ms Sarah Johnston (S3 Consulting), Mr Colm Finnegan (Performance Solutions), Ms Angela Fitzpatrick (Cavan County Council)

The Chair (Mr Jim Maguire) opened the meeting and welcomed Ms Sarah Johnston from S3 Consulting to the meeting.

Apologies were noted.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Clifford Kelly and seconded by Cllr TP O'Reilly

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Conflicts of Interest

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

4. County Cavan Outdoor Recreation Plan

Ms Sarah Johnston from S3 Consulting gave a presentation on the preparation of the 'County Cavan Outdoor Recreation Plan'. Ms Johnston explained that outdoor recreation has been defined as "Activities that take place in the natural environment, such as, walking, canoeing, mountain biking, orienteering and wild swimming" She stated that it is important that everyone is made aware of the plan and that they get involved in the consultation process that is currently taking place. This can be done by completing an online survey or by attending one of two drop-in consultation sessions in the Cavan County Local Development Offices in Corlurgan Business Park, Ballinagh Road, Cavan on Monday 4th November from 6pm – 8pm or Tuesday 5th November from 10am to 3pm.

Ms Frances O'Neill asked if there was anything going to be included in the plan for young people with special needs for example special mobility bikes and trikes that can be hired, she spoke about a greenway in Mayo where this is available. Ms Johnston responded by saying that one action that is already planned will be looking at community trails or gaps in provision of trails. Ms Johnston explained that she has a contact in Mayo and she will find out more information on what Ms O'Neill spoke about.

Ms O'Neill also suggested some way in which lake swimming can become more accessible for people who can't access water easily. Ms Ruth Woods from HSE asked to include children with other issues as well for example sensory issues that prevent them from participating in typical activities. Mr Barry Kavanagh asked whether areas will be sealed off and to ensure that no areas of conservation be disturbed. Ms Johnston responded by saying that

environmental considerations will be taken into account along with areas of conservation and asset mapping is another element. Mr Brendan Jennings said that it is critical that people engage in the consultation and he asked everyone present to make people aware of the consultation process.

Ms Deirdre Donnelly agreed to circulate Ms Johnston's presentation which includes a link/QR code for the online survey to the members after the meeting. The Chair thanked Ms Johnston for attending the LCDC.

5. Cavan County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029 – Consultation Workshop

The Chair welcomed Mr Colm Finnegan, Performance Solutions and Ms Angela Fitzpatrick, Corporate Services, Cavan County Council to the LCDC. Mr Finnegan is currently working on the preparation of the new Cavan County Council Corporate Plan 2024-2029 and the views of the LCDC members are being sought as part of the process. Members of the LCDC took part in a consultation workshop with Mr Finnegan and Ms Fitzpatrick and their views were recorded.

6. SICAP Annual Targets 2025.

The Chair explained that as part of the Annual Planning process for SICAP 2025 LCDCs have to agree 2025 KPI targets with their Programme Implementor and submit to Pobal by Friday 1st November 2024.

He invited Mr Terry Hyland to present on same. Mr Hyland stated that a meeting of the SICAP team within Cavan County Local Development was held last week and it is requested that the LCDC hold the KPI's as they are presently for 2025. Mr Hyland explained that the targets for next year are based on KPI's under Goal 1 (Groups) and Goal 2 (Individuals)

Ms Frances O'Neill asked what Goal 2 exactly entails. Mr Hyland explained that Goal 2 relates to supports under SICAP for individuals and that one of the actions under Goal 2 is personal development and well being services, for

example providing counselling services. Another action would be assisting people in progressing to employment and guiding them with personal action plans and help them to overcome barriers to employment like course fees, driving lessons and business plans. It was agreed by the LCDC to hold the KPI's as they are currently for 2025 - Proposed by Cllr Clifford Kelly and seconded by Mr Barry Kavanagh.

Mr Hyland explained that it is a requirement of the SICAP Programme that Local Development Companies must prepare an annual case study. This year the case study is on the 'Little Redo Like New Project' and is in the form of a video accompanied by a short narrative piece.

Mr Hyland informed the members that the SICAP Q3 report has recently been prepared and he asked Ms Donnelly to circulate this report and the case study link and narrative to the LCDC members following the meeting.

7. PEACEPLUS

The Chair asked Ms Donnelly to give an update on PEACEPLUS. Ms Donnelly informed members that following on from the decision to have a step-by-step simplified manual designed rather than online training on the use of eTenders that quotes were received from Carmody Consultants and Greenville Procurement. The contract was secured by Greenville. The document has been approved and the step-by-step guide to eTenders details the process in simple terms. The document is available on the Cavan County Council website and can be applied to any contracts.

To date thirteen tenders have now been advertised on eTenders with deadline submission dates ranging from 5th November to the 8th November. Following on from these dates the Assessment Committee will meet on the 12th November 2024. Ms Donnelly explained that Theme 1 Community Regeneration and Transformation will commence when an Executive Engineer commences in the current available post. This position has now been offered and Cavan County

Council are awaiting confirmation that the successful person will accept offer of same.

8. LCDC Networking Event

The Chair asked Ms Donnelly to provide a report on the event. Ms Donnelly informed the LCDC that Staff from Cavan County Council (Mr Brendan Jennings, Chief Officer John Donohoe, and herself) and LCDC members (Cllr Clifford Kelly and Ms Ruth Woods) attended the LCDC Networking Event in Athlone on 9th October. The event was hosted by the Department of Rural and Community Development with speakers on the following topics: LCDC Awareness Campaign, Healthy Ireland, Creative Ireland, Review of the Guidelines for the operation of LCDCs, Capital Delivery Teams, Monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan, Establishment of Local Community Safety Partnerships, CYPSC review, Rollout of PPN Roadmap and Community Connections – coordination of the integration work of local authorities and local development companies.

Ms Donnelly outlined some points that may be of particular interest to the LCDC members.

- LCDC Awareness Campaign, A review of LCDCs in 2019 review found that there was a general lack of awareness and understanding of the role and function of the LCDCs amongst all stakeholders, and raised concerns that communities at large were unaware of the work of the LCDCs. Recommendation three of the Review is to: “Develop a programme of awareness at national and local level to inform all interested parties about the LCDC and its role and function.” A working group has been established – Dr Fiona McGrath is a member of the working group and tenders have been sought for the awareness campaign delivery.
- Review of the Guidelines for the operation of LCDCs – The 2019 LCDC review mentioned above recommended that DRCD carry out a full review of the LCDC guidelines which were issued in 2016. Ms Donnelly noted that the survey

issued to LCDC members in August/September was part of this process. Some legislative changes may be required due to changed circumstances e.g. the directly elected mayor in Limerick. An Advisory Group has been established, chaired by DRCD and comprised of relevant stakeholders - Inaugural meeting on 23rd July last - Role of the Advisory Group is to oversee and advise on the review and revision of the existing Guidelines (2016) and seek to further underpin Section 128E of the Regulations, with a view to supporting local authorities and creating a common general approach to the operation of LCDCs. DRCD will publish revised guidelines when the review process is complete.

- Monitoring of the Local Economic and Community Plan – two contrasting approaches for the monitoring of the LECP were presented at the event - Sligo and Tipperary. Sligo are using an approach similar to what we have been doing in Cavan in the past but are researching options to utilise AI tools to streamline data collection from external agencies, relating to their progress on assigned actions in the Sligo 2030 LECP Plan. Tipperary have developed a monitoring platform which allows each lead agency to input their review, and this is then collated into one document. Central to their proposal is the concept that the LECP actions are the responsibility of all the agencies and organisations and it not the purpose of the Local Authority to seek updates as the LECP is not within Local Authority ownership.

Ms Donnelly agreed that she would send out a link to all items that were covered at the meeting. Ms Woods said that having attended the event she wished to acknowledge the organisers of the event and found it a huge benefit.

9. AOB

The Chair asked that if members had any suggestions for presentations at future LCDC meetings to please contact Ms Donnelly.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the LCDC will take place on 27th November 2024 at 3pm in Council Chamber.

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: _____