

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 24th June 2021

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Statutory

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

Private Sector Interests

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

Apologies:

Ms. Aisling Tobin (Youth Issues)

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), Ms Maureen McIntyre (CMETB), Ms Collette McEntee (Innovating Communities), Mr Desmond Bernie (Ice Cream Architecture)

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 Mr. Seamus McGrath.

2. Matters arising

The Chief Officer informed the members that he and Terry Hyland met to discuss the legacy issues transpiring from the Covid 19 Pandemic. He proposed that they will be inviting Statutory Agencies, the PPN and Community Forums to give their opinions on what are and what will be the arising issues and any suggestions they wish to put forward on how best to deal with these. John and Terry will collate this information

and bring it to the LCDC to discuss the outcome and the possibility of setting up a subgroup to deal with this specifically.

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.

Maureen gave a very informed presentation on Youth Work, covering the background of Youth Work, the funding schemes attributed to Youth Work in Cavan, a synopsis of the various projects which have been implemented throughout the county and the plans for future projects including Planet Youth which will be of huge significance for the County in that this will let the Youth of the County be heard first hand, helping to identify key priorities that need to be tackled. Mental Health is a key issue in Cavan with the county having the highest rate of suicide among our youth in the country.

Maureen acknowledged that the work being carried out would not be possible without the collaboration of various agencies including the HSE, Cavan County Council, Teach Oiscail, Cavan County Local Development, to name but a few, coming together to give a voice to the most vulnerable in our communities and helping them deal with issues affecting them. Education is key and helping the youth who may not be availing of education for various reasons in different paths to achieve training, employment and empowerment.

John Kearney thanked Maureen and all statutory and community agencies for their hard work and co-operation on Youth Work in Cavan. John also reiterated that the Planet Youth Project is an internationally renowned programme and will be of important significance to the youth moving forward.

Seamus McGrath also acknowledged the excellent work being done for the youth of Cavan and asked if there were any projects specific to youths dealing with disability. Maureen advised that Planet Youth Project will be significant in hearing directly from the youth including the youth dealing with disabilities so rather than having an adult advocate speaking for them it will be easier to identify barriers that they feel need to be removed.

Clifford Kelly also thanked Maureen for her excellent presentation and acknowledged her hard work and her ability to attract funding which has led to Youth work in Cavan and Monaghan being far advanced when compared to other areas of the country.

Terry Hyland also thanked Maureen and acknowledged the work carried out and mentioned that CCLD had worked in conjunction with Maureen under the Mitigating Against Educational Disadvantage scheme, and now have 40 laptops available on a loan library facility to any young people that may need them to help their education that may otherwise not have had access to computers.

The Chair thanked Maureen for her detailed presentation and hard work.

5. 'Innovating Communities: Designing Cavan's Future' - Collette McEntee, Innovating Communities Network Admin Coordinator & Desmond Bernie, Director, Ice Cream Architecture

Collette gave an overview on 'Innovating Communities' explaining that is a free training and mentoring project available to everyone, individuals, groups, business aimed at strengthening local development through community led action. It is being rolled out across the border counties, Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Louth, Leitrim and Donegal. Cavan has 6 volunteer co-trainers who will assist with the facilitation of the training and mentoring with two venues assigned in Cavan, The Conaty Centre and Church Street Centre, Ballyconnell. The training is based on a concept 'Design Thinking' which says people are at the heart of the solution. This concept can help with innovation, tourism, job creation and can help with a local approach to large scale problems such as climate change.

Collette explained that it works by people registering on their website, on which there is an ideas bank and members of the public can note challenges in their area, can see other people's thoughts on challenges and people can then brainstorm on proposals to address these and hopefully come up with some solutions. In Cavan, the challenges proposed on the site have already helped guide courses including The Local Green Box, Designing Killeshandra's Future and Cavan Sustainability Solutions Network.

Desmond then gave a presentation of what 'Design Thinking' is and how it came about. He explained that the concept lies with people being at the heart of the problem solving. It works by bringing people together to look at challenges and discuss these, listening to other's opinions and sharing ideas, always taking into consideration the people who are affected by the challenges. The idea is to give people the tools to help solve problems affecting them.

Terry Hyland advised the members that there is €1 million invested across the region on Innovating Communities and that they intend to liaise with towns and villages throughout Cavan, like they already did in Killeshandra, which had an attendance online of 40 people giving their opinions on the local community and bringing forward any challenges they are facing in the hope to find solutions, which as a result led to the course 'Designing Killeshandra's Future'

The Chair thanked Collette and Desmond for their presentations and asked how the uptake is going so far, Desmond and Collette explained that there are 150 people already registered in Cavan, with over 50 courses and that they hope this will continue to grow over the next year.

John Kearney asked if it is of benefit to businesses and entrepreneurs and Collette explained that yes if you do a course the concept can be applied to all avenues.

6. Peace Programme Update.

The Chair advised that SEUPB have appointed Venture International to formulate the Peace Programmes and that with previous experience from the Peace Projects

and aligning with other Local Authorities there should be a level of consistency in the plan for what the Peace Plus Project will look like to ensure as much funding as possible is secured for the southern counties. The Chief Officer informed members that Venture International intend to attend the next LCDC meeting to talk to the members more in depth.

7. AOB

The Chief Officer wanted to bring to the attention of the members that the Community Enhancement Programme 2021 deadline is July 16th 2021 and that the applications will be presented at the next LCDC for approval.

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

Date of next meeting.

Next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th July 2021 online via Microsoft Teams.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 29th July 2021