

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 12th July 2022

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams & Cavan County Local Development Offices

Present:

Statutory

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

Private Sector Interests

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

Apologies:

Mr Charlie Smyth (Social Inclusion Interests), Ms Marcella Rudden (Local Enterprise Office)

In attendance:

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

The Chair (Mr Brendan Jennings) opened the meeting and read out the apologies.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were proposed by Cllr Clifford Kelly and seconded by Cllr T.P. 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. Presentation from Ms. Patricia Smith, Food Strategy Co-Ordinator, County Council

Ms. Patricia Smith gave a presentation to members on Cavan County Council's Food Strategy 2017-2022. The Vision of the Strategy is to have County Cavan recognised nationally and internationally as a home of quality food and drink and be regarded as a key destination for food tourism and one that nourished and supports its food entrepreneurs.

The aim of the Strategy is to promote a closer working relationship between all local food industry stakeholders and to build upon the positive achievements of the food sector to date, to help secure the future of this very important sector of the local Cavan economy. Cavan Food Network was officially launched in May 2019 and there are currently over 50 members.

There are 4 strategic pillars.

1) Communication

The brand 'Created in Cavan' has been developed for Cavan Food Network - the brand and a Producers Directory were both launched in February 2020. A website www.createdincavan.ie has been designed and there is a strong presence on social media.

'Created in Cavan' recently held a Schools Young Cook of the Year 2022 for Transition Year Students with 5 schools taking part. This is the inaugural year of the competition that was run in association with Created in Cavan, Cavan County Council, Cavan Institute and Cavan and Monaghan Education & Training board.

Students were tasked with using as much local produce as they could in their dishes. The final was held in Cavan Institute in May.

2) Supports

Provide mentoring, training, and peer to peer learning. There are plans to try and develop a food innovation hub in the county which would be an excellent facility to help smaller producers get off the ground.

3) Tourism

There was a Calendar of Events launched in May 2022 to advertise events such as “Taste of Belturbet” Steak Night, Wine Night at the Oak Room Restaurant etc. These events will highlight the local produce and hospitality available in County Cavan with the aim of promoting the Cavan Food Story and increasing visitors to the county. Created in Cavan will have stands at the likes of the Virginia Show to promote Cavan products.

4) Route to Market.

Cavan Food Network are providing support to the Cottage Market Cavan who established the Local Green Box to help get local produce direct to consumers. The Department of Agriculture provided funding towards the brand development, food photography, producer directory, digital marketing, website and to run school programmes such as the cookery competition. There are also plans to produce a cookery book with local recipes etc.

The presentation finished with a video on the Drummully Boxy story. 4 similar videos have been made with 4 other local producers.

Cllr T.P. O'Reilly commented that it is an excellent initiative to be involved with schools and that educating younger people on the source of food etc is vital for the future. Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick reiterated that a food hub in Cavan would be a huge benefit to smaller producers. Ms Bridget Boyle commented that it is vital people become more aware of food waste and packaging problems for the environment.

The Chair agreed with the comments and thanked Ms. Smith for attending the meeting and for her very informative presentation. He acknowledged the excellent work done on implementing the Cavan Food Strategy by both Ms Patricia Smith and previously by Ms Deirdre Donnelly.

5. New LECP Update

Chief Officer, Mr John Donohoe informed the members that the LECP Advisory Group held its second meeting in June. The review of the current LECP is ongoing. Most lead agencies have returned their submissions with the few outstanding being followed up on. Once all have been received the information will be collated and summarised. The new plan will be managed by consultants who are currently in the process of being recruited under a tendering process. When this is in place it is hoped there will be a workshop for members of the LCDC. The next meeting of the Advisory Group is scheduled for 2nd September.

6. PEACEPLUS Partnership update:

5 elected members have been approved as statutory nominees on the PEACEPLUS partnership. Nominations were sought from 3 relevant statutory bodies namely; CMETB, Cavan County Council and CYPSC.

3 members have been nominated CMETB – Maureen Mc Intyre, CYPSC – Ste Corrigan and Cavan Co Council – Brendan Jennings.

The nominations for 8 social partners were issued through the PPN. It was felt that the nominations received at the first deadline did not meet the criteria as set out in the briefing paper. Nominations were then sought through a second call. The deadline was the 6th of July and all social partner nominations will be assessed on Wednesday 3rd August. The assessment panel will include Finian Mc Namara – Cavan PPN, Fintan Mc Cabe – Cavan PPN, Alison Monteith – Independent SEUPB appointed consultant and Jane Crudden – Cavan County Council Peace Programme.

Once the PEACEPLUS Partnership is established capacity building training will commence prior to the co-design process of writing the LA PEACEPLUS Action Plan.

7. SICAP Mid-Year Review

Mr Terry Hyland informed members that the SICAP Action Progress Report was circulated to members prior to the meeting and that if members had any questions to please contact him directly. Ms Deirdre Donnelly explained that she prepares a mid year review on SICAP and forwards it to Pobal and then Pobal do a review also. The outcome of both reviews is positive. Highlights are as follows:

Progress against Annual Key Performance Indicators (KPI) 1 and 2 targets and % KPI2 from Disadvantaged areas

- Cavan LDC has achieved over 40% for both KPI 1 and KPI 2. The achievement for KPI 1 has exceeded 40% with 17 Local Community Groups supported (47%) out of a target of 36 Local Community Groups.
- KPI 2 has achieved 62% to date 251 individuals have been supported out of a target of 405.
- The agreed overall percentage of working with individuals from disadvantaged areas is 18%. Cavan have recorded that 20% of the individuals supported to date are from disadvantaged areas.

Progress on Actions

Overall Cavan LDC are demonstrating good progress against 12 agreed actions with 7 actions exceeding 40% progress at mid-year. 9 out of the 12 actions have mid year updates with detailed narrative against these actions, which provides a comprehensive report on progress to date. Actions supporting the National Priorities (Health & Wellbeing, Suicide Awareness, Social & Economic Isolation and New Communities) are clearly linked to the Mid Programme Statement of Priorities submitted.

- Adherence to Budget Parameters and financial compliance with the Programme Requirements was also checked and all is found to be in order.

Mr Hyland explained that due to the Ukraine Crisis there has been a high demand on resources. The Department recently announced additional funding for the LDC to cover administration and new activities for groups which is badly needed. There are currently over 800 Ukrainian nationals in Cavan.

The Chair advised that the SICAP Monitoring Committee met on 11th July to review the SICAP Mid-Year Progress Report. The recommendation of the SICAP Monitoring Committee is that it be approved by LCDC

Approval of the SICAP Mid-Year review was proposed by Dr Fiona McGrath and seconded by Cllr Clifford Kelly.

6. AOB

- The Chair informed the members that there has been Additional SICAP Funding for the Ukrainian Response.
There has been €104,564 allocated to Cavan to help the Ukrainian Response, 25% is for administration and the remainder is for new activities and projects.

The guidelines state that the LCDC have to approve plans for the additional expenditure before the end of July to adhere to Pobal timelines. As there will not be another meeting of the LCDC until the Autumn written approval will be sought by email from the LCDC members.


- Review of membership of the LCDC
The Chair informed the members that both Ms Ashling Tobin's (Non-Statutory – Youth Issues) & Ms Ada Vance's (Non-Statutory – Women's Issues) terms on the LCDC have come to an end. The PPN will be asked to nominate replacement members, and these will have to be approved by the Elected

Members of Cavan County Council at their September Council meeting.
The Chair commended both Ms Vance's and Ms Tobin's commitment to the LCDC during their term and thanked them for their participation.

Ms. Ada Vance thanked everyone involved for always being courteous and said she found the experience very positive and educational and wished everyone the best in the future.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting will take place on Thursday, 29th September 2022 at 3 p.m.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 7th October 2022