

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 25th September 2023

Time: 2pm

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, Mr Conor Craven (Local Enterprise Office), Dr Fiona McGrath (CMETB)

Private Sector Interests

Mr Jim Maguire (Cavan County Local Development Company), Ms Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber), Ms Bridget Boyle (Community & Voluntary Interests), Ms Frances O'Neill (Disability Interests), Mr Barry Kavanagh (Environmental Issues), Ms Aisling Traynor (Youth Services)

Apologies:

Ms Maryam Temile (Women's Interests) Ms Ruth Woods (HSE), Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (Elected Member), Ms Carmel Denning (Department of Social Protection)

In attendance:

Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Mr Terry Hyland (CEO, Cavan County Local Development), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council), Ms Siobhan Morgan (Cavan County Council), Ms Joanne Hayes (Cavan County Council), Ms Jane Crudden (Cavan County Council).

The Chair (Mr Brendan Jennings) opened the meeting and read out the apologies. He welcomed new member Ms Frances O'Neill in the rotating seat representing Disability Interests. It was also noted that Ms Marisa Goldstone representing Older Persons Interests has now left the LCDC as her two-year term is complete.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were proposed by Cllr TP O'Reilly and seconded by Mr Barry Kavanagh.

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. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Chief Officer Mr John Donohoe informed members that Mr Brendan Jennings, has served the maximum time allowed in the position of Chairperson of the LCDC.

The Chief Officer invited the members to nominate a new Chairperson. Mr Jim Maguire was nominated by Mr Barry Kavanagh and seconded by Ms Aisling Traynor. There were no further nominations therefore Mr Jim Maguire was elected as Chairperson.

As Mr Jim Maguire is currently the Vice Chairperson this position will now become vacant. The Chief Officer then sought nominations for the position of Vice Chairperson. Ms Connie Whelan was nominated by Mr Barry Kavanagh and seconded by Cllr TP O'Reilly. There were no further nominations therefore Ms Connie Whelan was elected as Vice Chairperson.

5. Presentation from Ms Joanne Hayes, Tourism Officer, Cavan County Council – 'Feasibility Study for the Management of Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in County Cavan'

Ms Joanne Hayes gave a very informative presentation on the 'Management of Aquatic Invasive Alien Species in County Cavan'. Mr Pdraig McGearty who is a Fishing Guide in Cavan had highlighted concerns about the Lough Oughter system at a Tourism Steering Group meeting as he had observed an invasive species called Nuttells Water Weed there. A working group was established, and a feasibility study was completed. There are details of other invasive species contained in the report also but Nuttells Water Weed is the most urgent at present. An outcome of the working group was that each member would do their best to convey the information

to representative bodies about how potentially devastating this could be to the water system in Cavan. It also emerged that no body was taking responsibility for the issue.

After Ms Hayes' presentation a number of questions were asked, Mr Jim Maguire asked if Nuttells Water weed would affect the quality of water to which Ms Hayes responded by saying not directly as it allows other species to thrive but it does effect how the water looks and it causes a carpet of weeds that can become impossible to navigate. Cllr TP O'Reilly asked whose remit it was to attempt to clear it, Ms Hayes stated that there is no national agency taking responsibility for this issue, Ms Hayes thought it should be a responsibility of Inland Fisheries Ireland but it is not.

Ms Hayes stated that there are two problems with this alien species firstly the biosecurity for example the cleaning of boats, boots etc and then there is also a lack of legislation on the issue. Mr Barry Kavanagh asked if there were any facilities in the County for washing down boats, fishing equipment etc. Ms Hayes confirmed that they were none at present. Ms Connie Whelan enquired as to how the weed can be treated, Ms Hayes explained that it can be cut back but that once it gets into a system it is extremely difficult to manage.

Ms Hayes explained that there used to be a person assigned to deal with invasive species in Inland Fisheries but when this person moved on they were not replaced. Cllr T.P. O'Reilly asked that the report be send onto him and he would bring it to Government. The Chief Officer asked Ms Deirdre Donnelly to circulate the report to all LCDC members after the meeting.

6. Draft 2 Implementation Plan for new LECP – Presentation by KPMG

This item was deferred to the October meeting of the LCDC.

7. PEACEPLUS

Jane Crudden, PEACE Programme Manager presented the PEACEPLUS co-designed local action plan project proposals to be included in the Cavan County

Council bid to SEUPB. These were presented to the LCDC for approval prior to submitting to SEUPB. The Chair outlined the process that has taken place with the PEACEPLUS partnership and the assessment panel to date. The Chair stated that the key thing to note is that this only a proposal, there is no guarantee of funding yet.

Ms Jane Crudden stated that Cavan has been allocated a budget of 4.3 million, it will be divided out between the three themes, also allowing for staff costs, admin, travel, accommodation, equipment, communications, tenders, and consultants. The themes are as follows:

Theme 1 Community regeneration and transformation – €1.2 million

Theme 2 Peaceful and thriving communities – €897,137

Theme 3 Celebrating Cultures and diversity - €897,137

The budget was proposed by Mr Jim Maguire and seconded by Cllr TP O'Reilly

Ms Crudden reminded all present of the conflict-of-interest form and asked that they sign their forms. It was also noted for those online that they would agree to sign forms after the meeting. Ms Bridget Boyle asked during the meeting that for those that were unsuccessful would there be an opportunity for feedback, to which Jane Crudden that she would meet with groups and give constructive feedback. Chief Officer John Donohoe also stated that all project applications are kept on file and if it doesn't fit in one scheme there may be other avenues to explore.

Ms Crudden went gave details of each of the projects and informed the members of the PEACEPLUS partnership's recommendations, and all were approved and seconded by members of the LCDC.

The Chair took the opportunity to thank Ms Jane Crudden for her excellent work.

7. AOB

Mr Terry Hyland provided details of Service Providers and Subcontractors engaged by SICAP this list was shared on screen. The List was proposed by Cllr. TP O'Reilly and seconded by Ms Frances O'Neill.

Mr Hyland informed members that SICAP is currently being audited. Mr Hyland asked that if there is any unspent monies can it be redirected to another SICAP project. This was proposed by Cllr TP O'Reilly and seconded by Ms Bridget Boyle.

It was noted that this was the last meeting for Ms Bridget Boyle and Mr Charlie Smyth. The Chair thanked them both for their contribution over the years. As it was also Mr Jennings final meeting as Chairperson, he wished to thank the people around the table that have an input into decisions for the county and he particularly wished to thank Mr John Donohoe, Chief Officer for his support over the years.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the LCDC will take place on Thursday 26th October.

The meeting concluded.

Signed:  Date: 26th Oct. 2023.
Chairperson