**Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee**

**Date: 27th July 2017**

**Time: 3.30pm**

**Location: Council Chamber**

**Present:**

**Statutory**

Cllr Paddy McDonald (Elected Member), Cllr Paddy O’Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member), Mary Rose Smith (HSE), Carmel Denning (DSP), Marcella Rudden (LEO).

**Private Sector Interests**

Ashling Tobin (Youth Issues), Jim Reilly (Community & Voluntary Interests), Olive Hannigan (Social Inclusion Interests), Fintan McCabe (Environmental Interests), Gerry McDonagh (Cootehill Chamber of Commerce), Jim Maguire (Breffni Integrated Ltd.), Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests).

**Apologies**

**Statutory:** Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), John Kearney (CMETB).

**Private:** Ada Vance (Women’s Interests).

**In attendance:** John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Theresa Tierney (Cavan County Council), Brendan Reilly (Breffni Integrated), Terry Hyland (Breffni Integrated), Tom Sullivan (Cavan Library Service), Fiona Burke (Cavan Library Service), Emer Coveney (Cavan County Council).

In the absence of Tommy Ryan (Chair), the Vice Chair (Mr Fintan McCabe) agreed to Chair the meeting and noted apologies.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Mr Gerry McDonagh suggested re-wording the June minutes to read ‘could be located’ instead of ‘should be located’ in reference to the discussion about a proposed new sports complex.

Minutes of previous meeting, as amended, were proposed by Mr Jim Reilly and seconded by Ms Carmel Denning.

1. **Matters Arising**

Mr Seamus McGrath spoke about the successful ‘It’s Our Space Too’ Disability Network conference that took place in June. This was organised with support from Breffni Integrated, the PPN and Cavan Co Council. Two hundred delegates attended over the two days. There were numerous information stands by groups such as SOSAD, Irish Wheelchair Association and Brain Injury Ireland. Jack Kavanagh gave the opening address and Peter Kearns also spoke about the implications of being born with a disability and his experience of segregation. Workshops covered subjects such as advocacy, sports, the social model of disability, independent living, employment, rights and disability.

The Chair expressed congratulations to all involved in organising the event.

1. **Conflict of Interests**

The Chair reminded members about the regular conflict of interests form and informed members that a ‘declaration of confidentiality’ form in relation to the new SICAP programme would be circulated.

1. **Peace IV Update**

Ms Jane Crudden gave an update on the Peace programme. Cavan Co Council has received an email letter of offer for the Shared Spaces and Services strand giving approval of the three projects. Under the County Museum’s proposal, the fairy walk and active age walk were not approved (value €63,000) and this element was removed. SEUPB suggested splitting that portion of funding between the Town Hall and Bailieborough projects to be used for programming. We are awaiting a hard copy of the letter of offer.

In relation to small grants, the acceptance form has been returned and it is hoped to open the small grants in the coming weeks.

Cllr Paddy O’Reilly stated that it was regrettable that the Museum’s application was not successful because the Museum is very much a shared space. Ms Crudden clarified that the application was successful except for one element.

Cllr O’Reilly said he had been displeased about the manner in which the Town Hall was put forward for PEACE funding and felt that the Cavan Gaels/Royal School project lost out. He complemented Ms Crudden on the quality of the PEACE application. Cllr Clifford Kelly supported these sentiments. The Chair welcomed the fact that we had secured the full allocation of PEACE funding for Cavan.

Ms Olive Hannigan enquired what date the small grants would be open. Ms Crudden replied that the date was not confirmed but that she hoped they would be advertised and open by September at the latest. The LCDC will be informed as soon as they are open.

1. **Right to Read Initiative and Creative Ireland**

The Chair welcomed Mr Tom Sullivan, County Librarian, and Ms Fiona Burke, Right to Read Co-ordinator. Mr Sullivan commenced his presentation by estimating that about 15,000 people in Cavan have reading difficulties. Close to 25% of the population have numeracy problems. Right to Read is a reading and literacy development programme aimed at everyone in the community, and it complements existing services. Cavan has established a network made up of the Sports Partnership, Social Inclusion Unit, Communication Officer, County Childcare Committee, Focus FRC and Cavan Traveller Primary Health Care Programme. The initiative will develop a literacy plan and establish a communication system.

Ms Burke spoke about the wide range of library resources to support literacy, including books, experienced staff, seasonal and literacy initiatives, such as ‘Spring into Summer’, ‘Summer Stars’ Reading Programme, and the Children’s Book Festival. They have a scheme that allows teachers to borrow up to 30 copies of the same book for a class. There are outreach programmes with the National Gallery and Abbey Theatre.

Mr Seamus McGrath asked how the Library supports children with learning difficulties. Ms Burke said they have assistive technology such as large text magnifier reader and audio books. Library staff are experienced and can guide parents and children on what to read, for example, choosing books with lots of illustrations. The Local DEIS Schools and St Ann’s Unit visit the library.

Ms Marcella Rudden asked if Right to Read came with any additional budget. Mr Sullivan replied that it was using existing funding. He referred to prior funding for a mobile library unit that visited schools. However this funding was pulled in 2009 and represented a loss of €30k per year.

The Chair commented that Right to Read was a wonderful initiative and that it was important to target children early with this type of support. He referred to a community initiative in Mountnugent and the possibility of book donations. Ms Burke asked him to pass on the details of this initiative.

Ms Ashling Tobin asked how Library services are advertised. Mr Sullivan said they have a mailing list and they use social media, the Anglo Celt, and Northern Sound. Their programme of events is available at the main library. There is an extensive summer programme including art, music, and drama workshops.

The Chair wished the library staff well with the initiative.

Mr Sullivan then spoke briefly about the ‘Creative Ireland’ initiative which is a follow-on from the 1916 Centenary Programme. Creative Ireland is a five year programme which involves investing in creative and cultural infrastructure for the county. The initiative will link with Right to Read and also with the digital strategy, diaspora etc. Mr Sullivan will bring a plan to the Council by the end of the year. A number of events will be happening this year under Creative Ireland.

1. **SICAP**

Mr Terry Hyland from Breffni Integrated gave a presentation on actions relating to Young People supported by the SICAP Programme. Under Goal 1 they have supported young people from the Congolese Community with summer camps. They have facilitated Bounce Back to open a youth cafe in the Beckscourt Centre. Under Goal 2 they deliver educational and social activities for the 4-18 year age group from disadvantaged areas. This work aims to encourage inclusion and prevent early school leaving. Workshops and camps for young people are delivered in different geographic locations and covering diverse topics such as multicultural awareness, science, history, fitness, healthy eating, arts and crafts, IT, and internet safety. He spoke about a ‘Words to Music’ Literacy Programme that was developed in conjunction with St Mogue’s College Home School Liaison Officer. The Swanlinbar Intergenerational Project links young people with the Swanlinbar Day Care Group. Young and older people do joint activities such as sports and crafts. They provide job preparation support for 18-24 years olds including CV preparation and employment supports. A lot of referrals of under 24s come from the Dept of Social Protection. They are a difficult group to progress.

Ms Ashling Tobin suggested linking with the YETI Programme which is based in Cavan town and does similar work with young people.

Mr Seamus McGrath asked if they have plans to work with young people from the Holy Family School. Terry Hyland responded that there was scope for this within the programme.

Cllr Paddy McDonald congratulated Breffni Integrated on the work and welcomed the news about the youth cafe in Beckscourt. Mr Hyland said that this service was aimed at teenagers. It will depend on resources. It may open just one evening a week initially.

Ms Mary Rose Smith said that the Bounce Back staff are active in Bailieborough where youth workers are working in the area.

The Chair congratulated Breffni Integrated on their work and thanked Mr Hyland for his presentation.

**SICAP Mid Year Report**

Mr Brendan Reilly presented information from the SICAP Mid Year Report which had already been distributed to LCDC members. Work has been very much in line with the annual plan. KPIs 1 and 2 were met. The target for KPI 1 was 400 and they achieved 528. The target for KPI 2 was 20 and this was achieved. Mr Reilly reported on all the headline indicators.

A small number of clients were imported from the previous programme. Staff are updating details and closing records where necessary. This will not significantly affect targets. Mr Reilly noted the retirement of a long standing staff member and that Mr Terry Hyland has been appointed as team leader for SICAP.

The Chief Officer said that the SICAP Monitoring Subgroup had met and are recommending approval of the Mid Year Report. This was proposed by Ms Mary Rose Smith and seconded by Ms Marcella Rudden.

The Chair said that recently-retired Community Development worker Una Traynor had been a stalwart of the sector and wished her well in her retirement. Cllr Paddy O’Reilly also commended her work.

**SICAP 2018-2022**

At this point Mr Brendan Reilly, Mr Jim Maguire and Ms Catherine McCollum left the room as they are directly involved with the Programme Implementer.

Dr Emer Coveney stated that any other potential bidders in the room would have to leave the meeting.

All remaining LCDC members were asked to sign the ‘declaration of impartiality’ form in relation to the new programme.

Dr Emer Coveney presented some overheads on the framework and procurement timescale for SICAP 2018-2022 and stated that this information must be treated confidentially because of the competitive process. The new programme has been designed to take on board issues raised during consultation. Overall it will have less of a focus on activation and more on community development. The programme will have two KPIs to allow for greater flexibility. Targets have been reduced substantially to allow for more intensive work with groups and individuals. Some new target groups have been added including disadvantaged women and people not engaged with the labour market. People with mental health issues are already covered under the disability category. Dr Coveney explained that the LCDC needs to decide locally on the number of individuals and community groups to be supported in 2018. Recommended figures have been provided by the Department but we have the option to vary the targets by plus or minus 15%. We are also allowed to select additional ‘emerging needs’ target groups. This information will be included in the Request for Tender that will be published on 31st July.

The Chief Officer said that members of the SICAP Monitoring Group had met to discuss these options. Bearing in mind that the Programme Implementer has been performing well, we considered raising the recommended targets slightly. However we do not want to extend the targets too far because remedies apply in cases where they are not met.

The SICAP Monitoring Group members put forward a target for KPI 1 (local community groups) of 42. This was proposed by Ms Marcella Rudden and seconded by Cllr Clifford Kelly.

A similar rationale was applied in suggesting a target for KPI 2 of 540 individuals. This was proposed by Cllr Paddy McDonald and seconded by Cllr Clifford Kelly.

Regarding the emerging needs targets, there was a discussion of options considered by the SICAP monitoring group and after some discussions it was proposed to select ‘people experiencing domestic violence’ as an emerging needs target group. This was proposed by Cllr Paddy McDonald and seconded by Cllr Clifford Kelly.

1. **Community Facilities Scheme applications**

€64,500 is available to Cavan for capital small grants under the Community Facilities fund. We have received approx 130 applications. The Chief Officer presented three spreadsheets listing applications for Community Facilities funding from the three Municipal District areas. He informed the meeting that all applications were reviewed to check for eligibility and consistency with the LECP. While the maximum grant available was €1,000 per group, the Cavan programme was oversubscribed so funding amounts will be lower. In cases where an individual group applied for multiple projects, we are allowing only one application.

The Chief Officer sought approval from the LCDC to recommend the projects to the respective Municipal Districts for decision as they are eligible under the scheme and consistent with the aims of the LECP.

This was proposed by Cllr Paddy O’Reilly and seconded by Marcella Rudden.

1. **AOB**

The Chair closed the meeting by commending the work of the committee.

1. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 28th September 2017.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman