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

**Date: 31st May 2018**

**Time: 3.30pm**

**Location: Council Chamber**

**Present:**

**Statutory**

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

**Private Sector Interests**

Mr Jim Maguire (Breffni Integrated Ltd.), Ms Olive Hannigan (Social Inclusion Interests), Mr Fintan McCabe (Environmental Interests), Mr Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Mr Gerry McDonagh (Cavan & Cootehill Chamber), Ada Vance (Women’s Issues).

**Apologies**

**Statutory:**

Mr Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive, CCC), Mr John Kearney, Ms Marcella Rudden (Head of LEO).

**Private:** Mr. Jim Reilly (C&V Interests), Ms Ashling Tobin (Youth Issues), Mr Thomas Duffy (Agricultural and Farming Interests).

**In attendance:** Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Dr Emer Coveney (Cavan County Council), Ms Theresa Tierney (Cavan County Council), Ms Jane Crudden (Cavan County Council), Mr Terry Hyland (Local Development Company), Mr Peter Walker (HSE/Chair of Traveller Interagency), Ms Chrissie O’Sullivan (Cavan Traveller Movement).

The Chair (Mr Fintan McCabe) opened the meeting and noted apologies. He welcomed Peter Walker and Chrissie O’Sullivan from Cavan Traveller Interagency Group to the meeting.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Minutes of previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr Clifford Kelly, seconded by Ms Olive Hannigan.

1. **Matters Arising**

Mr Gerry McDonagh commented on the walkabilty audit of Cootehill mentioned in the previous minutes, drawing attention to the need for footpath improvements in Cootehill.

1. **Conflicts of Interest**

The Chair reminded people of their responsibilities under conflict of interests.

1. **Peace IV Update**

Ms. Jane Crudden gave an update on Peace IV.

A total of 23 applications were received for small grants. The breakdown is as follows:

* 6 have been approved by SEUPB
* 8 approved by LCDC and forwarded to  SEUPB
* 4 approved by LCDC and still to be forwarded to SEUPB. + 1 that has not received funding but is eligible and has been placed on a waiting list; should PIV monies become available.
* 1 changed to partnership delivery
* 2 withdrawn
* 1 ineligible

The six projects that have been approved have been informed of the decision.

1. **Traveller Interagency Group Presentation**

A presentation was delivered on Cavan’s Traveller Interagency Group by Emer Coveney, Peter Walker (Chair of the TIG) and Chrissie O’Sullivan (Cavan Traveller Movement). Emer spoke about the background to TIGs, the work of the local group and the need for a formal protocol between the TIG and the LCDC. She referred to the National Traveller and Roma Integration Strategy [NTRIS], published in 2017, and the broad areas of work identified for each agency in this national strategy. Peter Walker spoke about HSE supports for Travellers through the Primary Health Care Programme for Travellers. He outlined the objectives of the recently published Traveller Health Strategy for CHO Area 1. He referred to high suicide rates within the community and the need for culturally sensitive and appropriate services. He said there is a need for measures to address inherent racism towards Travellers. The TIGs can provide a forum where racism can be challenged and addressed.

Chrissie O’Sullivan spoke about the development of Cavan Traveller Movement and issues affecting the local community. School attendance is a particular concern in Cavan. She maintained that Cavan is under-resourced compared to other areas of the country for Traveller supports.

Travellers in Cavan face accommodation issues, early school leaving, low life expectancy across all age groups, and the interlinked areas of substance misuse and mental health. Few Travellers are entering apprenticeships.

She said the profile of men in the Traveller men’s shed is different to typical men’s sheds as the latter are usually comprised of older, retired men often with a high level of skills. The Traveller men’s shed has men who have never been in the mainstream labour market. They tend to focus on sports activities as they have no premises. This is an issue that CTM would like support to address. The men are doing a health check in June for the first time.

Chrissie has worked to build the involvement of Traveller women, and has run cookery, health and fitness and flower arranging. Forty women have been engaged in this work since Christmas. There is also a young women’s group for women aged 13-17. Only one of these young women was still in post primary. This group of young women had never engaged with youth services before and now want to register their group as a formal Youth Group.

She emphasised the value of the Yellow Flag diversity programme for schools and hoped that more schools in Cavan would apply for it.

She spoke about the CTM Peace IV cross border project. They have 36 members and have been oversubscribed for this project. The project aims to create a shared space and a group identity between the Traveller and non Traveller community in Co. Cavan.

Ms O’Sullivan invited LCDC members to a drama by Michael Collins called ‘It’s a Cultural Thing’ taking place in Cavan Rugby Club on Thursday 7th June. This is being organised as part of National Traveller Pride Week, hosted by CTM.

Cllr Clifford Kelly invited CTM to make a presentation to the board of the ETB in his capacity as chair.

Seamus McGrath enquired about the accuracy of census data on the Traveller population. Chrissie O’Sullivan said that local knowledge would suggest that the Cavan Traveller population is actually much larger than the Census would indicate.

Seamus McGrath asked about people with disability within the Traveller community. Chrissie said that the ‘Our Geels’ All Island Traveller Health Study was out of date so we do not have accurate data.

Olive Hannigan asked if the Traveller Men’s Shed could link with Cavan Men’s Shed for skill sharing. Chrissie said that the groups are at different levels and that the Traveller men’s shed initially needs ‘hand holding’ but that they could engage in a short space of time. She emphasised the need for support from the LCDC to find suitable premises for the men’s shed and for CTM’s expanding programme.

Peter Walker suggested that a memo of understanding or protocol be developed for how the TIG engages with the LCDC, or that a standing item could be included on the agenda. He also suggested that Healthy Ireland or any future rounds of funding could look at a protected amount for Traveller supports.

Fintan McCabe thanked the presenters and said that the LCDC would take on board those positive suggestions.

**Healthy Cavan**

The Chief Officer outlined the application submitted by the LCDC for phase 2 of Healthy Ireland funding. He noted that the funding for LCDCs was reduced to €75k. Each action had to have a minimum of budget on €5k.

The application breakdown was as follows:

Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator €43,590

Brand promotion and marketing €6,550

Cavan Fit Towns €10,860

Family Fizzical Fun Programme €5,000

West Cavan Schools Health and Wellbeing €9,000

He noted that the new application will include funding for a gym programme for Traveller girls.

He said the Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator was in the process of dealing with follow up queries.

Fintan McCabe said he was hopeful that Healthy Ireland funding would become mainstreamed.

The Chief Officer said that the Healthy Cavan Co-ordinator would give a presentation at the next LCDC meeting to outline activity from the phase one funding.

Dr Emer Coveney outlined the projects submitted under the Children and Young People’s Services Committee. These included continued support for the Parenting Cavan initiative, the LGBT Youth Support Service, Night time soccer leagues and a Digital Health conference.

**A.O.B.**

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 26th June 2018 at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan.

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

 Chairman