

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 16th September 2019

Time: 11.30am

Location: Council Chamber

Present:

Statutory

Ms Carmel Denning (Dept of EA&SP), Marcella Rudden (Local Enterprise Office), Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member).

Private Sector Interests

Mr Fintan Mc Cabe (Environmental Interests), Mr Jim Maguire (Breffni Integrated Ltd.), Ms Olive Hannigan (Social Inclusion Interests), Ms Ada Vance (Women's Interests), Mr Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Mr Tom Brady (Cavan Chamber), Ms Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests).

Apologies:

Statutory: Mr Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive, CCC), Mary Rose Smith (HSE), John Kearney (Cavan Monaghan ETB)

Private Sector Interests: Ms Doris Galligan (C&V Interests), Ms Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests), Ms Aisling Tobin, Youth Issues.

In attendance:

Mr Brendan Jennings (Director of Services), Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Ms Jane Crudden (Cavan County Council), Ms Angela Fitzpatrick (Cavan County Council), Ms Sinead Tormey, Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator, Mr Terry Hyland (CEO of Breffni Integrated).

Apologies: None

The Chair (Mr Fintan McCabe) opened the meeting and read out the apologies.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes were proposed by Cllr. Clifford Kelly and seconded by Mr. Tom Brady.

2. Matters arising

(i) Review of Local Community Development Committees

Review was circulated by email to all members in advance of today's meeting. The Chief Officer outlined the main points from the review which was conducted by the Department to assess how LCDCs were working after 3 years of operation.

The Chief Officer informed the group that overall the review found good progress to date with the LCDC model and the collaborative nature was working. It acknowledges that the LCDC model is only in its infancy and will take time to bed-in. The review reaffirms central Government commitment to the LCDC model.

Most significant issues were:

- Lack of clarity around the role of the LCDC and members along with a general lack of awareness of the work of the LCDC;
- Need for training and support for LCDC members and local authority support staff;
- Need for stronger, more consistent communication between the Department and LCDCs as well as between LCDCs.

Other points:

- Government Departments should have greater regard to LCDCs.
- More emphasis required on the LECF.
- Work involved in managing programmes is taking over from strategic thinking and planning.
- Need for improved engagement with more marginalised communities
- Need for more engagement with CYPSC.

Main Recommendations:

- Department to take a stronger role at national level, leading on cross-Government co-ordination of local and community development and securing greater national and local buy-in into the LCDC model.
- Assistance required to help get the message about LCDC's role to local and national stakeholders
- Training and support for LCDC members and support staff needed.

- Streamlined supports for LCDCs to sustain effective delivery of programme and monitoring of impacts.

The Chief Officer informed the committee that there will be a Regional Meeting of Chief Officers, which will be an opportunity to give feedback to the Department. He asked members to contact him with any issues and he will ensure same are passed on to the Department.

The Chair highlighted the importance of participatory democracy and the role the LCDC plays in having authority to oversee & approve projects. This is something which has also been growing since the beginning of the LCDC. He also highlighted the importance of co-operation between the elected members, community and staff within the local authority, something which works well in Cavan and should continue to be encouraged going forward.

(ii) National LCDC Networking Event

Information on the LCDC Networking Event was circulated in advance of meeting. The event will be held on Saturday, November 9th, in The Tullamore Court, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. As the Department are seeking provisional numbers members were asked to notify John/Angela if they wish to attend today Monday 16th September 2019.

(iii) Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024

Information on the strategy was circulated to the committee in advance of the meeting. The Chief Officer highlighted the four main areas of commitment in the strategy; the importance of involving communities in decision making, supporting people and Organisations working with Communities, the importance of partnership and collaboration and supporting Local Government in supporting Communities. He noted the strategy is a positive development, and as a clear strategy around Community Development it is very much welcomed.

The Chair posed the question of whether the LCDC is representative of everyone – noting that there are many people who may not be interested in sitting on committees like the LCDC yet are very committed to various areas which need to be represented. He commented that these groups should be asked to make presentations in order to inform the LCDC.

3. Conflict of Interests

The Chair reminded members of their conflict of interest's responsibilities.

4. Peace IV Update

Ms Jane Crudden, Peace Programme Manager, provided an update on the activity under Peace IV. She informed the Committee that the Peace IV closing event which was held together with the Military Tattoo event in Ballyjamesduff on the 24th and 25th August was a great success, with over 5000 people attending over the weekend. The event was a great opportunity for Peace IV Projects to showcase their work.

Regarding project activity, Ms Crudden said the current programme will conclude in September with official paperwork to be submitted by December 2019. By the end of this month (September) to mid-October any underspend will be identified and plans for same outlined at the next LCDC meeting. Consultations for the next Peace Programme 'Peace Plus' will commence in early 2021.

Ms Crudden informed the group that a current small grant project being undertaken by Swanlinbar have overspent by €193.94. There is funding available to cover this – Ms Crudden requested Committee approval to have the minutes amended to take account of the additional amount needed.

Ms Olive Hannigan commented on the success of the closing event, saying that it was amazing and a great all-round family event, with the town of Ballyjamesduff involved. The Chair also praised the event, saying that it was impressive, a great family event which was very well put together.

5. Property Marking: Presentation by Sergeant Mick Duffy

The Chair welcomed Sergeant Mick Duffy attending to provide a presentation on the Property Marking initiative.

Sergeant Mick Duffy was accompanied by Garda Barry Fitzgerald who works closely with the Community Alert Groups in the county.

Sergeant Duffy informed the Committee that the initiative is being rolled out under the Joint Policing Committee (JPC). Many Community Alert groups are actively involved in organising events to facilitate property owners in having their property marked. Sgt. Duffy also informed the Committee that numerous other groups across the county are organising Property Marking events in local football clubs, at church grounds and community centres. He informed the committee that the County Council manage the initiative by taking bookings for the Property Marking Machine and organising training for these groups in advance. Ms Grainne Boyle, Community and Enterprise Section in the Council is the main contact for bookings.

The keys points from the presentation highlighted how Property Marking is a great way of combatting rural crime. It also reduces the market criminals have for stolen property. The machine can mark anything from a mobile phone to a cattle trailer with the owner's Eircode. It also prints the word 'Eircode' on the item making it traceable if found in another country. Sergeant Duffy pointed out the importance of property owners keeping a register of items they own as in the case of a burglary it is useful for Gardai in the event of a burglary. He also informed the Committee about Property Marking signs which when erected act as a deterrent. He gave the example of Killeshandra where over 80 homes have had their property marked and have signage erected in conjunction with Community Alert Signs – he said it is a real example of a community being vigilant and active.

The Chair, remarked that Property Marking is a brilliant initiative – an example of community policing at its' best. He also praised Community Alert Groups in how instrumental they are in rolling out the initiative.

6. Healthy Ireland Phase III application (2019-2021)

A copy of the proposals under Phase III totalling €246,050, was circulated to the Committee. Ms Sinead Tormey, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator presented the actions:

Healthy Ireland Fund:

1. Healthy Cavan Coordinator (Year 1 - €37,500, Year 2 - €37,500)
2. Physical Activity Programme (Year 1 - €10,370, Year 2 - €5,550)
3. Healthy Food Made Easy (HFME) (Year 1 - €3,760, Year 2 - 37,560)
4. Holistic Health Initiative (Year 1 - €1,610, Year 2 - €25,150)
5. Digital Health Conference (Year 1 - €37,500, Year 2 - €37,500)
6. Community Engagement and Promotion of Healthy Cavan Initiatives (Year 1 - €12,500, Year 2 - €12,500)

Community Mental Health Fund:

7. Youth Mental Health (Year 1 - €16,025, Year 2 - €16,025)
8. Community Mental Health Small Grants Programmes (Year 1 - €15,000, Year 2 - €15,000)

The LCDC supported the approval of the Healthy Ireland Funding proposals as presented, proposed by Ms Olive Hannigan and seconded by Ms Marcella Rudden.

7. LECP Mid-Year Review

Deferred to October meeting.

8. Community Enhancement Programme: Men's Shed Grants

A copy of the proposed grants under the Men's Shed Grants Scheme was circulated to all attendees. The Chief Officer, informed the Committee that the total funding allocated to Cavan County Council under this Scheme is €18,325.

A list of all grant applications and proposed grant allocations was circulated to the Committee. The Chief Officer presented the applications with a recommendation

arising from the internal assessment of all applications received. The LCDC supported the approval of all grants as presented, proposed by Cllr. Clifford Kelly and seconded by Cllr. T.P O'Reilly.

9. A.O.B

Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Next meeting is on Thursday 31st October 2019 at 3.30pm in the Council Chamber, The Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairman