

Minutes of Meeting of Cavan Local Community Development Committee

Date: 25th March 2021

Time: 3.00pm

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Statutory

Cllr T.P. O'Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Aiden Fitzpatrick (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member), Mr Brendan Jennings (Director of Services, CCC), Ms Marcella Rudden (LEO), Mr John Kearney (CMETB), Carmel Denning (Dept of EA&SP).

Private Sector Interests

Mr Jim Maguire (Cavan County Local Development Company), Ms Bridget Boyle (Community & Voluntary Interests), Ms Ada Vance (Women's Interests), Mr Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Ms Aisling Tobin (Youth Issues), Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber), Mr Tirloch O'Brien (Environmental Interests), Ms Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests)

Apologies:

Ms. Mary Rose Smith (HSE) and Mr Charlie Smith (Social Inclusion Interests)

In attendance:

Mr John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Ms Angela Fitzpatrick (Cavan County Council), Mr Terry Hyland (CEO, Cavan County Local Development), Ms Deirdre Donnelly (Cavan County Council) Ms Ann Flynn (Cavan County Council)

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

The Chair welcomed Connie Whelan (Cootehill Chamber) to her first LCDC meeting.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly and seconded by Ms Marcella Rudden.

2. Matters arising

The Chief Officer, John Donohoe informed the members that the Peace Plus Programme (2021 to 2027) has opened for public consultation from 10th March until 12th May 2021. John Donohoe explained that consultation information documents will be emailed out to all members. All members are asked to submit their comments and queries to Jane Crudden by email in advance of the next LCDC meeting. Jane Crudden will be attending the next LCDC to provide feedback and to allow for discussion regarding a collective response from the LCDC to the consultation process.

The Chair reminded all members that the Peace Plus Programme is very important as it is a significant source of funding and it is very important that the LCDC contribute to the consultation process.

The Chief Officer stated that with regards to the LECP, the Department will be issuing guidance on the process for the new LECP in quarter two 2021. They have clarified that counties can commence background work. This is ongoing in Cavan, with the preparation of the Socio-economic base for the county, using census and Pobal data. The Census has been delayed to 2022 so 2016 Census data will be used for the LECP. However, the mid-term review of the LECP will allow for the incorporation of the new census data. Plans can be changed at that stage where needed. Once the Socio-economic base has been completed, it will be presented to the LCDC. This will then lead to the development of a Socio-economic statement which will entail a consultation process.

The Chair stated that the LECP and County Development Plan are very important documents for the operation of our County. The LECP is a key strategic document; and the preparation process is an opportunity for members to provide input and to influence how the County will and develop over the next number of years.

3. Conflict of Interests

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

4. Decarbonisation Zone – Presentation by Colm O'Callaghan, Senior Engineer, Environment Section, Cavan County Council

The Chair introduced Colm O’Callaghan, Senior Engineer, Environment Section, Cavan County Council to present on the Decarbonising Zone. The main points of the presentation included:

- Decarbonising Zones (DZ) is a spatial area identified by the local authority, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action targets.
- Under the Climate Action (Amendment) Bill, all local authorities are tasked with preparing individual climate action plans. The context for such plans is the Government’s Climate Action Plan.
- The overall goal is to reduce our carbon emissions by 50% between 2021 and 2030, and lay the foundations for achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- Action 165 specifically requires identification of one location or area in each local authority that would be subject to a plan for a Decarbonising Zone.
- Zone must be identified by 30th April 2021. The Decarbonisation Zone identified for County Cavan includes:
 - Cavan Town Settlement Boundary which has a population of 10,914 with 3,770 people living in Cavan Urban (Census 2016).
 - The Zone will also include additional areas:
 - Industrial zone on the N3
 - Corranure, as an exemplar of renewable energy and to develop the circular economy.
 - A number of public buildings and the commercial sector

The Chair thanked Colm and asked members if they had any questions.

Tírloch O’Brien asked Colm if there will be a public consultation regarding the Decarbonisation Zone. Colm said, as the decarbonising zone must be identified by 30th of April 2021 there is limited time and therefore they have been consulting with relevant forums as there is insufficient time at this stage for public consultation - there will be a full public consultation in preparation of the final document. Colm also said full details will be advertised in the Anglo Celt. The Chair informed all members that in

order to get relevant input, this presentation is being made to all statutory forums and relevant committees e.g. LCDC, Strategic Policy Committees and others.

Marcella Rudden asked if there are plans for specific funding initiatives to support this process. Colm said at this stage, there has been no information issued regarding funding. Marcella said this is very important for businesses and individuals that there is funding made available to enable them to make necessary changes. The Chair agreed saying that there will need to be investment to support the plans. Cllr. T.P. O'Reilly asked if there is a road map for each local authority to support meeting the ambitious targets set for 2030. Colm responded saying he agrees that the target is ambitious, he said they are currently awaiting information on what supports will be made available to the Local Authority. Cllr T.P O'Reilly also asked of there will be penalties for not meeting targets. Colm said as of now no information has been issued regarding penalties.

Terry Hyland stated that the LEADER Programme in 2023 will have a huge environmental focus attached to it. He said this could provide some of the necessary funding required to support the business and community sectors. As the LAG, this committee could provide valuable support and be a great resource. Terry also suggested a Sustainable Energy Community for Cavan Town might be an avenue for community involvement and using the PPN would also enable getting community input to future plans.

John Kearney agreed that the funding and operational elements are currently not very detailed. He said that this area of development has also featured very heavily in the new Further Education and Training Strategy at national level. He said CMETB are very interested in this area. It will feature in the continued development of education and training programmes, particularly direct delivery of direct apprenticeship programmes. The ETB are also looking at development of an NZEB Centre for Cavan and Monaghan. John stated that the ETB are very interested in working in collaboration with Colm and colleagues in progressing towards delivery of these targets.

The Chief Officer said he is happy to work with the PPN with regards to communicating this to the community and voluntary sectors. John also said it is also

important to poverty proof measures to ensure the cost is not borne by those who can afford it least. He said this should be factored in. Colm said he is aware of fuel poverty and hopes that the proposals will not be too onerous on those who cannot afford it.

The Chair thanks Colm for the presentation. He said there are opportunities going forward to get involved in the climate change agenda.

5. Presentation by Hazel Leahy-: Fáilte Isteach and Domestic Violence in New Communities.

The Chair introduced Hazel Leahy, SICAP Development Worker with Cavan County Local Development Company to present on the Fáilte Isteach Programme and work being undertaken on Domestic Abuse focusing on New Communities.

The main points of the presentation included:

- **Fáilte Isteach:**
 - Cavan County Local Development (CCLD) were asked by Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB) to take the project over when Peace funding came to an end in June 2019. Fáilte Isteach is a community project involving predominantly older volunteers welcoming migrants through conversational English classes.

- **Domestic Abuse amongst the New Communities**
 - 25% of women in Ireland who have been in a relationship have been abused by a current or former partner (Womens Aid, 2019). In 2019, Women's Aid provided 229 Helpline support calls in another language.
 - From 23rd March 2020 to end of November 2020 the Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline responded to 41% more calls than the same time last year.
 - 4C's and MRCl contacted CCLD in late March/early April regarding a rise in the number of women from New Communities presenting to them seeking help because they were in abusive relationships.

- CCLD will continue to support the VAWG group alongside the 4C's in the hope of continuing to raise awareness in the area of Domestic Abuse amongst members of new communities.
- CCLD will continue to resource the Fáilte Isteach Project and are delighted to have the 4C's promoting the initiative to group members, we work alongside CMETB and other organisations in an effort to progress and support our students.

The Chair thanked Hazel for her presentation. He said it shows the difficulties people, especially those in our new communities are experiencing.

Seamus McGrath asked Hazel if there is any service for elder abuse and disabled people. Hazel said they did a lot of work with elder abuse, they went to a lot of senior social clubs and active age groups before Covid-19 and put on a play on elder abuse to get the conversation started. They had staff from the HSE there to answer any questions. Overall, this helped to raise awareness of elder abuse in the County. Hazel said as part of Easter packs being delivered they are sending out information and resources to raise awareness. Going forward CCLD will continue to work on getting information on abuse out to new communities, older people and people with disabilities.

John Kearney confirmed the appreciation of CMETB, particularly Breffni College in relation to the Summer Programme. He acknowledged the increase in those accessing remote learning and acknowledged the excellent support and guidance the Summer Programme provided which helped students to stay with remote learning.

Bridget Boyle asked relating to the Fáilte Isteach Programme, whether it will be delivered to all the other towns in the county aside from Cavan and Ballyjamesduff. Hazel said they had this planned pre covid. They have had to make a lot of changes in response to covid and this has delayed starting in new areas. Hazel noted that as a result of moving classes online, they are no longer restricted to location and there are students joining from other areas of the county. Bridget asked what it the process with regards to recruiting volunteers. Hazel said it is open to everyone, a number of volunteers were sourced via the Community Call.

Angela Fitzpatrick stated that with regards to the older people and elder abuse, Cavan Older People's Council raised the need for awareness raising around elder abuse and have included an action on this in the new age friendly strategy. They plan on raising awareness through provision of information online. This will also be central to information events which will be planned post covid.

The Chair thanked Hazel for her presentation and wished her all the best with the programme.

6. SICAP Audit

Due to Conflict of Interests, Terry Hyland and Jim Maguire from Cavan County Local Development left for this part of the meeting.

The Chief Officer said that the SICAP audit was circulated to all members by email in advance of today's meeting. He explained that under the SICAP Funding Agreement it is a requirement that the LCDC carry out an audit of SICAP on an annual basis. In previous years this was carried out by Local Government Audit on behalf of the Department. The SICAP Audit 2019 was carried out by the Internal Auditor of Cavan County Council late last year. The audit report was sent to the Local Development Company in February 2021 and they were given the opportunity to respond. The findings and recommendations of the report were later approved by the Board of the Local Development Company on the 23rd February 2021. It is a requirement of the Programme that this report is brought to the attention of the LCDC and following this it must be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Chief Officer drew members attention to the key findings on page 22 and management response on page 23. The audit opinions states that the programme is operated in accordance with the necessary procedures and the funding agreement. There were no issues in terms of finances however they identified some minor issues need to be addressed. Cavan County Local Development Company have agreed to implement recommendations as listed in the report.

The Chair thanked John and asked members if they had any questions. There were no questions or issues raised.

7. A.O.B.

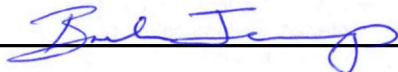
The Chair acknowledged that this is Angela Fitzpatrick's final LCDC meeting. He thanked her and wished her well in her new role. The Chair welcomed Deirdre Donnelly who will be replacing Angela and wished her the best in taking up the position.

Angela thanked the LCDC and wished them the very best with their work in the future.

Terry Hyland informed members that he and John Donohoe presented at a Pobal event in the roll of SICAP in the Community Call. He said it was a very well attended event. They provided information on how the process worked in Cavan and how SICAP contributed through the Food Bank initiative, Meals on Wheels and the volunteer initiative.

Date of next meeting

Next meeting will take place on Thursday 29th April 2021 online via Microsoft Teams.

Signed: 
Chairman

Date: 29th April 2021