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

**Date: 23rd March 2017**

**Time: 3.30pm**

**Location: Council Chamber**

**Present:**

**Statutory**

Tommy Ryan (Chief Executive), Cllr Paddy O’Reilly (Elected Member), Cllr Clifford Kelly (Elected Member),Carmel Denning (DSP), Mary Rose Smith (HSE),

**Private Sector Interests**

Jim Reilly (Community & Voluntary Interests), Olive Hannigan (Social Inclusion Interests), Fintan McCabe (Environmental Interests), Gerry McDonagh (Cootehill Chamber of Commerce). Aishling Tobin (Youth Issues). Jim Maguire (Breffni Integrated Ltd.),

**Apologies:**

**Statutory**

Marcella Rudden (Local Enterprise Office), Cllr Paddy McDonald (Elected Member), John Kearney (Cavan Monaghan ETB),

**Private Sector Interests**

Catherine McCollum (Agricultural and Farming Interests), Seamus McGrath (Disability Interests), Ada Vance (Womens Issues)

**In attendance:** Eoin Doyle (Cavan County Council), John Donohoe (Chief Officer), Emer Coveney (Cavan County Council), Sinéad Tormey (Cavan County Council), Jane Crudden (Cavan County Council), Theresa Tierney (Cavan County Council), Patricia Smith (Cavan County Council), Brendan Reilly (Implementing Partner), Martin Keeney (Children and Young People’s Services Committee).

The Chair (Mr Tommy Ryan) opened the meeting and read out the apologies.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting**

On the proposal of Ms Olive Hannigan and seconded by Ms Mary Rose Smith the minutes of the meeting of 9th February 2017 were approved.

1. **Matters Arising**

Cllr Paddy O’Reilly questioned the funding allocation for the Townhall Arts Space. He commented that at the previous meeting when the application under the Peace IV programme was agreed, the committee was unaware that a funding application had also been submitted for the redevelopment of the Town Hall to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Director of Services, Mr Eoin Doyle explained that an application had gone in from Cavan County Council to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs seeking funding. Cavan County Council had not been aware that the Townhall application was approved and had no idea of the amount of funding which would be approved. The capital investment in the Townhall of €750,000 was announced after four days after the LCDC Meeting.

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of re-directing the Peace IV funds to include the unsuccessful applicants namely the joint venture of the Cavan Gaels GAA and the Royal School and County Cavan Rugby Football Club applications.

Cllr Paddy O’Reilly expressed his discontent that a significant portion of the funding was going towards the Townhall and that the Cavan Gaels project would benefit over 1,000 young people. Cllr O’Reilly stated that the three applications being put forward could be considered Council projects. He proposed that SEUPB be written to informing them that since the applications were submitted to them for Peace funding that subsequent monies have become available to the Townhall and that we propose SEUPB reconsider the next unsuccessful applicants on the list namely the Cavan Gaels GAA/Royal School and County Cavan Rugby Football club. He referred to the significance of a GAA club partnering with the Royal School as a statement of co-operation and integration within the community.

Director of Services, Mr Eoin Doyle replied by explaining that the applications put forward were deemed to be the three applications best fitted to the Peace Criteria and accordingly scored highest. There was a very tight timeframe and a decision had to be made. He mentioned that all of the applications were credible but the three projects put forward fitted in best with the criteria under the Peace IV guidelines.

Mr Doyle also pointed out that the Council submitted the application for the Townhall a significant period previously and had no idea that they would get approval for the project or the amount of funding they would receive. He continued by explaining that the Peace IV funding application was to create a shared space that facilitates a broad range of the arts including theatre, visual art, literature, music, dance & film. Mr Doyle said that all three proposals were based on a strong community partnership and were not necessarily ‘Council’ projects. The Bailieboro and Townhall projects are in the control of community groups.

Town Hall is a protected structure in need of significant investment. Whilst the funds may appear generous the project itself is extensive. The Peace funding is for a discreet portion of work.

Mr Doyle explained that the project is very extensive and the €750,000 investment will go towards structural work to the building. The Peace funding of €247,600 is to go to redoing the front of the building. Mr. Doyle repeated that even with the highest level of interaction with the Department, the Council were given no indication that the funding was going to be approved. Mr Doyle said that numerous applications have been submitted and turned down and that he most certainly did not know that the Council would be granted such a substantial amount.

In response to Mr Gerry McDonagh’s query about the ownership of the Town Hall, Mr Doyle replied that the Council owned it but it was currently on short- term lease to Cavan Arts Group and that the application was made in partnership with the Arts Group.

Mr. Fintan McCabe agreed with Cllr Paddy Reilly that it would be a huge demonstration of integrity of the committee to re-address the funding applications which are with SEUPB.

Ms Ashling Tobin asked if the €750,000 would cover all of the work that needed to be done to the building.

Director of Services, Mr Eoin Doyle referred to the Cavan County LCDC Standing Orders and listed the procedures for a decision to be overturned.

(Ref: 3.10)

‘A proposal to revoke or amend a decision of the LCDC can only be made if submitted in advance for inclusion in the Agenda. The Agenda item shall state the decision to be revoked or amended and detail the terms of the new proposal to be made. No such proposal may appear on the Agenda to revoke or amend any decision on the LCDC within six months of making such decision except with the written assent of not less than three quarters on the members of the LCDC. A decision may not be revoked at the meeting at which it has been adopted.’

The Chief Officer pointed out that there were only 11 committee members at the meeting and not the 13 required to call a special meeting. The written consent of 13 members is required to call a special meeting outside of the current meeting and the vote would have to be passed by ¾ of members (13).

Ms Jane Crudden explained that SEUPB had a full copy of the seven applications and that they will be scrutinising the marking system on the three applications.

The Chair told the group that SEUPB will review the applications from all seven projects and compare how they were assessed and marked. If SEUPB feel that one of the projects from the waiting list has more merit than another then they will let the committee know.

Ms Crudden informed the committee that there will be a small grants scheme for young people which must be cross community as part of Peace IV. She also said that SEUPB will scrutinise the applications and ultimately they will make the decision as to which applications deem more merit.

1. **Conflict of Interest**

The Chair reminded the committee members that the Conflict of Interest forms must be signed when necessary.

1. **Presentation by Cavan Children and Young People’s Services Committee Co-ordinator**

Mr. Martin Keeney gave an informative presentation on the work that is carried out by CYPSC and the role of the LCDC & CYPSC to “Support the implementation of the Children and Young People’s Services Committee to improve co-ordination of services for young people”

It was agreed that Mr Keeney’s presentation would be emailed to the committee members.

1. **Report on 2016 LECP Community Actions**

The Chief Officer gave a presentation on the LECP community actions progressed in 2016. Significant community plan developments included the establishment of the Disability Network, Drug and Alcohol Forum and Volunteer Information Centre. The LEADER LDS was approved and has commenced. He also highlighted some of the actions that took place under the Economic Plan, including funding secured under the REDZ scheme for the development of a Digital Hub. Town Teams have commenced in three towns. He referred to leverage of additional funding to the value of €1.2 million under various schemes.

1. **LECP Community Implementation Plan 2017**

A copy of the draft 2017 Community Implementation Plan was circulated. The Chief Officer highlighted some of the main points in the document, stating that a lot of the actions are ongoing. We will be bringing a proposal for a Healthy Ireland initiative to the next LCDC meeting.

Cllr Clifford Kelly enquired as to how many Chambers of Commerce are operating in the county. Mr.Gerry McDonagh said there are two strong Chambers in Cootehill and Cavan. Cllr Kelly drew attention to Community Development Councils which are doing great work in areas where there are no Chambers of Commerce. The Chair agreed that we should reference the Community Development Councils in the implementation plan.

The Chair suggested that we leave the approval for the LECP 2017 ‘Community Implementation Plan’ until the April meeting to allow members an opportunity to read it in more detail.

1. **PEACE IV Update**

Ms. Jane Crudden, Peace Co-ordinator, circulated a Partnership Agreement for Peace IV. She said that this is not a formal legal partnership, rather it is a secondary document that has to be read in line with the Letter of Offer. She asked for the committee to authorise the Chair to sign the agreement.

On the proposal of Mr Fintan McCabe and seconded by Mr Gerry McDonagh it was agreed that the Chair be authorised to sign the agreement as outlined.

1. **AOB**

The Chief Officer drew the committee’s attention to a new Community Facilities fund which will provide €64,500 for the county. Grants are available for capital projects up to a maximum of €1,000 per applicant. The scheme is to be operated by the LCDC and Municipal Districts (MD) under the local authority. The LCDC will make recommendations to the MDs in relation to funding for community facilities.

Overall there is a national allocation under this scheme of €2 million. It is for small scale grants for community facilities and can be used as match funding. Only capital expenditure is eligible. Eligible groups include community centres, youth clubs, sports and recreation facilities. The deadline for applications is 30 June 2017. Funding has to be spent by the end of 2017.

Mr Fintan McCabe suggested a mark of respect for former Deputy First of Northern Ireland Martin McGuinness whose funeral was taking place at the time of the meeting. Members observed a minute’s silence.

1. **Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27th April 2017.

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

Chairman