

## Sligo Local Community Development Committee

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2014, 11.00am, City Hall, Sligo**

<b>Present</b>		
Councillor Sinead Maguire	<b>Local Government Members</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Councillor Sean MacManus	<b>Local Government Member</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Councillor Seamus Kilgannon	<b>Local Government Member</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Mr. Ciarán Hayes	<b>Local Government /CE</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Mr. John Reilly	<b>Local Government / LEO</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Mr. Benny Swinburne rep.	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Dept. of Social Protection</b>
Mr. Damian McCallion	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE</b>
Mr. Chris Gonley	<b>Local Development Sector</b>	<b>Sligo LEADER Partnership Co. Ltd</b>
Mr. Hugh MacConville	<b>Trade Union Interests</b>	<b>Irish Congress of Trade Unions</b>
Mr. Paul Keyes	<b>Business Interests</b>	<b>Sligo Chamber of Commerce</b>
Mr. Sean Tempany	<b>Farming / Agriculture Interests</b>	<b>Farming / Agriculture Pillar</b>
Dr. John Bartlett	<b>Environmental Interests</b>	<b>Environment Pillar</b>
Ms. Bernadette Maughan	<b>Social Inclusion</b>	<b>Sligo County Community Forum</b>
Mr. Gerard O'Connor	<b>Community &amp; Voluntary</b>	<b>Sligo County Community Forum</b>
Ms. Vanessa Clarke	<b>Community &amp; Voluntary</b>	<b>Sligo County Community Forum</b>
Mr. Brian Scanlon	<b>Social Inclusion</b>	<b>Sligo County Community Forum</b>
<b>Apologies</b>		
Mr. Michael Bourke	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB</b>
Mr. Paul Keyes	<b>Business Interests</b>	<b>Sligo Chamber of Commerce</b>
<b>In Attendance</b>		
Ms. Dorothy Clarke	<b>Chief Officer LCDC</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Síofra Kilcullen	<b>Administrative Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Geraldine Timlin	<b>Assistant Staff Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>

## **1. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.**

### ***Election of Chairperson***

Councillor Sean MacManus was proposed for the position of Chairperson by Mr. Brian Scanlon and seconded by Mr. Hugh MacConville. As there were no other nominations Councillor S. MacManus was elected as Chairperson.

Councillor MacManus thanked the members and noted that the LCDC will have a significant role to play in the development of the community in Sligo over the coming years and acknowledged that there is a vast amount of work to be done in this area.

### ***Election of Vice Chair***

Mr. Sean Tempany was proposed by Mr. Chris Gonley and seconded by Mr. Gerry O'Connor. As there were no other nominations Mr. S. Tempany was elected as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Tempany thanked the members who proposed and seconded him for the position of Vice Chairperson.

## **2. Record of the first meeting of Local Community Development Committee nominees dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

Minutes of the meeting dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 were proposed by Mr. John Reilly and seconded by Ms. Vanessa Clarke.

### ***Matters Arising.***

The issue of Indemnification of LCDC members raised at the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014 was discussed. Sligo County Councils insurers, Irish Public Bodies have agreed to extend the Local Authorities Policy to include the legal liability in connection with the Local Community Development Committees on the basis they are not involved in any infrastructural/physical development projects or activities.

The matter has also been referred to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government who have advised that it is their understanding that LCDC has a similar status to the Peace Partnership Committee in terms of financial management, where the LA is the responsible authority, thereby indemnifying the members from financial liability. They have however referred the matter to the Departments legal advisor and will issue a formal instruction on this shortly.

## **3. Correspondence.**

### ***Circular Letter AL 03/2014.***

Circular AL 03/2014, on the membership of the LCDC, was discussed briefly by the group. The decision to increase or decrease the membership of the LCDC is to be taken by the Chief Officer in

consultation with the Corporate Policy Group. The maximum number on the group is 19 members and there must be a majority of non-statutory members

Members asked, that, if deliberating on the membership, the Chief officer consider:

- representation from the Credit Unions in light of the high economic and social advantage and value.
- increasing the representation from South Sligo on the LCDC.
- linkages between the LCDC and Gardai should be considered, in the absence of the JPC

#### **4. Draft Standing Orders**

The draft standing orders were discussed. The Chief Officer also advised the group that new statutory guidelines on LCDCs had also been issued by the Department on 10<sup>th</sup> July and the Standing orders would need to be reviewed in the context of these (Guidelines circulated to members)

The following points were noted:

- Voting procedure needs to be included in the Standing Orders– neither public authorities or any single interest group should represent more than 49% of the voting rights of the committee. All members must also give a formal declaration regarding conflicts of interest.
- Meetings to be increased to a minimum of six meetings per annum.
- Members agreed that whilst substitutes could attend meetings if notified in advance, they would not have voting rights.
- It was proposed to remove points 3.2 / 3.3
- Point 3.7 Sustainable Development, should be changed to Sustainability. It was also proposed that sustainability criteria need to be set for decision making.
- Public Participation Networks should also be included.
- Point 15.1 – more consideration needs to be given to partnership arrangements
- It was also noted that gender balance is weak overall..measure to improve gender balance should be included in the standing orders.

The Chair welcomed proposed that the Draft Standing Order's be perused by members and any comments / suggestions be forwarded in writing to S. Kilcullen by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Amended standing orders to be circulation in advance of next meeting.

#### **5. Oversight of Local Community Development Programme.**

A report on the Local Community Development Programme was circulated and noted by members together with the June Monthly Financial Report of the LCDP

It was agreed that there is a sizeable workload involved in the operation and administration of the LCDC, particularly in terms of feedback to various Government Departments and Agencies. C. Gonley, C.E.O. SLPCo., advised members that they are more than welcome to visit the offices of Sligo LEADER Partnership Co Ltd to see the way in which the company and programmes operate.

## 6. Local Economic and Community Plan – Identification of high level priorities for Sligo.

Presentation given by S. Kilcullen (copy circulated) including:

- Purpose, background & policy framework
- Outline of community and economic elements as outlined in the legislation
- Key policies that need to be taken into account including Europe 2020 targets
- Framework for consultation and process for development of Plan
- Indicative timelines
- Possible priority themes based on consultations with agencies to date

It was clarified that there are 3 proposed phases of consultation in the development of the plan. It was acknowledged that ongoing consultation should be built into the process to ensure ownership of the plan by the wider community.

### **Issues raised in the discussion on priorities for the County-**

- Members agreed that there is a need for all sectors to work together and promote the counties numerous assets in order to ensure a better quality of life in the county.
- Members agreed that plan must include an overall vision statement which encapsulates the desired strategic framework for the development of Sligo over the next six years
- The strategic vision should reflect a commitment to enable all people in Sligo to fulfil their potential as citizens
- Sligo is a small county therefore the plan must reflect the interconnection with other counties is important in reflecting its regional and city status.
- The vision for Sligo must be achievable, realistic and honest. It is necessary to examine how Sligo can reach its full potential as the capital of the region. Consideration to be given to what hasn't worked previously, what has inhibited Sligo and how this can be addressed going forward.
- It was agreed that the promotion of Sligo should be a priority in the plan and collectively communicating what is positive about Sligo.
- Health and wellbeing in the community should be a priority for the plan. The social determinates of health should be considered as part of this element
- The positive contribution of the Community groups, Tidy Towns committees and the participation by communities in the All Island Pride of Place competition was acknowledged and measures to support the positive work of these groups should be reflected in the plan.
- The plan should include measures to ensure positive mental health, measures to develop community resilience and to support independent living in older years
- Education & Training should be a priority theme with an emphasis on linkage between training and job opportunities
- It is also important to note that there are many young people in the County aged 15-25 who left education at an early age and are now unemployed, untrained and unskilled. It is vital that resources are put in place to assist these young people. Communities where this pattern is emerging need to be prioritised in the LECP. Stronger measures are needed to address unemployment amongst young people age 16-25

- It was noted that services such as Cancer Care, the Harbour, Airport, Hospital, Freight Yard have been downgraded in Sligo. It is hard to be positive when services are being withdrawn. The need for more balanced regional development should be reflected in the plan if Sligo is to achieve its full potential.
- Sligo has significant cultural assets whose potential needs to be maximised. Opportunities in relation to Tourism in Sligo need to be promoted on a much bigger and cohesive scale ie W.B. Yeats, Jack B. Yeats, Brahms Stoker and Marcivicez.
- The development of the cultural and creative sector in Sligo is important both for the community and economy of the county.

Some of the key concepts to be included are:

- Regional significance of Sligo City as capital of North West
- Balanced development
- Innovation, culture and creativity identity
- Avoidance of duplication
- Promoting an inclusiveness society and equality proofing
- Building resilient communities
- Building on what we have and the retention of key services in County
- Improving quality of life and wellbeing
- Future proofing for the needs of generation to come
- Developing environmental infrastructure

### **Consultation Process**

- It was proposed that the consultation process should include simple prompt questions to encourage people and communities to identify the issues, challenges and opportunities for Sligo. The LECP must be inclusive of all the needs of Sligo and its diverse communities.
- It should also be clearly communicated as part of the consultation process that the LECP will form the strategic framework for local and community development programme funding over the next six years. This should help focus people on the importance of this plan for the County.
- It was agreed to initiate the public consultation process to inform the priorities for the plan by issuing a public notice inviting submissions from the general public and organisations.
- D. Clarke advised that the minutes of each meeting, once agreed, will be published on the County Council website and community consultations / workshops will also take place on a county wide basis.

**7. Subcommittee for Local Economic and Community Plan.**

D. Clarke advised members that a subcommittee should be established to assist with the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan.

The following members were co-opted onto the subcommittee:

Councillor S. Kilgannon, Mr. J. Bartlett, Ms. V. Clarke, Mr. C. Gonley, Mr. H. MacConville, Councillor S. MacManus and Mr. G. Mularkey (HSE Rep, as per Mr. D. McCallion).

**8. A.O.B.**

D. Clarke advised members that the Public Participation Network (PPN) would be established before the end of 2014. Staff will begin working on the PPN from September 2014 onwards.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending and for their commitment to the work of the LCDC.

Meeting concluded at 1.45pm.

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

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

Chairperson



