



Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 29th October 2020 at 9.30a.m.

Community Virtual Meeting Room

PRESENT

Councillor Dara Mulvey (by video)	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Councillor Tom Fox (by video)	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Councillor Joseph Queenan (by phone)	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Mr. Ciarán Hayes (by video)	Local Government / CE	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly (by video)	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Ms. Patricia Garland (by phone/video)	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. John Kennedy (by video)	State Agency	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Mr. John Feerick (by video)	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Hugh MacConville, (by video)	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Aidan Doyle (by video)	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Michael Kirby (by video)	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen (by phone)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Gerry O'Connor (by video)	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Ms. Kathleen Henry (by phone)	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Ms. Mary Murphy (by video)	Community & Voluntary	PPN

APOLOGIES /ABSENT

Ms. Elizabeth King	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Mary Brodie	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Dorothy Clarke	LCDC Chief Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Margaret McConnell	Senior Executive Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Aisling Smyth	Administrative Officer	Sligo County Council
Mr. Martin McAndrew	Peace IV Manager	Sligo County Council
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Marcella McGarry	Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator	Sligo County Council
Ms. June Murphy	Programme Manager	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG

Mr. Hugh MacConville as Acting Chairperson opened the meeting and congratulated Councillor Dara Mulvey on being elected Chairperson following online election process earlier this month.

Councillor Mulvey then assumed the Chair and thanked Mr. MacConville for his work as Acting Chairperson of the LCDC since March.

Councillor Mulvey also welcomed Mr. John Feerick, CEO of Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG who is replacing Mr. Chris Gonley as Local Development Company Representative on the LCDC.

1. RATIFICATION OF THE NEW CHAIRPERSON OF THE LCDC FOLLOWING ELECTION PROCESS

Ms. Margaret McConnell reminded Members of the recent online election process via Survey Monkey which resulted in an outcome of 9 votes for Councillor Mulvey and 8 votes for Mr. MacConville, determining Councillor Mulvey as the winning candidate. She acknowledged the work of Mr. MacConville as Acting Chairperson over the intervening months.

Ratification of Councillor Dara Mulvey as the new Chairperson of the LCDC was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Councillor Joe Queenan and agreed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr. John Feerick declared an interest in SICAP.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th September 2020 were proposed by Mr. John Kennedy seconded by Mr. Michael Kirby and agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. REVIEW OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised Members that as a result of changes in the membership of Sligo LCDC, a review of the membership of its subcommittees is required. Ms. McConnell read out the current membership of the following 4 subcommittees of the LCDC;

- Advisory Steering Group to LECF
- Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Subcommittee
- Rural Development Programme Subcommittee
- PEACE IV Partnership subcommittee

Membership as outlined was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Mr. John Kennedy and agreed.

5. SICAP

- a) **Update on SICAP 2020**
- b) **Update on SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups (Rounds 1 & 2)**
- c) **Revisiting of Annual Targets for 2020**
- d) **2020 Case Study**
- e) **Agreement/Approval to Emerging Needs Group for 2021**
- f) **Annual Targets for 2021**
- g) **Internal Audit report on SICAP 2018 – For noting**
- h) **Correspondence**
 - i. **Work it Out! 2021 - Roll-out possibilities- email 15.10.20 from Diversiton**
 - ii. **OECD Call for Tenders - Peer-Learning Partnerships - Global Action "Promoting Social and Solidarity Economy Ecosystems" – Pobal email 23.10.20**

a) Report on **SICAP 2020 Update** was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Ms. June Murphy briefed Members on this report which outlined work carried out to date. Ms. Murphy advised that the Covid pandemic had impacted on programme delivery with the move to online delivery for some actions which has proved challenging for more disadvantaged individuals. Ms. Murphy advised that some training courses such as Safe Pass/Manual handling had to be put on hold due to Covid restrictions under Level 5. In light of this, Members were informed that annual targets may need to be reduced.

In relation to actions under Goal 1, Members were advised of ongoing mentoring supports provided to Community Groups in Cranmore and Cliffoney.

Actions under Goal 2 include back to work supports and mentoring for individuals looking to set up their own business. Ms. Murphy also advised of collaborative work ongoing with the Education and Lifelong learning Forum and the MSLETB in providing supports to those economically vulnerable and in need of up-skilling (Emerging Needs Target Group for 2020).

b) In relation to the **SICAP grants scheme (Rounds 1 and 2)**, Ms. Murphy advised of applications to the value of €9,317 under Round 2. It was noted that SICAP grant applications were assessed to ensure that there was no overlap with other grant schemes (Community Enhancement Programme/Covid 19).

c) With regards **Revisiting of Annual Targets for 2020**, it was noted that Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG have provided a rationale in support of their request to have the 2020 annual target for Key Performance Indicator 2 reduced by 15% from 431 Individuals to 366.

Ms. June Murphy advised that due to the impact of Covid 19, many Local Development Companies have had to reduce targets under KPIs. Ms. Murphy informed Members that a reduction of the KPI 2 target is necessary in order to ensure qualitative delivery of supports.

Proposal to reduce KPI 2 annual target by 15% was proposed by Mr. Hugh MacConville, seconded by Ms. Mary Murphy and agreed by all.

d) In relation to the **2020 Case Study**, Ms. June Murphy advised that Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG used the Food run during Covid 19 as the basis of their Case study this year – link to the Case study video was forwarded to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Murphy noted the flexibility within SICAP to facilitate the collaborative approach involved in delivering the Food run and acknowledged input of all agencies involved.

e) Ms. Margaret McConnell advised Members that the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee had considered the **Emerging Needs Group for 2021** at their meeting on the 21st October 2020. The Committee recommended that the 2021 Emerging Needs Group remain the same as for 2020, i.e. those Economically Vulnerable and in need of up-skilling.

Proposal that the Economically Vulnerable and in need of up-skilling remain as the Emerging Needs Group for 2021 was proposed by Ms. Mary Murphy, seconded by Mr. Hugh MacConville and agreed by all.

f) With regards **Annual Targets for 2021**, Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that in light of Covid 19, the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal are allowing flexibility for 2021 Targets. Sligo LEADER Partnership are proposing that targets for both Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) be reduced by 15% for 2021 as follows;

KPI	Description	2020 Annual Target	2021 Annual Target
1	Supporting Communities	45 Groups	38 Groups
2	Supporting Individuals	431 Individuals	366 Individuals

Submission of Annual Targets for 2021 as above, to Pobal were proposed by Mr. Hugh MacConville, seconded by Councillor Dara Mulvey and agreed.

g) **Internal Audit report on SICAP 2018** was circulated to LCDC Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that Ms. Dolores McDonagh, Internal Auditor of Sligo County Council had carried out an audit of SICAP 2018. The Audit covered work undertaken on SICAP during the year, salary costs, administration costs, Governance, publicity requirements, data input on IRIS and checking of beneficiary files. The Auditors report included recommendations for both Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG and Sligo LCDC on procedures and protocols to be put in place for checking financial and non financial records going forward. LCDC support staff will have to carry out more frequent checks on Programme delivery. A joint response is to issue to the Internal Auditor advising on the update on actions taken on each of the recommendations referred to in the Internal Audit Report on SICAP 2018.

h) Correspondence listed under the SICAP item was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined correspondence which was noted by Members.

6. Update on Healthy Ireland Programme

A report outlining the update on the Healthy Ireland Programme was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Marcella McGarry briefed Members on this report and advised of updates following the special meeting of the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee on 17th September which include ongoing liaison with Pobal and Project leads. In relation to the recent review of the Programme to consider how all projects could be delivered in a Covid environment, Ms. McGarry advised that the final revisions were submitted to Pobal on the 30th September. This review included 2 new projects considered by the Committee at their meeting on 17th September, namely;

- Muintir na Tire/Sligo Lend a hand “Digitally Connecting Individuals to Reduce Threats to Health and Wellbeing”
- Sligo Arts Service Project “Take a Walk for Me

Endorsement was received by the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee at its meeting of the 21st October, 2020 for the inclusion of the 2 new projects as above in the Sligo Healthy Ireland Plan.

Retrospective approval of the LCDC to this endorsement for the inclusion of these projects in the Healthy Ireland Plan for Sligo was proposed by Mr. Hugh MacConville and seconded by Ms. Patricia Garland and agreed.

With regards the Community Mental Health Small Grant Fund 2020, Ms. McGarry advised that this scheme opened on 6th October, 2020 with a closing date of 23rd October for applications. The Scheme offers small grants (minimum of €2,000 to a maximum of €5,000) for groups to deliver actions which are in line with the Mental Health Theme of Healthy Ireland Round 3.

24No. Applications were received and will be assessed by an Evaluation panel (*as agreed by the SI & SICAP Monitoring Committee*). LCDC members agreeing to sit on the Evaluation Panel include Mr Hugh MacConville and Ms Patricia Garland. Ms Maeve Whittington CYPSC Co-ordinator has also agreed to sit on the Panel.

In relation to the Development of Community Engagement Actions, Ms. McGarry advised Members of an increased budget of €42,300 (from €30,000) for this element of the HI Programme with the transfer of unspent salary costs, as per Programme Rules.

Members were advised of projects under the Community Engagement element of Healthy Ireland with Project leads and key target groups as follows:

- Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG - Older people
- Comhairle na nÓg and Foróige - Young people
- Sligo Family Resource Centre - New communities

Mr. Hugh MacConville acknowledged how responsive the Healthy Ireland Programme has become, in particular in the area of Mental Health. Mr. MacConville also welcomed the inclusion of the two new projects which are innovative.

In response to Mr. MacConville's query on the delivery of a Mental health hub as outlined in the Action by the Centre of Independent Living (CIL), Ms. McGarry advised that she has sought clarity from CIL, whether the hub is to be virtual, in light of the COVID pandemic.

Councillor Mulvey agreed with Mr. MacConville's comments in relation to concerns of people around mental health.

7. NEW LOCAL ECONOMIC COMMUNITY PLAN FROM 2021

A report outlining the new Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised Members that as Sligo's current LECP is due for renewal in 2021 it is proposed that within the strategic framework *Sligo 2030*, the necessary elements that are statutorily required for the next new Sligo LECP are included. The Sligo 2030 Initiative started early in 2020, however the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic delayed the completion of the brief for consultants to work on the preparation of the strategic framework for Sligo; *Sligo: One Voice One Vision - Towards 2030 (working title Sligo 2030)*.

Ms. Clarke advised that the draft Terms of Reference have now been finalised and a procurement process to engage appropriate consultants will be engaged to undertake the work of developing this strategic framework for Sligo which will also combine a new LECP for Sligo. It was noted that the Sligo 2030 Plan is to be an overarching countywide Strategic Framework to guide the development of all of County Sligo over next 10 years. It will act as an integrated multi-sectoral strategy based on the principles of smart sustainable development, economic and environmental sustainability, be climate change responsive and create an equitable society that will be socially inclusive.

The ambition is to place Sligo at the forefront of smart technology utilization and develop Sligo into a Smart City & County, working collaboratively with businesses, educational institutions and citizens.

Ms. Clarke briefly outlined the draft Terms of Reference for Sligo 2030 which includes requests for the consultants to prepare a socio-economic profile of Sligo, undertake a thorough needs analysis assessment and undertake consultation / workshops based on a detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan, having regards to the impact of any Covid 19 restrictions.

With regards consultation process, Ms. Clarke advised that this may take place online in 2021. The indicative timeline for receipt of tenders from Consultants is the end of December 2020.

Mr. Hugh MacConville noted that one of the prime functions of the LCDC was to make sure that the elements of community and economic development be linked and to connect the people of Sligo to local services. Mr. MacConville asked that time be given at the December LCDC meeting to discuss Sligo 2030 Plan further.

Ms. Mary Murphy commented that the Plan is very broad and ideological involving a tremendous amount of work. Ms. Murphy also asked for further discussion to take place.

Ms. Clarke agreed with comments in relation to the 2030 Plan and advised that it is high level and strategic. Ms. Clarke noted that one criticism of the current LECP and other Plans is that they are very detailed so it is important to strike a balance.

Ms. Clarke advised that the LCDC and PPN will be one of the first stakeholders engaged by JASPER officials.

It was agreed that the Sligo 2030 Plan be on the agenda for the December meeting of the LCDC.

8. APPROVAL OF ALLOCATIONS UNDER COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME: FUND FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

A report outlining the Community Enhancement Programme: Fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of an additional allocation of €116,932 for Sligo under the CEP for Community centres. Closing date for applications was the 25th September with 49 applications received.

Proposal to approve allocation of to 49 groups as per breakdown provided was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Mr. Hugh MacConville and agreed by all.

9. COVID 19 – RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PLAN

A report outlining the Covid 19 Resilience and Recovery Plan was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell briefed Members on this report and advised that the Government has announced a 6 to 12 month Resilience and Recovery plan which will be underpinned by on-going reviews in order to respond to the challenges of Covid 19.

This plan will have an emphasis on the role of the Local Authority and highlights specific responsibilities for local government, building upon their highly successful role to date, as evidenced by recent published research work. Ms McConnell advised that the Community Call structures put in place in March 2020 will be retained and the Community Fora, chaired by the CE of Sligo County Council will continue to meet on a regular basis.

Ms. McConnell mentioned the Government's commitment to the development of the National Economic Plan and the continuation of economic supports, including those delivered by local authorities remains in place for the foreseeable future. The plan envisages the local authorities will work with the LCDCs, PPNs and LEOs in delivering back to work supports and addressing local wellbeing.

Ms. McConnell also advised that a core element of the Local Authority actions will be to preserve and maintain the democratic mandate of the elected councils and ensure that they continue to engage and convene meetings.

Mr. Ciarán Hayes advised on the reconvening of the Community Forum and of the expanded role in community support, resilience and keeping well.

10. UPDATE ON PPN

Report circulated Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Michael Kirby briefed Members on PPN activity since the September LCDC meeting. Mr. Kirby advised that the PPN AGM will take place virtually on the 26th November 2020. Members were also advised that the *Step Up For Sligo* keepsake edition was published in the Sligo Champion on Tuesday 20th October 2020 and featured 18 stories of life volunteering under Covid-19, as well as offering a short overview of the collaborative efforts under the Sligo Community Response Forum.

11. UPDATE ON PEACE IV PROGRAMME

Report circulated Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Martin McAndrew briefed Members on this report and advised that the SEUPB has granted a three month extension to 31st December 2020 to enable completion of projects under Building Positive Relations and Shared Spaces & Services themes.

Projects which have yet to be completed include - The Cantilever, Heaney Yeats Literary Project and Lest Sligo Forgets, all of which are due for completion in November 2020.

Mr. McAndrew advised that the new Peace Programme, Peace Plus will combine PEACE and INTERREG funding from 2021 onwards. SEUPB are to hold a public statutory consultation on the draft Programme which will take place towards the end of 2020.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Certificate in Alcohol Licensing – HSE email 20.10.20

Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined correspondence as above which was noted by Members.

13. DATE FOR NEXT LCDC/LAG MEETING – THURSDAY 10/17TH DECEMBER 2020

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised members of discussion at the recent RDP Subcommittee meeting where Ms. June Murphy advised of a high volume of applications received as the Rural Development Programme is drawing to a close. Sligo LEADER Partnership have requested that the LAG meeting be convened at a later date to allow consideration be given to the applications.

Members agreed to hold the next meetings of the LCDC/LAG on the 17th December 2020.

It was noted that the IEC meeting scheduled for the 30th November has been re-arranged for 7th December 2020.

Meeting concluded at 11.10 a.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____