



Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 30th April 2020 at 10a.m.

Sligo County Council's Virtual Meeting Room

PRESENT

Councillor Dara Mulvey <i>(by video)</i>	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Councillor Joseph Queenan <i>(by phone)</i>	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Mr. Ciarán Hayes <i>(by video)</i>	Local Government /CE	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly <i>(by video)</i>	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Kennedy <i>(by video)</i>	State Agency	Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Patricia Garland <i>(by phone)</i>	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Ms. Mary Brodie <i>(by video)</i>	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Ms. June Murphy <i>(by video)</i>	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Aidan Doyle <i>(by video)</i>	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Hugh MacConville, A/Chairperson <i>(Present in Chamber)</i>	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Michael Kirby <i>(by video)</i>	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Ms. Elizabeth King <i>(by video)</i>	Social Inclusion	PPN
Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen <i>(by video)</i>	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Gerry O'Connor <i>(by video)</i>	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Ms. Kathleen Henry (from 10.30am) <i>(by phone)</i>	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar

APOLOGIES /ABSENT

Ms. Mary Murphy	Community & Voluntary	PPN
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IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Dorothy Clarke	LCDC Chief Officer	Sligo County Council
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Ms. Margaret McConnell	Senior Executive Officer	Sligo County Council
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Ms. Sinéad Branley	A/Senior Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
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Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
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Ms. Sarah Wetherald <i>(by video)</i>	PPN Development Worker	
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Mr. Hugh MacConville as Acting Chairperson opened the meeting by welcoming all to this virtual meeting of Sligo LCDC.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms. June Murphy declared an interest in SICAP.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27TH FEBRUARY 2020

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 27th February 2020 were proposed by Mr. Michael Kirby, seconded by Ms. June Murphy and agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. COVID-19 FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Ms. Dorothy Clarke gave a verbal update on the work of the Local Authority and in particular the Community & Economic Development Section in relation to the COVID-19 Community Response. Following the Government’s restrictions announcement on St. Patrick’s Day and subsequently, Local Authorities were tasked with leading out on the Emergency response. A Forum, chaired by the Chief Executive was established with the purpose of leading the co-ordination of COVID-19 community supports. The first virtual meeting of the Forum was held on the 29th March with representatives from the HSE, DEASP, SLPC, Civil Defence, Order of Malta, An Garda Síochána, An Post, Sligo Volunteer Centre, PPN, LCDC and others in attendance. A Help-line was put in place and went live on the 31st March. The Helpline can be contacted by email, phone or text (free phone 1800 292 765 [/covidsupport@sligococo.ie](mailto:covidsupport@sligococo.ie) / text sligo to 50100). Ms. Clarke advised that all staff in the Community & Economic Development Section and other staff from the Council offices are involved in manning the

helpline and acknowledged the work of staff to date. Ms. Clarke also acknowledged the work of Sligo LEADER Partnership staff in their support to the response to the Covid crisis.

Mr. Hugh MacConville commented on the remarkable work of the Forum to date and thanked the Community team for their contribution to the Helpline.

5. SICAP

- a. **Update on SICAP 2020 - new /directions in light of COVID-19 pandemic (Pobal's emails FAQ)**
- b. **SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups – as part of Emergency response to COVID -19**
- c. **Correspondence**
 - i. **Distance Travelled Tool - My Journey – Pobal email 9.4.20**
 - ii. **Message from Covid-19 Stakeholder Communications Support - Wellbeing Campaign – Pobal email 16.4.20**
 - iii. **SICAP GDPR Designations – email 25.3.20 from the Dept of Rural & Community Development**

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

Ms. Margaret McConnell briefed Members on the recent changes to SICAP in response to the COVID-19 crisis as advised by Pobal.

Ms. June Murphy detailed changes in the operation of SICAP and advised of virtual/online contact with clients. Under Health and Wellbeing activities, Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG (SLPC) has developed a range of online supports including Positive Mental Health videos featuring mindfulness, make-up tutorials, gardening and cooking tips.

In relation to Unemployed Services, Ms. Murphy advised of Job Ready videos and BTWEA Business Training which is continuing online.

Life Long Learning activities are also being delivered online e.g. Arts classes, Creative Writing Initiative and Digital skills tutorials.

Ms. Murphy further advised of SLPC's Friendly Call service for the HSE for their clients now at home due to the closure of Day Care centres.

Sligo LEADER Partnership are to engage with the PPN team around Training needs analysis as it is expected that unemployment will be high once the COVID-19 crisis has passed.

- b. A report outlining the **SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups – as part of Emergency response to COVID-19** was circulated in advance of the meeting. As part of the Sligo Community Response Forum, Sligo LCDC in conjunction with Co Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG (SLPC) is making funding available under the SICAP to support community groups and organisations that are directly responding to the COVID-19 emergency within County Sligo.

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised Members that it had been intended that the SICAP Monitoring Committee would consider grants; however this had not been possible due to timing. Ms.

McConnell confirmed that the Grant scheme is in line with the Programme Requirements for SICAP and updated guidance from Pobal and is critical to evoke at this time due to the pandemic.

The closing date for receipt of applications is the 5th May 2020.

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

Members were advised that Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG intend to use *My Journey – Distance Travelled Tool* to measure progression of clients under SICAP.

With regards **SICAP GDPR Designations**, Ms. McConnell advised of correspondence from the Department of Rural and Community Development notifying LCDC Chief Officers of a status change in relation to the LCDC who have now been designated as Data Controller (previously Data Processor) for SICAP.

6. DRCD COVID-19 EMERGENCY GRANT SCHEME

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised Members of this COVID-19 Emergency Fund announced by the Department on the 9th April with €63,074 allocated to Sligo. This fund is designed to cover the costs incurred by Community and Voluntary groups actively responding to the crisis. Ms. McConnell advised of 80 groups mapped with the PPN who will be eligible to apply for funding under the terms of the scheme. Primarily supports will be in grant aid for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) with a max grant of €1,000 per group; however there may be some exceptions to this. Ten applications have been received to date.

Closing date for applications is 5th May 2020.

Councillor Joe Queenan asked if funding could be provided to Meals on Wheels Groups. Ms. McConnell confirmed that if the group is registered with the PPN and mapped for response to Covid then they would be eligible for grant aid.

Ms. June Murphy advised that all Meals on Wheels groups are registered with Sligo LEADER Partnership and as such will be eligible for funding under the SICAP Grant scheme to Local Community Groups – as part of the Emergency response to COVID-19.

7. PPN UPDATE

Ms. Sarah Wetherald joined the meeting and gave a verbal update on PPN activity. Ms. Wetherald advised that Sligo PPN is a member of the Community Response Forum and the PPN team has been busy updating the PPN website with information on accessing supports and staying safe during the pandemic. There are currently 80 groups registered with the PPN under the COVID-19 response programme with available services mapped on the PPN website.

This map is used directly by the community but also by the COVID-19 Helpline staff in allocating volunteers to callers needing support.

Ms. Wetherald advised that the PPN team worked with Sligo LEADER Partnership and the Volunteer Centre in developing an Information pack for groups to assist them with tasks such as collecting prescriptions, social distancing and Garda vetting.

Sligo PPN also worked with Sligo County Council in ensuring that PPE was allocated to groups most in need.

Sligo PPN is working on a research proposal with IT Sligo to capture the economic value on the role of the Community and Voluntary sector during the COVID-19 crisis. It is hoped that this research will gain recognition for the C&V sector.

Work is beginning on a social media campaign with the organisation One Step Closer to capture and celebrate the work of the community sector in Sligo during this crisis.

Ms. Wetherald also advised that the PPN is currently mapping health and wellbeing initiatives that will fit with the broader county Health and Wellbeing campaign coordinated by Sligo County Council.

Ms. Wetherald mentioned ongoing work with the Family Resource Centres and Sligo LEADER Partnership in identifying unique challenges facing vulnerable groups.

Ms. Patricia Garland advised of 2 areas identified in Sligo as lacking community response capacity. Ms. Garland confirmed that this was not related to Covid but that a group in the Cliffoney area had reached out for support. Ms. June Murphy is to request SICAP Development staff to follow up on this issue.

8. CODEx Project – LCDC as partner (email from Mel Gavin 17.4.20)

Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised of recent correspondence from Mr. Mel Gavin advising that IT Sligo are partnering in a Horizon 2020 application under the 'Hands-on citizen science and frugal innovation' call. IT Sligo asked that Sligo LCDC be included as a partner in this research project - **Citizen Scientists to Contribute to the Development of Zero Carbon Footprint Exemplary Initiatives (CODEx)**.

CODEX will examine how ordinary families can be transformed to knowledgeable citizen scientists operating systemically in lowering their carbon footprint and planning for the development of Renewable Energy Communities (REC) and Citizen Energy Communities (CEC).

There is no match funding required and the project will provide an estimated budget of €200K over a 3 year period. The role of the LCDC would be to identify local communities for the project.

9. Date for next LCDC/LAG Meeting

Date of 23rd July 2020 agreed by Members - start time of 9.30am.

10. AOB

Ms. Margaret McConnell thanked Mr. Jimmy O'Brien for his technical assistance during this first virtual meeting of the LCDC.

Ms. June Murphy mentioned the FoodCloud and the first delivery to 60 families in need during COVID-19.

Ms. Murphy acknowledged Aurivo and Kellys Fresh Food who provided supplies.

Meeting concluded at 11.00a.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____