



Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 10th September 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
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 video)	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. John Kennedy (by video)	State Agency	Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. June Murphy (by video)	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Hugh MacConville, A/Chairperson (Present in Chamber)	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)
Ms. Elizabeth King (by video)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen (by video)	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 (Present in Chamber)	Community & Voluntary	PPN

APOLOGIES /ABSENT

Ms. Mary Brodie	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Councillor Joseph Queenan	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council

IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Margaret McConnell	Senior Executive Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Aisling Smyth	Administrative Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Sinéad Branley	A/Senior Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Mr. Jude Mannion (by video)	A/Senior Staff 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

Mr. Hugh MacConville as Acting Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed Ms. Mary Murphy who is replacing Ms. Jackie Sweeney as PPN Representative on the LCDC.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms. Elizabeth King declared an interest in Healthy Ireland.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23RD JULY 2020

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 23rd July 2020 were proposed by Mr. Michael Kirby, seconded by Mr. John Kennedy and agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

****Members agreed to take Item 12 ahead of remaining items on the Agenda****

12. UPDATE IN RELATION TO FILLING POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON OF THE LCDC

It was noted that since Councillor Chris MacManus resigned in early March, Mr. Hugh MacConville, Vice Chair had assumed the role of Acting Chairperson until such time as a new Chair could be elected.

Ms. Margaret McConnell briefed Members on the background to this item and advised that the outbreak of Covid 19 had led to the April meeting of the LCDC being held virtually. The July meeting of the LCDC also had to take place virtually as government restrictions were still in place. In advance of this meeting advice was sought from the Department with regards the position of Chairperson. Department Officials advised as follows;

- The regulations do not specify a timeframe in which to select a new Chairperson. It would appear that the Vice-Chair does indeed act as Chair until the position is refilled.

- It is up to the LCDC to decide when the time is right to select a new Chair. Given the situation with Covid-19 with meetings being held remotely it was acknowledged that the selection process may be more difficult.

In light of this a decision was made by the Chief Officer in consultation with the acting Chair to put the an item on the agenda for the September meeting to allow Members to decide a way forward in relation to filling the position of Chairperson.

Ms. McConnell outlined options available to Members as follows;

- Election to take place online via Survey Monkey. This could be progressed immediately and endorsed at the October meeting of the LCDC
- Hold an Open Roll call at the October meeting (virtually)
- Ballot Box to be placed in place in City Hall to allow Members to cast their vote by secret ballot

It was confirmed that the position of Vice Chairperson is not vacant at present.

Following some discussion Mr. Hugh MacConville proposed that the election of Chairperson take place online via Survey Monkey. This was seconded by Mr. Gerry O'Connor and agreed by all.

Ms. McConnell advised that nominations will be sought shortly via Survey Monkey. Members agreed that a timeframe of one week would be a sufficient for seeking nominations.

The new Chairperson will be ratified at the next LCDC meeting scheduled for the 29th October 2020.

4. SICAP

- a) **Update on SICAP 2020**
- b) **SICAP Mid-year review - for approval by LCDC**
 - i. **Mid-year Template submitted by SLPC on 14.7.20 as required by Pobal**
 - ii. **Financial Report submitted by SLPC on 14.7.20 as required by Pobal**
 - iii. **LCDC Checklist including feedback from Pobal's review – for noting**
 - iv. **Recommendation of Chief Officer**
- c) **Update on SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups (Rounds 1 & 2)**
- d) **Pobal's Annual Engagement meeting with SICAP Committee – 17.9.20**
- e) **2020 Case Study – deadline of 4.10.20 for submission to Pobal**
- f) **Correspondence**
 - i. **Revisiting Targets for 2020 – DRCD email 30.7.20**
 - ii. **Message from Covid-19 Stakeholder Communications Support and updates – Pobal email 2.9.20**
 - iii. **Message from Covid-19 Stakeholder Communications Support and updates – Pobal email 7.9.20**

- a) & c) 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 44% of the annual target achieved at mid-year under Goal 1 (Supporting Local Community Groups). With regards Goal 2 (Supporting Individuals), 45% of the Annual target was achieved at mid-year. Ms. Murphy advised that targets may be under-achieved at the end-year review.

The SICAP Update report also included information on the **SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups**. Ms. Murphy advised of approval of grants to 10No. Groups in the amount of €12,466 under Round 1. Grants were provided to Groups responding to the Community Call.

Closing date for applications under Round 2 of SICAP Grants was the 4th September. Ms. Murphy informed Members that the main focus of Round 2 Grants was on support for re-opening training and support for Men's sheds groups restructuring in light of Covid 19, as their funding had been cut this year. Grant applications received will be assessed to ensure there is no overlap with other grant schemes.

- b) Ms. Margaret McConnell advised Members of a **change to SICAP Mid-year review process** as advised by the Department and Pobal. It was noted that the formal approval of the LCDC is not required for the mid-year review this year however it was agreed at the LCDC meeting in July that the review would be presented to the Committee. Mid-year reports as submitted by Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG, together with the LCDC Checklist report, Pobal's feedback and the Chief Officer's recommendation were circulated in advance of the meeting. The LCDC Checklist report sets out progress under actions and budget spend at 30th June 2020.

It was noted that Pobal's feedback to the review was positive with satisfactory progress in programme delivery.

Ms. McConnell was conscious that the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee hadn't had a chance to meet to consider reports. Mr. Hugh MacConville acknowledged the difficulty in spending the SICAP budget and engaging with clients in the current circumstances.

Approval of the 2020 Mid-year review was proposed by Councillor Dara Mulvey, seconded by Mr. John Kennedy and agreed by all.

- d) With regards **Pobal's Annual Engagement meeting**, Members noted the date of 17th September at 9.30am. Notification has issued to the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee. This meeting will take place virtually. Ms. McConnell listed membership of this Committee and advised of vacancy since Councillor Chris MacManus resigned from the LCDC earlier this year.
- e) In relation to the **2020 Case Study**, Ms. June Murphy advised that Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG will use the Food run as the basis of their Case study this year which will be in video format.
- f) **Correspondence** listed under the SICAP item was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined correspondence which was noted by Members.

5. 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. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised that Ms. Marcella McGarry was appointed as Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator and commenced employment on the 24th

August. It was noted that the allocation under Round 3 is €246,010 with approved actions to be delivered by the 30th June 2021.

Following direction from Pobal, each LCDC conducted a review of their Healthy Ireland Programme of work in June to consider if actions proposed were still deliverable in light of the COVID 19 pandemic. Ms. Smyth advised of engagement with Project leads in relation to reviewing their actions. Update on projects following this review was outlined in the Appendix of report circulated. The main changes in projects reflect moving activity from face to face to online and working within the Public Health Framework. The review also resulted in the withdrawal of the following 2 No. projects with a cumulative budget of €27,943.

- Tubbercurry CLG – Remote Workers Project €15,000
- Sligo Arts Service – Intergenerational Choir. €12,853

At their meeting in July, Members were informed of the withdrawal of the project in Tubbercurry and that a replacement project was being considered, however it was confirmed by the HSE on 7th September that the replacement project was not proceeding. Ms. Smyth & Ms. McGarry made a recommendation that the budget of €27,942.49 be reallocated to the Community Engagement budget (in accordance with Pobal Guidelines).

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

Ms. Smyth advised of a budget of €30,000 under the Community Mental Health element of the HI Programme for the administration of a small grant scheme which will allow for funding of €2,000-€5,000 to be provided to between 6 and 15 to local community, voluntary and sporting organisations. An open call for applications is to be launched shortly and two nominees are being sought from the LCDC to sit on an evaluation panel to review submissions/applications for funding, following the open call.

Ms. Smyth confirmed that while the overall budget of €246,010 for Healthy Ireland has not changed, the budget allocated to the Community Engagement element has increased as a result of the recent review of projects.

It was noted that Healthy Ireland falls under the remit of the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee. Following some discussion it was agreed to hold a special meeting of this Committee in advance of Pobal's Annual Engagement meeting on the 17th September 2020, to decide;

1. If the forum to consider the HI programme remains the function of the Social Inclusion & SICAP subcommittee or if a separate sub group of the LCDC is required
2. That two nominations for HI Small Grants evaluation be put forward by the Social Inclusion & SICAP subcommittee of the LCDC

Endorsement of the review of the Sligo Healthy Ireland Programme as set out in report and Appendices circulated was proposed by Ms. Patricia Garland, seconded by Ms. Elizabeth King and agreed.

This review will be forwarded to Pobal on prescribed templates for their consideration and approval.

6. TO APPROVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2020

A report outlining the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of an allocation of €56,040 for Sligo for 2020 which is less than last year's allocation. Similar to 2019, 30% of the overall allocation will be ring fenced as small grants of up to €1,000 each with the balance of funds directed towards larger capital projects.

Ms. Smyth advised of closing date of 31st July 2020 for applications under the CEP with 85 applications received by this date.

On the 10th August the Dept of Rural & Community Development announced further funding under the CEP aimed specifically at maintenance, improvement and upkeep of community centres and community buildings. Ms. Smyth advised that as a result of this announcement, a decision was taken to redirect applications received that related to such Centres and Buildings and consider them for funding under the additional fund. In total, 28 applications were redirected leaving 57 applications remaining under the general CEP Fund. A breakdown of applications was outlined on the Appendix of CEP report circulated.

Approval to the allocation of €57,228.91 (€56,540 plus residual balance of €688.91 under-claimed from 2019) under the 2020 Community Enhancement Programme as outlined was proposed by Mr. John Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Mary Murphy and agreed.

7. TO NOTE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME: FUND FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES AND COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report which gives further detail on the additional funding referenced under Item 6. Members were advised of allocation of €116,932 announced for community centres and facilities under the July stimulus package.

The scheme was advertised in the local press on 1st September and widely promoted on the Councils social media platforms with a closing date of 25th September for receipt of applications.

Allocation of funding will be presented to the LCDC at their meeting in October.

Mr. Hugh MacConville welcomed this funding and noted that Covid 19 had highlighted social capital in communities. The purpose of LCDCs has been to support & connect communities with state services.

Ms. Margaret McConnell agreed with Mr. MacConville's comments and acknowledged that funds under the Covid Grant scheme, SICAP Grants and general Community & Voluntary Grant schemes had proven to be very important for Community Groups during this difficult time.

8. UPDATE ON PPN

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. Michael Kirby briefed Members on this report and advised that the PPN Secretariat have continued to meet virtually to inform budget allocation and

planning for the remainder of the year. Mr. Kirby advised that the Environment College is currently hosting an environmental series aimed at informing PPN reps and SPC members of key environmental priorities that have relevance to upcoming policy discussions.

Members were advised that Sligo PPN have made a submission to the Sligo County Council Corporate Plan Review following consultation with SPC reps and Secretariat members, an open call and a review of feedback contained in Sligo PPN Health and Wellbeing consultation.

Mr. Kirby informed Members of a call out for nominations for PPN representatives to sit on the Disability Consultative Committee.

The PPN Team has commenced a research piece with Kids Own looking at the experience of children during Covid-19. Work is also continuing in relation to the *Step up for Sligo Campaign* which will capture volunteer stories of those who stepped up under Covid-19.

Mr. Kirby also advised that work is ongoing between the PPN and BHP as the main community insurer in the country on insurance reform for Community Groups.

9. UPDATE ON PEACE IV PROGRAMME

Report circulated 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. Progress on projects had been delayed due to Covid 19 restrictions.

It was noted that further Peace funding will be coming on-stream with the Peace Plus programme which will combine Peace & Interreg funding streams. It is expected that funding for the next Peace programme will be announced early in 2021.

Mr. Gerry O'Connor commented that this may result in funding opportunities for the border counties and will be important in the context of Brexit.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Community Foundation Grants – MSLETB email 31/8/20

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

11. DATE FOR NEXT LCDC/LAG MEETING – THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2020

Date of 29th October 2020 agreed by Members - start time of 9.30am.

13. AOB

Mr. Hugh MacConville advised members for the work of the Education, Training & Lifelong learning Forum.

The COVID 19 crisis has highlighted how vulnerable jobs require an immediate need for up skilling across a number of sectors and there is a need to address the risk of falling into long term unemployment. The Forum met in June and July, 202 to look at how it can respond and the following were highlighted as current challenges that exist to accessing training:

- i. Access to broadband
- ii. Access to broadband equipment
- iii. Need for learning support to participate online.

The forum will continue to meet and look at collaborative ways to address these current challenges.

Meeting concluded at 11.05a.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____