



Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 23rd July 2020 at 9.30a.m.

Sligo County Council's Virtual Meeting Room

PRESENT

Councillor Dara Mulvey (Present in Chamber)	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. Hugh MacConville, A/Chairperson (Present in Chamber)	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
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

APOLOGIES /ABSENT

Councillor Joseph Queenan	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Kennedy	State Agency	Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Mary Brodie	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Ms. June Murphy	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Aidan Doyle	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Mary Murphy	Community & Voluntary	PPN

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
Ms. Sinéad Branley	A/Senior Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council

Mr. Hugh MacConville as Acting Chairperson opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor Tom Fox who is replacing Councillor Chris MacManus as an Elected Member on the LCDC.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Ms. Elizabeth King declared an interest in Healthy Ireland.

2. **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 30TH APRIL 2020**

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 30th April 2020 were proposed by Councillor Dara Mulvey, seconded by Mr. Michael Kirby and agreed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

4. **COVID 19 FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES – UPDATE**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke gave a verbal update on the Covid 19 Framework for Local authorities and advised that the collaborative Community Response Forum has operated since March and for the moment had ceased to operate from the 20th July. The Community Support Helpline had been effectively manned via Community & Economic section staff and the telephone number continues to be covered now by the Customer services desk. If there is a spike in cases, arrangements may have to be reviewed to reinstate supports. Ms. Clarke advised that a review of the Forum is to take place shortly. Feedback has been very positive to date.

The focus of the Forum changed throughout the pandemic with the original focus being on the Emergency response and ensuring those in need were looked after with regards deliveries of prescriptions and shopping, transport etc. The focus then moved to the promotion of the Wellness Campaign with social media platforms and traditional media platforms used to engage with people. This was followed by the Economic Recovery - Back to Business Campaign with focus on ensuring businesses were aware of supports available.

Ms Clarke acknowledged the work of Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG and local community groups/GAA clubs working on the ground as part of the community response. Members were advised of financial contributions from agencies which allowed Sligo County Council to purchase PPE and deliver same to

Meals on Wheels groups and other groups. Ms. Clarke acknowledged donation of hand sanitizers and face masks.

Ms. Clarke advised of daily engagement with the HSE and acknowledged the good working relationship with An Garda Síochána also.

Mr. Hugh MacConville reiterated Ms. Clarke's comments in acknowledging the work of the Forum, community groups and Sligo County Council staff.

Ms. Clarke noted that the connections with the LCDC proved very beneficial during the pandemic.

5. SICAP

- a. **Update on SICAP 2020**
- b. **Changes to SICAP Mid-year review process - for noting/agree approach for approval of 2020 Mid-year check**
- c. **Update on SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups – as part of Emergency response to COVID 19**
- d. **Pobal's Annual Engagement meeting – agree date for Sept/Oct (SICAP Committee)**
- e. **Correspondence**
 - I. **SICAP Case Study Guidelines 2020 – Pobal email 8.5.20**
 - II. **DRCD email 18.6.20 re flexibility to be given on SICAP goal spend**
 - III. **SICAP FAQ Version 1.7 – Pobal email 7.7.20**
 - IV. **Message from Covid-19 Stakeholder Communications Support and updates – Pobal's emails 6th and 8th July 2020**
 - V. **Revisiting Targets for 2020 – Pobal's email 14.7.20**
 - VI. **Message from Covid-19 Stakeholder Communications Support and updates – Pobal's email 17.7.20**

- a) Ms. June Murphy's report on **SICAP 2020 Update** was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Margaret McConnell briefed Members on this report which outlined work carried out to date.

In relation to the Food Run, Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG worked with a number of agencies to identify families and people most of need of food supports and to deliver weekly food parcels. The last delivery was made on the 20th July. Sligo LEADER Partnership intends to use the Food run as the basis of their Case study for 2020.

- b) Ms. McConnell gave a verbal update on the **changes to SICAP Mid-year review process** as advised by the Department and Pobal. Dates have been extended to allow for the impact of Covid 19 on programme delivery. Changes in the mid-year review process were noted by Members.
- c) Ms. June Murphy's update report on SICAP 2020 included an **update on SICAP Grant Scheme to Local Community Groups – as part of Emergency response to COVID 19**. Ms. McConnell advised that the SICAP Grant scheme responded to the needs of SICAP target groups. This grant scheme was administered alongside with the DRCD COVID 19 Emergency Grant Scheme.

- d) With regards **Pobal's Annual Engagement meeting** with the SICAP Monitoring committee, Mr. Hugh MacConville suggested 10am on the 9th September for this meeting.

This date is to be confirmed with Pobal's SICAP Development Worker and notification to issue to the SICAP committee.

- e) Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined **SICAP correspondence** as above which was noted by Members.

In relation to Case studies, Members were advised of deadline for submission of 4th October 2020. Mr. Hugh MacConville acknowledged the role of case studies in demonstrating the impact of SICAP on the ground.

Ms. McConnell advised that SICAP targets may be reviewed in light of Covid's impact on the delivery of the programme. Pobal will issue further communication in relation to this matter at a later date.

6. HEALTHY IRELAND UPDATE

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 of €246,010 awarded to Sligo per letter of offer issued in December 2019.

The onset of COVID 19 and the emergency measures introduced by the Government in March 2020, resulted in pausing the majority of projects set out in the Programme due to the high level of interaction involved.

In May 2020, Pobal asked all LCDCs to conduct a review of their Healthy Ireland Programme. This review includes ensuring that all actions are realistic and achievable in the context of Covid restrictions and deliverable before the end of the programme on the 30th June 2021.

Ms. Smyth advised that the review resulted in the withdrawal of one project which was to support Remote Workers at An Chroí Centre, Tubbercurry. The HSE have been invited to assist in the development of a suitable and realistic project to replace this withdrawn project and work is underway with a suitable lead agency. It is anticipated that the replacement action will focus on heart and diabetes health screening and contain a level of engagement with the wide community.

With regards the Community Engagement element of the programme, it was noted that radio has proven to be a good medium for engaging with older people.

Ms. Smyth further advised that the recruitment process for the appointment of the Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator which had been delayed due to Covid 19, has been reconvened with interviews held 29th June. It is hoped to finalise the appointment of the HI Coordinator shortly.

It was proposed by Councillor Dara Mulvey, seconded by Councillor Tom Fox and agreed that the LCDC;

- Approve in Principle the amendments proposed to enable projects be implemented by June 2021 which take into consideration the need to operate in a COVID 19 environment.
- Approve in Principle the health screening project to enable it to be finalized and submitted to Pobal as part of the Sligo Programme Review.

7. TO NOTE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME 2020

A report outlining the **Community Enhancement Programme** was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of 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. These smaller grants are intended to be general in nature allowing for small equipment purchases such as IT, electrical or sports. Alternatively minor renovation and repair works to community facilities could be considered under this category.

Ms. Smyth advised that applications for grants greater than €1,001 will be considered to assist with challenges faced by community facilities, as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic. Closing date for applications is Friday 31st July 2020.

8. UPDATE ON DRCD COVID 19 EMERGENCY GRANT SCHEME

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of allocation of €63,074 for Sligo. This fund is designed to cover the costs incurred by Community & Voluntary groups actively responding to the Covid 19 crisis. Given the immediacy of the response work, the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) advised that Local Authorities had the discretion to approve allocation of funding. Groups were notified of the Emergency Grant scheme with a closing date of 5th May for applications. Following assessment of applications by staff of the Community & Economic Development Section, funds were approved for 16 groups initially.

Ms. Smyth advised of further communication from the DRCD acknowledging the changing nature of applications for funding from community groups with increased focus on supporting the safe return to community activity. Examples of supports sought included Covid signage, protective screening and sanitizing equipment. Funds were subsequently approved for 3 additional groups.

Ms. Smyth further advised of ongoing work to ensure funds are maximised under the various funding streams – Covid Emergency Grant Scheme, Community Enhancement Programme and SICAP.

9. UPDATE ON PPN

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Mr. Michael Kirby briefed Members on this report and advised that the PPN team are launching a social media campaign with Sligo Volunteer Centre to capture volunteer stories of those who stepped up during the Covid-19 crisis and get feedback from community groups on their experience with the Forum and the Community Call.

Mr Kirby also advised that the PPN have put a call out to all groups involved with the Emergency Response thanking them for their work.

Mr. Kirby acknowledged the ongoing work of Ms. Sarah Wetherald and Ms. Emer McGrath (PPN Team).

10. UPDATE ON PEACE IV PROGRAMME

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of 3 projects which have yet to be completed – The Cantilever, Heaney Yeats Literary Project

and Lest Sligo Forgets. Due to unforeseen delays arising from Covid 19 restrictions, the SEUPB has granted a three month extension to 31st December 2020 to enable completion of these projects.

Mr. Hugh MacConville acknowledged the work of the Peace IV Team throughout the programme. It was noted that further Peace funding will be coming on-stream with the Peace Plus programme.

11. TO APPROVE SLIGO LCDC 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, sets out the functions of the LCDC which include the preparation of an annual report. The report includes forewords from Chairperson and Chief Officer and outlines attendance at LCDC meetings, LCDC Membership and updates on Programmes under the remit of the LCDC.

The report also includes an update on the Economic agenda, Urban Regeneration & Development Fund (URDF), Diaspora strategy and Brand for Sligo.

Ms. McConnell noted that this report is for activity in 2019; however it also includes text around the impact of Covid 19 due to its major significance this year and as the LCDC was involved in the Community response.

Ms. McConnell acknowledged the work of LCDC support staff in drafting the 2019 Annual report.

Mr. Michael Kirby acknowledged that the Annual report was an impressive document; however he questioned the inclusion of the update on the economic agenda as the LCDC is not directly involved with implementation of economic actions.

In response to Mr. Kirby, Ms. Dorothy Clarke agreed but advised that the LCDC is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the Community element of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP), thereby linking the economic elements.

Mr. Hugh MacConville welcomed the inclusion of the Economic agenda and reminded Members that the LCDC in drafting the LECP had insisted on the establishment of the Economic Forum as an action in the Plan. Mr. MacConville suggested a joint meeting to bring about more collaboration between the Economic Forum and the LCDC.

Ms. Clarke advised of early discussions in relation to the high level strategic development plan for Sligo for the next 10 years (towards 2030). This plan will also incorporate the revision of the LECP. In response to Mr. MacConville's query, Ms. Clarke confirmed that Consultants will be engaged in the development of the plan, consultation will take place and the LCDC will be involved in the process.

Ms. Clarke advised that the Strategic plan is emanating from the Joint Assistance Supporting Projects in European Region (JASPER) which is a well established unit attached to the European Investment Bank. It was established to assist new countries (from the Eastern Bloc) joining the EU in 2004. JASPER worked with these countries to ensure that they have the capacity to draw down necessary funding and create employment.

Sligo is a Region in Transition and JASPER officials are looking at applying their learning and skill set to assist in developing one strategic vision for Sligo towards 2030.

LCDC adoption of the 2019 LCDC Annual Report was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Ms. Elizabeth King and agreed. The Annual report will be on the agenda for the September meeting of the County Council.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **FREE On Line Counselling - MyMind and HSElive update – HSE email 7.7.20**
- b. **Compacency Costs Lives - Interview Highland radio – HSE email 16.7.20**
- c. **Snap that: Life through the lens of Ireland’s 18- to 25-year-olds - Royal Irish Academy email 20.7.20**

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

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

Date of 10th September 2020 agreed by Members - start time of 9.30am.

14. AOB

Mr. Hugh MacConville mentioned the Education Forum and advised of difficulty in people accessing education.

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised of a memo received from the Corporate Services Section of Sligo County Council in relation to the public consultation process for the Draft Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

The period for public consultation concludes on 14th August and members are encouraged to engage. Email to be forwarded to Members this afternoon.

Meeting concluded at 10.50a.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____