



Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 27th May 2021 at 9.30a.m.

Community Virtual Meeting Room

PRESENT

Councillor Dara Mulvey <i>(by video)</i>	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Councillor Tom Fox <i>(by video)</i>	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Ms. Patricia Garland <i>(by phone)</i>	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. John Kennedy <i>(by video)</i>	State Agency	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Mr. Peter Egan <i>(by video)</i>	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. John Feerick <i>(by video)</i>	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Aidan Doyle <i>(by video)</i>	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Kathleen Henry <i>(by phone)</i>	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Mr. Pat Fallon <i>(by video)</i>	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Ms. Connie Nell <i>(by video)</i>	Environmental Interests	PPN
Mr. Brendan Lynch <i>(by video)</i>	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Noelle O’Gara <i>(by phone)</i>	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Pat Benson <i>(by video)</i>	Community & Voluntary	PPN
Ms. Jean Finnerty <i>(by video)</i>	Community & Voluntary	PPN

APOLOGIES /ABSENT

Mr. Tom Kilfeather	Local Government /Deputy CE	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Councillor Joseph Queenan	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council

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. Niamh Harkin	A/Senior Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Lisa Dennison	A/Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Sarah Wetherald	PPN Development Worker	
Ms. June Murphy	Programme Manager SICAP	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG

1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS FOLLOWING REVIEW

Councillor Dara Mulvey opened the meeting and welcomed the six new Members to the LCDC following the recent review. Mr. Pat Fallon has replaced Mr. Hugh MacConville as the Trade Union Pillar representative, with 5 new PPN representatives elected - Ms. Connie Nell, Mr. Pat Benson, Ms. Jean Finnerty, Mr. Brendan Lynch and Ms. Noelle O’Gara.

Councillor Mulvey paid tribute to the outgoing members and acknowledged their exemplary input to the LCDC.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared.

3. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 15TH APRIL 2021

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 15th April 2021 were proposed by Ms. Kathleen Henry, seconded by Mr. John Feerick and agreed.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised of a vacancy in relation to the position of Vice-Chairperson to the LCDC. Mr. Hugh MacConville had been elected Vice Chair in July 2019. Ms. McConnell informed Members that in accordance with the Guidelines for the Operation of LCDC, all Members regardless of the sector they represent can hold this position. If more than one nomination is put forward Ms. McConnell advised that a roll call can be held or alternatively the position of Vice-Chairperson can be filled by online election.

It was proposed by Ms. Kathleen Henry and seconded by Councillor Tom Fox to defer the election of Vice-Chairperson to the July or a future meeting of the LCDC.

6. TO APPROVE SLIGO LCDC ANNUAL REPORT 2020

2020 LCDC Annual report was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised Members that a statutory role of the LCDC under Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001 is to prepare an annual report on the performance of its functions. The report sets out functions of Members, attendance at LCDC meetings, LCDC Membership and updates on Programmes under the remit of the LCDC - the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP), SICAP and the Rural Development Programme (LAG function). The Annual report outlines the structure of the PPN and its activities, the Healthy Ireland Fund, the Community Enhancement Programme, the Peace IV Programme and the role of the LCDC in the Covid response.

The report also includes an update on the Economic agenda which shows the collaborative aspect of the LCDC and the economic elements in the LECP and gives an update on the work of Economic Forum, Tourism development, Branding etc.

Ms. McConnell acknowledged the work of LCDC support staff in drafting the 2020 Annual report.

LCDC adoption of the 2020 LCDC Annual Report was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Ms. Kathleen Henry and agreed.

The Annual report will be on the agenda for the June meeting of the County Council for approval.

7. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF SLIGO LCDC SUB COMMITTEES

A report outlining the current membership of three of the LCDC's four subcommittees was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that the Peace subcommittee was not included on the report as the Peace IV programme is now complete and its successor the Peace Plus programme has not commenced yet with the consultation process ongoing.

Ms. McConnell highlighted where vacancies on subcommittees have arisen following the recent review of membership of the LCDC.

Advisory Steering Group to the LECP – 3 Vacancies

Three vacancies are to be filled to replace Mr. Chris Gonley, Mr. Hugh MacConville and Mr. Michael Kirby as LCDC representatives on the ASG.

Members were advised that this subcommittee will be required to meet shortly to discuss the Sligo 2030 Plan.

- Replacement member: Mr. John Feerick proposed by Councillor Dara Mulvey and seconded by Ms. Kathleen Henry
- Replacement member: Mr. Pat Benson proposed by Councillor Tom Fox and seconded by Ms. Connie Nell.
- Replacement member: Ms. Kathleen Henry proposed by Councillor Tom Fox and seconded by Mr. John Feerick

Nomination of Councillor Rosaleen O’Grady as SPC rep on the ASG was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Mr. Pat Benson and agreed.

Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee – 3 vacancies

Members were informed that this Committee meet 4 times per annum and have oversight of SICAP, Healthy Ireland Programme & Community Resilience Fund, Age Friendly, Comhairle na nÓg and the Education & Lifelong learning Forum.

The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for Monday 12th July 2021.

Three vacancies are to be filled to replace Mr. Hugh MacConville, Ms. Elizabeth King and Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen.

It was agreed to increase its membership from seven to eight members with Mr. Peter Egan, MSLETB rep being nominated due to cross-over with education role of the committee.

- Replacement member: Mr. Brendan Lynch proposed by Councillor Dara Mulvey and seconded by Councillor Tom Fox
- Replacement member: Ms. Jean Finnerty proposed by Mr. Brendan Lynch and seconded by Mr. Pat Benson
- Replacement member: Ms. Connie Nell proposed by Mr. Pat Benson and seconded by Mr. Brendan Lynch
- Additional member: Mr. Peter Egan proposed by Ms. Kathleen Henry and seconded by Councillor Tom Fox

Members agreed to defer review of the membership of the Rural Development Programme subcommittee to the July meeting of the LCDC

8. SICAP

a) Update on SICAP 2021

b) Verification/Site visits (Virtual) – Q2 2021

c) Correspondence

- i. 2021 SICAP Mid-Year Review Guidance for LCDC – Pobal’s email 13.5.21
- ii. A national Needs Analysis of social enterprises currently employing people with criminal records - link to survey – Pobal’s email 20.5.21
- iii. EU in my Region Campaign 2021 – DRCD email 25.5.21

a) Report outlining the **Update on SICAP 2021** was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. June Murphy briefed Members on progress to date and advised that 63% of the annual target under Key Performance Indicator 1 (Supporting Groups) has been achieved and 45% of the annual target under KPI 2 (Supporting Individuals) has been achieved to date.

In relation to Budget spend; Ms. Murphy advised that 27% of the total budget has been expended at 30th April 2021. It was noted that the impact of Covid 19 continues to affect programme delivery in 2021.

Ms. Murphy then briefed Members on sample projects being delivered including Use Your Voice 2021 targeted at Women’s groups & people with disabilities; Rethinking Communities workshops covering specific areas/topics in relation to developing innovative communication strategies and facilitating new approaches to adapt to Covid. Ms. Murphy advised of continued supports to Men’s sheds with work ongoing to establish Women’s sheds also and upcoming Climate smart workshops to support groups to reduce their energy costs.

With regards supports to Individuals, Ms. Murphy advised of actions to promote personal development and wellbeing, Lifelong learning opportunities and supports for people seeking employment/self employment. Projects under Goal 2 (supporting Individuals) include Domestic Violence Community Champions Programme to raise awareness of domestic violence, Menopause workshops, Ethnic cooking classes and Labour based training (Safepass, Manual handling etc).

Ms. Murphy advised that Sligo LEADER Partnership continue to work closely with the DEASP to assist those looking to set up their own business.

Ms. Murphy offered to meet any of the new Members on the LCDC should they have any queries on SICAP.

Councillor Dara Mulvey and Mr. John Feerick acknowledged the work of Ms. Murphy and team in adapting to deliver SICAP supports online given the impact of Covid 19 on the programme.

b) With regards **Verification/Site visits (Virtual) for Quarter 2 of 2021** Ms. Murphy suggested the following projects;

- Rethinking Community Communications – 27th May at 8pm
- Basic Book-keeping Workshop – 8th June at 9.30am

Email with zoom links to issue to those who confirm attendance.

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

9. UPDATE ON HEALTHY IRELAND PROGRAMME & COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FUND

Report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of updates since the April meeting of the LCDC, which include ongoing liaison with Pobal and Project leads. Ms. Smyth advised that Level 5 restrictions imposed in January 2021 had led to some projects and planned activities being paused with plans to resume at a later date when restrictions are eased. With the gradual lifting of restrictions from May 2021 over the summer months, combined with the impact of the vaccine rollout and maintenance of Public health advice it is hoped to restart programmes that were paused. Projects which can be delivered virtually are progressing and the community has been able to benefit from activities as outlined in report.

Members were advised that Pobal and the Department of Health have agreed to extend the delivery timeframe of Healthy Ireland Round 3 funded activity from 30th June 2021 to 31st December 2021 in light of the impact of Covid 19 on programme delivery. With regards projects progressing under the Healthy Sligo Plan, Ms. Smyth noted the use of radio as an effective medium to engage with older people.

Under Community Mental Health, Ms. Smyth advised of a project with a focus on working with schools to address the health and wellbeing of young people and their parents. This project is currently in the preparation phase after receiving approval from Pobal and it is intended to roll out the programme in September and October 2021.

In relation to the Community Mental Health Small Grants, Ms. Smyth advised that three projects out of the ten approved for funding, have progressed during the Level 5 restrictions. Re-engagement is ongoing with the remaining project leads as Covid restrictions are eased to examine the safe delivery of projects, within Public Health Guidelines.

With regards the Sligo Community Resilience Plan, Members were reminded of an allocation of €67,225 for Sligo, to activate and deliver on key actions under the themes of **“Your County” “Staying Connected”** and **“Switching off and being creative”**.

The Sligo Plan was developed by the Healthy Sligo Co-ordinator in collaboration with members of the Covid Community Response Forum and sets out 16 practical, collaborative actions to be delivered by June 2021. Ms. Smyth advised of the development of a suite of 6 videos which demonstrate

community resilience in action in Sligo. The videos were released on the council's social media platforms/Sligo.ie over a six week period from the 6th March 2021 with very positive feedback received.

Ms. Smyth further advised of the Healthy Sligo Team's continued promotion of the Governments Keep Well Campaign at a local level by promoting initiatives that are in-keeping with the campaign messages through the Councils website and via social media. The Keep Well campaign is also promoted through the actions of the Healthy Sligo Plan and through the actions set out in the Community Resilience Plan.

Councillor Dara Mulvey acknowledged the work of Ms. Smyth and Ms. Marcella McGarry on the Healthy Ireland Programme.

10. UPDATE ON PPN

Report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Sarah Wetherald briefed Members on PPN activity since the April meeting of the LCDC and advised that the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) provided training in May to PPN members, Local Authority staff, and Elected Members. This training was aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of public participation at local level. Members were informed that the final session of the Tidy Towns Support programme was postponed to allow for the delayed release of the official Tidy Towns 2021 Application form. This programme has been a huge success with full attendance at each session. The full course is available on the PPN website and has been shared with both the national PPN network and with national Tidy Towns groups.

Ms. Wetherald advised that Sligo PPN collaborated with the Alliance for Insurance Reform on the creation of templates to support community groups to make submissions into the Personal Injuries Assessment Board (PIAB) current community consultation on Personal Injury Awards and Public Liability awards.

With regards the recent PPN elections, Ms. Wetherald advised of huge interest in the recent online election of representatives to the LCDC with all 5 new members in attendance at this morning's meeting.

The next phase of elections will take place in June/July to elect representatives to the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) (3 seats), the PPN Secretariat (6 seats) and the Social Inclusion seat on SPC3.

Ms. Wetherald advised that fortunately the bulk of the consultation element of the Health & Wellbeing Vision statement was conducted pre-Covid, but that the compiling of the final County Vision For Wellbeing document, which is intended to be an interactive process with PPN reps to encourage community ownership, had been delayed due to restrictions. The process has now recommenced, and the county document will include high level visions for the county under a range of key themes

that are informed directly by the Sligo community. As part of the overall wellbeing approach, the PPN has already produced a draft Master Index document which is essentially all the consultation data gathered in one place, and the intention is that the PPN will work with member groups on how to use this index to demonstrate local evidence of need, as well as looking at ways in which this information can help inform county level planning. A draft thematic document has also been put together to support PPN reps on the SPCs to align community needs to policy development.

Councillor Mulvey acknowledged the PPN team in working with community groups.

11. UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (CEP) 2021

Report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Aisling Smyth briefed Members on this report and advised of the launch of the CEP by the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) on the 10th May with an allocation of €134,084 for Sligo for 2021.

Ms. Smyth advised that grants are to be provided towards projects or equipment enhancing facilities similar to previous years or one off grants towards costs associated with reopening of a facility or the sustainability of a facility, including costs such as utility bills etc. It was noted that only costs falling due for payment in 2021 will be eligible.

Ms. Smyth advised that the DRCD envisage that up to 50% of an LCDC allocation might be targeted at “reopening” type grants. The DRCD acknowledge that the LCDC is best placed to identify where support is most needed in their area and are allowing the LCDC to make minor adjustments to cater for local needs as identified in its LECP as long as they are in keeping with the ethos of the programme and meet any audit, monitoring or evaluation requirements. It was noted that all grants must be drawn-down by 31st December 2021.

Ms. Smyth advised that the LCDC support staff have consulted with the PPN, SLPCo and the Healthy Ireland Programme in terms of what the community has identified as emerging needs which are outlined in report.

Mr. Pat Benson queried if sundries such as rent, bills could be covered as many groups don't own community centres referred to under the scheme. Ms. Smyth advised that the CEP provides capital grants to community groups however she will raise this Mr. Benson's query with the DRCD.

The scheme will be advertised in the local press on the week commencing Tuesday, 8th June, 2021 with a closing date of 29th June for applications. Details will also be promoted on social media (SCC & PPN).

Recommendation to proceed with categorization of grants as outlined in Ms. Smyth's report was proposed by Ms. Jean Finnerty, seconded by Ms. Kathleen Henry and agreed.

12. UPDATE ON THE MAKING OF THE NEW LECP '*SLIGO: ONE VOICE ONE VISION - TOWARDS 2030*'

Ms. Dorothy Clarke welcomed all new members to the LCDC and gave a verbal update on progress with regards the making of the new LECP/Sligo 2030 Plan.

Members were advised that KPMG – FA have been appointed to deliver on Sligo 2030 Plan, part of which is to prepare a Socio Economic profile and Needs analysis report to inform the LECP. A meeting was held with KPMG on 26th May to finalise key stakeholders, one of which is the LCDC as the community elements of the LECP are the responsibility of this Committee.

The Advisory Steering Group to the LECP will meet to consider the high level statement of strategy before embarking on the public consultation process, as will the LCDC, the SPC and the Economic Forum.

It was noted that the PPN structure will be very important in the consultation process to get the message out to all. Public Surveys will be used to get views on what they want to see for Sligo over the next few years.

Ms. Clarke advised that the Strategy will focus on the Smart and Green agenda and be based on the principles of smart sustainable development, economic and environmental sustainability, and be climate action focussed.

It was noted that the PPN structure will be very important in the consultation process to get the message out to all. ConsultSligo.ie will be used for surveying people to get their views on what they want to see for Sligo over the next few years.

Ms. Clarke also advised that focus group sessions and a public webinar will be held in the coming weeks. Further details to be confirmed.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Public consultation - National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development to 2030 (Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science 27.4.21)**
- b) **Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS) – Pobal email 5.5.21 (closing date for applications 28th May 2021)**
- c) **Launch of Sligo/Leitrim Garda Division Youth Awards 2021 - closing date for nominations 30th June 2021**
- d) **LCDC Letter of support for UNESCO submission**
- e) **Community Tourism Toolkit – Email from Fáilte Ireland 20.5.21**
- f) **Moving Parents And Children Together (M-PACT) service – email 24.5.21**

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

14. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 2021 – FOR NOTING

Updated Schedule of 2021 meetings was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised of additional meeting proposed for October which is required for the LEADER Programme.

Ms. McConnell also advised Members that a special meeting of the LCDC may be required in June to discuss the Sligo 2030 Plan/new LECP before public consultation process commences.

In relation to subcommittee meetings, Ms. McConnell advised that the next meeting of the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee is scheduled for Monday 12th July.

15. DATE FOR NEXT LCDC/LAG MEETING – THURSDAY 29TH JULY 2021

Members will be notified shortly of the date for the special meeting of the LCDC in June.

16. AOB

There were no items for discussion.

Meeting concluded at 11.35 a.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____