



Minutes of Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 29th July 2021 at 9.30 a.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
Cllr. Joseph Queenan (by phone)	Local Government Member	Sligo County Council
Mr. Tom Kilfeather (by video)	Local Government /Deputy CE	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Reilly (by video)	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Mr. John Kennedy (by video)	State Agency	Dept. of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Ms. Patricia Garland (by video)	State Agency	Sligo/Leitrim/West Cavan HSE
Mr. John Feerick (by video)	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Ms. Kathleen Henry (by phone)	Farming / Agriculture Interests	Farming / Agriculture Pillar
Dr. Connie Nell (by video)	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Mr. Brendan Lynch (by video)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Noelle O’Gara (by phone)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Mr. Pat Benson (by video)	Community & Voluntary	PPN
APOLOGIES /ABSENT		
Mr. Pat Fallon	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Mr. Aidan Doyle	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Peter Egan	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Ms. Jean Finnerty	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. Niamh Harkin	A/Senior Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Lisa Kelly	Clerical Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Sarah Wetherald	PPN Development Worker	
Ms. Geraldine Timlin	Staff Officer	Sligo County Council
Ms. Gwendolyn Carpenter	Economist, Smart Development Expert	Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions (JASPER)
Prof. William Hynes	Managing Director	KPMG - Future Analytics
Mr. David McGlinchey	Manager	KPMG - Future Analytics
Mr. Caoimhin Kelly	Manager	KPMG - Future Analytics

Councillor Dara Mulvey opened the meeting and welcomed officials in attendance from JASPER and KPMG– FA teams.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Dr Connie Nell declared an interest in the Community Enhancement Programme 2021.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS

- a) 27th May 2021
- b) 10th June 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on the 27th May 2021 were proposed by Mr. Pat Benson, seconded by Mr. John Feerick and agreed.

Minutes of meeting held on the 10th June 2021 were proposed by Mr. John Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Dara Mulvey and agreed.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. UPDATE ON SLIGO 2030 ONE VOICE ONE VISION

- a) Findings of Socio economic profile & Needs Assessment
- b) Feedback on Stakeholder engagement Process
- c) Resultant overview of 'Revised and updated Socio-Economic Statement & High level goals' and next steps

Reports pertaining to the **update on Sligo 2030 Plan** were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Prof. William Hynes introduced this item and advised of positive feedback to the recent public consultation. Mr. David McGlinchey then delivered a presentation on the update with regards the Sligo 2030 Plan which included key points from the Socio-Economic Profile and feedback from the consultation process including the online Community & Business Surveys, Focus group sessions, Stakeholder interviews and written submissions. The presentation also gave a brief overview of the Needs Analysis.

Mr. McGlinchey advised that the information from the Socio-Economic Profile will be used to revise the draft Socio-Economic Statement and feedback from the consultation process and the Needs Analysis will be used to refine the vision and goals and for the early development of Objectives and Actions. It was noted that the revised and updated Socio-Economic Statement & High-level goals will be presented at a future-meeting of the LCDC.

Members thanked Mr. McGlinchey for delivering the presentation and raised the following points;

- It was commented in relation to Business that regarding employment opportunities, the tech industry is struggling to fill vacancies and that some of the statistics around business focused specifically on Enterprise Ireland client companies. It was noted that this may need to be specified in the Statement as figures in respect of Monaghan, which has a number of larger companies, will skew the overall figures, with regards employment. It was further noted that business would drive demand for vacant properties and that a Sligo Focus is needed for the final document and appropriate tailored objectives
- The need to address the issue of housing was acknowledged
- Sligo's purple flag status and the importance of the night-time economy was noted
- It was stated that the Plan must have a clear message at a high level – Jobs, Housing, addressing the Climate change agenda and developing communities while noting the importance of not forgetting about rural areas outside the main urban centres
- The PPN Representatives noted the following;

- that the needs identified within Sligo 2030 public consultation raised other issues than those of the findings of the PPN public consultation
 - the presentation focused on samples only of the Community Survey questions, the suggestions from the focus groups and submissions
 - The Draft Socio-Economic Profile and Needs Analysis document could focus more on inclusion, disability, new and disadvantaged communities, biodiversity, community groups or any new ideas regarding sustainability, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and climate action
- It was commented that community supports and services available need to be further developed and that Sligo will need to increase the annual average number of new housing coming into supply for the period of the Strategy
 - It was noted that the issue of Housing has also been raised by Elected Members at meetings of Sligo County Council

The PPN representatives requested the following;

- That data from the Public Consultation be made available to all Members of the LCDC
- That the PPN be actively involved in the Sligo 2030 process as objectives and actions are developed
- That the views of the LCDC Members be included and incorporated as much as possible and that the draft statement be forwarded to Members as early as possible ahead of the LCDC meeting where the endorsement of the plan will be sought

Members were thanked for their feedback and all points raised were noted. It was acknowledged that all members of the LCDC and the SPC are key in the preparation process of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)/Sligo 2030 Plan. The PPN's contribution to the Sligo 2030 Plan was acknowledged and the valuable feedback provided by all Members. It was confirmed that all Members would have further opportunities to engage in the process as the Plan was developed.

In relation to the request made by the PPN to release information from the submissions received as part of the public consultation, the meeting was informed that this would be considered in the context of compliance with GDPR.

It was stated that all viewpoints are valued and that it is important to get the balance right between economics and what's good for communities in Sligo. Members were informed of the stages involved in making the LECP/Sligo 2030 and advised that today's detailed presentation was to give Members an update on the findings from the Public consultation and Needs analysis which will inform the process but that the adoption would be for a future meeting.

5. SICAP

- a) **SICAP 2021 Mid-year review - for approval by LCDC**
 - i. **Action Progress report /Lot Summary Report (SLPC)**
 - ii. **LCDC Checklist including feedback from Pobal's review and Financial reports**
 - iii. **Recommendation of Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee**

- b) **Verifications/Site visits (Virtual) – Q3; 2021**

a) Reports pertaining to the **SICAP 2021 mid-year review** were circulated in advance of the meeting. Members were advised that SICAP is reviewed twice each year (mid-year and annual performance reviews). Updates on SICAP are given at all meetings of the LCDC.

It was acknowledged that mid-year targets were achieved at the 31st May with positive feedback received from Pobal's parallel review. It was noted that the Action Progress report provides a detail narrative on actions being delivered.

Members were advised that the Social Inclusion & SICAP Monitoring Committee considered the mid-year reports at their meeting on the 12th July. Their recommendation was also circulated in advance of the meeting.

Approval of the 2021 Mid-year review was proposed by Councillor Joe Queenan and seconded by Councillor Tom Fox.

- b) In relation to **Verification/Site visits for Quarter 3**, the following projects were suggested;
- o Photography online course - 11th /12th August
 - o Introduction to Menopause – 11th/18th August
 - o Start your Own Business – 26th August

Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG will forward details for circulation to the LCDC.

6. APPROVAL OF THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING UNDER THE 2021 COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Members were briefed on this report and advised of an allocation of €134,084 for Sligo under the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme. Members were advised of 83 applications received by the closing date of 29th June 2021 seeking funding in the amount €241,185. It was noted that 3 applications were deemed ineligible.

Applications received were categorized in accordance with guidelines from the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD) with 80 applications now recommended for approval. Appendix 1 of report sets out the award recommendation for consideration of the LCDC.

Members were informed of correspondence received from the DRCD on 25/6/2021 requesting that the Department be informed of the successful applicants prior to any release of this information.

Members were requested to treat the CEP report as confidential and not share details until the DRCD receive the award information.

Approval to the allocation of funding under the 2021 Community Enhancement Programme as outlined was proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Mr. John Feerick, and agreed.

7. PPN UPDATE

Report circulated in advance of the meeting. Members were briefed on the update with regards elections for the SPC, IEC and PPN Secretariat. It was noted that the election process is ongoing to fill five vacancies on the PPN Secretariat and one vacancy on the SPC, with voting to close on 4th August. Four current members on the Secretariat will serve another term.

Members were advised that the PPN have commenced a tender process to engage a facilitator to deliver a training programme to all PPN reps with plans to deliver training to LA staff, LCDC members and Elected members also. Details will be circulated once facilitator has been appointed.

Members were informed of ongoing collaboration between the PPN and Sligo Environmental Network in developing a tailored programme, the Sligo Environmental Action Academy for community groups who want to become more environmentally friendly.

It was noted that the Academy is accessible to any community group and a toolkit has been developed to guide groups with positive feedback received to date.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Training Links funding and Frequently Asked Questions (The Wheel/DRCD email 15.7.21)**
- b) Invitation to the virtual launch of the National Disability Authority's 'Lockdowns Unlock Innovations' Report – email 16.7.21**
- c) Public Consultation - The next Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan – DRCD email 20.7.21**
- d) SICAP Correspondence**
 - i. Case Study 2021 – Pobal's email 12.5.21**
 - ii. SICAP 2020 annual report – Pobal's email 6.7.21**
 - iii. PRESS RELEASE: Minister O'Gorman launches public consultation on the review of the Equality Acts – DCEDIY email 6.7.21**
 - iv. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 – Programme Extension – DRCD email 1.7.21/Letter to SLPC**
 - v. SICAP Community Grants 2021 – SLPC email 15.7.21**
 - vi. SICAP Extension and Mid-Programme Review – DRCD email 19.7.21**

Correspondence as above was noted by Members.

9. DATE FOR NEXT LCDC/LAG MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC be scheduled for mid to late September. Date to be confirmed to Members in due course.

10. AOB

There were no items for discussion.

Meeting concluded at 11.45 a.m.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____