



## Minutes of Virtual Meeting of Sligo Local Community Development Committee

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021 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. Tom Kilfeather (by video)	Local Government /Deputy CE	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
Mr. Peter Egan (by video)	State Agency	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
Mr. John Feerick (by video)	Local Development Sector	Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG
Mr. Aidan Doyle (by video)	Business Interests	Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Michael Kirby (by video)	Environmental Interests	Environment Pillar (PPN)
Dr. Jennifer Van Aswegen (by video)	Social Inclusion	PPN
Ms. Elizabeth King (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 Reilly	Local Government / LEO	Sligo County Council
Mr. Hugh MacConville	Trade Union Interests	Irish Congress of Trade Unions

## IN ATTENDANCE

Ms. Dorothy Clarke	<b>LCDC Chief Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Margaret McConnell	<b>Senior Executive Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Aisling Smyth	<b>Administrative Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Niamh Harkin	<b>A/Senior Staff Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. Fiona Gilligan	<b>Staff Officer</b>	<b>Sligo County Council</b>
Ms. June Murphy	<b>Programme Manager</b>	<b>Sligo LEADER Partnership CLG</b>

### 1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No conflict of interest was declared.

### 2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

Minutes of the last meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were proposed by Councillor Tom Fox, seconded by Mr. Michael Kirby and agreed.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

### 4. SICAP

#### a) Update on SICAP 2021

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

#### c) Correspondence

- i. **DRCD email 1.4.21 - Invitation to Register for 2021 Social Inclusion Forum | 12th - 16th April 2021 | Online**
- ii. **EU in my Region Campaign 2021 – DRCD email 8.4.21**

- 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 29% of the annual target under Key Performance Indicator 1 (Supporting Groups) and 26% of the annual target under KPI 2 (Supporting Individuals) has been achieved to date.

In relation to Budget spend; Ms. Murphy advised that 20% of the total budget has been expended at 31<sup>st</sup> March 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 and people with disabilities, Governance Training for local community groups and Mentoring support for Social Enterprises. With regards supports to Individuals, Ms. Murphy advised of Health and Wellbeing supports for disadvantaged women, Bird watching for Older persons

and the unemployed and Flower pot and Garden Herb Projects targeted at Homeless persons, young people and people living in disadvantaged communities. Members were also advised of a Cartoon Art Workshop developed as an Easter Holiday workshop targeting all young people aged between 12 to 18 years throughout County Sligo. This workshop was oversubscribed within 2 days.

Ms. Murphy also mentioned an application for the recently announced Community Development Pilot Programme 2021, in March 2021, in partnership with DVAS, based around a community support and awareness raising programme to the issue of domestic violence. Only eight projects will be selected nationally for what could potentially be a three-year support programme. Sligo Traveller Support Group and Diversity Sligo have also submitted applications in their areas.

- b)** With regards **Verification/Site visits (Virtual) for Quarter 2 of 2021** Ms. Murphy advised that she will forward suggested projects in the next couple of weeks as new projects will be coming on-stream in May and June. Notification email to issue to Members in due course.
- c)** **Correspondence** listed under the SICAP item was circulated in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined correspondence which was noted by Members.

## **5. REVIEW OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF SLIGO LCDC**

A report outlining the upcoming review of Membership of Sligo LCDC was circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell outlined this report and advised of upcoming review of LCDC Membership as required under the Department Guidelines for the operation of LCDCs. According to Department guidelines, reviews should take place every three years. Ms. McConnell outlined changes in Membership which had taken place since the last official review in 2018.

In relation to the review of Non-statutory interests (Community & Voluntary/Other civic society pillars), the Guidelines and LCDC Regulations of 2014 state that there are to be appropriate arrangements in place for the rotation, every three years, of representatives. Once a representative has served two consecutive three-year terms a new representative is to be in place in accordance with the requirements.

It was noted that Mr. Michael Kirby, PPN Environmental pillar representative has served six years on the LCDC. Ms. McConnell advised of upcoming elections in respect of PPN representatives.

Members were also informed of correspondence issued to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to seek a replacement nomination for the current member, Mr Hugh MacConville.

Councillor Dara Mulvey, on behalf of the LCDC, acknowledged the contribution of both Mr. Kirby and Mr. MacConville to the LCDC.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke stated that both outgoing Members had played a key role on the LCDC and its subcommittees and will be greatly missed. On behalf of the LCDC support staff, Ms. Clarke thanked Mr. Kirby and Mr. MacConville for all their support.

Mr. Michael Kirby thanked Councillor Mulvey and Ms. Clarke for their comments and advised that he found his experience on the LCDC to be interesting, educational and very rewarding. Mr. Kirby acknowledged Members and the support staff and wished the LCDC all the best for the future.

## 6. 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 February 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. Despite this curtailment, 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 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 in light of the impact of Covid 19 on programme delivery.

With regards the Community Mental Health Action, Ms. Smyth advised that a project brief was developed as agreed by the LCDC at their February meeting and submitted to Pobal on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 for consideration. This project focuses on working with schools to address the health and wellbeing of young people and their parents.

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.

With regards to 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 released on the council’s social media platforms/Sligo.ie over a six week period from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 have been well received by the Sligo community.

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.

## 7. UPDATE ON PPN

Report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Mr. Michael Kirby briefed Members on PPN activity since the February meeting of the LCDC and advised that the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) is providing training to PPN members, Local Authority staff, and Elected Members aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of public participation at local level. Invitations to participate in this training have been issued locally and to date five PPN representatives/staff members have registered.

In relation to the Climate Conversation event hosted by the PPN on 25<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. Kirby advised of very positive feedback from the event’s workshops which will be forwarded to the Department of the

Environment, Climate and Communication (DECC) to inform actions for the 2021 Climate Action Plan and will be shared with the Council's Environment Section.

Members were informed of upcoming training with local Tidy Towns groups to assist in preparing for the 2021 national competition. This training is to be delivered by Woodrow Sustainable Solutions.

Mr. Kirby also advised of upcoming elections for PPN representatives including those for seats on the LCDC (5 seats) and the Independent Evaluation Committee (IEC) for the Rural Development Programme (3 seats). Nominations for both will open shortly followed by online elections late April/early May.

Elections for the six available seats on the PPN Secretariat are scheduled for May/ June 2021.

#### **8. Update on the making of the new LECP '*Sligo: One Voice One Vision - Towards 2030*'**

Ms. Dorothy Clarke gave a verbal update and advised that the preparation of the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) has commenced as part of the Sligo 2030 planning process with consultants KPMG now appointed to deliver on Sligo 2030 Plan. KPMG are to deliver a Socio-Economic profile and Needs analysis report to inform the Social Economic Statement and high level goals of the LECP.

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 will position Sligo as a resilience centre for Regional growth – economic prosperity. Job creation and deliver on infrastructure.

Ms. Clarke advised of other elements in the 2030 Plan including Healthy Sligo and how to ensure citizens will be well supported and a focus on Sustainable Development Goals as referred to in PPN report at Item 7. The plan will also look at how Social inclusion can be improved.

Ms. Clarke advised of two exploratory meetings with the consultants (KPMG) to date including discussion around the Stakeholder Consultation Plan to be agreed. It was noted that due to Covid 19, consultations will take place virtually.

Mr. Michael Kirby expressed his hope that the work of the PPN over the last 18 months will be reflected in the Plan given the level of consultation with local communities around Wellbeing.

Mr. Gerry O'Connor advised that he represents the PPN Secretariat on the National Advisory Group and confirmed that the PPN is the 'Go to' organisation for surveys and consultations.

Ms. Margaret McConnell advised that the PPN and the LCDC are key stakeholders and will be involved in the consultation process. It is hoped that a meeting of the LECP Advisory Steering Group will be convened shortly.

#### **9. LAUNCH OF 'OUR RURAL FUTURE - RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY 2021-2025' (MARCH 2021)**

Report circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Ms. Margaret McConnell advised of the Government's recent launch of the new Rural Development Policy which provides a framework for a new

holistic and ambitious approach to address challenges and to improve opportunities and offer a better quality of life for people living in rural areas.

The policy outlines unprecedented investment in rural Ireland in the coming years in areas such as the delivery of high-speed broadband, the RRDF programme, Town and Village proposals, roads and recreational infrastructure etc. It details the underpinning policies that will support this whole of government approach such as Project Ireland 2040, Digital policies, the UN sustainable development goals, the National Climate Action plan, the National Economic Recovery Plan and 'Making Remote Work' etc.

This new policy is cross departmental and cross agencies and is important for the LCDC to be aware of proposals.

Ms. Dorothy Clarke advised that this five year strategy will form the overview for a lot of the work of the LCDC and commented that it would have been preferable if Sligo as a region in transition was reflected in the strategy.

**10. Correspondence**

- a) **Review of National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability – DRCD email 6.4.21**
- b) **Engaging Men Webinar Series: Why Men's Health? – HSE email 7.4.21**

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

**11. DATE FOR NEXT LCDC/LAG MEETING – THURSDAY 27TH MAY 2021**

Members agreed to hold the next meetings of the LCDC/LAG on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**12. AOB**

Ms. Margaret McConnell asked for Members feedback to the 'One drive' system being trialled for this morning's LCDC/LAG meetings. This system reduces the amount of emails with attachments issuing in advance of meetings and was welcomed by Members.

It was noted that this system is currently being used for circulation of reports at meetings of Sligo County Council.

Meeting concluded at 10.30a.m.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_