

Minutes of the Meeting of Westmeath Local Community Development Committee, (LCDC)

on Friday 9th December at 10.00am in Aras an Chontae.

Present: Pat Gallagher, WCC – (Chairman)
Joyce Furlong, PPN
Cllr Tom Farrell, WCC
Cllr Bill Collentine, WCC
Cllr Aengus O'Rourke, WCC
Bob Morrison, PPN
Joe Whelan, HSE
Joe Potter WCDL
Christine Charlton, WCC – LEO
Paddy Donnelly IFA
Denis Rohan, IMPACT
Des Sheridan, PPN
Michael Mulvey PPN

Apologies: Des Henry, DSP
Dave Raftis, PPN
Brigid Manley, COC
Maria Fox, LWETB

In Attendance: Hugh O'Reilly, Chief Officer LCDC
David Hogan, Director of Service, WCC
Anne Galvin, A.O Community Development, WCC
Annette Barr Jordan, A.O Community Development, WCC
Caroline Smith, WCC
Bernie Leavy, WCD
Frank Murtagh, WCD

Welcome

Chairman, Pat Gallagher welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were noted.

1. Approval of Draft Minutes of LCDC Meeting of 22nd July 2016.

On the proposal of Cllr Aengus O'Rourke and seconded by Joe Whelan the minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting held on Friday 30th September 2016 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

Joe Whelan congratulated Rosemount and Moate in their achievements in the Pride of Place Competition 2016 and commended Annette Barr Jordan and Bernie Leavy for their work with communities. The chair extended his congratulations to both communities on behalf of all members.

3. LCDC Membership

The Chairman advised members of recent changes in LCDC Membership and formally welcomed Michael Mulvey from PPN as replacement for Hugh Maguire (RIP) and Brigid Manley has been selected from Chambers Ireland to replace Denis Hogan who represented the business pillar.

4. (a) LEADER Service Level Agreement

Hugh O Reilly advised members that the LEADER Service Level Agreement, as circulated, between Westmeath LCDC as the LAG, Westmeath County Council as the Financial Partner and Westmeath Community Development as the Implementing Partner had now been signed.

(b) Update on membership of Independent Evaluation Committee

Hugh O Reilly gave members an update on the Independent Evaluation Committee membership. He advised that there are 10 members on the committee and that Marie McCormack will not be able to participate on the Committee and that Tracey Tallon from LEO will be replacing Aileen McGrath.

(c) Consider Draft LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee Terms of Reference

On the proposal of Des Sheridan and seconded by Joe Whelan that Terms of Reference for the LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee were approved.

(d) Training re LEADER

Training for LCDC Members and LEADER Evaluation Committee members took place on 28th October 2016 in WCD. Hugh O Reilly advised that there will be a second date will be arranged for those who were not able to attend the first session.

Pat Gallagher complimented all those involved in training sessions as they are very comprehensive and informative and encouraged everyone to participate in training sessions. An additional session will be scheduled for late Jan/early Feb 2017.

Cllr Aengus O Rourke highlighted that at previous LCDC meeting on 30th September 2016 a list of “do’s & don’ts” was to be produced by WCD in relation to LEADER Programme and making it more user friendly. Bernie Leavy responded that the LEADER application is a very cumbersome process and that WCD are adopting a two pronged approach; either providing workshops to applicants or one to one meetings and the preparation of a summary document will be examined.

Action: WCD to produce summary document of LEADER Programme with basic guidelines and contact details of Development Workers.

(e) LEADER Projects – Expressions of Interest

Bernie Leavy of WCD discussed the list of Expressions of Interest (EOI) received to date as previously circulated to members. Ms Leavy also advised that having gone through each

Application, they are very much indicative amounts and that some may not come to fruition for reasons such as planning or the promoter may not decide to go ahead.

All EOI's at this stage were for information purposes only as it is a rolling call for applications, only targeted calls need approval from LCDC at EOI stage.

Joe Potter advised that in the previous LEADER Programme the GAA was not eligible to apply however under the rules of the new programme they are able to apply. Mr Potter discussed with members that GAA clubs are no longer able to lease premises to community groups and that it is a matter for the applicant to get clarification from the GAA in terms of leases.

Ms Leavy highlighted that in terms of Playgrounds that any EOI's would be put on hold until there is a Playground Policy in place. The Chairman advised that the new Playground Policy would be finalised in the New Year. Hugh O Reilly suggested that playgrounds could be a targeted call and get all applications in together.

The Chairman advised members that the information provided in the EOI summary was for information only and that it is all confidential and all applicants must go through WCD.

In terms of finance for promoters/applicants both Ms Leavy and Mr Potter stressed the importance of groups having finance in place and having carried out sufficient financial planning. Various options were discussed such as finance for community groups through organisations such as Clan Credo and Community Finance Ireland.

(f) Establishment of LEADER Sub-Committee

The Chairman advised members that a LEADER Sub Committee would need to be established based on lessons learned from the SICAP subcommittee. It is hoped to appoint subcommittee members at the next LCDC Meeting. The purpose of the committee is to have monitoring and planning capacity. Hugh O Reilly expects to have Terms of Reference for the Sub Committee available for the next meeting.

(g) LEADER Administration & Animation Payments

Hugh O Reilly advised members that LEADER Administration and Animation payments have totalled €94k to date.

5. SICAP- Annual Plan 2017

Frank Murtagh of WCD gave an overview on the programme from April 2015 to December 2016. Mr Murtagh presented on the 2017 Annual Plan; outlining the various actions that will be carried out in 2017, the expected outcomes from the actions and the associated costs.

Annette Barr Jordan circulated three documents to members in relation to SICAP Annual Plan 2017; LCDC Appraisal Template, SICAP Headline Indicator Template 2017 and the Annual Plan report. Ms Barr Jordan highlighted that there had been a concern on Section 1 Part 2 from Pobal regarding a Data protection issue and as a solution, a back up sheet has been provided with codes for staff members.

Ms Barr Jordan thanked the subcommittee members and WCD for their work during the year. On the proposal of Joe Whelan seconded by Bill Collentine the Annual Plan for 2017 was approved.

Cllr Tom Farrell thanked Ms Barr Jordan for all work during the year on SICAP.

6. LCDC Standing Orders

Hugh O Reilly discussed the background to the LCDC Standing Orders and how new revised guidelines were produced during the year by the Department and rules relating to the LEADER Programme so amendments needed to be made to current Standing Orders. Mr O Reilly highlighted in particular point 7 in relation to Voting & Quorum and its importance and how many members needed to sign off on LEADER Projects stressing attendance at all meetings. Mr O Reilly also pointed out that regarding point 8.1, Registering of Members Interest that this needs to be done on an annual basis and will have it circulated in advance of next meeting and next evaluation committee meeting.

On the proposal of Bob Morrison and seconded by Paddy Donnelly the updated LCDC Standing Orders were approved.

7. Correspondence

Hugh O Reilly advised members that following nominations Dave Raftis had been selected to participate in the European Rural Networks Assembly. Congratulations were extended to Mr Raftis.

The response from DSP regarding the cost of insurance for community groups was noted.

Mr O Reilly also informed members of an event where some members of the LCDC attended in November regarding National Framework Policy. A national policy is being developed by the Department and they are currently developing an action plan.

8. Schedule of LCDC Meetings for 2017

A draft schedule of 2017 LCDC Meetings was circulated in advance. Hugh O Reilly advised that in the standing orders there is a requirement of the LCDC to meet at least 6 times a year. Cllr Aengus O Rourke enquired if a proportion of the LCDC Meetings for 2017 could be held in Athlone rather than Mullingar. It was agreed that the first meeting of 2017 would be held in Athlone Chamber and this would be reviewed later.

9. AOB

The Chairman Pat Gallagher thanked LCDC Members for their commitment and contribution during 2016 and called the meeting to a close.

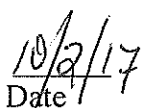
10. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the LCDC will be Friday 10th February 2017 at 10.00 am in the Athlone Council Chamber, Athlone, Co Westmeath.

Chairman Pat Gallagher thanked the members for their attendance and called the meeting to a close.

Approved


Chairman


Date