



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe
Galway County Local Community Development Committee

Cruinniú /Meeting

Dé Céadaoin 11ú Aibreán 2018 (10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)
Wednesday 11th April 2018 (10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.)

LCDC Members in Attendance

Tom Turley (Chairperson)	Irish Farmers Association (Agriculture & Farming)
Dan Dowling (Vice-Chairperson)	Galway County PPN (Community & Voluntary)
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Galway County Council
Donal Walsh	GRETB
Martin Ward	Galway County PPN (Social Inclusion)
Seán Ó Coistealbha	Galway County PPN (Community & Voluntary)
Margaret Sheehan	Galway County PPN (Environment)
Breda Fox	Galway Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
Eoin Brown	Department of Social Protection
Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer	Galway County PPN (Social Inclusion)

Staff in Attendance

Alan Farrell (Chief Officer)	Galway County Council
Brian Barrett	Galway County Council
Ann Mallaghan	Galway County Council
Mary McGann	Galway County Council
Denise Feeney	Galway County Council
John Moore	Galway County Council

Apologies

Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council
Michael Keady	Health Service Executive (HSE) West
Cllr. Noel Thomas	Galway County Council
Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Galway County Council
Delia Colahan	Galway Rural Development Ltd
Terry Keenan	FORUM Connemara Ltd
Mícheál O hÉanaigh	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Conor O'Dowd	Galway Chamber (Employers & Business)

1 Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 15ú Feabhra 2018

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 15ú Feabhra 2018

T. Turley, Chairperson, welcomed all members to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Donal Walsh of Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB) who was replacing David Leahy on the Committee. He asked if there were any issues arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th February 2018 and a number of issues were raised.

S. O'Coistealbha raised the issue of attendance at LCDC Meetings and stated that it was important for nominated members to attend meetings in order to give the Committee the status and stature which it deserved. T. Turley noted there were a significant number of apologies given for this meeting but confirmed that a quorum was in place. He stated that while there was a difficulty with reaching the quorum for this meeting, most Members were regular attendees and issues could arise for members at any time. A. Farrell, Chief Officer, agreed that in general, members had a strong record of attendance and only on one occasion of severe weather had a meeting to be postponed due to the absence of a quorum. In response to the query from S. O'Coistealbha, A. Farrell confirmed that M. O'hEanaigh had initially submitted a proposal for an alternative nominee from Udaras na Gaeltachta, however, he had since confirmed that he was retaining his position on the Committee.

A. Farrell, Chief Officer, also referred to the quorum in the context of the point of issue raised by T. Keenan at the previous meeting whether the quorum had to be maintained throughout the meeting. He advised that this would be discussed in more detail under its separate agenda item, however, in the context of the approval of the Annual Report at the previous meeting, he confirmed he was satisfied that the meeting was conducted in accordance with the Standing Orders as adopted by the Committee.

A. Farrell referred to the discussion at the previous meeting regarding the payment of expenses to the Chairperson and the request to issue a letter to the Department of Rural and Community Development. He confirmed that a response had just been received from the Department and read the letter to the Members, which confirmed that "expenses arising for LCDC members will be met by their nominating bodies", and therefore it was a matter for the IFA to pay expenses to the Chairperson as he was nominated by that Body. In response to a query from S. O'Coistealbha whether this direction from the Department was definitive, A. Farrell confirmed that it was and that he would be writing to the IFA to advise them of same.

S. O'Coistealbha stated that the issue he had raised regarding the delay in the roll-out of SICAP in South Connemara and dialogue between GRETB and GRD was omitted from Page 4 of the Minutes. He pointed out that while the response of D. Leahy was recorded in the Minutes, his initial query was not recorded, and he wished to have this noted.

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. O'Coistealbha, **SECONDED** by M. Ward, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 15th February 2018 were **AGREED**.

2. Treoirínte Athbhreithnithe d'Fheidhmiú an LCDC & Buanorduithe

Revised Guidelines for the Operations of the LCDC & Standing Orders

A Farrell referred to the Standing Orders adopted by the Committee on 14th November 2017, and stated that these Standing Orders were required to take on board the Departmental Guidelines for the Operation of LCDC's issued in December 2016. He outlined that Circular Letter AL 1/2016 dated 21 December 2016, accompanying the revised Guidelines, required the Committee to examine existing Standing Orders in relation to several issues, in particular, the matter of 'conflict of interest' and the Circular recommended that it be a standing agenda item for each meeting, and this could be listed as such by this Committee.

A Farrell stated that the point of issue raised at the previous meeting relates to the stipulation in the Guidelines at Clause 10.2 that the "quorum shall be maintained for the duration of the meeting" whereas the existing Standing Orders at Clause 2.11 state that "there is no requirement for a quorum to be maintained for decision-making purposes". He stated that this was a matter for the Members to consider and revisit or amend now if they so wished.

T. Turley stated that practicalities should be borne in mind in any discussion on this matter and he understood that members may have to leave a meeting early due to prior business commitments, but this should not mean that the Committee could not continue its business. Cllr. J. McClearn stated that it would be very frustrating if a meeting could not continue in these circumstances and the quorum should be set at the lowest possible number of persons. B. Fox seconded the proposal of J. McClearn to set the quorum as low as possible. In this regard, D. Dowling requested clarification on whether the phrase "rounded to the nearest whole number" in the Guidelines and Standing Orders could be interpreted as rounding down and A. Farrell advised that he believed this was done correctly but clarification could be sought from the Department.

A general discussion took place on the geographical spread of the membership across the county, and the potential use of Skype as a participation method, however, there was a general consensus that this was not possible due to technical and data protection issues, and in addition that it was important to attend in person to give the Committee its due regard and importance.

A Farrell confirmed that the Circular Letter accompanying the current Guidelines stated that the national review of LCDC's would result in further revision of the Guidelines and a Sub-Committee could be established at that stage to examine and amend the existing Standing Orders in the context of these revised Guidelines. In the meantime, certain measures could be implemented to ensure a quorum was in place for decision-making, i.e. ensure all issues requiring decision were at the start of the Agenda.

3. Fochoistí do 2018

Subcommittees for 2018

- (i) SICAP
- (ii) RAPID/CFS

A Mallaghan outlined the work of the SICAP Sub-Committee which involved a mid-year and end-year review of the SICAP Programme, in addition to the ongoing discussions and meetings between the Programme Implementer and officials of the Council. Having regard to the nature of the SICAP

Programme, she recommended a similar composition to the existing sub-committee, i.e. representation of relevant state agencies and social inclusion interests. On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Dowling, **SECONDED** by M. Ward, it was **AGREED**;

To appoint the following Members to the Sub-Committee:

- Eoin Brown, Department of Social Protection
- Donal Walsh, Galway and Roscommon Education & Training Board
- Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, Social Inclusion Sector.
- Martin Ward, Social Inclusion Sector.
- Sean O'Coistealbha, Community & Voluntary Sector.

To re-appoint the following Elected Members to the Sub-Committee subject to their agreement (as they were absent from this meeting):

- Cllr. Dermot Connolly
- Cllr. Noel Thomas

S. O'Coistealbha stated that he wished to again raise his concerns regarding the lack of progress on SICAP in the South Connemara area, and stated that he had consulted with local community groups and co-operatives before concluding that he felt there was very little delivery of the programme on the ground. He also raised concerns regarding the delivery of SICAP services and training online and stated that the intended recipients are not able to access these services in this manner. He stated that he was again raising his concerns regarding whether there was an issue with dialogue between GRETB and GRD regarding the delivery of training. K. Aspel Mortimer stated that she agreed that the SICAP Programme was having a limited impact in Connemara, and that more guidance and a physical presence was needed in the area. In response, D. Walsh advised that GRETB had held a meeting with GRD and agreed a list of courses which are now to be scheduled for delivery. A. Farrell advised that the Action Plan for SICAP would be monitored by the Sub-Committee as already outlined, and there was an overall monitoring role by the LCDC to allow any issues in the programme delivery to be addressed. T. Turley stated that an up-to-date report on the status of discussions between GRETB and GRD could be presented at the next meeting by D. Walsh.

B. Barrett outlined the work of the RAPID Sub-Committee in 2017 which was to review all applications received and propose the allocation of available funding to successful applicants which was approved by the LCDC and the Municipal Districts. He outlined that it was proposed for 2018 to have the same sub-committee for these 2 schemes as the Department of Community & Rural Development had indicated that these schemes may be amalgamated and the indicative timeframe for the launch of the new scheme was May 2018. A general discussion took place regarding the difficulties previously encountered with these schemes regarding the tight timeframes imposed for their delivery, and the lack of proportionality in the allocation of funding nationally. T. Turley advised the meeting that these issues had previously been raised with the Department, and that the LCDC would continue to do so at all opportunities should these issues continue in the revised scheme. On the **PROPOSAL** of M. Ward, **SECONDED** by B. Fox, it was **AGREED** to appoint the following Members to the Sub-Committee:

- Dan Dowling, Community & Voluntary Sector.
- Martin Ward, Social Inclusion Sector.
- Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, Social Inclusion Sector.
- Margaret Sheehan, Environmental Sector.
- Máire Uí Mhaolain, Local and Community Development Sector.

4. Léiriú – Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe

Presentation – Galway County Public Participation Network

D. Feeney, PPN Resource Worker, demonstrated the new website for the PPN – www.galwaycountypn.ie – to the LCDC Members, which outlined the structure of the PPN, and offered news on upcoming events, schemes, and training opportunities for PPN members. She outlined that there were now 741 member groups within the PPN which was the third highest in the country, and there were 26 representatives sitting on various Committees and Groups.

Following the presentation, the LCDC Members complimented D. Feeney on the quality of the website. S. O’Coistealbha commended the work of the PPN, particularly in the provision of workshops and training on changes in legislation such as GDPR, and stated that the PPN played a very important role in sustaining the community and voluntary sector throughout the county.

A. Farrell acknowledged the importance of strengthening the links between the PPN and LCDC, and stressed the commitment of the Council to providing training within the PPN structures to develop the capacity of all its representative members.

5. Léiriú – Réigiún Gastranamaíochta na hEorpa

Presentation – European Region of Gastronomy

B. Barrett gave a Powerpoint Presentation to the LCDC Members on the European Region of Gastronomy outlining the background to the designation and the existing food heritage of the county. He confirmed that the Programme had been officially launched at the Spanish Arch on Friday 16th March 2018 and outlined the media and promotional aspects of the programme, and the Flagship Programme Outline for 2018 which was now available on the website at www.galwaygastronomy.ie. He outlined the Programme of Festivals and Events for 2018 and the legacy projects to result from the designation experience.

T. Turley stated that it was a huge programme and very important for the county and the wider region. M. Sheehan queried the involvement of farmers markets and A. Farrell stated that they were part of the Producers Group and would hope that there would be longer-term benefits and projects arising from the designation for this grouping. He stated that the success of the designation was based on the level of collaborative effort from all the partners and community representatives involved, and this partnership approach was also evident in the legacy projects such as the Bia Innovator Campus. He asked all members to contact E. Donohue, European Region of Gastronomy Co-ordinator, if they had any food heritage projects or events which they wished to have included in the Programme.

6. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile

Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC would be provisionally arranged for Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 10.30a.m. pending clarification of the roll-out of the RAPID/CFS Scheme, otherwise, it would revert to its original intended date of Wednesday 13th June 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

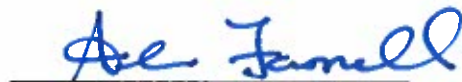
7. Aon ghnó eile

A. Mallaghan advised that a meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Sub-Committee would take place before the next LCDC Meeting to finalise the 11 projects in the current Healthy Ireland Programme and to assess applications going forward in 2018.



T. Turley, Chairperson

Date: 20 June 2018



A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 20th June 2018