



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

Cruinniú /Meeting

Déardaoin 15ú Feabhra 2018 (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
Thursday 15th February 2018 (6.30p.m. – 8.30p.m.)

LCDC Members in Attendance

Tom Turley (Chairperson)	Irish Farmers Association (Agriculture & Farming)
Dan Dowling (Vice-Chairperson)	Galway County PPN (Community & Voluntary)
Cllr. Noel Thomas	Galway County Council
Cllr. Jimmy McClearn	Galway County Council
Cllr. Dermot Connolly	Galway County Council
Conor O'Dowd	Galway Chamber (Employers & Business)
Mícheál O hÉanaigh	Údarás na Gaeltachta
David Leahy	GRETB
Delia Colahan	Galway Rural Development Ltd
Terry Keenan	FORUM Connemara Ltd
Martin Ward	Galway County PPN (Social Inclusion)
Seán Ó Coistealbha	Galway County PPN (Community & Voluntary)
Margaret Sheehan	Galway County PPN (Environment)

Present

Alan Farrell (Chief Officer)	Galway County Council
Brian Barrett	Galway County Council
Ann Mallaghan	Galway County Council
Mary McGann	Galway County Council
Eibhlin Curran	Galway County Council

Apologies

Kevin Kelly	Galway County Council
Breda Fox	Galway Local Enterprise Office (LEO)
Michael Keady	Health Service Executive (HSE) West
Eoin Brown	Department of Social Protection
Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer	Galway County PPN (Social Inclusion)

1 Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 16ú Eanáir 2018

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 16th January 2018

T. Turley, Chairperson, welcomed all members to the meeting and noted the apologies that were given for the meeting as above. He asked that the various representatives that attended LCDC related events could give an update on them at this juncture.

A. Farrell gave an update about the meeting of Directors of Services and Chief Officer meeting which had been organised by the Department as part of the review of LCDCs. He said that the Department facilitated workshops around a number of key questions regarding the operation and functioning of the LCDC in a similar manner to what had been done with the Chairs/Vice-Chairs. He noted that the feedback during the meeting indicated that in general LCDC's had experienced some issues during the establishment and initial period but that they were bedding in and overseeing the delivery a range of programmes. He advised that the following were some of the issues raised that may be of interest to the Galway County LCDC given discussions that had taken place at meetings:

- LEADER was discussed, Galway County LCDC is not a LAG however there is a shared experience that there hasn't been a significant spend to date under the programme
- The National Review of the LCDC's is nearing completion and it will result in a report being issued. If any of the members still wanted to make a submission they should do immediately.
- All LCDCs had issues with several timeframes for funding schemes and this was highlighted to the Department.
- The issue of payment of expenses to the Chairperson was one of the issues that was raised nationally as part of the review
- There is a consensus that LCDCs need to focus on the implementation of the LECP, prioritising key objectives and actions.

S Ó Coistealbha attended the Pobal Regional Seminar: Kilmovee Community Centre, Kilmovee, Co. Mayo on 7th February. He found it to be a good healthy discussion, difficulty with LEADER seems to be across the board, there are further workshops intended on being rolled out. In general, it was a good opportunity to give feedback. S Ó Coistealbha to forward notes from Seminar to the admin staff for circulation to the LCDC members.

T. Keenan raised the issue of the Chairperson expenses and asked if a letter has been issued to the Department with regard same. A. Farrell stated that as per his report regarding the National Review of LCDCs that the matter has been raised nationally and advised that he had emailed the Department with regard same. He said that it was considered that there should be consistency in the approach and that the current *Guidelines for the Operation of the LCDCs dated December 2016* advise that in general, expenses for LCDC members will be met by their nominating bodies and that it is recommended that expenses are only met by the local authority for those members representing the community & voluntary sector.

Several members indicated that they considered that expenses should be paid by the LCDC if the Chairperson is attending an event on behalf of the Committee. D. Leahy commented that he understood the position regarding the Guidelines but suggested that if there is consensus amongst

the members of Galway County LCDC that a letter should issue to the Department regarding payment of expenses to the Chairperson of the LCDC for attendance at events on behalf of the Committee. T. Keenan proposed that a letter should issue to the Department, which was seconded by Cllr. J. McClearn.

In relation to Item 3 b) SICAP 2018 Update of meeting held on January 16th, 2018, A. Farrell referred to a letter received from the unsuccessful tenderer, FORUM Connemara, in relation to the SICAP 2018-2022 requesting a copy of the tender of the successful bidder. He stated that a reply issued to Forum Connemara advising that the request could not be facilitated and read out the response.

T. Keenan acknowledged that a response was received however he questioned if the Chief Officer was entitled to respond to the correspondence without bringing it to the LCDC before issuing. He also queried if Cllr Noel Thomas was in possession of a copy of the Tender. He said that the LCDC were being asked to approve a document which they had not seen.

N. Thomas responded that he was not in possession of a copy of the tender.

A. Farrell advised that he was satisfied that it was appropriate for him as Chief Officer to respond to the communications received. He stated that he had taken advice in relation to the request and that it would not be appropriate to release the information requested. He said that as Chief Officer his role involved advising the LCDC and carrying out certain functions adding that it is not practical or appropriate that all elements of administration be brought to the LCDC for approval. He said that he was bringing the matter to the attention of the Members at this meeting for their information.

In relation to the matter of the approval of the SICAP tender A. Farrell said he was concerned that this was being raised again at this point given the process which had been undertaken. He said that he considered the process to be very robust and that the LCDC had approved all elements of the assessment and awarding of the contract.

He outlined the following:

- The LCDC put a sub-committee in place for the tender evaluation of SICAP 2018-2022. It was agreed that a two-prong approach would be taken, so a tender evaluation team comprised of experts would be put in place to scrutinise the tenders in detail (*Ref: LCDC meeting of 4th October 2017*).
- The evaluation team presented their finding and recommendation to the LCDC sub-committee on the 8th November.
- He advised that the tenders never left the building and were kept in a locked cabinet. The tenders were made available to the Evaluation Team and to the LCDC SICAP Tender Evaluation sub-committee prior to meeting with the Evaluation Team in the Centrepoint offices and on the 8th November when the LCDC sub-committee met with the evaluation team. Declarations of Impartiality were signed by all people involved in the evaluation process.
- He reiterated that the process was very robust as outlined previously to the LCDC during the process and that this was supported by a number of members of the sub-committee that were present at the meeting, namely D. Leahy and Cllr N. Thomas.
- The Annual Plan 2018 was incorporated into the tender submission, approval of the tender by the LCDC essentially approved the Annual plan for 2018. The future plans for the remaining years of the programme will be brought before the LCDC for approval. The programme implementer has

until February 17th (as set by Pobal) to have the Annual plan inputted onto IRIS and once approved on the system, will be distributed to the members.

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 16th January 2018 were approved by the LCDC on the proposal of Cllr. D. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. J. McClearn.

2 SICAP 2017 – Tuarascáil Ceann Bliana SICAP 2017 – Year end report

Cllr. N. Thomas gave a PowerPoint presentation of the end of year evaluation of SICAP 2017 for Galway County LCDC. *PowerPoint presentation circulated by email to members after the meeting.*

Cllr. N Thomas stated that the presentation was a very informative and thorough overview of the SICAP sub-committee meeting held on 22nd January 2018. A summary of discussions had at the sub-committee meeting was relayed to the members. He said that the case studies presented during the meeting demonstrated that programme implementer (GRD) were targeting the people that needed to be targeted.

The End of Year narrative report, along with training listings and case studies were included in the members packs and the Headline Indicator report as at 31/12/2017 was also distributed.

A general discussion regarding SICAP took place with the following elements noted–

- Specific target groups – difficult to get to the Roma community as they are reluctant to present themselves
- NEETS – this group started off very slow, was highly reliant on word of mouth. Driving theory test training drew a lot of attention and got the word out amongst the youth
- There was good collaboration between the programme implementer (GRD) and GRETB to broaden the scope of areas covered in training courses. The largest training course is the Safe Pass, which in turn provided greater opportunity to individuals to get work. Digital training has also proven to be beneficial and there has been very positive feedback with regard same
- The members commented that training on Governance for community groups is vital along with Data Protection and charities Act training

A. Mallaghan pointed out that the PPN are running training with regard Data Protection and the Charities Act.

D. Leahy pointed out that the whole purpose of the LCDC involvement is to avoid duplication, to have a co-ordinated, collaborative approach of training provision. He said that he considered that there was good coordination of services on the ground and that the LCDC provided the opportunity to discuss this at a higher level with other key stakeholders. He advised that GRETB are looking to pilot a programme in September specifically aimed at the cohort of 12-15 year olds. It is initially going to be based in the city but is to cater for beyond the city environs.

Approval of the SICAP 2017 End of Year report was proposed by Cllr. J McClearn and seconded by Cllr. D. Connolly.

3 i) Achoimhriú – Plean Bhliantúil SICAP 2018

SICAP Annual Plan for 2018 – overview

Ms. Aoibheann McCann from Galway Rural Development gave a presentation on SICAP 2018. *PowerPoint presentation circulated to members after the meeting.*

An overview of the programme was given, highlighting the difference between the current programme and the previous one, identified the 13 target groups, goals, objectives and actions of the plan. During the presentation, it was stated that a Needs Analysis had been carried out in 2017 in Ballinasloe & Connemara areas and a hardcopy of same was circulated to the members.

The Chairperson thanked Ms. McCann for her presentation and the reports as circulated.

A general discussion took place with amongst the members with regard the needs analysis, the purpose of the document, its use as a starting point to be able to collaborate with other organisations and have a coordinated approach to addressing disadvantage. The needs analysis was done via door to door engagement in small areas.

T. Turley, Chairperson, commented that the goal is to feed these findings to other organisations and to work together to aid disadvantaged areas. A McCann confirmed that they are currently working with Tusla with regard aspects identified in the Ballinasloe needs analysis. T Keenan reiterated the need to highlight the disadvantaged areas across rural Ireland. Cllr. D Connolly commented on how it's a very worthwhile document and should feed into other programmes throughout the Council e.g. roads programme, housing and that it should play a part in the mid/year-end review. In addition, a co-ordinated approach by all units of the Council is required to target specified needs and resolve issues within resources. Cllr. J McClearn stated that a multi-agency response is required as there is a multiplicity of issues to address. Cllr. N. Thomas questioned whether GRD could make a request to the Department to relax the requirement of having a herd no. with regard the Rural Social Scheme (RSS). D. Colahan replied stating that it is unlikely that the requirement would change but can certainly ask.

A. McCann stated that copies of the needs analysis have been given to Councillors and they were encouraged to read it as some issues raised related to Local Authority Estates. B. Barrett commented that it can be used as a mechanism to focus upcoming funding programmes, to get the best from limited resources e.g. RAPID.

ii) Fochoiste SICAP 2018

SICAP 2018 sub-committee

Item 3 ii) postponed until next meeting

4 Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe, Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2017

Galway County Local Community Development Committee – Annual Report 2017

A. Farrell, Chief Officer gave a brief overview of the draft LCDC Annual Report. In accordance with section 1.4 (i) of the Standing Orders, no later than the 31 March in each year, the LCDC must prepare,

adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority. He advised that it was intended to place the matter on Council agenda prior to the next meeting of the LCDC.

T. Keenan queried if the LCDC can approve the Annual Report as a few members had left the meeting and there wasn't a quorum present to approve the Annual Report. He said that the Revised Guidelines for the Operation of the LCDC included that a quorum must be maintained for the duration of the meeting.

A. Farrell, Chief Officer, stated that in accordance with 2.11 of the current Standing Orders, which were adopted by the LCDC members on the 14th November 2017 that the remaining members could make the decision as there is no requirement for a quorum to be maintained. He said that this element was unchanged from the original standing orders of the LCDC that was adopted in September 2014. A. Farrell said he would review the Guidelines and the Standing Orders in relation to this matter and revert to the LCDC at the next meeting.

Approval of the Galway County LCDC report was proposed by Cllr. J. McClearn and seconded by T. Keenan.

5 Léiriú – Réigiún Gastranamaíochta na hEorpa
Presentation – European Region of Gastronomy

Item 5 postponed until next meeting.

6 Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date for next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC would take place on Wednesday 11th April 2018 at 10.30a.m.

7 Aon ghnó eile

A. Farrell circulated the details of the Community Support Scheme 2018 - the CSS forms, guidance notes & key dates for assessment. For 2018 the emphasis is on Food with Galway being designated the European Region of Gastronomy. During the review of submissions, the assessors will consider other possible funding schemes, as necessary.



T. Turley, Chairperson

Date: 11-4-18



A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 11-04-2018