

**Minutes of Meeting of Social Inclusion and Community
Strategic Policy Committee
Held on 3rd of April 2017 in the
Meeting room, Floor 6, County Hall**

PRESENT: Cllr. John Paul O'Shea (Chairperson), Member of Cork County Council
Cllr June Murphy, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Kay Dawson, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr. Eoghan Jeffers, Member of Cork County Council
Mr Pat Dooley, Public Participation Network
Ms. Therese Bourke, Public Participation Network

APOLOGIES: Ms. Helen Barrett, Public Participation Network

ABSENT: Cllr. Danielle Twomey, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Mary Rose Desmond, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr. Danny Collins, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Kevin Conway, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Ian Doyle, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Daithi O'Donnabhain, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr John A. Collins, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Noel Collins, Member of Cork County Council
Cllr Michael Creed, Member of Cork County Council
Mr. Diarmuid Cronin, Public Participation Network
Ms. Iniobong Usanga, Public Participation Network
Mr. Eddie Mullins, Trade Union Representative
Mr Gavin Falk, Public Participation Network
Mr. Dan Mulvihill, Development/Construction Representative

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Kay Keegan, Community Development Section, Cork County Council
Ms Lorraine Hogan, Community Development Section, Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis, Community Development Section, Cork County Council
Ms. Noelle Desmond, Community Development Section, Cork County Council
Ms. Claire O'Rourke, Community Development Section, Cork County Council

1) Consideration of Minutes, meeting held the 19th of January 2017

The minutes were proposed by Mr. Pat Dooley and seconded by Cllr. June Murphy.

2) Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matter arising from the minutes.

3) Presentation on Community Finance

A presentation on the Community Finance Ireland (CFI) was given by Rose Hally. A discussion followed the presentation and the following points were made:

- Volunteers are not personally liable for repayments
- CFI's bad debts are very low (below 2%)
- Community groups receiving grants are eligible to apply for CFI loan.
- The minimum loan amount is €25,000.

A presentation on Clann Credo was given by Susan Gallagher. A discussion followed the presentation and the following points were made:

- No penalties are incurred due to early repayment of loan

- Cllr. Kay Dawson and Cllr. John Paul O'Shea praised the work of Clann Credo in their local communities.

Ms. Lorraine Hogan to circulate the presentations and promotional material to the SPC, Council Members and the PPN.

4) PPN Update

Ms. Noelle Desmond updated the Committee on the work of the PPN

- 900 groups registered to date
- 3 Plenary sessions held with 20 exhibitors each night.
- PPN submission prepared and submitted to the Expert Advisory Group on the Boundary Review (as requested).
- PPN Website to be updated
- The PPN & SECAD are collaborating to deliver training to PPN member organisations as per the PPN Training Needs Assessment Survey (conducted late 2016). The events will be used to build the knowledge base of groups generally but also to build their capacity to participate in PPN activities.

The mechanism by which the PPN links with the Municipal Districts was discussed. Ms. Kay Keegan informed the meeting that the PPN are looking at a pilot project whereby PPN reps would meet with all the community groups in the Municipal District. Ms. Noelle Desmond reported that in other areas the PPN reps meet with the Municipal District Chief Officers on Community Issues. Ms. Kay Keegan agreed to monitor the issue.

The Chairperson welcomed Claire O'Rourke who will be taking over as PPN Coordinator and thanked Ms. Noelle Desmond for all her cooperation with the SPC.

5) LCDC, LAG & SICAP update

Mr. Andrew Lewis presented an update on SICAP. The following points were discussed:

- All 4 Local Development Companies succeeded with their national targets
- The Dept. has taken on board most of the feedback given by LCDCs
- Significant improvement in performance recorded nationally
- Local Development Companies are working with the PPN to promote their services
- The Chair praised the work of the LCDCs and Cork County Council and acknowledged the data protection issues which make the promotion of SICAP achievements difficult.
- Companies will be retendering in late 2017 for a 3 year period. Previously of the 51 lots only 10 had competitive bids.
- The Chair requested that the next update should only include a summary of performance and Local Development Committees promotional flyers.

Ms. Kay Keegan presented an update from the LCDCs. The following points were discussed:

- The first Expressions of Interest for LEADER funding were received; North Cork 203 expressions received (38 deemed ineligible), South Cork 78 expressions received (1 deemed eligible), West Cork 162 expressions received (23 deemed ineligible). Only ineligible Expressions can be discussed by the LCDCs and the ineligibility can be overturned by the committee.
- The LEADER programme is a very different programme now with drastically reduced funds. A lot of the Expressions of Interest received unfortunately will not progress due to various reasons.
- The earliest full applications will be ready for LAG approval will be in September. A lot of work has to be done before approval; once the full application is received and uploaded on the LEADER ICT system, the Council carry out a check and approve all documentation is in order, it then

proceeds to evaluation committee for their recommendation. Detailed documentation relating to the Evaluation Committee is then uploaded on system after which POBAL on behalf of the Dept. will carry out their Article 48 Check. It is after this approval that the project comes to the LAG (Local Action Group) for their approval.

- 3 Transnational Projects are being developed in the South an Eco Development project and a Youth Arts Development Programme and in the West an Agri Tourism project. All are seeking a technical assistance grants to indentify possible partners and to further develop the projects.

6) Recreation & Amenity Policy Review

It was agreed that the Chair and Ms. Kay Keegan would meet with the Planning Policy Unit (PPU) to discuss a review of the outdated Recreation & Amenity Policy. PPU reps and Municipal District reps to be invited to the next meeting to discuss the review.

7) AOB

- Cllr. Eoghan Jeffers suggested a sub committee to look at promoting the Suicide Prevention helpline numbers particularly on the website and Cllr. Kay Dawson highlighted the need for SafeTalk training for Councillors. The Chair confirmed that Martin Ryan the HSE Suicide Prevention Officer will present the Connecting for Life Actions at the next meeting and both these suggestions are included in the Strategy.
- An overview of the Municipal District Funds to be included in the agenda for the next meeting including an input from the Customer Charter Team.
- The next SPC meeting is scheduled for the **16th of June at 2.30pm.**

This concluded the business of the meeting.