

**Minutes of
 West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
 Council Chamber Kent Street Clonakilty & Via Microsoft Teams**

Date: 22nd February 2024

Time: 2:45pm.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. John O'Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Loraine Lynch	Divisional Manager West Cork	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	Head of LEO North and West	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Cornelius Buckley	Farming Pillar/IFA	Private
Ms. Anne Finch	Cork County PPN	Private
Ms. Eileen O' Shea	Civic Society	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private

Apologies:

Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Department of Social Protection	Public
Ms. Therese Barrett Bourke	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr Denis Buckley	Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Vacant	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Foroige	Private
Vacant	Cork County PPN	Private

Staff in Attendance

Ms. Kay Keegan	LCDC Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Finance Officer	Cork County Council
Ms. Ita Kirwan	Staff Officer	Cork County Council

Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up +1 = 11)

In attendance = 14 (7 Private: 7 Public)

Apologies = 5

Total membership = 19

Welcome & Introduction

it was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 14th December 2024.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cornelius Buckley and seconded by Máire Uí Mhaoláin

Matters arising

N/A

2. LECP Update on Draft Framework Plan & Draft Initial Implementation Plan

Sharon O’Connell presented an update of the LECP Draft Framework Plan and Draft Initial Implementation Plan to the members of the Local Community Development Committee and identified amendments following consultation with the Southern Regional Assembly and the 8 Municipal Districts. It was proposed by Arran O’Driscoll Murphy and seconded by Phoebe Bright.

The Chair paid tribute to Sharon O’Connell for the huge amount of work in bringing the plan to where it is today. He thanked Sharon and looks forward to the launch in April.

3. Presentation on Census 2022 Data for Cork County – Justin Gleeson, People & Place

Justin Gleeson from People & Places Consultants gave a very comprehensive presentation on the 2022 Census data to the West Cork Local Community Development Committee with particular focus on the West Cork division.

- The Chair thanked Justin and commented on the large volume of data included in his presentation. He noted that it didn’t appear to include towns in the West, Bantry, Dunmanway, etc.

Justin confirmed that there were 12-13 towns across West Cork included.

- Phoebe Bright commended the visuals, they were all very clear. Regarding the Ageing Population section, while the current ageing population is included, what about a more active aging population, ‘50 the new 40s’ etc. The demand for services will be different and don’t appear to be included.

Sharon O'Connell responded that one of the key objectives of the draft framework plan is to focus on people being active throughout their lives, and to continue to be active and healthy in the community.

- Ryan Howard acknowledged the huge importance of this information. There is a lot of success in the County. With the City being a strong driver, there is an imbalance too.

He highlighted the need for action in the future with regards to DEIS schools, a challenge that needs to be brought forward.

Ryan stressed the importance of using this data. As an LCDC, he queried what was going to be done with this information, what is West Cork's focus in terms of jobs, places to live, sustainability and queried if we need to think in terms of services, what we want for our community, progressive forward planning is required.

Justin Gleeson acknowledged the positives in West Cork and the opportunities.

- The Chair commented that he feared there is over centralisation, that this can stifle taking advantage of opportunities. Important how we use this information to progress.

- Cornelius Buckley commented on the incredible amount of data. With regards to fishing and agriculture, if we were to take that out of West Cork, we'd have nothing.

Cornelius Buckley added that West Cork is mostly disadvantaged, there is a lot of farming and not everyone can survive. There is massive production and need to keep hold of this.

Justin Gleeson agreed, at least 20-30% in the agricultural area.

- Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy highlighted the need for infrastructure and cited an example of one individual who had won a Southern Star Business Award but was unable to get housing. There are jobs in the Beara Peninsula, the coastline is big for tourism and activities and that there are wins if the necessary resources are available.

- Kevin Curran agreed on the importance of fishing and agriculture, and the significant value to the raw materials produced, cheese, yoghurt, etc. These all lead on to further jobs. He added that West Cork is not homogenous, take the coastal belt and the inland areas, a lot of internal differences within the county.

Justin Gleeson commented that there is higher disadvantage in the inland areas.

- Phoebe Bright added to the acknowledgement of the importance of agriculture and highlighted the difference in the value of the family farm versus large scale farming.

- The Chair commented that economics is the driving force there, as well as the availability of other work.

The Chair once again acknowledged the large volume of information presented and stressed again the importance of using this data.

4. Healthy Ireland Fund Update – Niall O’Callaghan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator

Niall O’Callaghan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator, provided the West Cork Local Community Development Committee with an update on Healthy Ireland Round 4 Fund. This presentation included the key outcomes of round 4 Healthy Ireland Fund.

He highlighted that he had close engagement with the LECP Advisory Group and that he worked with many groups in West Cork, as well as the Local Development Companies.

The Chair thanked Niall for the informative presentation.

Arran O’Driscoll asked who is the Lets Play Coordinator.

Niall O’Callaghan responded that following a recruitment process, Martin O’Donoghue was appointed.

5. LCDC Annual Report 2023

The Chief Officer presented the 2023 West Cork LCDC Annual Report for approval in compliance with the LCDC Guidelines. She informed the committee that once approved, it will go to Full Council in March.

The West Cork Local Community Development Annual Report for 2023 was proposed by Kevin Curran and seconded by Eileen O’Shea.

6. SICAP 2024-2028

Nil

7. Any Other Business

- The Chief Officer reminded the LCDC that the closing date for applications for the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 and the Women’s Group Fund 2024 is 3pm on the 26th February 2024.
- The Chief Officer reminded the LCDC that the closing date for applications for the Community Climate Action Programme Strand 1 is the 6th March 2024.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 28th March 2024 at 3.00pm.

Meeting Concluded

The Minutes were approved by the West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Signed:



CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

28/3/2024

