

**Minutes of  
 North Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)  
 Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 @ 2.00p.m.**

**Present:**

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. Bernard Moynihan	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Gearóid Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Pat Hayes	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. James Fogarty	Divisional Manager North Cork	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	LEO North Cork	Public
Ms. Tracie Williams	Dept. of Employment Affairs and Social Protection	Public
Ms. Geraldine Canning	Cork Education & Training Board	Public
Mr. Pdraig Casey	Ballyhoura Development CLG.	Private
Ms. Brid Coakley	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Michael Doyle	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Sean Hegarty	Avondhu Blackwater CLG	Private
Ms. Maura Walsh	I.R.D. Duhallow CLG.	Private
Mr. Sean Kelly	Cork County PPN	Private

**Apologies:**

Mr. Julian O'Keefe	IFA (ICMSA)	Private
Mr. Declan O'Leary	Foróige	Private
Vacant	Respond! Housing	Private

**CCC Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Kay Keegan	LCDC Chief Officer
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Finance Officer
Mr. Jesse Dorrington	Staff Officer

<p><b>Quorum=10 (50% of 17 rounded up + 1 = 10)</b>  <b>In attendance= 14 (6 Private: 8 Public)</b>  <b>Apologies= 3</b>  <b>Total membership= 17</b></p>
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## **Welcome and Introduction**

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan was delayed in joining the meeting and Vice Chair Cllr. Gerard Murphy chaired the meeting. It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Pat Hayes and seconded by Sean Kelly.

#### **Matters arising**

None.

### **2. SICAP: Presentation of SICAP Case Study by Mary Gubbins, Avondhu Blackwater Partnership Presentation Title: Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018 – 2022**

Introduction:

- Our 2020 Case Study results from our support and engagement with the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) under Goal 1.
- The group was supported under our 1.1 Community Engagement which ‘Supports communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of local community groups, and creating more sustainable communities.’
- Due to COVID we worked remotely with our KPI targets, focusing in particular on our most vulnerable groups which the pandemic has had the most impact, including elderly and people with disabilities.

Background: Irish Wheelchair Association

- Our 2020 Case Study results from our support and engagement with the IWA under Goal 1.
- We have a long-standing relationship with the group, which stems back as far as the LDSIP Programme.
- IWA is based at the Gilbert Centre in Mallow, providing services for people with physical and sensory disabilities.
- The IWA provides one to one support to clients through their day service, activities including drama, craft and IT, as well as one off programmes with a personal development focus.

Irish Wheelchair Association and COVID-19:

- The service delivery of the IWA was severely impacted by the onset and ongoing COVID situation.
- Transport, vital one to one contact and service provision ceased immediately.

- This led to severe social isolation, impacting on the daily routines, mental health and confidence of clients.
- The IWA looked for new COVID friendly ways of engaging with their clients.
- This engagement led to an application for funding for an 'Art Project' through SICAP.

#### The Project:

- This project was part of an overall engagement strategy of delivering remote supports to IWA clients.
- The project included the purchase of art and craft materials, which were delivered to the homes of clients.
- In addition, clients were also assisted to use zoom to participate in the project.
- The aim of the project was to:
  1. Continue with skills development
  2. To offer new skills / craft
  3. With the overall aim of alleviating feelings of isolation, low self-esteem and confidence

#### Participants:

- 19 IWA service users participated in the project ranging in age from 38 – 72.
- All 19 participated in the project, at various levels, depending on their ability.
- The project served as a means of art therapy for all involved.
- Work included painting on canvas, arts and crafts using beads, boards, clay and sticks.
- The use of zoom helped facilitate the classes, maintained social contact with the service and between clients and assisted with the development of new skills.

#### Conclusion:

- The project highlights the ability to offer a vital service remotely achieving extremely positive impacts for service users.
- It had a great impact, both for the IWA in facilitating them with service continuity and contact with their clients.
- The project achieved an all-inclusive approach, but tailored to each individual.
- It was instrumental in identifying and addressing issues of isolation, self-esteem and mental health.

Cllr. Gerard Murphy thanked Mary Gubbins for her comprehensive presentation.

### 3. **Presentation by Alex Grassick, Project Manager Rural Digital Innovation Hubs** **Presentation Title: Map My Skills**

Alex Grassick discussed the Map My Skills survey created by Abodoo on behalf of Cork County Council. He explained that the aim of the survey is to determine where particular skills and talents are concentrated across Cork in order to attract foreign direct investment and establish appropriate locations for digital hubs. He encouraged LCDCC members to promote the survey in their areas and through their social media accounts.

Cllr. Pat Hayes commended the survey and recommended that Alex Grassick contact Mallow Chamber regarding data from previous surveys they had undertaken. Alex agreed to follow up with Cllr. Pat Hayes regarding this after the meeting.

Cllr. Gerard Murphy expressed concern for individuals currently employed by large public sector bodies who have long commutes to and from their place of work. Alex Grassick confirmed that government is working on a policy to ensure that 20% of public servants can engage in remote working. He said that the Map My Skills survey is just one aspect of this overall policy.

Cllr. Bernard Moynihan said that there has already been extensive uptake of the facilities in remote working hubs in North Cork and that there is huge potential in rural Ireland for the success of digital hubs.

Cllr. Gerard Murphy asked Alex Grassick to send information to the LCDC members to allow them to promote the survey. Alex agreed and encouraged the members to share the relevant information posted on Cork County Council's social media accounts.

### 3. AOB

At present all approvals for sub-contracting SICAP services must be granted by the LCDC. It was proposed that these approvals be granted by the Chief Officer instead to expediate the process.

Proposed by Cllr. Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Bernard Moynihan and unanimously agreed by the LCDC.

### 4. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

#### Meeting Concluded

Signed:

Gerard Murphy  
CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

21/06/21