



**Minutes of  
West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)  
Via Microsoft Teams**

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Time: 3.00pm.**

**Present:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Public/Private</b>
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	North and West LEO	Public
Mr. John Lyne	Dept. Employment	Public
Ms. Eileen O' Shea	Civic Society	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Dev Partnership CLG.	Private
Mr. Cornelius Buckley	Farming Pillar/IFA	Private
Mr. Thomas Collins	Cork County PPN	Private

**Apologies:**

Cllr. John O' Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Clodagh Henahan	Divisional Manager West Cork	Public
Vacant	Foroige	Private
Mr. Colm Leen	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Cork PPN	Private
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD CLG.	Private
Mr. John Walsh	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private

**In Attendance - Support Staff:**

Ms. Kay Keegan	Chief Officer, LCDC	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Finance Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Jesse Dorrington	Staff Officer	Cork County Council

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

**In attendance= 11 (4 private: 7 Public)**

**Apologies= 8**

**Total membership= 19**

## **Welcome & Introduction**

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

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

### **1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020.**

The Minutes of the LCDC Meeting dated 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were adopted on the proposal of Kevin Curran and seconded by Enda McWeeney.

## **Matters arising**

None.

### **2. West Cork LCDC Annual Report presented by the Chief Officer**

**Under Chapter 2 Section 128B (1) (i) of the Local Government Reform Act 2014** there is a requirement of LCDC to prepare, adopt and submit to the local authority a report in relation to the performance of its functions for the previous year. West Cork LCDC Annual Report for 2020 was adopted on the proposal of Eileen O'Shea and seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley.

The Chief Officer noted that soft copies of the reports had been circulated with the agendas.

### **3. Speaker: Catherine Seale-Duggan, Community Water Officer for Cork, Local Authority Waters Programme**

The presentation gave an overview of LAWPRO which included the following areas:

- Water quality challenges
- The Community Water Development Fund 2021
- Ongoing and completed projects including LEADER Transboundary projects
- Community Engagement in policy and consultation

Catherine Seale-Duggan said that Cork's allocation under the Community Water Development Fund 2021 is low but that the overall fund is increasing year-on-year. She explained that this funding can be used as match funding for LEADER applications and that this already been achieved by some groups.

Cllr. Declan Hurley referred to the flooding of towns and villages some of which occurs as a result of a lack of maintenance of rivers and streams which have become silted up. He stressed that rivers have lower water capacity now than in previous decades and acknowledged the importance of biodiversity but said that flood prevention is vital. He highlighted that a significant amount of funding is being spent on flood prevention in towns and that it might be a good idea to use some of that funding to maintain rivers and streams. He asked if this the direction that LAWPRO aim to go in. Catherine Seale-Duggan said that

this is best handled at a local level on a case by case basis and recommended contacting local area offices and discussing issues with their engineers.

Cllr. Declan Hurley said that the Department of Agriculture needs to incentivise and encourage farmers to maintain waterways as farmers currently fear penalisation if they do so. Catherine recommended Inland Fisheries as a good group to contact.

Enda McWeeney queried if the issue of sea lettuce on beaches falls under LAWPRO's remit. He said that this is a big issue and harmful to tourism. Catherine said that LAWPRO is currently looking to pilot areas for education and discussion on this issue.

Cornelius Buckley agreed with Cllr. Declan Hurley that rivers have risen in recent years. He reiterated that farmers fear maintaining rivers in case they are penalised. He commented that practical jobs that need to be performed on rivers should be undertaken at a local level by farmers. Catherine said that farmers should not be fearful and recommended contacting her or ASAP's advisors if they are unsure of a project. She agreed that a balance must be made between protecting the environment and flood prevention.

Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy said that the situation is not straightforward due to the number of actors involved and called for planned maintenance of rivers. He commented that no coordinated approach to river maintenance exists and actions are reactive rather than planned. Catherine encouraged concerned LCDC members to contact her after the meeting.

Cllr. Declan Hurley said that the amount of red tape is excessive and that farmers are penalised on their single farm payment if they interfere with rivers or streams. He agreed that a plan is needed and asked Catherine to send the LCDC's feedback to her senior colleagues. He thanked Catherine for her presentation.

#### **4. Healthy Ireland: Community Resilience Fund - Overview of projects presented by Niall O'Callaghan, Healthy Ireland Coordinator**

The presentation gave an overview of the Community Resilience Fund 2021 under Healthy Ireland's Keep Well Campaign and featured the following 3 Actions Themes:

- Your County
- Switching Off and Being Creative
- Staying Connected (Community Call)

Niall O'Callaghan explained that although the project is due to run until the end of March 2021, it was not originally envisaged that the entire project would take place under a level 5 lockdown and so he is seeking an extension.

Niall noted that Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is launching in Cork County in Carrigtwohill. He praised the project as excellent.

Niall said that he is promoting the Keep Well Campaign through branded material and radio interviews.

Cllr. Declan thanked Niall O'Callaghan for his presentation and praised the initiatives being undertaken.

5. **Any Other Business**

The Chief Officer said that the next tranche of the Covid-19 Emergency Fund is required to be approved by the LCDC. In order to release the funds quickly an extra LCDC meeting may be required before the next scheduled meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The LCDC unanimously agreed to this.

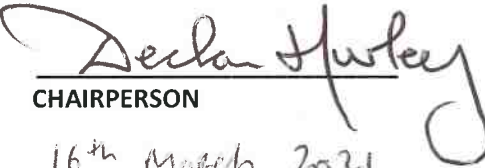
6. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date for the next meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 3.30pm

**Meeting Concluded**

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

Signed:

  
CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

16<sup>th</sup> March 2021