



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

Date: 27th May 2021

Time: 3.30pm.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. John O' Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Clodagh Henehan	Divisional Manager West Cork	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
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. John Walsh	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private

Apologies:

Mr. Kevin Curran	North and West LEO	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB	Public
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD CLG.	Private
Mr. Colm Leen	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Foroige	Private
Vacant	Cork PPN	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= 12 (6 private: 6 Public)

Apologies= 7

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 25th March 2021.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Eileen O' Shea and seconded by Phoebe Bright.

Matters arising

None.

2. SICAP

- **Presentation of SICAP Case Study by Jude Gilbert Comhar na nOileán: Challenges Arising from COVID-19 for an Island Community - Margadh Feirmeoirí: Establishing a Farmers Market on Cape Clear**

Background:

- Farming and fishing are an integral part of life for many residents of Irish islands.
- As part of our SICAP annual plan for 2020, we are committed to providing support for fishers and farmers on the West Cork Islands.
- The impact of Covid-19 on island economies, many of whom rely on tourism as a major part of their economy was severe, and as a result, many islanders were forced to explore alternative means of income.
- Island residents on Cape Clear order most of their shopping either online or over the phone from the local supermarket. This is then packed into cardboard boxes and delivered to Baltimore, where it is put in a container and hoisted by crane onto the ferry. As a result of the lockdown these deliveries were like 'Christmas deliveries, three times a week' and consequently, orders were outweighing the actual capacity of the delivery container.
- What if local fishers could sell their catch on the local market?
- A food market as a way for suppliers to sell their goods on Cape Clear.

Setting up the Market:

- Local Needs analysis
- Survey via email, whatsapp, Text..
- Also paper copies
- Posters
- Virtual and one to one meetings

Gauging Local Support:

- Local People were interested in purchasing from the farmers market
- Significant number also interested in providing produce
- Location

Funding & Support:

- Comharchumann Chléire: One of the main sponsors of the market providing space , electricity and access to services
- SICAP: Provided a development worker to support and coordinate the project
- Department of the Marine: Procuring a future site for the market, Casual trading licence - Cork County Council

Aims of the local Farmers Market:

- Create Activity/Social Activity
- Additional Income Stream for local Producers
- Healthy Competitive Market
- Broaden Out and Supply the Mainland

Further Work:

- We will continue to support the marketeers for the next season on Cape.
- We are in discussions with other islands about the development of Markets.
- Working on an online platform to sell island products.
- Looking at supporting a suit of training for possible new food traders across the West Cork Islands, with the aim to run Food Safety Training at level 1 and 2 prior to the summer season.
- Survey sent out to all island food business, to investigate areas of support or needs, in order to design a possible inhouse leader project for 2021 - 2022.
- 2 small gazebos were purchased to support outdoor trading and are on loan to individual traders at Cape Clear Farmers Market.

Conclusions:

- A farmers market was initially seen as being a good way for local producers to generate much needed extra income amid the Covid-19 lockdown.
- Our initial idea was to support local businesses, and to enable the community to shop local. The Island economy had been severely hit by the Covid-19 lockdown, and the outlook for the coming season looked bleak. We began the trial with five business's producing fresh locally grown produce such as eggs, baked goods, crafts, as well as meat from local producers. The only provision was that all products had to come from the island, or be made on the island.
- Other benefits were from a social aspect, connection with people and having a goal and focus during this challenging time.

Cllr. Declan Hurley commented that the farmers' market was a great initiative. Thomas Collins asked if all produce for the market is from Cape Clear. Jude Gilbert confirmed that the produce and marketers were all from the island. Thomas asked if the marketers have been selling at other markets. Jude said not yet but they plan to.

The Chief Officer drew the LCDC's attention to the #SicapStories social media campaign to be launched by the Department in the coming days. She confirmed that a link to this would be sent to LCDC members.

Cllr. Declan Hurley said that the market is good for the island producers and also welcome for tourists visiting the island.

- **SICAP Procurement of Subcontracting Services**

There is now a specific requirement regarding the procurement of subcontracting services which requires the preapproval of subcontracting proposals and compliance with public procurement requirements. In order to make this as efficient as possible and to avoid delays, the LCDC are requested to approve the delegation of this to the LCDC Chief Officer. Information regarding approvals will be brought to the LCDCs at subsequent meetings for noting.

Proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley and seconded by Cornelius Buckley and unanimously agreed by the LCDC.

Cllr. John O’Sullivan queried if the proposal complies with LCDC members responsibilities. Andrew Lewis confirmed that he has liaised with Pobal who approved the proposal as the SICAP Programme Requirements allow for the LCDC and PIs to agree their own local protocol in relation to how sub-contractors are approved to ensure programme delivery is not impacted unnecessarily.

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 gave a presentation as follows:

National Remote Working Strategy:

- Objective: Ensure Remote Work is a Permanent Feature of the Irish Workplace
- Pillar 1: Create a Conducive Environment
- Pillar 2: Develop and Leverage Remote Work Infrastructure
- Pillar 3: Build a Remote Work Policy and Guidance Framework
- Underpinning Conditions: Promotion and Skills

Our Rural Future:

- Pilot co-working & hot-desking hubs for civil servants in a number of regional towns.
- Provide funding to Local Authorities to run innovative marketing campaigns targeted at attracting remote workers and mobile talent to their county.
- Develop national hubs network.
- Enhance the powers of Local Authorities to offer commercial rates-based incentives targeting vacant commercial units.
- Local digital strategies for Local Authorities.

Relevant Policy:

- National Development Plan – Prioritising Investment in Rural Areas
- National Planning Framework – Compact Growth, strengthened rural communities, a strong economy
- Town Centre First Policy – a strategic approach to centre regeneration
- National Remote Working Strategy
- Climate Action Plan

Connected Hubs Network:

- Being promoted by DRCD
- Western Development Commission (WDC) and National Association of Community Enterprise Centres (NACEC)
- All Hubs connected through common goals
- National Booking system
- National Classification
- National Minimum Quality Standards
- Membership of the Network is pre-requisite to receive funding

Assessment of need:

- Regional Assemblies report (Dec 2020) estimated potential for 29,074 private sector remote workers in Cork County.
- Current Hubs have capacity for c.210 desk spaces (many of which are fully used pre-Covid-19)
- Proposed BCP's have capacity for c. 90-100 desk spaces
- Minister Humphries has suggested 400+ Remote Working Hubs needed in the Country
- Inter-departmental government committee set up to consider remote working (DRCD – Chair)

Map My Skills:

- Talent is the number 1 attraction for FDI
- Help to prioritise locations for Hub Development/Investment
- Census data from 2016 (Census delayed to 2022)
- 6 short Questions
- Geonostics Platform
- www.abodoo.com/workingincork

Alex encouraged LCDC members to promote the Map My Skills survey in their areas and through their social media accounts.

Cllr. Declan Hurley thanked Alex Grassick for his presentation. Phoebe Bright emphasised the social aspect of hubs saying that this can be as important as the availability of a desk to work at. She referred to business holidays whereby individuals travel to an area, work in hubs in the mornings and enjoy annual leave in the afternoons. She said that this represents a perfect model for West Cork. Alex agreed and said that hubs can provide a great tourism opportunity for West Cork.

Cllr. Declan Hurley said that hubs will add to the economy of local communities. He added that many community buildings are under utilised and that their use as hubs would bring a welcome vitality to them. Cllr. John O'Sullivan commented that many people working from home would prefer to work from a hub to ensure a healthy separation of work and home life. He noted that hubs would provide a source of income for community buildings which would assist with their upkeep. Cllr. Declan Hurley said that hubs are good for individuals' mental health across the community.

4. Any Other Business

The Chief Officer noted that Minister Heather Humphries had recently launched the Community Enhancement Programme 2021. She highlighted 2 new elements in this year's scheme:

1. The identifying of XY coordinates for projects. This is being worked on at present.
2. Supporting groups as they re-open facilities which have been closed due to Covid-19. This includes supports relevant running costs incurred in 2021 only.

The Chief Officer said that it is hoped to launch the CEP 2021 scheme in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 24th June 2021 at 3.30pm

Meeting Concluded

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

Signed:



CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

24th June 2021