



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

Date: 22nd September 2022

Time: 10.00am.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public / Private
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Marcia Dalton	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of LEO South Cork	Public
Mr. John Lyne	DSP	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	WCDP	Private
Mr. Tom Howard	PPN	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Mary O'Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Liam McCarthy	PPN	Private
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	Agricultural Pillar	Private
Mr. Pat Roche	Avondu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Margaret Kelly	Cork Chamber	Private

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Private / Public
Ms. Valerie O'Sullivan	Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

Staff in Attendance:

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

<p>Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11) In attendance = 15 (8 Private: 7 Public) Apologies = 4 Total membership = 19</p>
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Welcome and Introduction.

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

1. Appointment of new LCDC Chairperson

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen thanked the LCDC members and Council staff for their support during his time as Chairperson.

Cllr. Seamus McGrath proposed Cllr. Michael Hegarty as new Chairperson seconded by Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen and unanimously agreed by the LCDC.

Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen proposed Cllr. Seamus McGrath as new Deputy Chairperson seconded by Tom Howard and unanimously agreed by the LCDC.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 28th July 2022.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Seamus McGrath and seconded by Tom Howard.

Matters arising

None.

3. Presentation by Catherine Seale, Community Water Officer, Local Authority Waters Programme Title: Update on the Local Authorities Water Programme

EU Water Framework Directive

- Achieve at least good water quality in all waters by 2027.
 - State agencies, local authorities and public bodies working together
 - Involvement of water users and the public – giving a voice to communities!
 - River Basin Management Plans, in three cycles:
 - 1st Cycle 2009-2015
 - 2nd Cycle 2018-2021
 - 3rd Cycle 2022-2027

The health of Ireland's streams, rivers, lakes, and estuaries.

- Nationally 53% of our surface waters are in Good or High ecological status.
- 47% are in an unsatisfactory ecological status
- Cork County better than most!
- However increasing nitrates & WQ in estuaries are a concern

Pressures on Water Quality in Cork County



- Hydromorphology 16%
- DWWWTS 5.9%
- Agriculture 28.2%
- Urban run-off 9.6%
- Urban wastewater 10.1%

Prioritised Areas for Action

- Local Catchment Assessment (LAWPRO)
- Implementing Bodies
- ASSAP

Community Water Development Fund

- The Department of Housing, Local Government, and Heritage funds LAWPRO to provide the Community Water Development Fund. This fund supports community groups to enhance the quality of local streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal areas. The fund has been in place since 2017, with growing interest year on year.
- The standard of applications for funding is high, making the assessment process more difficult. The fund delivers a broad range of water projects that benefit the amenity of local areas. Types of projects approved for funding include:
 - Awareness raising initiatives such as river clean ups, biodiversity information boards, citizen science workshops, outdoor classrooms, rainwater harvesting, and enhancement of wetlands.
 - Preparation of local plans such as feasibility studies, habitat management plans, ecological surveys, and biodiversity action plans.
 - River and habitat enhancement works such as planting of native species and hedgerow, pollinator friendly planting, river-bank stabilisation, fencing and riparian buffer zones.

Blue Dot Catchments Vision

Citizen Science Stream Index (CSSI)

Nature- based solutions to the management of rainwater

- New approach to surface water management
- Starting with Nature – multiple benefits (water quality, biodiversity, climate)
- Making space for water and slowing the flow Green and blue infrastructure raingardens, swales, wetlands, green roofs,
- Integrate into planning and development of urban spaces
- Interim guidance document on best practice
- Communities can get involved – e.g., Tidy Towns, Residents Associations, Sports Clubs



Waters of Life

- The Shournagh 10th Oct at 7:30pm Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel, Blarney Co. Cork
- Awbeg (Kilbrin) 12th Oct, 7:30pm Kilbrin Community Centre, Kilbrin, Co. Cork

The Chair Cllr. Michael Hegarty thanked Catherine Seale for her presentation. He asked if water levels were being monitored during the dry spells this summer and Catherine confirmed that they were and that the data will be available later this year. Cllr. Michael Hegarty noted that many people in South Cork need to upgrade their septic tanks but are ineligible for grants to do and said that it would be welcome to address this. Catherine Seale agreed.

Arran O'Driscoll referred to a river badly effected by Japanese Knotweed and asked if LAWPRO could assist the community in dealing with it. Catherine Seale confirmed that she has worked with Japanese Knotweed previously and advised the community to contact LAWPRO to do a study of the effected area and hopefully move to treatment of the Japanese Knotweed as funding is available.

Liam MacCarthy asked if nature-based solutions to the management of rainwater help during dry spells. Catherine Seale said that these approaches help to slowly release water and therefore help to prevent rapid run off of water if flash flooding occurs after a dry spell.

Tom Howard queried the best way to deal with Japanese Knotweed. Catherine Seale confirmed that injecting the stem is the best option.

Arran O'Driscoll asked for the LCDC to be kept informed about future LAWPRO training. Catherine Seale offered to add interested members to a mailing list.

Jimmy Hosford asked if current figures on the ecological status of Cork's waters are an improvement on previous figures. Catherine Seale said that they are mostly same as new figures are only released every 3-4 years with 2018 being the last year that data was issued however, she anticipates that new figures will be available from the EPA in 2023.

4. SICAP

N/A

4. AOB

The Chief Officer thanked Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen for his service as Chairperson and welcomed Cllr. Michael Hegarty to the role of Chairperson on behalf of the Council team.

Liam MacCarthy raised the issue of taking in charge of estates. Cllr. Michael Hegarty clarified that this is a planning rather than LCDC issue.


5. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 27th October 2022 at 10.00am.

Meeting Concluded

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

Signed:


CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

27th October 2022

