



**Time: 2.30pm.**

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. John O' Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Clodagh Henahan	Divisional Manager West Cork	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	North and West LEO	Public
Mr. John Lyne	Dept. Employment	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Ms. Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private
Ms. Helen O'Sullivan	Cork PPN	Private
Mir. Finbarr Harrington	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Cornelius Buckley	Farming Pillar/IFA	Private
Ms. Eileen O'Shea	Civic Society	Private
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD CLG.	Private

Mr. Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Dev Partnership CLG.	Private
Mr. Colm Leen	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Foroige	Private

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

## **Welcome & Introduction**

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

### **1. Appointment of new LCDC Chairperson**

Cllr. Declan Hurley thanked Council staff and LCDC members for their support during his time as Chairperson.

Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy proposed Cllr. John O' Sullivan as new Chairperson seconded by Phoebe Bright and unanimously agreed by the LCDC.

Cllr. John O' Sullivan thanked Cllr. Declan Hurley for his service as Chairperson and LCDC members for their support. He commended the Local Development Companies and the work being undertaken by them and stated that he wants to increase the funding available to them.

Cllr. Declan Hurley proposed Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy as new Deputy Chairperson seconded by Cllr. Alan Coleman. Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy thanked LCDC members for their support.

### **2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021.**

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy and seconded by Cllr. Declan Hurley.

## **Matters arising**

N/A

### **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

Phoebe Bright asked if micro hydro power as an energy source falls under LAWPRO's remit. Catherine Seale said that the area needs to be researched further but could potentially fall under LAWPRO's remit in the future. She recommended that any interested parties apply to LAWPRO for funding for a feasibility study.

Cllr. John O'Sullivan referred to a Teagasc water survey in Timoleague and asked that the results be made available to the EPA. Catherine Seale asked Cllr. John O'Sullivan to send a query to her and she will notify the EPA.

Ryan Howard congratulated Catherine Seale on the work and promoted an upcoming SECAD Partnership CLG river rewilding project.

Cllr. John O'Sullivan recommended that early consultation with effected parties regarding micro hydro power and River Catchment Plans should take place.

Catherine Seale thanked all the volunteers, groups and Local Development Companies who have offered their support to LAWPRO.

#### 4. SICAP

N/A

#### 5. AOB

The Chief Officer confirmed that the slides for Catherine Seale's presentation will be sent to all LCDC members following the meeting.

The Chief Officer thanked Cllr. Declan Hurley for his service as Chairperson and welcomed Cllr. John O'Sullivan to the role of Chairperson and Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy to the role of Deputy Chairperson on behalf of the Council team.

Phoebe Bright queried if a video conferencing tips course that she had sourced via youtube could be sent to all members to assist with participation in Microsoft Teams meetings. The Chief Officer agreed to send the link out once received from Phoebe.

#### 4. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 3.30pm

Meeting Concluded

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

Signed:

  
CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

