



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
County House, Lifford, 3pm, 22nd February 2016**

Attendance

Members	Seamus Neely (Chair), Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Paul Hannigan, Martin McBride, Susan McLoughlin, Jan Feenstra, Michael Tunney, Maire O'Leary, James O'Donnell, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig
Apologies	Cllr Martin McDermott, Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Anne McHugh, Noreen Muldowney, Emmett Johnston, Susan McCauley, PJ Hannon, Liam Ward
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Denis Kelly, Sinead Harkin, Donna McGroarty, Loretta McNicholas, Barney McLaughlin, Caroline Britton, Charles Sweeney, Adrienne Kelly, Eamon Browne

Welcome

Seamus Neely chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. Apologies were noted.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 18th January 2016

An amendment was requested by Martin McBride however, this related to the LCDC meeting held in December 2015, the minutes of which were adopted at the January LCDC meeting.

Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 18th January 2016 were proposed by Martin McBride and seconded by Cllr. Niamh Kennedy.

2. Matters Arising

James O'Donnell advised that he did not receive notification of or meeting material in relation to the January LCDC meeting. Paddy Doherty advised that date of each meeting is agreed in advance at the previous meeting. Paddy Doherty acknowledged to James O'Donnell that the notification was not adequate and that the Council would ensure that adequate notice would be given in respect of future LCDC meetings.

James O'Donnell raised concerns in relation to rural crime and to the lack of security in rural Ireland. James O'Donnell referred to a recent spate of burglaries in his local area including castle rustling and to the lack of policing resources at a local level to deal with these crimes. Cllr. Niamh Kennedy as a member of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC), agreed to meet with James O'Donnell so that these issues could be brought forward to the next meeting of the JPC.

3. Conflict of Interest Declarations

Seamus Neely requested all members to return their completed COI Declarations for 2016/2017 in accordance with Departmental requirements and reminded members that in cases where no conflicts exist, a nil return should be made.

4. Update on the Donegal Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Denis Kelly advised that following receipt of approval at the January 2016 LCDC meeting, that the LECP was presented to and adopted by the full Council at the January 2016 Council meeting. A number of in-house tasks will now be completed in advance of printing.

5. Update on the Donegal Local Development Strategy 2014-2020

Seamus Neely invited Loretta McNicholas to provide an update on the submission of the LDS. Loretta McNicholas advised that following receipt of approval from the LCDC at the January 2016 meeting, the LDS was submitted to Pobail and the Department for consideration. A number of alterations and amendments were requested including editing, renumbering and reduction in content. The updated LDS was submitted by the deadline of January 19th. Pobail's internal review panel will carry out their evaluation of the LDS by the 7th of March. An External Leader Selection Committee will then review the LDS week beginning March 21st with a view to providing a final decision by the end of March.

6. SICAP Programme

Seamus Neely invited Eamon Browne to update the Committee. Eamon Browne advised that the end of year review has now taken place which included verification checks on each Programme Implementer (PI). Each PI has exceeded the established key performance indicators with the exception of the target in relation to disadvantaged individuals. There is an acceptance at national level that this target was ambitious. A rate of 27% was achieved in Donegal. Eamon Browne advised that targets continue to be set nationally with the exception of targets 4 & 9. It is possible that the setting of further targets at a local level may be permitted going forward. Each PI has now uploaded their 2016 annual programme and related budgets have been calculated on a pro-rata basis on 2015 allocations.

Martin McBride referred to problems being incurred by both PI's and local authorities in relation to the IRIS (software package). Eamon Browne advised that work is currently being carried out on the programme which will hopefully improve its functionality.

Seamus Neely advised that two resolutions were being presented to the LCDC for agreement in relation to SICAP. Both resolutions were agreed as follows:

(a) LCDC satisfaction with 2015 progress

Proposed by: Susan McLoughlin, Seconded by: James O'Donnell

(b) Continuation of existing contracts for 2016

Proposed by: James O'Donnell Seconded by: Susan McLoughlin

Seamus Neely wished Eamon Browne well in his new role as Area Manager in the Glenties Municipal District and thanked the PI's, the SICAP sub committee and staff for their work on implementing the SICAP programme to date.

7. Public Participation Network (PPN)

Charles Sweeney was invited to provide an update and circulated a report on the structure of the PPN. The PPN was established in November 2014 and will hold its AGM on March 9th. Charles Sweeney advised that approximately 450 community and voluntary organisations are registered with the PPN. The 3 pillars of the PPN are Social inclusion, Environment and Community and Voluntary, which are supported by a Secretariat containing 19 members. There are a total of 8 linkage groups through which PPN representation onto various Committees and fora are derived. Charles Sweeney advised that the main difference from the previous structure is that the PPN members are selected by; represent and; report to the people / groups which nominate them. Charles Sweeney clarified that agriculture has its own structure in terms of nominating members to committees and groups.

A number of members advised of confusion amongst the community and voluntary sector in relation to the operation of the PPN. In response to queries posed, Charles Sweeney advised that the PPN term runs in line with the Council term (i.e. 5 years in duration) and that the

nomination (of representatives and replacement representatives) is the responsibility of each specific linkage group.

Maire O'Leary suggested that there may be a need to reaffirm nominees in certain cases as there seemed to have been an initial rush of nominating members to some committees.

Susan McLoughlin suggested added further detail to the report in order to provide further clarity including the names of PPN representatives on each linkage group and the members who make up the PPN Secretariat. Charles Sweeney agreed to add this detail.

James O'Donnell suggested the introduction of an attendance target for PPN members to the various committees and Charles Sweeney agreed to bring this suggestion to the PPN for consideration.

Martin McBride will provide update reports to Charles Sweeney for distribution via the PPN structure.

8. PEACE IV

Paddy Doherty referred to the circulated paper and provided members with further detail in relation to the upcoming Peace Programme. Donegal has been allocated over €5.4m under the Programme which runs from 2014-2020. The Committee was advised that the Donegal PEACE IV Action Plan will be developed and delivered under 3 out of 4 of established Programme objectives, which were identified and informed by an extensive public consultation process.

- Specific Objective 2 - Children & Young People (€1,140,554)
- Specific Objective 3 - Shared Spaces & Services (€1,927,216)
- Specific Objective 4 - Building Positives Relations (€2,359,987)

Paddy Doherty advised of the requirement to establish a PEACE IV Partnership to lead the development and implementation of the PEACE IV Action Plan in the county. He proposed that the partnership be established as a sub-structure of the LCDC and advised of the importance of obtaining representatives with the skills, knowledge and experience to represent the PEACE IV target groups:

- Young People
- The Faith Community
- Victims and Survivors
- People Suffering from a Disability Arising from the Legacy of Violence
- Displaced Persons
- Older People
- Political Ex-Prisoners
- Former Members of the Security Forces
- Women

In response to Maire O'Leary's query, Paddy Doherty advised that it was proposed that Partnership members will act as delivery agents for the programme also.

Charles Sweeney advised that PEACE IV target groups are not directly aligned with PPN linkage groups however it would be a matter for the PPN to nominate the required number of representatives taking cognisance of the PEACE IV target groups.

Michael Tunney queried the inclusion of young people as an objective as they did not experience the Troubles first hand. Seamus Neely advised that this objective aims to help young people particularly those not in education, employment or training to develop a greater understanding and respect for diversity; access new opportunities; become active citizens as well as; actively preventing vulnerable young men in particular from becoming involved in criminal / illegal / sectarian organisations.

Seamus Neely reiterated the significant budget attached to this funding stream and advised that the aims and objectives of the PEACE IV Action Plan will also be in keeping with the recently adopted LECP.

Paddy Doherty advised that he will act as PEACE IV Partnership Secretary in order to ensure complementarity and an adequate flow of information between the LCDC and the PEACE IV Partnership. It was noted that this complementarity could be further strengthened where current LCDC members are nominated on to the PEACE IV Partnership.

Agreement was reached on the following:

- (a) The establishment of a 19 member PEACE IV Partnership to manage the preparation and implementation of an Action Plan.
- (b) That the PEACE IV Partnership be made up of the following representative bodies:

Sector	No. of Reps	Representative Bodies
Local Government	4	DCC Chief Executive or nominee, Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Cllr Frank McBrearty, Cllr Paul Canning
State Agencies	3	An Gardai Siochanna, HSE, ETB
Local Development Organisations*	2	DLDC & IDP
Social Partners	3	Business (IBEC), Farming, Trade Unions
Community & Voluntary Sector	7	Tyrone, Derry & Donegal Action & 6 PPN Reps
Total	19	

*The Local Development Organisation representatives (DLDC & IDP) were proposed by Cllr. Niamh Kennedy and seconded by James O'Donnell.

- (c) That all LCDC members will work to prepare and implement the PEACE IV Action Plan.

Paddy Doherty advised that he would proceed to contact the agreed list of agencies and organisations to obtain nominees to establish the Partnership in the coming weeks. In relation to the Community & Voluntary Sector, it was agreed that having regard to the target groups and the previous Peace Programmes that the PPN would be requested to make nominees available with specialism's in the following areas: Children and Young People, Ethnic Minorities including Travellers, Older People, Political ex prisoners.

9. LCDC Annual Report to Donegal County Council

Seamus Neely invited Paddy Doherty to present the draft LCDC Annual Report. Paddy Doherty advised that the report is a departmental requirement, to be presented to the full Council on an annual basis before March 31st. The report outlines the objectives, achievements and current work programme of the LCDC for the upcoming year.

The submission of the report was agreed by the Committee on the proposal of Martin McBride and seconded by Susan McLoughlin.

10. Meeting Dates 2016

Meeting dates for 2016 were presented and agreed as follows:

Date	Time	Venue
Monday, 25th April 2016	11am	Donegal County Council Headquarters
Tuesday, 21st June 2016	11am	Donegal County Council Headquarters
Wednesday, 28th September 2016	2pm	Donegal County Council Headquarters
Wednesday, 23rd November 2016	11am	Donegal County Council Headquarters

This concluded the business of the meeting.