



**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
County House, Lifford, 10am, 30th September 2015**

Attendance

Members	Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Cllr Martin McDermott (Chair), Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Maire O'Leary, Paul Hannigan, Jim Slevin, Susan McCauley, Martin McBride, James O'Donnell, Susan McLoughlin, PJ Hannon, Jan Feenstra, Emmett Johnston, Michael Tunney
Apologies	Seamus Neely, Anne McHugh
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Denis Kelly, Sinead Harkin, Eamonn Brown, Barney McLaughlin, Sean O'Daimhin, Margaret Fitzgerald, Adrienne Kelly, Eileen Burgess, Joanne Kilmartin, Charles Sweeney

Welcome

Cllr. Martin McDermott chaired the meeting in the absence of Seamus Neely and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted. The meeting was advised that Paddy Doherty is the newly appointed Chief Officer of the Donegal Local Community Development Committee, following the departure of Micheal O hÉanáigh. Paddy Doherty was welcomed to the post and congratulations to Michael O hÉanáigh were noted following the uptake of his new position with Udaras na Gaeltachta. It was further noted that Anne McHugh is new A/Chief Executive of the Donegal ETB and will now replace Shaun Purcell as the ETB's representative on the LCDC.

1. Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Martin McBride and seconded by Paul Hannigan.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Update on PPN

The Chairperson invited Charles Sweeney to provide the Committee with an update on the PPN. Charles Sweeney gave a brief recap on the functions and levels of the PPN and advised that the AGM would take place in November. The Heritage linkage group and the Tourism linkage group have met and have elected representatives onto the Heritage Forum and Tourism Forum respectively. The Community Safety & Joint Policing linkage group has met and nominated 7 representatives onto the Joint Policing Committee. The Environmental linkage group has met with the Director of Services, Water and Environment. The Older People's linkage group is meeting in November.

In response to a query from Emmett Johnston as to why the Fishing & Aquaculture linkage group had not yet met, Charles Sweeney advised it was the last group to be set up and that it is under review for progression.

James O'Donnell highlighted the need for the agricultural sector to be represented on the Environmental linkage group and on the Joint Policing Committee. Charles Sweeney advised that the Environmental linkage group was still open for membership and that he would arrange the necessary information to be forwarded. It was agreed that a nomination onto the Joint Policing Committee would be put forward for consideration through a Plenary meeting of Donegal County Council.

Charles Sweeney informed the meeting that a PPN newsletter is currently being drafted which should address any confusion regarding the functionality and remit of both the Linkage Groups and the PPN. Martin McBride asked for an additional representative from the PPN to the Tourism Linkage Group. Barney McLaughlin advised that two members of the PPN currently sit on the Linkage Group and that the names of the current members would be confirmed at the next LCDC meeting.

A discussion took place in relation to the next steps of connecting the linkage groups on a geographical basis by Municipal District and the challenges this entailed.

4. SICAP Programme – Consideration of mid-year reports.

The Chairperson invited Eamonn Brown to address the Committee. Eamonn Brown detailed the purpose of the mid-year review and advised that the LCDC SICAP Subcommittee had analysed each of the Project Implementers under the following headings - Key Performance Indicators; Budget Details; Payments to Programme Implementers and Additional Considerations. This process formed the basis of a recommendation for the consideration of the LCDC in each case.

In relation to Lot 33-1 – Inishowen - the Subcommittee recommended that the LCDC approve the release of the next stage payment in the sum of €149,295.02 to Inishowen Development Partnership in line with the agreed timeframe. This recommendation was proposed by Jim Slevin and seconded by Michael Tunney.

In relation to Lot 33-2 – Gaeltacht - the Subcommittee recommended that the LCDC approve the release of the next stage payment in the sum of €84,853.68 to Donegal Local Development Company in line with the agreed timeframe. This recommendation was proposed by Susan McLoughlin and seconded by Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher.

In relation to Lot 33-3 – Donegal - the Subcommittee recommended that the LCDC approve the release of the next stage payment in the sum of €259,496.36 to Donegal Local Development Company in line with the agreed timeframe. This recommendation was proposed by Emmett Johnston and seconded by James O'Donnell.

It was acknowledged that the IRIS system was experiencing technical difficulties which had an impact on deadlines but that Pobal had been made aware of this and were reviewing the matter.

The LCDC SICAP Subcommittee and support staff were commended for their work to date.

5. Date of Next Meeting/AOB

The date of the next meeting of the Local Community Development Committee is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 17th November 2015 at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Lifford.

James O'Donnell requested that a letter be issued by the LCDC to the appropriate Minister with regard to the impact of the closure of five barracks in the county.

Members of the Economic Development Committee (EDC) joined the meeting of the Local Community Development Committee for a joint presentation on the following items:

Item 6 – Update on Donegal LCDC LEADER/Rural Development Programme

Item 7 – Plean Ghaeilge an Chontae

Item 8 – Gaeltacht Service Towns

Item 9 - Update on Donegal Local Economic Community Plan

6. Update on Donegal LCDC LEADER/Rural Development Programme

The Chairperson invited Paddy Doherty to update the Committee on the Donegal LCDC LEADER/Rural Development Programme. Paddy Doherty advised the meeting that the Local Development Strategy (LDS) is continuing to be developed using the framework provided by the Department, which contains 11 individual sections.

1. The LAG
2. LDS Area Profile
3. Participative Planning
4. LDS Action Plan
5. Strategic Integration
6. Networking and Co-operation
7. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation
8. Financial Plan
9. Additional Information
10. Form of Declaration
11. Appendices: (Mandatory & Non Mandatory)

Consultations have taken place with Donegal Local Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership and Comhar na nOileán to identify needs and to maximise the development potential of the LDS. Information in relation to Sections 2 & 3 has been submitted to the Department for review with feedback expected by 9th October 2015.

7. Plean Gaeilge an Chontae Update

The Chairperson invited Sean Ó'Daimhín to update the Committee with regard to the Plan. Sean Ó'Daimhín provided an update on the progress of the Plan to date and advised that the Subcommittee had held a workshop with Prof. Fionnbarra Ó Broilcháin and six of the lead organisations where they discussed branding and agreed a range of headings under which the plan will be drafted. The next meeting of the Irish Subcommittee is planned for 13th October 2015.

8. Gaeltacht Service Towns

The Chairperson invited Sean Ó'Daimhín to update the meeting with regard the Gaeltacht Service Towns on behalf of Caitlín Uí Chochlainn. Sean Ó'Daimhín advised that following the success of the Expression of Interest to have Letterkenny recognised as a Irish Language Network Town, a full application had been submitted on 30th August 2015 to Foras na Gaeilge and that the outcome of this process would be released in the coming weeks.

In response to a query from Martin McBride about Lónra Gaeilge, Sean Ó'Daimhín clarified that a Lónra Gaeilge (Irish Network) is a town that is not in a Gaeltacht but has the potential to build a strong Irish community.

9. Update on Donegal Local Economic and Community Plan

The Chairperson invited Denis Kelly to update the meeting in relation to the Donegal Local Economic Community Plan. Denis Kelly circulated a copy of the first draft of County Donegal's LECP and invited Sinead Harkin to provide further detail as part of her presentation. Sinead Harkin advised that since the last meeting in July focus has been directed at the writing up of the draft plan which documents the analysis, consultations and revisions that have occurred up to and included the extended SIM workshop which took place on 3rd September 2015.

Sinead Harkin requested that any request for amendments, changes or clarifications be emailed to the team as early as possible in advance of the next meeting of LCDC and EDC so that they could be considered and reported back to the next joint meeting. The need for solution focussed comments was emphasised having regard to the advanced stage of the LECP development.

The document circulated is made up of:

- Volume 1: Strategy, Priority Goals and Objectives
Background; Vision; Underpinning Values; Summary of profile; Summary of outputs of participation; Summary of review of national, regional, local and sectoral strategies; Summary of funding profile; Goals and objectives; Implementation
- Volume 2: The Action Areas
Action areas under each Goal and Objective
- Appendix 1: The Profile of the County
Available statistical and analytical information to understand the trends and needs in the County
- Appendix 2: Participation, Policy Context Review, Key Funding Programmes
Record of all the participation output including public submissions, business community sessions, tourism forum workshop, SIM workshops, economic agencies, PPN, HSE etc;
Detailed review of the national, regional, local and sectoral strategies; Detailed profile of the funding programmes.

Sinead Harkin outlined that all previous changes have been integrated into this draft and that organisations not represented on the LCDC or EDC but identified as implementing partners will be circulated with a copy of the draft plan, where necessary.

Sinead Harkin advised the Committee that subject to the endorsement of the LCDC & EDC that the next step is to circulate the draft LECP to the Municipal Districts and to the Regional Assembly for consideration, as required by the legislation.

In response to a query from Michael Tunney about the vision of the plan, Sinead Harkin advised that the recurring theme is connectivity - the bringing together of people, groups and agencies and voluntary and statutory bodies to make a positive difference for the development of sustainable communities. Sinead invited members to provide further suggestions in relation to the vision which could be considered further at the next meeting of LCDC and EDC.

A discussion took place regarding the commitment of national agencies to LECP's and the availability of resources at county level to carry out the actions locally. Denis Kelly advised that the development of the LECP has involved review of national, regional, local and sectoral strategies which has informed the development of high level Goals and Objectives. In relation to the volume

of actions Denis acknowledged that in the current economic circumstances agencies may not in a position to definitively commit expenditure and that in the absence of budgetary certainty going forward that they are not in a position to sign up to certain specific actions. On balance he felt that it was acceptable to incorporate all identified actions and to utilise an annual monitoring process whereby actions could be added, deleted or amended on the basis of annual / rolling budgets. Marie O'Leary commended the plan and concurred with Denis Kelly adding that in real terms when the plan is adopted it is likely that a number of the actions could be delivered collaboratively in relation to a range of actions across the goals. Paul Hannigan and Cllr. Paul Canning concurred with Marie O'Leary.

The draft of County Donegal's Local Economic Community Plan was endorsed on the proposal of Cllr. Martin McDermott and seconded by Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher and it was agreed that the LECP be referred to the Municipal District meetings and Regional Assembly for consultation, thus proceeding to the next stage of the process.

This concluded the business of the meeting.