



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

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
County House, Lifford, 11am, 21st June 2016**

Members	Seamus Neely (Chair), Cllr Martin McDermott, Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, Paul Hannigan, Martin McBride, Maire O'Leary, James O'Donnell, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, PJ Hannon, Jim Slevin, Anne McHugh, Susan McLoughlin, Jan Feenstra, Michael Tunney
Apologies	Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Emmett Johnston, Susan McCauley, Anthony Doogan
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Sinead Harkin, Jane Toland

Welcome

Seamus Neely chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone. The LCDC was advised of the need to hold an additional meeting in July in order to consider of the SICAP mid-year reports.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting held 22nd February 2016

Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 25th April 2016 were proposed by Cllr Martin McDermott and seconded by Michael MacGiolla Easbuig.

2. Matters Arising

Martin McBride asked that his acknowledgement of Cllr. Niamh Kennedy's success in the recent General Election be included in the minutes. Paddy Doherty advised that this would be added.

3. Donegal Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)

Paddy Doherty advised that the monitoring tool is currently being developed by the Research & Policy Unit and a further update will be provided at the September meeting of the Committee. Details of the National Launch are currently awaited and once received will enable the holding of a local event to launch the LECP. In response to Maire O'Leary's query, Paddy Doherty advised that the operational plan will be considered as part of the development of the monitoring tool.

4. Donegal LEADER Local Development Strategy 2014-2020

Paddy Doherty advised that Council staff met with Department officials on 25th May when it was advised that contracts would be issued shortly. The Dept. is also progressing the detailed Procedures Manual which will govern the implementation of the Programme. The most recent meeting of the LEADER Operational Group was held on the 7th June and the next meeting is scheduled for 14th July. Paddy Doherty advised that a report would be brought to the next LCDC meeting with regard to the formation of the LEADER / RDP Evaluation Committee.

Paddy Doherty informed the Committee that correspondence had been received from the Dept. and outlined the content to the attendees. Seamus Neely stated that the correspondence pointed to the likely signing of contracts in July. Jim Slevin advised of the tight timeframes to develop the Service Level Agreements and to form the Evaluation Committee. In response to Jim Slevin's query, Paddy Doherty stated that the development of Terms of Reference for the Evaluation Committee would be responsibility of the LCDC.

Martin McBride commended the LCDC on the progress made to date.

Seamus Neely again advised of the need to hold an additional LCDC meeting in July. The proposed date of 10am on Friday, 25th July was agreed.

5. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

Padraic Fingleton from DLDC and Shauna McClenaghan from IDP were invited to join the meeting.

Seamus Neely advised the Committee that DLDC & IDP were invited to outline some of the projects being delivered at a local level under SICAP as a means of keeping the LCDC up-to-date with the impact of the programme to the communities of Donegal.

Padraic Fingleton commenced his presentation with a short video on SICAP and then outlined a no. of examples of projects currently being delivered. A copy of the report was circulated to the group.

Following the presentation, Padraic Fingleton confirmed that childcare costs and travel costs were not considered eligible under the programme and Susan McLoughlin added that this may present a barrier to some people in terms of participation. James O'Donnell raised concerns in relation to the levels of bureaucracy under this Programme and felt that the Programme was driven by targets and was quite inflexible. Maire O'Leary suggested that PI's work in partnership with other organisations to achieve efficiencies and improve outcomes.

Seamus Neely advised of difficulties being encountered by some companies in securing employees in certain instances which may be due to location / rurality or the implication on Social Welfare entitlements. Padraic Fingleton added that DLDC staff are currently working with employers to tackle such issues and will tailor courses to suit needs.

This concluded the presentation from DLDC and Shauna McClenaghan was invited to address the Committee.

Shauna McClenaghan circulated a report and presented a number of projects currently being rolled out by IDP and advised that targets are very high. IDP would very much welcome collaboration with other agencies as suggested earlier.

Shauna also advised that IDP as Programme Implementers feel removed from the Partnership table somewhat and advised that under the CDB structure that Programme Implementers were Board members. Seamus Neely advised that the CDB model worked well in Donegal and that a discussion may be required to ensure that positive aspects and lessons from that structure are captured by the LCDC.

Susan McLoughlin referred to challenges facing young people and Shauna McClenaghan advised that IDP would be very open to working with other organisations to tackle any such challenges. Shauna also referred to possible opportunities from the upcoming PEACE IV Programme.

A discussion took place in relation to the Department of Social Protection's role in business training as well as the Job Path Programme. Padraic Fingleton confirmed that the Job Path Programme is an employment activation initiative which mainly targets people who are long-term unemployed (over 12 months) and advised that job seekers are randomly selected to participate on the Programme. Anne McHugh advised of ETB's positive interaction with the nationally appointed company dealing with Job Path in Donegal.

In response to Cllr. McDermott's query, Padraic Fingleton agreed to bring figures on the number of people successfully securing employment following participation on SICAP for the information of the LCDC.

Seamus Neely thanked both Padraic & Shauna for their informative presentations.

6. PEACE IV

Paddy Doherty circulated an update report on the current status of the PEACE IV Programme. This report outlined details of the partnership membership, an update on the recent partnership meeting, the Stage 1 application status and the forthcoming public consultation events.

Susan McLoughlin noted that the PPN representatives had not yet been selected and also noted that the public consultations were scheduled to take place after the submission of the Stage 1 application.

Paddy Doherty advised that the PPN Secretariat would be meeting to select their nominations to the Partnership that evening. He further advised that in order to meet the deadline set by the SEUPB, it was not possible to hold the public consultation events in advance of the stage 1 application submission. However, he confirmed that the Stage 1 application was a very high level document which had been developed in response to the needs to build upon the success of the PEACE III Programme and further embed Peace and Reconciliation within and beyond Donegal. He further advised that the Stage 2 application (PEACE IV Action Plan) is due to be submitted to the SEUPB in mid September and this plan would be representative of current and anticipated community needs as it would be informed by the public consultation process. He further advised that the public consultation events would be supported by an online survey providing additional opportunity for feedback on community priorities and needs.

With regard to the PPN representatives on the Partnership, Martin McBride advised that the PPN sub committee have made proposals for tonight's meeting. Seamus Neely advised of the need to bring the September meeting of the Committee forward in order to consider the draft PEACE IV Action Plan and that this would have to take place before September 13th. Michael MacGiolla Easbuig endorsed the proposed approach (submission of Stage 1) and Michael Tunney approved same.

7. Plean Ghaeilge an Chontae Update/Gaeltacht Service Towns

Sean O'Daimhin presented an update report in relation to Plean Ghaeilge an Chontae, as Gaeilge (with translation available). Sean O'Daimhin advised that a public consultation process had been undertaken which included 10 separate events as well as a schools competition. The events were well attended and excellent input and feedback were received. Over 60 entries were received in the schools competition and some entries will be used for the publications and promotion of the plan.

Of the total 27 Gaeltacht areas, 8 are located in Donegal and plans for 3 of these are to be completed by the end of the year. It is prudent for these plans to be completed in advance of developing the County Plan.

Martin McBride advised that he had attended the public consultation in Letterkenny and found it to be interesting with good recommendations presented by attendees.

Michael MacGiolla Easbuig stated that the challenges were complex and recommended waiting on Gaeltacht Language Plan. Sean O'Daimhin advised that any recommendations regarding the naming of Ambassadors were welcome and that a list of all recommendations received in relation to the plan would be circulated for consideration.

Seamus Neely thanked Sean O'Daimhin for the update and the work to date.

8. AOB

Seamus Neely invited Sinead Harkin to provide information on the review of the County Donegal Development Plan. Sinead Harkin advised that on 3rd June 2016, Donegal County Council commenced the review of the County Donegal Development Plan 2012- 2018 (as varied) and that the consultation period runs from 3rd June to 9th August 2016. The Committee was advised

that the LCDC is a prescribed body as part of this process and to this end, circulated a copy of the formal notification of the review together with public notices and details of public drop-in events. Sinead Harkin advised that this consultation aims to gather information that will inform the preparation of a draft development plan and outlined that a series of issue papers to facilitate the consultations had been prepared and are available on the Councils website. The Members were asked to bring this Public Consultation process to the attention of other individuals and group in order to ensure as broad and inclusive engagement as possible.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for **Friday 29th July at 10.00am in County House, Lifford.**

Seamus Neely thanked everyone for their attendance. This concluded the business of the meeting.