

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 28th July 2023 at 10.38 a.m.

Held by phone conference/in person. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG) Farming Sector

Present:

Mr Des Foley (DF)	Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Yemi Adenuga (YA)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Mr Sean O’Coisdealbha (SO’C)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms Lorraine Flynn (LF)	Health Service Executive
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)	Social Inclusion Sector
Mr Garret O’Brien (GOB)	Community & Voluntary Sector

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)	Chief Officer, Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Valerie McHugh (VMcH)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Alison Lynch (AL)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Ms Suzanne Brady (SB)	Environmental Sector
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Vacant	Community Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th June 2023</p> <p>The meeting commenced and SMcG welcomed all in attendance.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of NM and seconded by MB.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>FF advised that there were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>FF confirmed that there were no items of correspondence.</p>
4.	<p>To adopt the Community Element of the Local Economic & Community Plan</p> <p>FF advised that the draft LECP was presented to the Elected Members at each MD meeting during June and July and the members confirmed alignment with the County Development Plan. She noted that the Economic element of the plan had been presented to the SPC for Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs in early July and was subsequently approved. She stated that the Community Element of the LECP can only be approved and adopted by the LCD C and the draft document had been circulated to the LCD C Committee members prior to this meeting. She gave a brief presentation setting out the overview of each of the 9 Sections of the LECP and its development to date. She noted that data used in the preparation of the LECP was taken from the 2016 census, however she advised that this would be reviewed after a 2-year period. She further noted that the LECP process started with 6 High Level goals however following the consultation process a further 7th goal was added. She advised that the LECP has been sent to EMRA for confirmation of alignment with the RSES and any input received from EMRA and elected members will be fed into final document. The LECP will be brought before the October full Council meeting for adoption.</p> <p>SMcG commended FF and her team on the preparation of such a massive report. He suggested that a follow up take place after a couple of months with all the agencies, stakeholders and groups involved to ensure that objectives are carried out in order to get working on the solutions.</p>

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DF also thanked **FF** and her team for the preparation of this comprehensive report which he stated includes realistic goals. He agreed that once the plan is adopted, each of the agencies and stakeholders must work together to ensure that objectives and actions are delivered.

YA thanked **FF** for the presentation today and the extensive work carried out by **FF** and the Community Section in preparing the plan. She questioned who is leading this Plan and if specific timeframes have been set with stakeholders and agencies to report back on the delivery of their actions in achieving objectives.

FF stated that once the plan is adopted, the implementation of the plan and follow up mechanism will be set up by the Community Section to include dealing with any challenges faced by Stakeholders in the delivery of their actions and she added that work is currently ongoing in relation to this.

MB also thanked **FF** and her team for the report. He questioned if the SPC for Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs had signed off on the same elements of the plan that the LCDC are signing off on.

DF clarified that the LCDC will be responsible for adopting the Community Element of the LECP while the SPC for Planning, Economic Development, Enterprise and European Affairs had signed off on the Economic Element of the Plan.

MB queried how the LECP had dealt with one off rural housing when the LECP must be in line with National Policies but our Development Plan for Meath on one off rural housing is not in line with National Policies. He further questioned the use of 2016 census data in the preparation of the LECP and queried if this would affect the LECP.

FF advised that the LECP set out priorities in relation to Housing from a community perspective and that the LECP will look at social housing but does not cover everything that came up in the County Development Plan and therefore there should be no issues in relation to one off rural housing.

In terms of the use of 2016 census data, **FF** advised that the LECP allows for a review after a 2-year period and at that stage the 2022 census figures will be available for review. She noted that there were questions on whether the preparation of the LECP should be held off until such time as the official 2022 census figures were available however it was decided to proceed with its preparation using the 2016 data, with review after a 2-year period.

The adoption of the Community element of the LECP was proposed by **YA** and seconded by **NM**.

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5.	<p>To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>FF gave an update on the PPN as follows and noted that this update had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting:</p> <p>Meath PPN hosted the Midlands Regional grouping of PPNs on June 28th in Johnstown House, Enfield. 27 staff and secretariat members from across the 6 PPNs discussed issues and shared information ranging from increasing participation, climate action, public consultations, new social media and issues with delayed grants.</p> <p>Staff attended the networking meeting in Dept of Rural & Community Development Offices in Dublin on June 29th.</p> <p>An interim Memorandum of Understanding was agreed and signed between Secretariat and Meath County Council covering the period April – December 2023. This secured funding from the Department for the current year. A new three MoU will be developed and signed in early 2024. An online workshop was held on July 26th with the Climate Action team. 25 people had the opportunity to take part in a decarbonisation workshop to help form the counties new Climate Action Plan which is currently in development.</p> <p>The National Conference will take place in October, hosted by Wicklow PPN in Arklow. Meath will be represented by 2 Staff and 4 Secretariat Members.</p> <p>577 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.</p> <p>SMcG commended the brilliant work that has been carried out by the current Meath PPN team in turning the PPN around and for the ongoing information being circulated by the PPN to all registered groups.</p>
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>FF advised that the next LCD C Meeting will be held on Friday 22nd September 2023 and that there will be no meeting in August.</p> <p>SMcG thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 11 a.m.</p>

Signed by
Chairperson:



Date: 22nd September 2023