

**Minutes of the Wexford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
meeting**

**Thursday, 26th September 2024 10:00am
Block A Council Chamber & MS Teams**

Attendance:

In the Chair:

Cllr. Aidan Browne - (Public Sector)

LCDC Members:

Cllr. Michael Sheehan (Public Sector)
Cllr. Anthony Donohoe (Public Sector)
Cllr. Frank Staples (Public Sector)
Mr. Eddie Taaffe, Chief Executive (Public Sector)
Ms. Meghan Callanan, Dept. of Social Protection (Public Sector)
Mr. Brian Kehoe, Wexford Local Development
Mr. John V Carr, PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar
Ms. Aislinn Dunne, PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar
Ms. Linda Sinnott, PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar
Mr. Jonathan King, PPN Social Inclusion Pillar
Mr. Jer O'Mahoney, IFA
Mr. Seán Joyce, Wexford Council of Trade Unions

Also in attendance:

Ms. Dymphna O'Connor – Chief Officer
Ms. Tara Farrell – Wexford County Council
Mr. Ronan Griffin – Wexford County Council
Ms. Ann Marie Laffan – Sláintecare Co-Ordinator
Ms. Mary Byrne – Wexford County Council
Ms. Róisín Fitzgerald – Wexford County Council
Ms. Sinéad Colfer – South West Wexford FRC
Ms. Jane McWilliams – South West Wexford FRC
Ms. Sarah Siggins – HSE
Mr. Tom Bermingham – WLD
Ms. Clare Ryan – WLD
Ms. Paula Soraghan - ILMI

Apologies:

Ms. Breege Cosgrave, Local Enterprise Officer (Public Sector)
Dr. Karina Daly, WWETB (Public Sector)
Ms. Derval Howley, HSE (Public Sector)
Ms. Sharon Kennedy, PPN Social Inclusion Pillar

1. Check and verification of those attending by video conference

Ronan Griffin verified those present in person via MS Teams, noted apologies and the Chair confirmed a quorum was present.

The Chair welcomed the following new members to the committee:

Cllr. Michael Sheehan
Cllr. Frank Staples
Dr. Karina Daly, WWETB
Ms. Meghan Callan, Department of Social Protection
Ms. Linda Sinnott, PPN

He thanked the members who they replaced who had now left for their work on the LCDC over the past number of years:

Cllr. Lisa McDonald
Cllr. Mary Farrell
Mr. Michael O'Brien, WWETB
Ms. Patricia Delaney, Department of Social Protection
Mr. Brian Toomey, PPN

The Chief Officer briefly outlined the functions of the LCDC to the new members and stated that she hoped to have a collaborative approach from the LCDC members going forward.

2. Election of Vice Chairperson

On the proposal of Cllr. Frank Staples, seconded by Jer O'Mahoney, Cllr. Michael Sheehan was nominated for the position of Vice Chairperson.

As no other candidates were nominated, Cllr. Michael Sheehan was declared elected as Vice Chairperson.

3. Approval of Minutes 24th April 2024

On the proposal of John Carr, seconded by Jer O'Mahoney, the minutes of the meeting of 24th April 2024 were adopted.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Correspondence

On the invitation of the chair, Ronan Griffin advised that two further resignations had been received in the past two weeks:

Ms. Karin Dubsy, PPN Environmental Pillar
Ms. Mary Browne, Chamber of Commerce

LCDC support staff were in the process of liaising with the PPN and Chamber of Commerce about replacements. The Chair noted his thanks to both members for their work on the LCDC.

Ronan Griffin also noted the request for updated Conflict of Interest documents circulated to members in the past week and highlighted the importance of the LCDC support staff being in possession of accurate data.

The Chair then advised that he would proceed to item 11 on the agenda, as Paula Soraghan had another engagement and would have to leave the meeting.

11. VOICE Project

Paula Soraghan gave a brief update on the ongoing work being done by the Independent Living Movement Ireland in relation to the VOICE Project. She noted the recent launch of the Wexford Disabled Person's Office and training and support programmes due to take place from the 9th of October.

The LCDC thanked Paula for her presentation.

6. Nominations of LCDC members to the SICAP sub-committee:

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Frank Staples, Jer O'Mahoney was nominated for the SICAP sub-committee.

On the proposal of Cllr. Frank Staples, seconded by Cllr. Michael Sheehan, John Carr was nominated for the SICAP sub-committee.

As no further nominations were received, Jer O'Mahoney and John Carr were declared elected to the SICAP sub-committee.

7. Nominations of LCDC members to the Healthy County sub-committee:

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael Sheehan, seconded by Cllr. Frank Staples, Jer O'Mahoney was nominated to the Healthy County sub-committee.

On the proposal of Cllr. Aidan Browne, seconded by Cllr. Michael Sheehan, Seán Joyce was nominated to the Healthy County sub-committee.

On the proposal of Cllr. Aidan Browne, seconded by John Carr, Jonathan King was nominated to the Healthy County sub-committee.

As no further nominations were received, Jer O'Mahoney, Seán Joyce and Jonathan King were declared elected to the Healthy County sub-committee.

8. LCDC Annual Report:

The Chairperson reminded the members that the LCDC Annual Report had been circulated in advance as part of the meeting pack.

On the proposal of John Carr, seconded by Seán Joyce, the LCDC adopted the Annual Report.

9. SICAP Mid-Year Review:

(Paula Soraghan left the meeting)

The Chief Officer explained the role of SICAP and the contractual relationship between WCC & WLD for the administration of SICAP for the benefit of new members and noted that the SICAP sub-committee met regularly to monitor the implementation of SICAP.

Clare Ryan on WLD gave a brief presentation on the SICAP 2024 – 2028, the proposed targets and the progress on same to date.

Following on from same the Chair opened the floor to questions.

Seán Joyce asked about the selection of target groups and particularly regions and number of people to work with.

Clare Ryan advised that the regions SICAP worked in were dependent on CSO data indicating which regions were deemed disadvantaged, very disadvantaged or extremely disadvantaged, and the target numbers were set nationally and locally.

Aislinn Dunne enquired about supports for groups that were previously in areas deemed disadvantaged but were no longer disadvantaged. Clare Ryan advised that she had not yet received a request for assistance from a group that they had to turn down, but advised that general supports from the LCDC or any other associated groups would be available to groups outside of SICAP.

On the proposal of Cllr. Michael Sheehan, seconded by Seán Joyce, the LCDC adopted the mid-year review.

10. LEADER Update

Tom Bermingham updated the LCDC on the LEADER Programme. Approximately 1.6% of the value of the 2014 – 2020 LEADER Programme, as extended through the 2020 – 2022 Transitional Programme was not drawn down.

(Eddie Taaffe left the meeting)

In regards to the 2023 – 2027 LEADER Programme, Tom noted the decreased budget vs. the 2014 – 2020 Programme and the loss of the LEADER Food Initiative.

He advised they were currently processing applications for 15 Community Initiatives and 3 Enterprises.

The Chair opened the floor to questions.

Seán Joyce commented that the figure of 1.6% not drawn down seemed quite impressive and asked how this compared to other counties. Tom Bermingham advised that this figure was not published nationally and as such he wasn't in a position to advise.

12. Presentation on Food Poverty in Co. Wexford

(Jonathan King left the meeting)

Ann Marie Laffan introduced herself, as well as Sarah Siggins, HSE, Sinéad Colfer, South West Wexford FRC and Jane McWilliams, South West Wexford FRC.

Ann Marie Laffan advised that food poverty was a repeated issue that was arising during her work on Sláintecare. She gave a brief presentation about a pilot project that Sláintecare were running in Taghmon for a one year period to provide food and food preparation skills.

She explained that good quality food, ie. not "leftovers" due to expire, was available from Food Cloud for €100 per family per week.

Sinéad Colfer gave a brief presentation on the food bank run by South West Wexford FRC. SWWFRC have had a food bank in place since 2001. Sinéad advised that they had approx. 1500 people availing of the food bank from April to June, of which 753 were children. They generally took requests for food at face value, but was aware that there was a possibility that some people may be taking advantage of this.

She stated that SWWFRC were considering only providing assistance to people within the Ramsgrange catchment area and that they were doing 1 to 1 work to try and assist people in moving on from food bank reliance.

Ann Marie Laffan advised that there were areas of the county that did not have a food bank and asked can the LCDC or any agencies represented on the LCDC assist with co-ordinating the various groups running food banks within the County. She further advised that she was not aware of any food related supports in the North of the County.

Cllr. Aidan Browne described the numbers provided by Sinéad as 'alarming'.

Seán Joyce noted that there were a number of logistics firms working in Wexford and they could assist with storage and transport and suggested the LCDC should reach out. He also noted possible crossover of skills around food preparation, which could generate improved health outcomes generally.

Jane McWilliams noted that SWWFRC sought to establish 6 week food preparation education plans for users of the food bank.

Cllr. Michael Sheehan noted the storage issue and suggested that a central storage location would not be practical, as people preferred to avail of this service at a local level. He also expressed concerns around security as the food banks sometimes attracted volatile clients.

Cllr. Aidan Brown asked Ann Marie if there were any plans to continue the Taghmon project beyond 1 year. Ann Marie advised that it was Sláintecare funded as a pilot, but any further coverage would depend on the availability of funding.

Sinéad advised that there was no dedicated funding for the food bank in SWWFRC, although she noted the Community Development had provided funding for set up via the Community Support Fund.

Meghan Callanan advised there was a food bank in Riverchapel, but was unsure if it was still there. There was no Family Resource Centre in Enniscorthy or Bunclody, which represented a gap in services.

Cllr. Aidan Browne advised he was working with stakeholders to try and set one up in Enniscorthy, but it was a work in progress and was some way off.

Cllr. Michael Sheehan noted that extensive networking work was done with Community groups during COVID, and suggested that these contacts be tapped in to for this project. Dymphna O'Connor, Chief Officer advised she would look into same.

13. Chief Officer's Report:

Dymphna O'Connor, Chief Officer covered the items in the Chief Officer's report in brief and the LCDC noted the contents.

14. AOB:

The Chief Officer noted that the LECP launch was to take place in October.

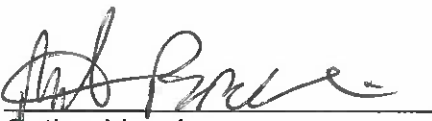
She also noted that consultation for the new Corporate Plan were taking place and encouraged LCDC members to participate.

15. Date for Next Meeting:

Late November / Early December. LCDC Support staff will notify.



Chief Officer



Cathaoirleach

Dated on the 10th day of December 2024.