

**Meeting: County Louth LCDC**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Location: Council Chamber, County Hall**

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**In Attendance:** Cllr Colm Markey (Chair),  
Cllr Dolores Minogue,  
Cllr Pearse McGeough,  
Cllr Liam Reilly,  
Joe McGuinness  
Mary Deery,  
Paddy Drumgoole,  
Kevin Moran,  
Anthony McArdle,  
Marian Sloane,  
Breffni Martin,  
Breeda Tuite,  
Paddy Matthews,  
John Cotterell,  
Mary Ann Mc Glynn,  
Anne Keeley,

**Apologies:** Fiona Murphy  
Frank O'Brien  
Peter Kierans  
Joe English  
Eddie Phelan

**Guest:** Joan Martin  
Mary O'Neill  
Therese McArdle

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**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman, Cllr. Colm Markey, thanked the members for attending and noted apologies.

**2. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014**

Minutes were proposed by Anthony McArdle and Seconded by Paddy Matthews.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Liam Reilly requested that all LCDC meetings to commence at 4pm.

### **4. Local Community Development Programme report**

Louth Leader Partnership left the meeting.

There was a discussion in relation to the report submitted for approval. Kevin Moran felt the type of report and nine month lag was unacceptable. Mary Deery advised that the programme is almost complete and as it is now in transition the LCDC just needs to note the report. The committee agreed that the role of the LCDC, Pobal and the company needs to be clarified; this may help with the expectation of the LCDC in the process.

**Action:** Mary Deery to get clarification on the role of the LCDC, Pobal and LLP in this matter.

### **5. Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme update (SICAP)**

Therese McArdle and Antony McArdle presentation refers.

*All committee members resigned the confidentially and impartially form which must be completed and signed at each stage of the process as requested by POBAL.*

John Cotterell remarked on one of the slides regarding declaring past or previous relationships; in his case there was a relationship with Louth Leader Partnership as a funder of Louth Volunteer Centre. A group discussion followed and John felt that as there was no clear indication that a conflict occurs with the procurement process and as the funding predates SICAP, conflict of interest does not apply here.

The committee was reminded that all discussion should remain confidential as LCDC issue outcome letters to the tenderers on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. There is no information in relation to the outcome of procurement process which should be discussed outside the meeting of the LCDC.

There followed a discussion in relation to the dissatisfaction with the procurement process. Kevin Moran noted that the contract is for three years not nine months and that value for money was not part of procurement assessment process as had featured in previous social inclusion programmes. There were deep concerns, in general, expressed in terms of a budget of €3.5m being agreed without sight of an action plan.

Mary Deery advised that there was no flexibility throughout the programme and all stages were set out by POBAL as part of a national procurement process. Pobal dealt with stage one and stage two the LCDC acted as agents for the process. The role of the LCDC is to adopt the recommendations of the Evaluation Subcommittee who acted on

their behalf in evaluating the tender. The LCDC will have more autonomy when the priorities are agreed within the LECP. The nine month plan will be reviewed and the LECP will inform future plans.

Joan Martin advised the group that when the LECP is confirmed the LCDC should look to reassert its role and get clarity for the role of the committee.

John Cotterell asked what happens if the LECP plan doesn't reflect LLPs plan. Mary Deery advised that POBAL will provide training to the LCDC and their role will be become clearer when LECP is delivered.

The committee were advised that they must have reasons within the tender to disapprove; cannot refuse to award tender because the process is disliked- the dissatisfaction with POBAL is separate.

**Ratification of Tender Evaluation by LCDC.** Proposed: John Cotterell, seconded by Anthony McArdle.

**Action:** Mary Deery to liaise with Colm and send letter to the Department re: LCDC concerns in relation to the SICAP process.

Louth Leader Partnership rejoined the meeting.

## **6. Community elements of Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)**

- Rural Development Programme- Leader

Mary O'Neill Presentation refers

- County Development Plan

Margueritte Quinn Presentation refers

- LECP plan must be congruent with CDP

## **7. Update on Public Participation Network (PPN)**

Update from Kevin Moran re PPN update- he outlined the process and why groups should be involved in the decision making process. Information sessions being held in locations around the county in Dundalk, Drogheda and Ardee. Groups must register by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

The PPN is a flat structure having no chair with meetings being facilitated by alternating members of the PPN.

Criteria will be set for linkage groups in seeking representation on the various committees of Council.

**8. Training for LCDC**

The alignment office of the DEHLG is planning training for LCDC members and are seeking requests on items LCDC members would like to include. Any training requests must be made to Mary by the end of the week.

**9. AOB**

Future meetings will be held on the second Monday of every second month at 4pm.

Additional information at appendix 1 & 7 of the code of conduct for LCDC members was circulated to the committee.

End of meeting.