

Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Louth Local Action Group (LAG)

Date: 16th April 2018 at 3.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk

- In attendance:** Cllr. Liam Reilly, Chairperson
Cllr. Colm Markey
Cllr. Pearse McGeough
Ms. Joan Martin, CE, LCC
Ms. Anne Keeley, DSP
Ms. Annette McDonnell, HSE
- Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN
Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN
Mr. Larry Magnier, PPN
Ms. Grainne Berrill, Louth Volunteer Centre
Mr. Michael Gaynor, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Breannán Casey, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Ciaran Reid, CEO, LLP
Mr. Breffni Martin, PPN
- Officials:** Mr. Joe McGuinness
Mr. John Lawrence
Ms. Clare O'Hagan
- Apologies:** Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB
Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO
Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN
Mr. Matthew McGreehan, IFA
- Guests:** Ms. Mary O'Neill (LLP)
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LCDC MATTERS:

LCDC Minute No. 22/2018

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 26th March 2018

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Geordie McAteer, seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th March 2018 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 23/2018

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 24/2018

3. LECP Update

Mr. John Lawrence introduced Ms. Clare O'Hagan as the LECP response coordinator and advised the members that a reminder had issued to the 28 Lead Partners with 14 responses received to date, with a few proving difficult to obtain.

LCDC Minute No. 25/2018

4. PEACE IV Update

Ms. Joan Martin advised the members that work was progressing on getting projects approved. Progress is slow as it wasn't anticipated that tender documents would have to go back to SEUPB for approval. The programme is due to be launched in the Crowne Plaza on 8th May, 2018.

LCDC Minute No. 26/2018

5. LCDC Correspondence

Mr. John Lawrence informed the members of the following:

- a) World No-Tobacco Day Conference being held on Thursday 31st May, 2018 at Farmleigh House and that if any members were interested in attending to contact the community office.
- b) Ms. Noirín Coghlan commenced as SICAP Community Development Officer with Louth Leader Partnership on 16th April 2018.
- c) Notification from Pobal advising of Healthy Ireland, Round 2 information event being held in the Aisling Hotel, Dublin on 1st May at 9.30am. Mr. Liam Reilly asked those interested in attending to inform Ms. Clare O'Hagan.
- d) Ms. Anne Keeley advised of an upcoming Job's Fair on Tuesday 15th May that the Department of Employer Affairs and Social Protection in association with Eures Cross Border Partnership are hosting in the Crowne Plaza, Dundalk from 2pm - 7pm. Further details to be provided by way of email for dissemination through Friday Communiqué and via email to the members.

LCDC Minute No. 27/2018

6. Dates for next Meetings

Cllr. Liam Reilly advised that the next meeting would take place on 21st May

LCDC Minute No. 28/2018

7. AOB

Mr. Ciaran Reid referred members to the SICAP 2018-2022 launch by Minister Ring due to take place on Friday, 20th April at 11:30am in Limerick, for which funding of €126m was to be made available over the lifetime of the Plan. Mr. John Lawrence advised that members were welcome to attend. Mr. Ciaran Reid advised that he would be attending.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

LAG MATTERS:

LAG Minute No. 28/2018

1. Minutes of LAG meeting held on the 26th March 2018

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Geordie McAteer, seconded by Ms. Grainne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 26th March 2018 were adopted.

LAG Minute No. 29/2018

2. Matters arising

Mr. Larry Magnier queried if there was an update on the matter of a subsidiary of a public body being eligible to apply for funding. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised that this was currently under review; however, Ms. Mary O'Neill was of the view that the application may not be allowable.

LAG Minute No. 30/2018

3. IEC Nomination

Approval sought to replace Mr. Michael Farrell with Mr. Thomas McDonagh as the Chamber of Commerce representative on the IEC.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Larry Magnier and seconded by Ms. Anne Keely and unanimously agreed by the members Mr. Thomas McDonagh was approved to replace Mr. Michael Farrell on the IEC.

LAG Minute No. 31/2018

4. Signing of Letters of Offer

Mr. John Lawrence advised members that the operating rules were silent with regard to the signing of Letters of Offer. However, a Leader Q&A in 2017 clarified the position as follows:

- The Chair of the LCDC can sign off on behalf of the LCDC, but where the LAG agreed the Chief Officer could be nominated to sign off.

Recommendation: Ratification and approval for Chief Officer, Mr. Joe McGuinness to sign Letters of Offer.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Joan Martin and seconded by Ms. Anne Keely and unanimously agreed by the members Mr. Joe McGuinness was ratified and approved by the members as the signatory of letters of offer.

LAG Minute No. 32/2018

5. Financial Reports

There were four number financial reports circulated to members up to the 16th April 2018.

Mr. John Lawrence referred members to two financial reports numbers 1 and 2, both reports were raised on the LCC accounting system. One report shows the financial transactions carried out under a job code for the administration budget, the other shows the financial payments to promoters for projects.

Recommendation: Approval of financial reports numbers 1 and 2.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Larry Magnier, seconded by Ms. Gráinne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members financial reports 1 and 2 were approved.

Mr. John Lawrence informed members present that Report 3 – Named Administrative Costs as circulated to members showed the administration expenditure for March as submitted by LLP was €29,164.29.

Recommendation: Approval of the administration expenditure costs for March in the amount of €29,164.29.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Larry Magnier, seconded by Ms. Gráinne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members present the expenditure for March in the amount of €29,164.29 was approved.

Members were advised by Ms. Mary O'Neill that financial report Number 4 comprised of two elements:

- a) Project Summary report listing all of the projects that had received Letters of Offer to date with a total contract value of €261,591.28 as at 11th April 2018.
- b) Programme Report indicated that the total available spend was €2.67m under six funding areas such as Rural Towns and Villages, Broadband, Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Rural Youth and Rural Environment. A percentage of spend was also provided under each objective.
 - Ms. Joan Martin indicated her surprise at how low the overall project spend was and queried projects in the pipeline. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised that following the most recent evaluation meeting projects with a combined value of €200,000 were approved for recommendation to LAG. Mr. Ciaran Reid added that the report provided gives better management of the overall programme but that they were mindful of the spend and concerns made.
 - Mary O'Neill advised that the Targeted Call had been posted on all media and that a lot of interest had been expressed, but that eligibility could pose an issue.
 - A short discussion around the lack of any spend on four of the ten local objectives followed. The members were particularly interested in Local Objective 5, Rural Broadband Initiative. Ms. Mary O'Neill explained that broadband featured in the strategy due to national programme requirements and that it was a small budget in the context of the National Broadband Scheme. Mr. Liam Reilly expressed concern as to the efficiency of wi-fi hubs and asked if two communities were to come together would it make the process easier. Mr. Ciaran Reid advised that wi-fi hubs were no longer efficient and that fibre broadband would be the preferred option, although the budget available to deliver fibre broadband under Leader would be considered insignificant.

Recommendation: Approval of financial report Number 4 for March.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Annette McDonnell, seconded by Ms. Gráinne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members present the financial report number 4 for March was approved.

LAG Minute No. 33/2018

6. EOI's

Members were referred to the EOI's received during March 2018. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised members that the list of EOI's were for noting only.

- Conflicts of Interest were expressed in relation to some of the projects:
 - Project No. 106942 - Ms. Grainne Berrill and Ms. Joan Martin expressed a conflict of interest.
 - Project No. 106901 - Mr. Ciaran Reid expressed a conflict of interest.

Mr. Larry Magnier queried as to why no projects were being brought for decision. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised that due to the previous IEC meeting having taken place a week later than usual that they were still awaiting Article 48 checks from POBAL and that the programme would be back on track for the May meeting.

LAG Minute No. 34/2018

7. Q & A's

Members were referred to the Q & A No. 14 for noting.

LAG Minute No. 35/2018

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 21st May 2018

The business of the LAG meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on

21 / May / 2018

Chairperson

Liam Reilly