

Minutes of Clare Local Community Development Committee
(LCDC) Meeting held on Wednesday 09th April 2025 at 11.00am
Vandeleur Gardens (In-Person)

In Attendance:

Mr. Joe Killeen
Mr. Brian McManus
Ms. Doírin Graham
Ms. Emma Karren
Ms. Leonore O 'Neill
Cllr. Rachel Hartigan
Mr. Stephen Walsh
Mr. Mary O'Callaghan
Sgt. Catriona Holohan
Ms. Sheila Lynch

Organisation:

Elected Member (Chair)
Youth Service
Clare Local Development Company
Environmental PPN Rep
Economic Development
Elected Member
Agriculture Sector (IFA)
Age Friendly
Garda Síochána
Business Sector

Apologies Received

Cllr. Bill Slattery
Mr. Padraic McElwee
Ms. Bridgie Casey
Ms. Bernie O Gorman
Ms. Bedelia Collins
Mr. Paul Patton
Mr. Dermot Hayes
Cllr. James Ryan
Ms. Ann Reynolds

Elected Member
Head of Enterprise
Social Inclusion Clare PPN
Community and Voluntary Rep Clare PPN
HSE
Education & Training Board (Vice Chairperson)
Social Inclusion Clare PPN
Elected Member
Rural Development (DOS)

LCDC Support Staff

Ms. Bernadette Haugh
Ms. Catherine O Hara
Mr. Frank Cullinan
Ms. Anita O'Loughlin

Chief Officer LCDC
Rural Development
Rural Development
Rural Development

*Quorum reached

TOPIC 1: MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING

Issue: The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2025 were approved. No issues arising.

Action: Proposer by Stephen Walsh
Seconded by Brian McManus

TOPIC 2: Agency/LCDC Programme Presentation 1:

Issue: Sergeant Catriona Holohan Crime Prevention Officer gave a comprehensive presentation on her role as Crime Prevention Officer in Clare.

Following the presentation a discussion ensued where the following points were raised.

- Stephen Walsh noted that there was a connection with mental health issues and that the IFA were being contacted for advice and assistance.
Catriona advised that if a family is struggling with Mental health issues the first point of contact should be the family G.P, who can signpost families to the necessary resources available to them. They can make applications to the Acute Unit and will also organize transport.
- Brain McManus asked if she had been dealing with Sextortion?
Catriona advised that her role is in the prevention of crime. Teenagers are afraid of been charged with showing images and are victims in some cases, therefore teenagers are treated with respect and with a support system needed.
Brian advised Catriona that the Clare Youth Centre in their capacity can offer that support.
- Stephen Walsh mentioned that drug use is becoming very common in our communities.
Catriona feels that the best way is to educate kids through the school system and advised him to contact Sgt. Dominic Ryan Community Policing Team who gives talks in this area.
- Stephen Walsh asked where the boundary line with CCTV? Can one be installed in a community playground for instance.

Members advised Stephen that he would need to consider data protection and child safeguarding in terms of any proposed community CCTV and recommended liaising with An Garda Síochána in the area in the first instance.



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Responsibility: LCDC Staff to circulate presentation

Agency/LCDC Programme Presentation 2:

Issue: Shanelle Waring Age Friendly Programme Manager.

Shanelle Waring, as the Age Friendly Programme Manager, gave a presentation on the Age Friendly Programme with an introduction to the background and aim of the Programme. Shanelle also advised members of the following upcoming events for 2025 for members to note:

- On the 21st May 2025 the Clare Older Peoples Volunteer of the year awards will be hosted in the Woodstock Hotel. Information on how to apply for this will be sent to members in the coming days.
- On the 2nd October 2025 the Clare Health & Wellbeing Age Expo will be held. This event has grown over the last few years. Details of this event will be circulated closer to the time



Age Friendly LCDC
Presentation April 2

TOPIC 3: LCDC PROGRAMMES / FINANCE UPDATE

Issue: LEP Funding Update

Frank Cullinan gave a brief update in relation to the LEP fund which closed 7th Feb 2025.

The deadline was extended by 1 week as agreed by the LCDC members following storm Éowyn.

Frank's update included recommendations from the Finance Subcommittee for endorsement by the LCDC. Frank gave a presentation outlining both streams starting with Capital Stream and then the Day-to-Day Revenue Stream. It was noted that the recommendations on funding allocations have been submitted to the Dept on 28.3.2025, based on the decision of the subcommittee. While the decision on the applications and recommended allocation rests with the Department, the Chair asked in the interim that the members respect the confidentiality of the proposed allocations in order to manage expectations locally.

The Chair, Cllr. Joe Killeen, thanked the members of the Finance Subcommittee, Frank and the RCDO team, for the considerable effort that they have put into managing the scheme and presenting the recommendations for signoff. A discussion ensued.

- Doírin Graham queried when the deadline was for funding draw down, advising that the cutoff date is November 2025 with some scope considering the tight turnaround. Frank confirmed that allocated funding is to be drawn down by 30/11/2025 but that may be extended in exceptional circumstances.
- Stephen Walsh noted that there can be disappointment with Groups who don't receive funding, especially given their volunteer basis and the time/effort in completing the form. He asked if the LCDC could send a letter highlighting the disappointment within Community Groups encouraging a more targeted approach to funding by the DRCD to manage local expectations. Chief Officer noted that this was raised as part of the feedback to the DRCD at the LCDC focus group workshop in Tullamore noting that this grant scheme is oversubscribed each year.
- It was agreed that the Finance subcommittee would meet when the next LEP is announced to consider the criteria for the scheme.

Action: Proposer by Stephen Wash
Seconded by Sheila Lynch

TOPIC 4: LCDC ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Issue: LCDC Annual Report 2024 for approval

A draft document was circulated by email on Monday 07th April 2025 to LCDC members for their consideration and noted that no feedback or amendments were received to date. Hard copies of the draft document were also circulated at the meeting. Members were asked to adopt the report so that it could be finalized and submitted to the DRCD following noting at the Council Meeting in May.

Action: Proposer by Stephen Wash
Seconded by Cllr. Rachel Hartigan

TOPIC 5: 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Several documents have been circulated for signing to update 2025 membership, which members are asked to sign and return to LCDC support staff at the meeting.

To facilitate members, it is proposed to circulate Agenda and Meeting Minutes via post as well as email. Members are asked to provide addresses as well as confirm email addresses.

TOPIC 5: AOB

Issue 1: Local Community Safety Partnership

Chief Officer Bernadette Haugh advised members that she had recently received correspondence from the Department of Justice that legislation introducing the Local Community Safety Partnership had been signed into law. She had invited Ashlene Reyburn as the LCSP Coordinator for Clare to address the LCDC Members by way of introduction.

Ashlene introduced herself to the members and gave an overview of her new role. She advised members that the partnership is not up and running as yet in Clare and that the LCSP is replacing the JPC committee. Her role as the LCSP Coordinator is funded by the Department of Justice and the LCSP is hosted by Clare County Council. Ashlene reports directly to the National Office for Community Safety, which has now been formally established following the commencement of the new Policing, Security & Community Safety Act 2024 on 2 April 2025. Regulations and guidelines for the establishment of the partnership are still awaited.

The Community Safety Fund is open to Community Groups on the 10th May 25 and she has commenced work on some projects that may be eligible for funding with the support of the Community Groups and the Local Authority. Chief Officer Bernadette Haugh expressed a desire for the LCDC to take the lead on making an application. She advised members of a potential Property Marking Scheme project for the County to support the agencies represented on the LCDC and the wider Community in the protection of assets purchase with public funds such as the Local Enhancement Programme. She referenced that this was a recommendation identified by the LCDC Finance Sub Committee during their recent adjudication of LEP grant applications as a deterrent for criminal activity and theft in the County

Action: Proposer by Stephen Walsh
Seconded by Cllr. Rachel Hartigan

Issue 2: LECF Reporting & Monitoring Update

Catherine O'Hara advised members that a meeting of Advisory Steering Committee scheduled for 10.4.2025 and an update will be given to the LCDC at the May meeting.

Issue 3: LCDC Focus Group- Communication strategy

Chief Officer noted that Members of the Clare Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) attended a workshop in Tullamore on the 31/ 03 /2025 which was hosted in Tullamore Library by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The purpose of the workshop which is currently at "discovery phase" was to inform on the development of a National Communications Strategy for LCDC's to enhance the awareness and understanding of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

Chief Officer confirmed that consultants were engaged to develop the strategy and that the findings from the workshops will be circulated once available.

Item 4: Film Launch in Clare Youth Service

Brian McManus of Clare Youth Service invited members to the launch of ***"It should be like toilet paper"*** in CYS Carmody Street on Wednesday 30th April at 6pm. The short film takes a humorous look at the serious topic of period dignity as seen through the experience of young people in Clare.

TOPIC 6: NEXT MEETING DATE

The next LCDC meeting will be held in person on 21st May 2025 at 11am.

Signed:



LCDC Vice Chairman Mr. Paul Patton

Signed:



LCDC Chief Officer: Ms. Bernadette Haugh