



**Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee
Meeting held on Friday 21st April, 2023, The Council Chamber, County
Hall, John Street, Kilkenny at 10.30a.m.**

In attendance: Declan Gibbons, PPN Community Pillar- Chair
Sean McKeown, A/ Chief Executive Officer
Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office
Sheila Donnelly – FRC
Julieanne Power, DEASP
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce
Martin Rochford- PPN Environment Pillar
Eileen Curtis- Education Training Board
Angela Hayes -Teac Tom,
Toluwani Akaehomen -PPN
Mary Mescal, -PPN

Also present: Annette Fitzpatrick, Katherine Peacock and Cora Nolan,
Kilkenny County Council.

Joined online: Cllr. Mick McCarthy
Cllr. Ger Frisby
Cllr. Joe Lyons

Administrative

Declan welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Mary Mescal who has joined the LCDC committee.

Apologies: Paul O 'Rahilly – PPN Social Inclusion
Michael A Fitzgerald, IFA,
Derval Howley HSE,

Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 17th February, 2023

Proposed by: - Sheila Donnelly, Seconded By: Angela Hayes

Matters Arising

None

Conflicts of interest

None.

1. Oversight and Implementation of the community element of the Local Economic and Community Plan including Local and Community Development Coordination and oversight

Local Development Strategy (LDS) Presentation – Martin Rafter/Mairead Rohan Leader.

Martin gave a presentation on the Rural Development Programme Leader 2023-2027 which covered the following items: -

- KLP's approach to Leader
- The Leader programme 2023-2027
- Framework of KLP's Local Development Strategy
- Three requirements for a 21st Century economy in Kilkenny
- The consultations
- The financials
- Theme 1 Economic Development and Job creation
- Enterprise Development
- Rural Infrastructure
- Theme 2 Rural Infrastructure and social inclusion
- Theme 3 Sustainable development and climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Sustainable development of rural environment
- Climate change capacity building

Declan thanked Martin for his very comprehensive presentation. There were a number of queries/observations: -

- Will the LDS reference actions to align with the LECP?
- Great to see crafts progressed through the plan
- Climate Action Plan reference
- Timelines
- Does LDS require letters of support from various organisations
- LEO can lend support and collaboration – Aileen can discuss separately
- South East skills programme – overlap on objectives – best benefited working together
- Project in Callan – huge community involvement, could be put into plan.

Martin replied to all queries.

Declan advised the committee that the subcommittee met with Mairead Rohan and Declan Rice during the week and went through the process and were given a document on where the LDS aligned with the LECF. KLP have to get the plan in by June and have requested to present again to the LCDC in May, it was agreed to have this meeting online and focus on the LDS.

Declan thanked Martin and Mairead for attending the meeting.

Sean requested an update on the MOU. Anne Marie will seek clarification on MOU in advance of meeting on Friday 19th of May.

Recommendations of Community Support Fund Grants

Anne Marie gave the background to the Community Support Fund Grant and thanked Cora and Katherine for all their work on this scheme. The subgroup met on the 18th of April to allocate the funding. Kilkenny received €290,749, under the above grant scheme, the total amount comprises €142,467 for use towards running/ operating costs and €145,375 capital funding and €2,907 ring fenced for Women's sheds. As with previous rounds it was recommended that 30% of the overall funding was to be made available for small grants of €1,000 or less.

Kilkenny LCDC received 101 applications the amount of funding requested was €820,519.80.

35 applications for small grants up to €1,000, 24 medium grants up to €5,000 and 39 applications for large grants up to €20,000 and 3 for the Women's shed grants.

The CEP subgroup membership included Declan Gibbons, Aileen Mc Grath, Sheila Donnelly and Anne Marie Shortall.

Katherine read out a list of all approved applications and advised the Committee that the Department have to issue a press release before any applicants can be notified.

The grants were approved on the proposal of Eileen Curtis and seconded by John Hurley.

Sheila Donnelly thanked all for their hard work on this grant scheme and the funding is so important to all the community groups.

2. Citizen Engagement and Promotion of Social Inclusion

LCDC to Approve LECF

The Plan was circulated by email yesterday evening and a hard copy was circulated at the meeting. Anne Marie thanked everyone involved in the preparation of the LECF. Anne Marie also acknowledged the work and time of Annette Fitzpatrick and Aileen McGrath and gave the background in getting to this stage. The final framework will be proposed to the SPC 1 Meeting on the 27th of April and for approval at the full Council Meeting in May.

This is a 6-year plan with a 2-year implementation plan, monitoring on the implementation plan will be carried out at the end of the year or early next year. There are a few minor amendments to be made, grammar, images etc with Turley's but no material changes.

Aileen also thanked all for attending the extra joint meetings with SPC 1, it was a strong collaborative approach.

The LECP Plan was proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby and Seconded by Julieanne Power.

PPN Report and Update

Martin Rochford gave the PPN report.

3. Items for Information and Information Sharing

None.

4. AOB

Toluwani queried the systematic approach to Africa Day.

Katherine replied.

Martin also contributed.

The Chair acknowledged Toluwani's concerns and recommended going through the PPN to voice their concerns.

Eileen Curtis gave an update from the KCETB, Kilkenny has been chosen as one of ten locations to proceed to develop a further education college for the future, Eileen thanked all for their work and support and especially Kilkenny County Council.

John Hurley Chamber of Commerce advised all of a new app launched in which everyone can benefit, promote and invite to Kilkenny, Explore Kilkenny is the name of the app and is a one stop shop for businesses, towns, attractions etc. This is a joint initiative with Kilkenny Tourism and was launched at the Chamber of Commerce AGM yesterday. This app is for the County of Kilkenny not just the City.

Dates of Meetings for 2023: -

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held online on the 19th of May at 10.30a.m.

Friday 19th May,

Friday 23rd June,

Friday 15th September,

Friday 24th November.