



**Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee  
Meeting held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, in the Council Chamber,  
County Hall at 10.30a.m.**

**In attendance:** Declan Gibbons, PPN Community Pillar- Chair  
Sean McKeown, Interim Chief Executive  
Paul O' Rahilly, PPN Social Inclusion  
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce  
Michael A Fitzgerald, Teagasc  
Sheila Donnelly – FRC  
Julieanne Power, DEASP  
Angela Hayes -Teac Tom  
Mary Mescal, -PPN

**Online:** Cllr. Ger Frisby  
Martin Rochford – PPN  
Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office  
Derval Howley, HSE  
Cllr. Mick McCarthy

**Also present:** Anne Marie Shortall Chief Officer, Katherine Peacock and Cora Nolan, Kilkenny County Council.

**1. Administrative**

**Declan welcomed everyone to the meeting.**

**Apologies:** Cllr. Martin Brett  
Toluwani Akaehomen , PPN Social Inclusion  
Cllr. Joe Lyons  
Denis Drennan

**Minutes of Previous Meetings**

**Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June , 2023**

Proposed by John Hurley, Seconded by Julie Anne Power.

## **Matters Arising**

None.

## **Any Conflicts of Interest**

None.

## **2. Oversight and Implementation of the Local and Economic Community Plan.**

Anne Marie Shortall gave an update and advised that the next stage of the LECP will be the implementation of the actions contained in the plan and engagement with all of the stakeholders. The LECP Advisory Committee will meet in the coming weeks to examine the best way to monitor and review the implementation of the plan. Monitoring of the implementation plan will commence in January, 2024. Derval advised that Anne Marie Lawlor is the contact for the Health and wellbeing programme action under the LECP Plan.

## **3. Citizen Engagement and promotion of Social Inclusion**

### **PPN Report**

Angela Hayes gave the PPN Report.

Paul O Rahilly thanked the access group and all involved in the Disability Plan and thanked Ronan and Mags Whelan for all their work and wished Mags all the best in her new role.

Declan Gibbons thanked the PPN and Mags for all her work.

### **SICAP Mid-Year Review**

#### **Katherine Peacock gave the update.**

SICAP monitoring takes place twice a year at mid-year and end of year. The LCDC, SICAP subgroup meet to review progress before meeting with the Manager Martin Rafter and the SICAP team to discuss findings. Once the LCDC completed its review a high-level review is undertaken by Pobal. Post mid-year review a member of the Pobal team comes to Kilkenny to meet with the LCDC subgroup and the Programme implementor KLP, this usually takes place in late September.

A review of the online IRIS reporting system has been carried out.

Updates have been provided on the supports to the Ukrainian Community which are in line with the actions.

All reports have been completed satisfactorily and all actions have been reported on.

There are 2 KPI Targets:

1 is working with groups,

2 is working with individuals

KPI 1 Annual target of 26 groups is at 32 an over achievement at 123% on the total target by mid-year – as a result the Subgroup increased this KPI by the max of 15% for the new SICAP programme bringing the target to 29 groups.

KPI 2 Annual target of 468 individuals is at 285 representing 61% of the overall target -this has also been increased to 538 for the new SICAP programme.

The percentage of KPI 2 people living in a disadvantaged area stands at 43 individuals, representing 9.2%. The target is set at 26% and judging by the % at mid-year the overall target may not be achieved by year end.

### **Review with LDC**

The LCDC met with the LDC and discussed any gaps in data identified, the LDC agreed to review immediately.

Clarity was sought in relation to work under Goal 2 Disadvantaged Children and Families with a satisfactory response.

A separate financial review was carried out and no issues were identified.

The subgroup were satisfied that progress has been made at mid-year to recommend that the LCDC approve the mid-year review subject to the high-level review by POBAL identifying no outstanding issues.

Katherine advised that the SICAP subgroup chose 3 priority groups as follows:-

1. People living in communities impacted by disadvantage.
2. People living in jobless households or households where the primary income source is low paid.
3. International Protection Applicants.

Sheila complimented the SICAP subgroup committee on their great work.

### **KTCM Pilot Project CDP – Mid Year Review**

The Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement KTCM is one of 8 pilot Community Development Project in Ireland and the LCDC has responsibility for the monitoring of the project at mid-way and end of year intervals.

Pobal also carry out their own review and send comments and any recommendations to the LCDC to aid their monitoring. The LCDC monitoring subgroup met in August to review both the CDP's reporting template and Pobal's review.

Monitoring takes place under the 3 aims of the project.

- To develop community, develop responses to a range of social, economic and environmental concerns.
- To facilitate an empowering collaboratives approach to buildings relationships and undertake cooperative initiatives between marginalised groups, mainstream services and decision-making bodies.
- To showcase and profile the benefits of an autonomous approach to community development in relation to existing, new and emerging issues.

All outputs/challenges/successes were examined under each heading

The subgroup then met with the project manager Stephen Plunkett to discuss and pose any questions that arose.

The main challenges identified by the CDP were:-

- Suitable Premises- not enough movement to suitable facilities where capacity building can take place effectively
- Lack of trust and confidence in the Traveller Community due to history/past experiences

With the support of Kilkenny County Council, a suitable office premises have been located in Irish Town bringing together all of the different services KTCM presently offer. This is being financed through Dormant account funding. The project moved in 2 weeks ago.

The Project has also had some major issues with its afterschool project run out of O'Loughlin Court. Over the summer the manager resigned due to lack of staffing resources and space. The Kilkenny Traveller Interagency Group held several special meetings and invited agencies with a vested interest to the table. This has resulted in the Traveller Health Project moving to the new premises with the KTCM project freeing up a lot more space for the afterschool and the employment of an extra staff member. The manager has since returned to post and with the support of Kilkenny County Council and SICAP funding the project has reopened and is in a much better place.

Pobal commented that it is evident that significant activity has taken place with the Traveller Community Development Project and the work that has been undertaken is very clearly in line with the objectives of the Community Development Programme.

The LCDC were also satisfied with the progress of the CPD but noted and made the following recommendations:-

- Further development of the Board of Management
- Undertaking more in-dept evaluation of programmes

A financial review and reconciliation was undertaken and there are no financial issues arising.

## **Healthy Ireland - Replacement of retiring committee members**

2 nominations were sought to replace Declan Gibbons and Sheila Donnelly on the Healthy Ireland committee.

Paul O' Rahilly and Angela Hayes put their names forward and were proposed by Sean McKeown and seconded by Aileen McGrath.

Paul O' Rahilly and Angela Hayes will represent the LCDC on the Healthy Ireland Committee.

## **4. Items for Information and Information Sharing**

New SICAP Programme update on tender process.

Anne Marie Shortall gave an update on the tender process; one tender has been received and the evaluation team are meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023 to review the tender. The evaluation committee is made up of Anne Marie Shortall, Chief Officer, Katherine Peacock LCDC Support staff, Aileen McGrath LCDC representative and Adrian Waldron Procurement Officer also acting as Chair for the Evaluation Committee. The tender must score over 70% and meet all of the criteria set out. A further update will be provided at the next LCDC meeting.

## **Community Support Fund Grants**

Anne Marie updated the members that the Community Support fund grant was announced by press release from the Department in July and that all applicants have now been formally notified of allocations of grants. There are approximately 60% of grants paid out to date, following receipt of the required documentation the remainder of the grants will be paid out.

## **5. Items for discussion and decision**

Nomination for new LCDC Chair.

Declan thanked everyone from the LCDC for their help and support over the last 3 years, and thanked Mags Whelan PPN Officer who will be the new Environmental Awareness Officer. He also thanked Annette Fitzpatrick as previous Chief Officer, Lindsey Butler, Cora Nolan, Anne Marie Shortall and Katherine Peacock, Colette Byrne and Sean McKeown for their courtesy and support to him during his time as LCDC Chair. Declan thanked all the members of the LCDC Committee, and all the agencies. He also wished Sheila Donnelly all the best on her retirement and wished the new chair the best of luck.

Anne Marie thanked Declan and Sheila for their hard work and dedication to Kilkenny LCDC.

Election of Chair.

Sheila nominated Mary Mescal for the position of Chair, seconded by Angela Hayes. Mary accepted the nomination and as there were no other nominees, Mary was elected Chair of the LCDC.

Declan Gibbons and Sean McKeown congratulated Mary.

## **6. AOB**

On behalf of the PPN, Angela wished Declan the very best and thanked him for his commitment, driving change, guidance and described Declan as an inspiring figure and thanked Sheila for her leadership, and for empowering communities and individuals across Kilkenny and wished them both an exciting and peaceful new chapter.

Sean concurred with Angela and thanked Sheila and Declan for their dedication and hard work. Sheila first joined the LCDC in 2014 and represented the 4 FRC's in Kilkenny, she was also part of the SICAP subgroup, CEP subgroup, Healthy Ireland Steering group and was very proactive and engaging in all meetings. The Kilkenny Municipal District held their meeting in Newpark FRC to mark Sheila's retirement which was a fitting tribute which Sheila managed since 2003. Sheila will be a huge loss to the LCDC Committee.

Declan manager of Kilkenny Local Community radio station has been a very committed and passionate member of the LCDC since 2017, elected from the PPN as chair for the last 3 years, Declan was an excellent chair and took the role very seriously. Declan was also a member of the CEP subgroup and chair of the Healthy Ireland Committee, Declan was also a member of the Community response Ukraine crisis. Sean worked closing with Declan on the Leader programme. Declan's commitment to the LCDC is to be commended, Sean thanked Declan and wished him well .

Cllr. Ger Frisby also wished Declan well and it was a pleasure working with Declan as Chair of SPC 1 on the LECP. Ger also congratulated Sheila on her retirement and wished Mary Mescal the best as the new chair of the LCDC.

Sheila Donnelly thanked everyone for their well wishes and to the present and past committee members of the LCDC she thanked everyone she learned so much and thanked all the staff of Kilkenny County Council for their help and support over the years.

## **7. Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November, in the Council Chamber, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.