

## SUMMARY REPORT:

### Offaly Local Community Development Committee

Meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April, 2022 at 11.00 am via ZOOM

#### Members in attendance

SECTOR	SECTORAL INTERESTS	NAME	PRESENT / APOLOGIES	
Public Sector	Local Authority Member Tullamore Municipal District	Cllr Declan Harvey (Chairperson)	Apologies	
	Local Authority Member - Birr Municipal District	Cllr John Leahy	Apologies	
	Local Authority Member - Edenderry Municipal District	Cllr Noel Cribbin	Via Zoom	
	Local Authority Official - Chief Executive	Ms. Anna Marie Delaney	Apologies	
	Local Authority Official - Local Enterprise Office	Ms. Orla Martin	Via Zoom	
	State Agency - Department of Social Protection	Vacant		
	State Agency - Laois Offaly Education & Training Board	Mr. Anne Marie Keane	Via Zoom	
	State Agency - Teagasc	Mr. Con Feighery	Via Zoom	
	State Agency - HSE	Ms. Ann Sheerin	Via Zoom	
	Private Sector	Community & Voluntary Sector - Offaly PPN	Ms. Sylvia Sweeney	Via Zoom
		Community & Voluntary Sector Offaly PPN	Ms. Sinead McDonagh (Vice-Chairperson)	Via Zoom
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Olive O' Sullivan	Via Zoom	
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Deirdre Arnold	Via Zoom	
Environment Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Rebekah Keaveny	Via Zoom	
Local & Community Development Offaly Integrated Local Development Company		Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin	Via Zoom	
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Construction Industry Federation		Mr. Mark Cronin	Via Zoom	
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Irish Farmers Association		Mr. Richard Scally	Via Zoom	
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Business Interests		Mr. Fechin Daly	Via Zoom	
Other Civic Society or Local Community Interests Offaly Tourism Marketing CLG		Mr. Philip O' Brien	Via Zoom	

#### In attendance:

Ann Dillon, Chief Officer, Sharon Kennedy, D.O.S.; Vincent Gleeson, Sharon Bollard, Fiona Flaherty, Offaly County Council.

In the absence of the Chairperson, the members, on the proposal of Ms. R. Keaveny, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin, agreed that Ms. Sylvia Sweeney would Chair the April 2022 meeting of Offaly LCDC.

Ms. S. Sweeny, Chairperson, welcomed members to the meeting. A roll call of all members in attendance was recorded by the Chief Officer.

#### **Adoption of Minutes of the LCDC meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March, 2022 were proposed for adoption by Ms. R. Keaveny, seconded by Cllr. N. Cribbin and agreed by the members.

#### **Matters Arising.**

None.

#### **Rural Development LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020 & Transitional LEADER Programme 2021 - 2022**

- a. LEADER Projects.
- b. Projects for Extension.
- c. Expressions of Interest.
- d. LEADER Administration and Animation Payments.
- e. Department of Rural and Community Development Circulars.

Members considered the above items in relation to the LEADER Programme.

#### **Offaly LCDC Standing Orders**

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer, drew the members' attention to the updated Standing Orders for Offaly LCDC as circulated with agenda documentation. It was noted that the Standing Orders were last reviewed in 2017 and the members were informed that the update before them had been reviewed and cross-referenced with statutory legislation and any other Guidelines issued since.

Ms. Dillon, Chief Officer, provided a summary of the main updates under the following headings:

- Matters Concerning the Position of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson
- Quorum
- Order of Business
- LCDC Information
- Proceedings in Relation to Remote Meetings

A discussion ensued with members welcoming the updates. On the proposal of Ms. Anne Marie Keane, seconded by Ms. A. Sheerin, the revised and updated Standing Orders for Offaly LCDC as circulated were agreed and approved by members.

On the proposal of Ms. S. McDonagh, Vice Chair, seconded by Ms. S. Sweeney, Chair, the members agreed to make available on Offaly.ie website, quarterly in arrears, a Meeting Summary Report document highlighting in brief terms the main business transacted at the LCDC meeting which is not deemed to be of a confidential nature, attendance of members, decisions made, proposers and seconders to agenda items etc. The Report is to be signed by the Chairperson and Chief Officer and will exclude all information deemed by the Chief Officer to be of a confidential nature.

### **Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2022-2027**

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer, informed the meeting that under the new LECP 2022-2027 Guidelines, an Advisory Steering Group is to be established to assist in the preparation, drafting, adoption, implementation and monitoring of the new LECP and to integrate the economic and community elements of the plan. She outlined the proposed membership of the group, to include the LCDC Chief Officer and a nominee from the LCDC membership. Members were asked to forward their expression of interest to the Chief Officer for consideration.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Mr. P. O' Brien, members agreed the proposed membership and structure as outlined in the presentation.

### **Community Response Forum**

Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S briefed the meeting in relation to the re-activation of the Community Response Forum originally established to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic, in response to the emerging humanitarian Ukrainian Refugee crisis. She outlined the coordinated, interagency approach being taken to ensure Offaly can respond where needed. Difficulties in relation to availability of suitable accommodation were outlined as well as the lack of up-to-date, real-time information in relation to the numbers of displaced entering the county. Sincere thanks was extended by members to all partner agencies involved for their cooperation and support during the on-going crisis management.

### **Funding Opportunities**

To be circulated.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Launch of Offaly Community Group Volunteer Awards 2022**

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer informed members that Offaly County Council will host a Volunteer Awards Event during Volunteer Week May 2022, details of which are available on Offaly.ie and social media platforms. She advised that the aim of the awards is to acknowledge the contribution of voluntary groups across the county in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Nominations are invited for groups who assisted older people, youth, minority groups, people with disabilities or others during the pandemic. An independent judging panel will adjudicate the winners and runners up in each category, and bursaries will be presented to the category winners on the awards night, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022. The closing date for nominations for the Offaly County Council Volunteer Awards is May 4<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 4p.m. Members were encouraged to raise awareness and nominate.

#### **Community Activities Fund (CAF) 2021**

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer referred to the Communities Activities Fund of €277,102 and to the approval of the recommendations from the Evaluation Sub-Committee, presented at the March 2022 LCDC meeting. The recommendations were forwarded to DRCD for final approval following the meeting.

Ministerial approval has now been given for funding of 136 projects across Offaly. Details of the successful applicants have been circulated to members.

Members welcomed the funding approvals for the broad range of projects, with thanks extended to the Evaluation Subcommittee for their input.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The members agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC will take place on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 at 11.00 am.**

Signed: *Clr Declan Harvey*  
Cllr. Declan Harvey,  
Chairperson.

Date: 9/6/2022

Signed: *A Dillon*  
Ann Dillon,  
Chief Officer,  
Local Community Development Committee

Date: 9/6/2022