

## SUMMARY REPORT:

### Offaly Local Community Development Committee

Meeting held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2022 at 11.00 am via ZOOM and in the Council Chamber.

#### Members in attendance

SECTOR	SECTORAL INTERESTS	NAME	PRESENT / APOLOGIES
Public Sector	Local Authority Member Tullamore Municipal District	Cllr Declan Harvey (Chairperson)	Present
	Local Authority Member - Birr Municipal District	Cllr John Leahy	Via Zoom
	Local Authority Member - Edenderry Municipal District	Cllr Noel Cribbin	Present
	Local Authority Official - Chief Executive	Ms. Anna Marie Delaney	Via Zoom
	Local Authority Official - Local Enterprise Office	Ms. Orla Martin	Via Zoom
	State Agency - Laois Offaly Education & Training Board	Mr. Anne Marie Keane	Via Zoom
	State Agency - Teagasc	Mr. Con Feighery	Apologies
	State Agency - HSE	Ms. Ann Sheerin	Apologies
	Department of Social Protection	Vacant	
	Private Sector	Community & Voluntary Sector - Offaly PPN	Ms. Sylvia Sweeney
Community & Voluntary Sector Offaly PPN		Ms. Sinead McDonagh (Vice-Chairperson)	Via Zoom
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Olive O' Sullivan	Apologies
Social Inclusion Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Deirdre Arnold	Present
Environment Sector - Offaly PPN		Ms. Rebekah Keaveny	Via Zoom
Local & Community Development Offaly Integrated Local Development Company		Mr. Brendan O'Loughlin	Present
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	Apologies

#### In attendance:

Ann Dillon, Chief Officer, Sharon Kennedy, D.O.S.; Paula Donovan, A.O.; Brian Pey, A.O.; Sharon Bollard, Fiona Flaherty, Offaly County Council; Dermot Egan, Healthy Ireland Co-Ordinator; Roisin Lennon, OLDC.

Cllr. D. Harvey, Chairperson, welcomed members to the meeting. A roll call of all members in attendance was recorded by the Chief Officer. Apologies were noted.

**Adoption of Minutes of the LCDC meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 were proposed for adoption by Cllr. N. Cribbin, seconded by Ms. S. Sweeney 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.

**Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2022-2027**

Mr. B. Pey advised that a detailed update in relation to the establishment of an Advisory Steering Group was brought to the members' attention at the April 2022 LCDC meeting. Expressions of interest were sought from members, with 2 members volunteering to join the Advisory Group representing Offaly LCDC. The role of the group is to:

- Assist in the preparation, drafting, adoption, implementation and monitoring of the LECP
- Integrate the economic and community elements of the LECP
- Integrate the High-Level Goals and Sustainable Objectives in the framework LECP with the Implementation Plan

It is intended that blended meetings (via zoom and in person) will be held bi-monthly, with the first meeting taking place Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Members agreed the Membership of the Advisory Steering Group as follows:

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Representing</i></b>
Stephane Duclot	DOS for Land Use, Planning and Economic Development
Sharon Kennedy	DOS for Housing & Community Services
Ann Dillon	LCDC Chief Officer
Orla Martin	Head of Enterprise (temporary basis until appointment of Senior Enterprise Development Officer, LEO
Lorraine Mitchell	Senior Executive Planner (Forward Planning)
Anne Marie Keane, LOETB	Nominee from LCDC
Ann Sheerin, HSE	Nominee from LCDC
Councillor Eamon Dooley	Chair of Land Use, Planning and Economic Development SPC
Councillor John Clendennen	Member of Community, Culture & Emergency Services SPC
Brendan O'Loughlin, OLDC	Any other person considered likely to make significant contribution
Rebekah Keaveney, Green Offaly	Any other person considered likely to make significant contribution

Mr. Pey expressed his thanks to all the members for joining the Steering Group.

### **Healthy Ireland Fund Programme**

Mr. D. Egan, Healthy Offaly Co-Ordinator provided a detailed update in relation to the conclusion of the current cycle of the Healthy Offaly Programme (HIF Strand 1 Round 3) and associated funding. He outlined the challenges faced in the delivery of programmes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, lessons learnt and the creative ways these challenges were overcome in partnership with local agencies and organisations. Mr. Egan advised all actions are now complete and funding reports submitted for same. A summary of the actions progressed and completed by lead agencies was provided. Guidelines for the next programme are currently being finalised by Pobal and the Department at present.

Members thanked Mr. D. Egan for his detailed presentation, noting the huge success of the Healthy Offaly programme across the county and acknowledging the work of the Healthy Offaly Team, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Members welcomed the recent visit by Mr. Frank Feighan, T.D., Minister of State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy to visit Healthy Offaly funded projects at Clara and Tullamore Family Resource Centres, Kilmac Development Association and Moneygall Community Garden.

### **Community Response Forum**

Ms. S. Kennedy, D.O.S briefed members in relation to the ongoing work of the Community Forum in response to the emerging Ukrainian refugee crisis and advised the inter-agency forum continue to meet on a regular basis with updates given from groups involved in managing the ongoing needs of the displaced. She informed the meeting that the Offaly Community Response Forum was operating very well and acknowledged the co-operation, supports provided and the response on the ground from all the agencies involved.

Ms. Kennedy, D.O.S. advised that at national level the focus is now on moving from Emergency Accommodation Response – hotels, emergency rest centres etc to medium to long term accommodation, some of which is to be provided through the pledge process. The high level of consultation and engagement ongoing nationally between the CCMA, LGMA, DRCD, DHLGH AND DECDIY to ensure that any operational issues being experienced at local level are addressed through working with relevant Departments, other public bodies and the community and voluntary sector was outlined. Guidance is awaited on how to progress with refurbishment of properties within the remit of Offaly County Council and what resources will be required for same.

Ms. S. Kennedy acknowledged the emergency accommodation provided by LOETB and advised that numbers are fluctuating in the Emergency Rest Centre in Birr and is expected to hit maximum occupancy again in the coming days with numbers entering the country rising again.

Discussion ensued, with members acknowledging the huge level of cooperation and the volume of work coordinated by the Response Forum, delivered primarily on the ground by OLDC in conjunction with the HSE, DSP and all other partner agencies to provide services to those in need. It was noted that a number of welcome events were planned in the county.

In response to a query raised, members were advised the while Offaly County Council are not the primary supplier of accommodation for the incoming refugees, every effort should be made by those entering the county to engage with the Community Response Forum in the appropriate manner to ensure all necessary supports services are available to individuals and families in need.

Ms. Kennedy, DOS, advised that this is an evolving situation and may change again very quickly. Members agreed that a continued coordinated, cooperative interagency approach will ensure efficient responses to optimise outcomes in the most challenging situations.

Members thanked Ms. S. Kennedy, DOS, for her comprehensive update.

### **Funding Opportunities**

Mr. B. Pey drew the member attention to details as circulated for a new €15 million capital fund announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD for the upgrade and refurbishment of Community Centres. He advised that all applicants must register online at [gov.ie/CommunityCentresFund](http://gov.ie/CommunityCentresFund) prior to submitting a formal application. Applicants need to register as 'users' on a portal in advance of the application process which will open 7<sup>th</sup> June. This will allow them to identify any potential setup issues and rectify them in advance. The closing date for applications will be 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2022. The Community Centre Investment Fund will provide grants for larger projects, over €10,000 up to a maximum contribution of €300,000 towards capital costs.

**Category 1:** Small scale projects/improvements to facilities €10,000 - €25,000.

**Category 2:** Larger scale projects €25,001 to €100,000.

**Category 3:** Major projects €100,001 to €300,000.

Applications under Category 2 and 3 must include a minimum contribution of 5% of the total project costs from the applicants own funds.

Members welcomed the new funding and were encouraged to share details with groups who may be eligible to apply.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Any Other Business**

#### **Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

Ms. A. Dillon, Chief Officer advised members that the selection of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from among the members of the LCDC for a three-year period in accordance with prescribed legislation will be an agenda item for the June 2022 LCDC meeting. All persons regardless of the sectors they represent may be considered for the positions.

Ms. Dillon, Chief Officer, advised the members that the Chairperson will serve for a maximum period of three years, where upon they shall retire as Chairperson. A person may not serve two consecutive terms as Chairperson and may not be re-appointed to the position of Chairperson for a period of three years from the end of their most recent period of Tenure as Chairperson. There is no limit on the number of consecutive periods that may be served as Vice-Chairperson.

Nominations for the posts will be considered and members were encouraged to submit nominations to the Chief Officer in advance of the next meeting. Members were requested to ensure that if they intended nominating a member for any position, that the member being nominated is aware and agreeable to the nomination.

#### **Pride of Place**

Best wishes were extended to the Offaly entries in the national Pride of Place competition taking place in Killarney in the coming week.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The members agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC will take place on Thursday 9th June, 2022 at 11.00 am in the Council Chamber and via ZOOM.

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Signed: Ch. 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

