

**MONAGHAN LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (L.C.D.C.)**  
**MINUTES OF INAUGURAL MEETING**

**Held at 5 pm on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2014  
in M.Tek 1 Building, Armagh Rd., Monaghan.**

**Present**

**Statutory**

Cllr. Brian McKenna	Monaghan County Council
Cllr. David Maxwell	Monaghan County Council
Eugene Cummins	Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council
John McEnteggart	Monaghan Local Enterprise Office
John Kearney	Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board
Jim Manning	Department of Social Protection

**Non Statutory**

Gabriel O’Connell	Monaghan Integrated Development
Breege Lenihan	Community & Voluntary –County Monaghan Community Network
Noel Carney	Community & Voluntary - Heritage Network
Packie Kelly	Social Inclusion – Teach na nDaoine
Robert Wilson	Social Inclusion - County Monaghan Community Network
Emer Brennan	Environment – County Monaghan Network of Tidy Towns Groups
Brian Treanor	Farming/Agriculture – IFA
Denis Sheridan	Trade Unions

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Seamus Coyle	Monaghan County Council
Rose McCaffrey	Health Service Executive

**In Attendance**

Paul Clifford	Chief Officer, Director of Economic & Community Development, Monaghan Co. Co.
Bernie Bradley	Development Officer, Monaghan County Council
Carol Lambe	Development Officer, Monaghan County Council
Ann Murray,	Administrative Officer, Monaghan County Council
Maire Cullinan	Economic Co-ordinator, Monaghan LEO
Mary O’Reilly	on behalf of Rose McCaffrey, HSE

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Paul Clifford, Chief Officer opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the Inaugural Meeting of Monaghan Local Community Development Committee. Introductions then took place.

## **2. Presentation on Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

Paul Clifford, Chief Officer, Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) gave a very informative powerpoint presentation to members on the following:

- Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)
- Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)
- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- Leader
- Public Participation Networks (PPN) formerly known as Community Forum

Paul outlined to members that Local and Community Planning is a process that brings together public sector bodies, local communities, publicly funded bodies and the voluntary sector to address their strategic concerns under the leadership of local government. The Local Government Reform Act, 2014 gave City & County Councils' the responsibility for local economic and community development, strengthening local governance, improving the local economy and the capacity to create employment, confronting social disadvantage and integrating the voice of the community into the policy process.

### **The Local Government Reform Act, 2014, commenced 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014, and**

#### **Section 36**

- Established Local Community Development Committees (LCDC)
- LCDC Membership
- LCDC independent discharge of functions

#### **Section 44**

- Provides for the preparation of a six year Local Economic & Community Plan (the Plan must address targets set down by Europe)

#### **Local Community Development Committees**

Paul informed the members that Monaghan LCDC Membership is made up of 17 members – 8 Statutory Members and 9 Non Statutory Members (49%/51%). They are required to meet at least six times per year.

The guiding principles of the LCDC is to ensure a participative, bottom up approach, with meaningful community participation in identifying priorities and solutions and shaping local initiatives, with a clear focus on social inclusion, enterprise and employment development, and ensuring the best use of resources for citizens and communities. It also seeks to stimulate local development, sustainability, volunteerism and active citizenship.

#### **Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

Paul explained that the LCDC have to prepare and monitor implementation of an Economic & Community Plan for county Monaghan, award contracts and manage/monitor the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme. The LCDC also has to act as the Local Action Group to monitor the Leader Programme of funding 2014 to 2020.

Paul informed members that the LCDC must prepare a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), the economic area of the plan is to be prepared by the Economic Strategic Policy Committee and the Community Plan is to be prepared by the Local Community Development Committee, both elements will be included in an overall Economic & Community plan for county Monaghan and it will be adopted by both the LCDC and the Council.

## **Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme SICAP**

Paul informed the members that SICAP is a government programme which targets the most disadvantaged and excluded in society. The time line for the programme is as follows;

- **May 2014** - procurement process began at national level (pre-qualification stage)
- **September 2014** - Stage 2 – tendering commences – approved applicants invited to tender to deliver programmes locally.
- **November 2014** - contracts awarded by LCDC for local implementation of the programme
- **January 2015** – SICAP begins (funding managed by Monaghan County Council who will then seek reimbursement from the Department.

## **Leader Programme 2014-2020**

Paul explained to members that Leader was established in 1991 – CAP funding for the development of rural economy to promote social inclusion, address poverty reduction and support economic development in rural areas.

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 - €235m to 2020

Likely to prioritise:

- Support for Enterprise Development and Job creation
- Improve broadband and communications infrastructure in rural areas
- Effective and coordinated use of all resources to support rural development

Other areas for consideration in Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

- Rural Tourism, Recreation, Heritage & Culture
- Basic Services for disadvantaged rural communities
- Social Inclusion, Capacity Building, Training & Animation
- Rural Youth
- Environmental Protection, Sustainable Energy

Likely timelines for Leader

- July 2014 – Draft Rural Development Programme
- October 2014: Deadline for submission of expression of interest for development of Leader local development strategies
- June 2015: Deadline for submission of completed Local Development Strategies
- July 2015: Contracts awarded

## **Public Participation Networks**

Paul informed the members that the LCDC will also oversee the establishment of a Public Participation Network in county Monaghan (formerly Monaghan Community Forum). Monaghan has a very active Community Forum and the plan is that the existing Community Forum will now become Monaghan's Public Participation Network. As a result of a working Group Report on Citizens Engagement published in February, 2014 by Fr. Sean Healy, each local authority is required to set up Public Participation Networks (PPN) in order to facilitate the participation of community groups in the LCDC and other decision-making structures such as the Economic & Community Plan. The PPN Public Participation Network is made up of linkage groups and Environment, Social Inclusion and Community & Voluntary Electoral colleges.

The PPN will establish a Secretariat – one member from each Municipal District and two members from each electoral College, they are required to meet at least twice per year. The Council is required to provide resources (a) a full time equivalent staff member and (b) a programme budget to enable communication with community groups via newsletter and website.

### **Community Platform**

A Community Platform will also be set up to include reps from Community & Voluntary Sector, Local Community Development Committee, Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committee and paid workers and advocates working on community projects. This Community Platform will help the PPN manage resources, ensure meaningful contribution to the LCDC and keep information flowing between reps, PPN and Groups. The Community Platform will meet in advance of the LCDC meetings to review the agenda, discuss issues and where necessary direct LCDC reps in relation to voting and decisions.

The Members complimented Paul on his very informative presentation.

### **3. Discussion on LCDC Regulations, 2014**

The following documents were circulated to LCDC members at the meeting :

- Guidelines for the establishment and operation of Local Community Development Committees dated 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2014.
- Statutory Instruments 234 of 2014 – The Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) Regulations, 2014
- Statutory Instruments 314 of 2014 - The Local Community Development Committee (Section 128E) (Amendment) (No. 1) Regulations, 2014

#### **Discussion Points:**

- Packie Kelly asked how the PPN is to be resourced? - Paul replied that the Council must provide the funding from its own resources.
- Gabriel O'Connell asked if LCDC members were Directors? – Paul replied that the LCDC members were not Directors, that the LCDC was an independent Sub Committee of the Council.
- Packie Kelly asked if the LCDC could look for other funding streams e.g. The Children's Service – Paul replied that the LCDC was a Sub Committee of the Council and all funding is to be channelled through the Council. Bernie Bradley, Development Officer, informed the members that the Children's Service was developing a strategic plan and the LCDC could link into the consultation on this plan.
- Cllr. Brian McKenna asked if members served a five year term on the Committee? Paul explained that local authority members retain their positions on the committee for the lifetime of the council and non statutory membership would change after three years and the Chairperson would rotate every three years.
- Packie Kelly asked if a member from the Community could hold the position of Chairperson? – Paul replied that the Community Sector could hold the position of Chairperson.
- Cllr. Maxwell asked that the Committee would set out a schedule of dates for LCDC meetings– Paul replied that LCDC's were required to meet as least six times per year but would be meeting more frequently for the next few months in order to get the process up and running.

**4. AOB**

Gabriel O'Connell requested that the Department's Guidelines in relation to the Local Economic & Community Plan is forwarded to members for their information.

**5. Date of next meeting**

Members agreed that Tuesday's were a suitable day for these meetings and 4 pm was also a suitable time. The next meeting was scheduled for 4 pm on Tuesday 30th September, 2014, in M.Tek 1 Building.

The concluded the business of the meeting.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRPERSON**