

# Minutes of South Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Via Microsoft Teams

Date: 10th February 2022

Time: 10.00am.

# Present:

Name	Organisation	Public / Private
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Marcia Dalton	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	WCDP	Private
Mr. Pat Roche	Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Mary O'Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Liam McCarthy	PPN	Private
Mr. Tom Howard	PPN	Private
Mr. Thomas McHugh	Cork Chamber	Private
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	Agricultural Pillar	Private

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Private / Public
Ms. Valerie O'Sullivan	Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of LEO South Cork	Public
Mr. John Lyne	DSP	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

# **Staff in Attendance:**

Ms. Kay Keegan	LCDC Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Finance Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Jesse Dorrington	Staff Officer	Cork County Council

Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11)

In attendance = 12 (8 Private: 4 Public)

Apologies = 7

Total membership = 19



#### Welcome and Introduction.

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced. The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed Liam McCarthy and Tom Howard as the two new PPN representatives who had been elected to the South Cork LCDC

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 16th December 2021.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Marcia Dalton and seconded by Pat Roche.

#### Matters arising

None.

### 2. LCDC Annual Report 2021

The Chief Officer presented the LCDC Annual Report for 2021.

The report was proposed by Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen and seconded by Cllr. Michael Hegarty.

Cllr. Marcia Dalton asked for clarity on when the LCDC will be looking at the new LECP. The Chief Officer said that it is currently being worked on at management level and that a presentation will be made to the LCDC once a schedule is in place.

3. SICAP – Presentation of Case Study for SECAD Partnership CLG by Tara Doyle and Nuala O'Connell

Title: SECAD Partnership CLG Engagement with New Communities in particular those in Direct Provision and Emergency Accommodation Centres

#### Laying the Groundwork

- 2017 SECAD Partnership CLG Celebrating Multiculturism through Food.
- Midleton and Macroom food festivals over 20 nationalities represented at each event.
- Food festivals provided opportunities for local people to engage with settled migrants and sample an assortment of multi-cultural traditional food.

# Riverside Emergency Accommodation Centre Macroom

- Engagement began in 2019.
- Multi agency approach including HSE, Local Schools, Garda, FRC, SECAD Partnership CLG, ETB Friends of Macroom and local volunteers.
- This engagement work has seen a steady increase in our target group ratios year on year from 2018, with an increase from 6% in 2018 to 13% in 2020.



# Living in Ireland Through English

- Living in Ireland through English, March 2021.
- Approximately 10 individuals attended each session.
- Each week a different topic was discussed, e.g., transport, COVID -19 restrictions, making appointments and Irish cultural norms.
- Somali tutor was employed on several occasions to translate for those Somali
  residents who were either seeking employment or were struggling with mental
  health issues.

#### Walk it Programme – moving for better health and wellbeing

- Open to Irish and individuals from New communities.
- Four week walking programme, covering a different topic each week by experienced tutors.
- Topics included healthy eating, wellbeing and resilience, movement, the benefits of exercise and food foraging.
- Rolled out in Midleton, Macroom and Carrigaline during the Summer of 2021

# Information Day Riverside & Other Summer Activities

- Information day, July 2021, Employment, wellbeing and healthy living supports were offered.
- Walk it Macroom, July & August 2021.
- SECAD Partnership CLG assisted the HSE with day trips for Syrian families to Garryvoe Beach and Fota gardens.
- SECAD Partnership CLG along with HSE brought residents of Riverside Owenahincha beach for a day trip.

# SICAP, a Cross Team Approach

- Employment sessions were held with the Syrian community, June 2021.
- Two employment sessions were held in July and August with the Somali residents of Riverside and wider Somali community.
- Sessions included interview techniques, CV's and the importance of learning English in seeking employment opportunities.
- One to one sessions with employment officers.

#### 2021 Autumn Activities in Riverside

- Two adult river art workshops took place on the 7th and 14th October. This was part funded by SICAP and the Community Waters Development Fund, administered by the Local Authorities Waters Programme.
- Manual Handling training, October 2021.
- Healthy Food Made Easy course, November 2021.
- Continued Employment and training supports.



#### Outcomes and Observations

- Needs within the centre are diverse, individual and complex.
- Engagement with a diversity of SICAP supports are necessary, e.g. employment, access to learning, community, wellbeing, health, etc.
- It takes time to build trust, many residents are suspicious of authority.
- Residents must be listened to and have a voice in the development of supports.
- Residents must be encouraged to map out their own future and in their own time.
- The poor level of English is a real barrier to many in the centre and must be addressed in a meaningful way.

### SICAP 2022 – Integrating New Communities What Next?

- Continue delivering wellbeing, employment and training supports.
- Continue collaboration between SECAD Partnership CLG and the HSE in relation to supporting the Riverside Accommodation centre residents as well as other migrant populations around the South & East Cork area.
- Develop dialogue and a new a suite of supports for Ashbourne House, Glounthaune Direct Provision centre.
- In collaboration with the HSE and local libraries, continue developing the Fáilte Isteach programme— (conversational English Classes) across our SICAP area.

The Chair, Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen and Cllr. Marcia Dalton thanked Tara Doyle and Nuala O'Connell for the presentation. Jimmy Hosford acknowledged that the language barrier is a big problem and asked if SECAD Partnership CLG is planning to host English classes in the near future. Nuala O'Connell said that the ETB hosts English classes and that SECAD Partnership CLG consistently ties in with this body. She added that the informal learning encouraged by Fáilte Isteach is proving effective and that it is hoped to extend the scheme to other parts of Cork.

Mary O'Leary commented that it can be challenging for individuals to learn English and commended the Fáilte Isteach scheme. Ryan Howard also acknowledged this challenge and said that the scheme is essential and welcome.

Arran O'Driscoll asked about the type of services available to Riverside residents. Nuala O'Connell answered that good facilities are provided including broadband but that getting access to technology can be difficult. She said that a laptop loan scheme has been set up to help with this. Tara Doyle said that the Riverside manager is very proactive and focused on wellbeing.

Arran O'Driscoll queried if many Riverside residents are getting leave to remain. Nuala O'Connell said that is common, but that childcare is a significant issue in preventing individuals from entering employment. Tara Doyle confirmed that SECAD Partnership CLG is constantly engaging with new families arriving in Cork. Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen acknowledged that the language barrier is a key issue and praised the work being done to address it.



# 4. Healthy Ireland – Replacement of PPN Rep to Healthy Ireland Sub-Group: Liam MacCarthy

Proposed by Thomas McHugh and seconded by Ryan Howard.

#### 3. **AOB**

Arran O'Driscoll drew the LCDC's attention to the fact that the government launched the Regularisation of Long-Term Undocumented Migrants Scheme on 3rd December 2021. The scheme is open for applications from individuals who have lived in Ireland for at least 4 years or at least 3 years for families with children under 18. It is open from  $31^{\rm st}$  January –  $31^{\rm st}$  July 2022. Arran O'Driscoll encouraged members to spread this information through their networks.

Mary O'Leary commented that the Healthy Ireland sub-committee held very few meetings in 2021 and hoped for more feedback and meetings in 2022. The Chief Officer said that the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3 was extended to December 2021 and again to March 2022 as some of the actions attached to it were delayed by the pandemic. She said that the Healthy Ireland Strategy was approved in December 2021 and that Niall O'Callaghan will be planning a meeting in the near future.

# 4. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 24th March 2022 at 10.00am.

#### **Meeting Concluded**

The Minutes were approved by the South Cork Local Community Development Committee		
(LCDC)		
Signed:	CLIN CHAIRPERSON	
Dated:	24th March 2022	

