



**Minutes of
West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
Via Microsoft Teams**

Date: 10th February 2022

Time: 3.30pm.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public/Private
Cllr. Declan Hurley	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. John O' Sullivan	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Alan Coleman	Cork County Council	Public
Ms. Clodagh Henehan	Divisional Manager West Cork	Public
Mr. Kevin Curran	North and West LEO	Public
Ms. Máire Ní Shé	Udarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Mr. Enda McWeeney	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Dev Partnership CLG.	Private
Ms. Helen O'Sullivan	Cork PPN	Private
Ms. Máire Uí Mhaoláin	Comhar na nOileán Teo	Private
Ms. Eileen O'Shea	Civic Society	Private
Ms. Phoebe Bright	Environment Pillar	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD CLG.	Private
Mr. Finbarr Harrington	Cork County PPN	Private

Apologies:

Mr. John Lyne	Dept. Employment	Public
Mr. Cornelius Buckley	Farming Pillar/IFA	Private
Mr. Colm Leen	Cork Chamber	Private
Vacant	Foroige	Private

Staff in Attendance

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

<p>Quorum=11 (50% of 19 rounded up +1 = 11) In attendance= 15 (7 Private: 8 Public) Apologies= 4 Total membership= 19</p>
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Welcome & Introduction

The LCDC was conducted through Microsoft Teams.

It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

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

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Eileen O'Shea and seconded by Cllr. John O'Sullivan.

Matters arising

N/A

2. LCDC Annual Report 2021

The Chief Officer presented the LCDC Annual Report for 2021.

The report was proposed by Cllr. John O'Sullivan and seconded by Phoebe Bright.

3. SICAP – Presentation of Case Study for Comhar na nOileán Teo by Daithí O Briain Title: Support the Habitability and Sustainability of Island Communities

Island Habitability

- Habitability is a concept to measure and develop the attractiveness of an island. The process creates new ideas and practical possibilities, and it sets the stage of change. Being habitable is essential for an island to attract a resident population in a sustainable way.

Habitability Index

- A tool to define, describe and develop small islands.
- The habitability index considers seven important areas: (1) prosperous people, (2) trust and participation, (3) clean water, (4) ecosystems, (5) attractiveness, (6) energy, and (7) local economy. Within each area is a set of indicators, which is used to measure and display the individual situation of the island.
- Uncomplicated but not simple: open, honest and participatory, making it possible to engage all citizens.

Abo Akedemi Habitability Course

The aim of the course is to train Ireland facilitators on smaller islands, preferably two or more persons per island, or 1 plus one from islands working closely together to learn and explore.

- The decisive characteristics of small island societies.

- The importance of engaging our fellow Islanders in the work.
- Be able to make a habitability analysis of their island, including setting up new indicators if needed.
- Know how to integrate the habitability index in a change process based on the methods for the Six Thinking Hats.
- Between April and June 2021, a total of five online classes were held that included participants from several European islands . Seven individuals from the West Cork Islands were supported to attend.
- Provided Islanders from all over Europe with a unique opportunity to share their own individual experiences of Ireland life and to suggest solutions to some of our shared problems.

Housing Challenges

- Lack of long term rentals
- 2nd homes and holiday homes
- Derelict houses
- Infrequent house or sites for sale – cost is out of the reach of most islanders
- Planning

For the Habitability and Sustainability of Islands there is a need to encourage:

- Suitable housing for the existing population
- Housing to support Population growth
- Looking at a variety of models that might work in an island context: Gateway housing, Social Housing, Private landlords.

Participatory Research Study

Housing and Sustaining Communities on the West Cork Islands.

A need for a community informed solution

- Purpose of the study
 - To examine the role of housing in sustaining communities from the perspectives of islanders on the seven West Cork Islands.
 - The research will provide an evidence-base and set of policy recommendations to inform housing policy for the islands.
- Methodology
 - Participatory mixed-methods approach
 - Bring together researchers, islanders and civil society organisations
 - Survey & Focus Groups

Work to Date & Work to be Done

- Steering group

- Islands information event
- Call for and invitation to participation
- Participation in Survey development/ pilot

Yet to do

- Circulate Survey to island communities
- Collection of Data
- Focus Groups
- Formulation of results

Conclusion

- So long as the availability of suitable housing on the West Cork islands remains an issue it is very hard to see how the habitability of these islands can improve.
- As an organisation we recognise the importance of working with outside partners in order to address issues such as island sustainability.
- It is very important to look at other islands and some of the methods which they have employed in promoting the habitability of their own islands.
- In moving forward, Comhar na nOileán will continue to work through SICAP and other organisations to improve the habitability of the West Cork Islands.

Phoebe Bright asked what definition of sustainable was used. Daithí O Briain answered that the definition is tied in with habitability. Máire Uí Mhaoláin added that environmental, social and economic aspects as well as the strength of the community are all vital to sustainability.

Cllr. Declan Hurley noted that infrastructure was not one of the areas on the habitability index and asked if it could be added. Ryan Howard agreed and Phoebe Bright commented that health is another important area that could be added to the index. Máire Uí Mhaoláin said that the seven areas on the index function as conversation starters and that issues such as infrastructure and health in addition to housing and education always come up in the group discussions. Daithí O Briain confirmed that the case study represents only a part of the work being undertaken in this sphere by Comhar na nOileán Teo.

Clodagh Henahan said that planning in local government adopts a cradle to grave approach within which health and education are very important. Cllr. Declan Hurley asked if the West Cork Interagency would be useful regarding this project. Clodagh Henahan answered that they would certainly be interested in the findings and conclusions of the project at which point it might help to inform the Interagency strategy and the LECP.

Cllr. Declan Hurley asked about progress on the government's new policy for the islands. Clodagh Henahan said that consultation with the islands has taken place. Máire Uí Mhaoláin added that the findings of the consultation have been included in *Our Rural Future*. She said that some islands missed out due to the pandemic and that Comhar na nOileán Teo are currently lobbying to have them included in the consultation.

Daithí O Briain confirmed that the project ends in April 2022.

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

Replacement of PPN Rep: Helen O’Sullivan

Additional nomination: Arran O’Driscoll put herself forward.

Both nominees proposed by Cllr. Declan Hurley and seconded by Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy.

4. 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 31st January – 31st July 2022. Arran O’Driscoll encouraged members to spread this information through their networks. The Chair, Cllr. Declan Hurley asked Arran O’Driscoll if she had information she could send to the members. Arran O’Driscoll said that she did and would do so through the Chief Officer.

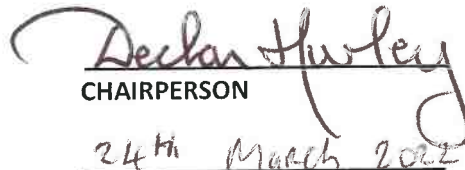
4. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 24th March 2021 at 3.30pm

Meeting Concluded

The Minutes were approved by the West Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Signed:


CHAIRPERSON

Dated:

24th March 2022

