

Minutes of

**South Cork Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
Council Chamber, County Hall & Via Microsoft Teams**

Date: 25th April 2024

Time: 10.00am.

Present:

Name	Organisation	Public / Private
Cllr. Michael Hegarty	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Cathal Rasmussen	Cork County Council	Public
Cllr. Marcia D'Alton	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Michael Lynch	Divisional Manager South Cork	Public
Mr. Sean O'Sullivan	Head of Leo South Cork	Public
Ms. Leighann Kennedy	Dept of Social Protection	Public
Mr. John Fitzgibbons	Cork ETB	Public
Ms. Ashley Amato	Cork Chamber	Private
Mr. Ryan Howard	SECAD Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Arran O'Driscoll	West Cork Development Partnership	Private
Mr. Jimmy Hosford	IFA	Private
Mr. Liam McCarthy	Cork County PPN	Private
Mr. Tom Howard	Cork County PPN	Private

Apologies:

Name	Organisation	Private / Public
Cllr. Seamus McGrath	Cork County Council	Public
Mr. Donal O'Liathain	Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Ms. Valerie Murphy	Avonduh Blackwater Partnership CLG	Private
Ms. Mary O'Leary	Environmental Pillar	Private
Mr. Brian Williams	Youth Work Ireland	Private
Vacant	Civic Society	Private

Staff in Attendance:

Ms. Kay Keegan	Chief Officer	Cork County Council
Mr. Andrew Lewis	Project Accountant	Cork County Council
Ms. Caroline Costello	Staff Officer	Cork County Council
Ms. Ita Kirwan	Staff Officer	Cork County Council

Quorum = 11 (50% of 19 rounded up + 1 = 11)
In attendance = 13 (7 Public : 6 Private)
Apologies = 6
Total membership = 19



Welcome and Introduction.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. It was noted that a quorum was in place and the meeting commenced.

1. Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous LCDC Meeting of 28th March 2024.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Tom Howard and seconded by Liam McCarthy.

Matters arising

None.

2. Presentation from Cumann na Daoine – Dr Maria Power.

The Chair introduced Dr Maria Power from Cumann na Daoine. Before commencing her presentation, the Chair acknowledged the exceptional work Cumann na Daoine do in Youghal and the surrounding areas. These areas are better because of their commitment and their work with social inclusion.

The Chief Officer also acknowledged the great work being done by Cumann na Daoine and provided some background information regarding funding. Cork County Council and the South Cork LCDC support Cumann na Daoine with funding coming both from CCC and from dormant accounts, Department Rural and Community Development (DRCD). This year they were allocated €142,200 which covers staff and the Blue & Green projects. Cork County Council South Cork LCDC provide funding of €12,500 for LGBTI activities via the DRCD. There is a specific officer for this role, and this covers both the South and West Cork areas.

Dr Maria Power thanked the Chair for the opportunity to present and proceeded to provide a very informative presentation to the Committee.

The Chair thanked Maria and again acknowledged the fabulous work being carried out and it is a credit to all involved adding that Cork County Council and the LCDC are happy to assist.

He had two questions – Maria had mentioned that there were Ukrainians in the Quality Hotel, were there IPAS refugees there also? And secondly, with the Coastal and Marine projects, were they liaising with UCC as they too were carrying out work in these areas?

Cllr. Marcia Dalton added that it was a humbling, impressive presentation and did not know the organisation in that detail. She asked how long they were in existence, how long it took to build to where they are now. She also queried how they link in with the Family Resource initiatives.

Dr Maria Power responded that Cumann na Daoine has been in existence for 27 years with much success and lots of challenges, it has been a journey. There have been many new ideas and lots of renewed energy over that time, with projects like Blue & Green coming out of a difficult time like Covid.



With regards to Family Supports, there is a Community Health Programme which works with families directly or through parenting groups. And Barnardos, who took over the after-school programme. Cumann na Daoine collaborate with both in delivering support to Ukrainians in community development and host a psychologist to provide psychological support. CETB provide English classes. Barnardos and Family Support provide other supports as well.

Ryan Howard congratulated Dr Power on the work of Cumann na Daoine and he thought every town should have a 'Cumann na Daoine'. He added that Dr Power is a powerful individual in her own right and often gives the recognition to others than take credit herself.

In addition, he commented that projects like this need a property, having own space is key.

The Chief Officer said that the DRCD are hugely impressed with Cumann na Daoine and do want to use it as a model. The Chief Officer confirmed that a member of her team, Lorraine Hogan is based in Youghal and liaises with CnD on an ongoing basis.

Dr Power added that they couldn't do the work on their own, they need other groups, agencies and the DRCD, who are all willing to back their work, it is totally a collaboration. And they also work with refugees from IPAS, answering the question from earlier.

The Chair concluded by again thanking Dr Power and all her team.


3. Any Other Business

None.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting is 23rd May 2024.

Meeting Concluded

Signed:	 CHAIRPERSON
Dated:	23 rd May 2024.

