



## **Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting held Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May, 2019 in Butler House, Patrick Street, Kilkenny.**

**Present:** Anne Corr, PPN Social Inclusion Pillar (Disability)- Chair  
John Bambrick, Irish Farmers Association  
Eileen Curtis, ETB  
Elizabeth Dermody, PPN Community Pillar  
Declan Gibbons, PPN Community Pillar  
John Hurley, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce  
Derval Howley, Associate Member  
Angela Hayes, Teac Tom  
Niall McManus, PPN Environmental Pillar  
Eileen Ryan, PPN Social Inclusion Pillar  
Colette Byrne CE Kilkenny County Council  
Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Elected Representative  
Mary Barron, Department of Social Protection  
Siobhan Kavanagh, Teagasc  
Sheila Donnelly, Family Resource Centre

**Apologies:** Denis Drennan, County Kilkenny Leader Partnership  
Fiona Deegan, Local Enterprise Office  
Michael Delahunty, Chief Officer.

**In Attendance:** Lindsey Butler and Cora Nolan Community.

### **1. Administrative**

#### *Apologies*

- Chair Anne Corr read out apologies from Fiona Deegan, Denis Drennan and Michael Delahunty.
- Congratulations were offered to Eileen Curtis on being appointed CEO of Kilkenny/Carlow ETB.
- Best wishes were sent to current Elected Members on the LCDC Committee, who are running in the Local Elections on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019.
- John Bambrick wished Mary Hilda Cavanagh good luck and complimented her on her great work and attendance at the LCDC meetings.

### **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minute of meeting held on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 were agreed.  
Proposed by Liz Dermody, Seconded by Derval Howley.

There were no matters arising or conflicts of interest declared.

### **3. Oversight and Implementation of the community element of the Local Economic and Community Plan including Local and Community Development Coordination and oversight.**

#### **Presentation from Breda Fell – South East Regional Family Support Network (SEFSN).**

Breda Fell explained what the SERFSN is: - It is an organisation of peer family support groups for families affected by problem substance use of a relative. It was set up in 2004.

The SEFSN offers listening and supports in a confidential and non judgemental way and provide information on local treatment and community services in the various areas. A family support group is a safe, confidential place for family members affected by substance abuse.

The family support service cannot work in isolation, everyone has a role to play and contact details were given if anyone wanted to learn more about the network.

Breda was thanked for her presentation and the committee complimented Breda and the SERFSN on the great work being done and a number of points were raised including the following:-

- Isolation
- Resources
- Education
- Awareness and mental health
- Drug related intimidation programme

### **4. Local and Community Development Coordination and oversight Community Enhancement Programme – announced**

Lindsey Butler advised that the CEP scheme has been announced and that the funding of €136,300 is the same as last year. Lindsey also proposed that we keep the scheme the same as last year with 2 strands being made available with a maximum of €10,000 for the medium and a maximum of €3,000 for small grants; this was agreed. As the closing date nationally is set at the 30<sup>th</sup> of May, 2019 it was agreed that the CEP subgroup meet and decide the allocation of the funding and inform the LCDC at the July meeting of the grant allocations.

### **5. Citizen Engagement and promotion of Social Inclusion**

**PPN Report** - Liz Dermody read out the report from the PPN and reported the following:-

- The first Plenary of 2019 took place in the Ormonde Hotel on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 2019. Over 86 members attended on the night.
- A new PPN Support Worker commenced employment with the PPN on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> of April - Ms. Karen McGrath.

- In connection with Biodiversity Week commencing Monday 6<sup>th</sup> of May, Kilkenny PPN are undertaking two climate action workshops.
- The Access for all Committee will host two training programmes for interested businesses and organisations who have registered.
- Preparations are currently being undertaken for the forthcoming PPN Election process which will take place after the Local Elections.

## **6. Items for Information and Information Sharing**

### **a) The LECP Mid-Term Review – DRCD Correspondence**

Correspondence received from the Department with regards a national review of LECPs that the Department is carrying out. With this in mind it was agreed to hold off on the 2019 Midyear review of the LECP until we hear from the DRCD about the on-going review of LECP's nationally. Lindsey Butler advised that a review on LCDC's is also ongoing.

### **b) The Big Hello Grants Allocated**

Declan Gibbons gave an update on the Big Hello. 27 grants were allocated to different community groups with events to take place over the May Bank Holiday weekend; grants of between €400-€200 were allocated.

### **c) Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2019.**

This scheme has been announced for 2019, with some of the economic aspect of the previous schemes being relaxed. This suits the needs of the county towns and villages in Kilkenny. The Community section is working with a number of towns/villages to develop high quality applications. The deadline for applications is the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.

### **d) Rural Regeneration Programme 2019**

The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund forms part of Project Ireland 2040, the Government has committed to providing an additional €1 billion for a new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund ("the Fund") over the period 2019 to 2027. The Fund was established to provide investment to support rural renewal, strengthen and build resilience in rural communities and assist in the regeneration of towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000, and outlying areas. The Fund is a key instrument in the delivery of Project Ireland 2040 and in particular to assist in achieving the National Strategic Outcomes, most particularly Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities

This second call for applications under the Fund in 2019 looks for Category 1 capital projects which are ready to commence at the date of application.

Kilkenny County Council has currently identified the communities of Piltown and Graiguenamanagh to develop applications under this call under category 1. The minimum funding is €500,000

## 7. Strategic Update/Issues – Kilkenny County Council

Colette Byrne Chief Executive Officer gave a presentation to the committee on strategic issues with Kilkenny County Council which included the following:-

- Update on Breagagh Valley Phase 1 Infrastructure Scheme €6.5m funding from LIHAF. Current proposals are for the construction of approx 800 new houses (up to 2021) and two new secondary schools, overall capacity for 3,200 houses.
- Abbey Quarter – Masterplan complete and lot of demolition work has taken place on the site. The Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF) application was successful in late 2018 with an allocation of €4.76m funding announced for spend in 2019. This funding has been secured for a number of public realm /park and supporting projects. These public realm works will be carried out in tandem with the Brewhouse & Mayfair Building Developments. Hoping to appoint contractors in the next 3-4 weeks to renovate the Brewhouse building for office use and for the creation of new Public Realm at the rear of the Brewhouse building.
- Evans Home - The construction of the new Butler Gallery is well underway at a cost of €6 million and hopes to be finished by the end of this year. Project managed by Simon Walton Senior Engineer. The tourism experience in the new facility is being developed in tandem, this visitor experience will be both internal and external, and will seek to tell the stories of the building and the Butler Gallery collection, relying on the archaeological and architectural evidence found on site, and interpreted in the Garden area.
- The Tholsel- The proposed development will see the civic function of the building, retained and enhanced, while greater public access to the building for locals and visitors alike will be facilitated with the introduction of a visitor exhibition. Universal access to the building will be provided with the introduction of a new stairs and lift - this will be a very significant addition to the building where currently there is no access for mobility impaired visitors. The proposed visitor exhibition will tell the history of Kilkenny through the Mayors of Kilkenny who have been based in the Town Hall building. It will also provide an opportunity to put on display the large collection of City Archives that are currently in storage. A lightweight glazed reception area will be provided in the inner porch area of the building to accommodate visitors to the building. Kilkenny County Council will now make an application to Fáilte Ireland for funding for the proposed development through the Grant Scheme for Large Tourism Projects.
- Woodstock - Woodstock Gardens are located in the Village of Inistioge on the banks of the River Nore in County Kilkenny. Since 1999 Kilkenny County Council has been undertaking an ambitious scheme of restoration to return to these gardens to their former glory. Features reconstructed or restored overtime include the walled garden, fountain, flower terraces, yew walk, rustic summer house (Knox's Bower), Turner Seat, Rockery, Monkey Puzzle and Noble Fir Avenues, and the circular Turner

Conservatory. Ideas are always welcome on how to improve and attract new people to the Gardens.

- Colette outlined the various funding schemes including, Town & Village Scheme, Rural Regeneration Development Fund, Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme, CLÁR, LIS, CIR, and the great work being done under the Health Checks and Town Plans in the villages of Callan, Thomastown and Inistioge.
- Also the challenges facing Kilkenny County Council was discussed: - Funding for Capital Projects/Infrastructure, Funding of day to day operations, Housing both Social and Private, Viability and vitality of High Street, Economic Development – Employment/Third Level Education and Climate Change.

Colette has thanked for her presentation and a short discussion took place following this presentation, the following was discussed:-

- Under the challenges facing Kilkenny County Council and the funding element, the public need to be more aware of where Kilkenny County Council gets their funding for these projects.
- The viability and vitality of High Street,
- Parking – Suggestion of free parking on a Sunday afternoon to get people into town.

**Date for the next meeting is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of July, 2019.**