



Public Participation Network Feedback Form: Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Meeting



PPN Community Representative: **Louise Lovett**

Date: **08.12.2015**

Meeting Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 29th September 2015.
2. Matters Arising from Minutes.
3. Local Economic Community Plan update.
4. Review of Business Incentive Scheme.
5. Update on Rural Development Programme.
6. Update on Regeneration Plan.
7. Tourism and Tidy Towns.
8. Grants/Payments/Contributions to Voluntary and Communities Organisations - Development of policy and procedures.
9. Date and time of next meeting.
10. A.O.B.

In Attendance: Pdraig Loughrey, Seamus Butler, Pat O'Toole, Colm Murray, Peggy Nolan, Ray Hogan, Louise Lovett, Michael Nevin, Barbara Heslin, Anne Lee

Apologies: Mona Considine

Absent: Presentations: Yes / No (details if Yes) [See Item below](#)

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
<u>Item 1</u> Confirmation of Minutes	Seamus Butler	Adopted subject to amendment below	

<p>Item 2</p> <p>Matters Arising from Minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louise Lovett Peggy Nolan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Tidy Towns Competition results. Louise Lovett requested that the minutes be amended to include the discussion that had taken place in relation to Rural Funding & Tidy Towns as follows:- <p><i>Colm Murray wondered if there was any way of supporting Tidy Towns committees financially.</i></p> <p><i>Louise Lovett suggested applying for some of the €30 million*package recently announced at to help revitalise rural communities worst hit by the recession. Referred to Colm Murray Chair of LCDC to follow up. Also agreed that elected members of ED&E committee would meet separately to ensure allocation included in County Budgeting process</i></p> <p><i>*The rural funding scheme will run for six years from 2016. Local authorities need to apply for the package, which will be overseen by the Local Community Development Committees.</i></p> <p>Peggy Nolan asked for a report in relation to follow up opportunities from a previous delegation to Mexico. Barbara Heslin undertook to follow up and provide an update at the next meeting or sooner if there is anything to report</p>	
<p>Item 3</p> <p>Local Economic Community Plan update</p>	<p>Michael Nevin</p>	<p><i>Update on the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan. (presentation from Louise Kiernan – has not been circulated to committee)</i></p> <p>Update from M. Nevin</p> <p>From the public Consultation there were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 online responses 3 written submissions <p>Longford currently have 9 high level goals whereas Westmeath have 3. There may be opportunities to consolidate some of the 9 goals as the specifics of the plan are worked through</p>	

<p>Item 4</p> <p>Review of Business Incentive Scheme</p>	<p>Michal Nevin</p>	<p>Not much uptake and some applications invalid. Need to clarify qualifying rules and particularly criteria in relation to non-displacement of existing businesses</p>	
<p>Item 5</p> <p>Update on Rural Development Programme. Update on Regeneration Plan.</p>	<p>Kieran Murphy</p>	<p>Draft Strategy prepared by implementing body LCRL. Heads of Agreement not between LCRL and LCDC not yet signed – clarification required on a number of points. Colm Murray Chair LCDC informed meeting that Longford were broadly in line with other counties in terms of timeline for submission or plans to the department.</p>	
<p>Item 6</p> <p>Update on Regeneration Plan.</p>	<p>Claire Bannon Regeneration Officer</p>	<p>The meeting was provided with an update on progress to date. The update focused on the Economic elements only for this meeting but the regeneration will also have Social and Physical pillars.</p> <p>Key theme of plans is to have a change agenda for Longford to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing an Economic Forum to drive marketing as has happened in Limerick, Meath & Louth where prominent business people come on board to provide the forum with the benefit of their expertise. • Regeneration of Connolly Barracks – Flagship transformation project with a focus on Tourism, Retail, and Food & Drink etc. • Plans will be aligned to other plans i.e. LECP, Corporate plan etc. 	
<p>Item 7</p> <p>Tourism and Tidy Towns.</p>	<p>Michal Nevin</p>	<p>Plan for 2015/2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop infrastructure around Midland Trails • Develop series of Integrated canal loops, Westmeath to Abbeyshrule and possibly on to Clondra • Enhance BlueWay Trail – Activity Maps – signage – supported by Water Ways Ireland 	
<p>Item 8</p> <p>Grants/Payments/Contributions to Voluntary and Communities</p>	<p>Seamus Butler</p>	<p>County Council wish to implement a standardised procedure and criteria for the application for and dispersal of small grants which hereto fore had been awarded on the adhoc basis of people writing a letter and having their request approved or denied without any supporting criteria.</p>	

Organisations - Development of policy and procedures.		<p>In the interest of Fairness, constancy and transparency there will be standard application forms which will require regular funding details such as bank account details, group objectives etc.</p> <p>Applications will be assessed centrally by the county council against the agreed criteria and grants will be dispersed by each municipal district council</p>	
<p>Item 9 Date and time of next meeting. A.O.B.</p>		February 2 nd @15:30	