



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



PPN Community Representative: **Louise Lovett**

Date: **18.10.2016**

Meeting Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19th September, 2016
2. Matters Arising from Minutes
3. Presentation by Lorraine Danaher, Midlands Regional Skills Manager
4. Redz/Clar Funding
5. UESFE Showcase Event
6. Center Parcs Enterprise Days
7. Launch of new Corporate Logo
8. Strategy for marketing of County Longford
9. Company Closure
10. Update Rates Incentive Scheme
11. A.O.B.

Present: Seamus Butler, Ray Hogan, Louise Lovett, Peggy Nolan, Pat O'Toole

Apologies: Fintan McGill

Absent: Colm Murray, Pauric Loughrey, Mona Considine

In Attendance: Barbara Heslin, Michael Nevin, Terry Rooney, Anne Lee

Presentations: ~~Yes / No~~ (details if Yes) **Yes Item 3 – Presentation attached**

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
1. Confirmation of Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 19th September 2016.	Proposed Peggy Nolan seconded – Barbara Heslin		
2. Matters Arising from Minutes	S. Butler	S. Butler requested that as part of the signage renewal project to indicate walking and cycling trails/facilities be placed at bypass town entries	
3. Presentation by Regional Skills Manager	Lorraine Danaher	<p>Presentation attached. Role of Regional Skills Manager is to link Industry Sectors with skilled workers and/or those skilling up in regional & local training and education establishments</p> <p>SB raised the issue of SME's being unable to release employees for upskilling. Solutions now being offered include evening courses and trainers going in to businesses to train staff.</p> <p>LL. Raised the issue of travelling from Longford and the need for more training to be provided locally. Referred to LWL's Childcare Level 8 in collaboration with Carlow IT and said it was a pity that this outreach could not have been provided by the Regional IT</p> <p>AIT is currently hosting the Regional Skills Manager and she indicated that were responses were patchy in the past AIT were becoming more responsive to local and regional needs</p> <p>Regional Skills Manager was invited to return in Spring to give an update on progress in the region</p>	
4. Redz/Clar Funding	Barbara Heslin	<p>Closing Date for Clar funding 04/11/16 – Team in Co. Co. working on a submission to upgrade playgrounds in the County</p> <p>Closing date for small to medium Redz projects is also 04/11/16 and Longford Co. Co. is currently working on submissions.</p>	

		<p>Redz Flagship projects closing date has been extended to 14/11/16 as these projects are at regional level. Longford Co. Co. is liaising with Westmeath, Leitrim and Roscommon to see if there are projects that can be collaborated on.</p> <p>Redz and Clar funding have to be spent within on year</p> <p>No update on Village Renewal due to the significant number of applications received . The department looked for up to 8 projects from each L.A. BH was concerned that given it is now almost the end of October and there is a requirement to have any funding spent by year end. She expressed a hope that a sensible approach would be taken with a deadline extension once projects have been selected and communicated to the L.A.s involved</p>	
<p>5. UESFE Showcase Event</p>	<p>Michael Nevin</p>	<p>The meeting was advised that a significant Showcase Event was being planned for Croke Park on November 3rd next from 05:00pm to 08:00pm under the UESFE banner, when the four counties, Longford, Leitrim, Roscommon and Cavan would try to connect with their Dublin Diaspora and present the Region as a dynamic and forward looking region.</p> <p>Longford is attempting to invite as many Dublin based Longford people including business people in senior management roles who may be interested in getting involved in the Diaspora Forum Advisory Forum.</p> <p>Abbott, Regional Tool & Plastic, Centre Parcs, finesse Medical and the new company which is taking over the vacant Burlington plant will be among those taking stands.</p> <p>It was Dublin Longford Association had been contacted.</p> <p>Anyone who has Longford contacts who you think would be interested in being invited to this event should contact Michael Nevin at the Leo Office with a view to passing on details</p>	

6. Center Parcs Enterprise Days	Michael Nevin	<p>The <i>Center Parcs holding Enterprise Information Days</i> will be attended by representatives of the senior management team who will make presentations on both topics each day:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Procurement – what types of goods and services the village will require when operational and the opportunities this will create for both local and regional businesses. 2. Recruitment – what skills and training requirements Center Parcs is seeking from prospective employees and when and how the recruitment process will operate ahead of the 2019 opening <p><u>Day 1: Longford Enterprise Information Day</u></p> <p>Date: Tuesday, 25th October 2016 Time: 1.00pm – 3.00pm (presentation followed by Q&A) Location: Longford Arms Hotel, County Longford</p> <p><u>Day 2: Westmeath Enterprise Information Day</u></p> <p>Date: Wednesday, 26th October 2016 Time: 10.00am – 12.00noon (presentation followed by Q&A) Location: Radisson Blu, Athlone, County Westmeath</p> <p>Who: Mr. Raj Singh-Dehal, HR & Commercial Services Director, Center Parcs Mrs. Margaret Mitchell, Head of HR, Center Parcs Mr. Martyn Smith, Head of Procurement, Center Parcs Mr. Chris Ruston, Project Director for Center Parcs Longford Forest</p>	
7. Launch of new Corporate Logo	Barbara Heslin	<p>New Logo Unanimously approved by elected members. Launch planned for January following January Co. Co meeting in conjunction with launch of new website. Members of this committee to be invited.</p>	
8. Strategy for marketing of County Longford	Michael Nevin	<p>In formulation stage – for 2017. Remain as an agenda item.</p>	

<u>9. Company Closure</u>	Michael Nevin	<p>Chamber organised and information day for affected employees on Sat Oct 15th which was attended by all the relevant agencies and about 70 workers. It was well received.</p> <p>Agencies meeting on November 1st to formulate a strategy to ease the burden for impacted workers.</p> <p>SB: stressed the urgency of establishing what the previous companies intentions are for the vacated buildings as there could be potential to have an Advance Factory ready for inward investment.</p>	
<u>10. Update of Rates Incentive Scheme</u>	Michael Nevin	<p>14 applications approved 10 applications refused 5 pending and 1 under appeal</p>	
<u>11. AOB</u>			
<u>Next Meeting</u>		Tuesday January 31 st at 15:30	