



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



PPN Community Representative: **Louise Lovett**

Date: **19.04.2016**

Meeting Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 2nd February 2016.
2. Matters Arising from Minutes.
3. Meeting with the IDA Business Development Manager for the Region
4. Longford County Council – Community Grant Support Scheme 2016. Draft Community Support Scheme Application Form and Submission received from Ms. Louise Lovett
5. Consideration of Rebranding and Logo for County Longford
6. Local Economic Plan Update
7. Update on Rural Development Programme
8. Regeneration Update
9. Consideration of establishment of an Economic Forum, to include expatriates
10. Connect Ireland Promotional Video
11. Tourism Strategy Update
12. A.O.B.

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

Apologies: Pauric Loughrey, Fintan McGill, Colm Murray

Absent:

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

Presentations: ~~Yes~~ / No (details if Yes) [Item 10](#)

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
1. Confirmation of Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 2nd February 2016.	Proposed P. Nolan seconded L. Lovett		
2. Matters Arising from Minutes	M. Nevin	The members were informed that the new Tidy Towns Signs, incorporating Longford's success in the 2015 IBAL Awards, are currently being prepared for installation.	
3. Meeting with the IDA Business Development Manager for the Region	All.	<p>Meeting attended by Mr. Paul Veale, Manager Midlands Regional Business Development and Ms. Brid Somers, Regional Development Executive, IDA who gave an overview of ongoing interventions in the Midlands with a view to bringing jobs to Longford</p> <p>When queried re the lack of progress to date by several of the members Mr. Veal said that when bringing Inward Foreign Investment to an area companies look for 3 things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scalable Population • Proximity to a University • Proximity to an Airport <p>After much discussion he summarised by saying that Longford having none of the above other than the potential to build on Abbott's recent success of achieving the industry Shingo award and currently employing circa 50 PHD's that as a community we need to look at and build on what we had.</p> <p>When questioned about Government's Centralisation policy and the difficulty to plan by looking at what exists in an area, when a lot of it is being taken away by regional mergers e.g. ETB a synopsis of Mr. Veal's response was that his role was to bring jobs to the 'Midlands Region' and he did not look to influence or link in</p>	

		<p>with other government strategies in pursuit of this Goal</p> <p>He said there were 650 IDA supported jobs currently in Longford a lot more than in other areas</p> <p>He did not deal with individual businesses when looking at possibilities or expertise on the ground – his main source of information was through the local Chambers of Commerce</p> <p>Generally my sense of this discussion was that Longford cannot rely on large input to job creation from the IDA and most of their concentration will be in Athlone.</p> <p>On a separate note B. Heslin informed P. Nolan that Mr. Veale was following up on the Mexican Prospect (discussed at previous SPC meetings) with his contacts in the US</p>	
<p>4. Longford County Council – Community Grant Support Scheme 2016. Draft Community Support Scheme Application From and Submission received from Ms. Louise Lovett</p>	<p>Ciaran Murphy</p>	<p>C. Murphy outlined the details of the updated Draft Community Support Scheme and submission received from L. Lovett which proposed a number of amendments/proposals</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed to approve the Draft Community Grant Support Scheme 2016, as amended, to go forward for consideration and adoption by Longford County Council at May Monthly meeting.</p> <p>As proposed by B. Heslin it was agreed that the Town Team Project , brought forward by R. Hogan be referred to the Environmental SPC.</p>	
<p>5. Consideration of Rebranding and Logo for County Longford</p>	<p>Barbara Heslin</p>	<p>It was agreed to continue with the research being carried out by the executive in relation to creating a Brand and the development of a new Logo for County Longford as the old one is considered antiquated and not readily recognised as associated with Longford</p>	
<p>6. Local Economic Plan Update</p>	<p>Ciaran Murphy</p>	<p>Ciaran Murphy informed the committee that the Draft LECP was on Public Display until the 11th April. Additional comments received would be considered before the LECP is submitted to the Regional Assembly for formal review at the end of April.</p> <p>L. Lovett asked a question in relation to the target time periods for the achievement of Goals, the majority of which are ranges between 2016 to 2020 and 2022 in some cases. She said that she now raised this a number of times and also</p>	

		<p>raised the issue of the wording of the vision which read like a series of Action Statements. She had again made a written submission on this and wondered where this was at. She also pointed out that at a recent Pobal LCDC briefing on the LEP, Pobal were clearly saying that the LEP must be supported by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Monitoring & Reviewing • Annual Work Plan & Road map • Annual report on progress against targets • Facility to revise plan as landscape changes <p>M. Nevin agreed that they would look at reducing the target timeframes i.e. what would be targeted to be achieved in 2016 and C. Murphy said that the Vision would be reviewed along with the public submissions</p>	
<p>7. Update on Rural Development Programme 8. Regeneration Update 9. Consideration of establishment of an Economic Forum, to include expatriates 10. Connect Ireland Promotional Video 11. Tourism Strategy Update</p>		<p>Apologies as the meeting ran on I had to leave before any of the remaining items were discussed.</p>	
<u>Next Meeting</u>		Monday 30 th May	
<u>AOB</u>			