



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



PPN Community Representative: **Louise Lovett**

Date: **29.09.2015**

Meeting Agenda

1. Confirmation of Minutes of Economic Development and Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2015
2. Matters Arising from Minutes
3. Update on the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan
4. Update on the Rural Development Plan
5. Update on the Regeneration Programme
6. Update on the Draft Occupation of Vacant Commercial Premises Incentive Scheme
7. Enhancement of signage for Business Parks in the county
8. Notice of Motion referred from meeting of Longford Municipal District Committee held on the 25th March 2015
9. A.O.B.

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

Apologies:

Absent: Pauric Loughrey, Fintan McGill Mona Considine, Ciaran Murphy

Presentations: **Yes / No** (details if Yes) [See Item 3 below](#)

Agenda item	Member	Discussion	Actions / Who
<u>Item 1</u>	Seamus Butler	<i>No discussion</i>	

<p>Item 2</p>	<p>Seamus Butler</p>	<p><i>No Matters Arising</i></p> <p><i>General Discussion Re: Tidy Towns – Michael Butler congratulated Longford Town and the volunteer effort on achieving 298 points and a bronze award. He asked that the item be kept on the Agenda going forward.</i></p> <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>Item 3</p>	<p>Michael Nevin</p>	<p><i>Update on the preparation of the Local Economic Community Plan. (presentation from Louise Kiernan as well as draft socio economic statement attached)</i></p> <p><i>Following presentation ED&E Committee were asked to approve Draft Plan in order that it could then go to Public Consultation for four weeks.</i></p> <p><i>Louise Lovett queried the fact that no changes had been made to either the Vision or the High Level Goals as these had only been agreed at the LCDC meeting held on 15/09/15 subject to the following amendments</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Wording of Vision to change from reading as a Goal rather than a Vision</i> <i>• Measurable Targets to be added to the high level goals as per EU Target 2020 and Irish National Government Reform Programme e.g. how do you measure the Employment goal ‘To increase the level and quality of employment and income across all sectors of society’ if there is no target.</i> <p><i>There was significant discussion around this and it was agreed that as the plan is still draft that when targets are set at the lower levels these would be aggregated up to the high level goals in the final plan.</i></p> <p><i>In respect of the Outputs for Goal 1 Seamus Butler requested that the word ‘locally’ be added to the Output ‘Training places delivered’</i></p>	

		<p><i>Seamus Butler also queried the stated threat in the SWOT analysis ‘High Crime Rate’ – asking if this was perception rather than reality. Michael Nevin said the analysis was run by the Superintendent who was happy that the threat be phrased as such.</i></p> <p><i>Government timeline for finalisation of LECP is December 2015 but Michael Nevin said it would be quarter 1 2016 before this would be done</i></p> <p><i>Seamus Butler asked that the Public Consultation process would be in plain English and explain the process in order to achieve real public participation</i></p> <p>Longford County Council are now inviting the public to give their feedback on the Socio-Economic Statement and associated High Level Goals as this document will guide how we develop the LECP and agree subsequent actions.</p> <p>Submissions can be made on or before 4 pm, Wednesday 11th November, 2015 as follows:-</p> <p>Online Submission: by completing this short online survey.</p> <p>By Email to: lcdc@longfordcoco.ie</p> <p>In writing to: Longford Local Economic and Community Plan, Director of Community and Enterprise, Longford County Council, Aras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford.</p> <p>Any submissions previously submitted or views already gathered as part of the consultation process will be considered in the development of the LECP.</p>	
<u>Item 4</u>	Michal Nevin	<p>Update on the Rural Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Operating Procedures still being development by Government</i> • <i>Memo of Understanding being finalised between Longford LCDC (the lag – local action group) and LCRL the implementation body</i> • <i>No consensus yet as to who will be on the evaluation committee prior to projects going forward to the LCRL Board and LCDC</i> 	

Item 5	Michal Nevin	<p>Update on the Regeneration Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>€150k grant funding received from Dept of Environment towards development of Connolly Barracks</i> • <i>Two applications submitted to REDS (Rural Economic Development Zone) programme a.) To install a pedestrian walk way into the Mall and b.) To further develop the Canal Walks</i> • <i>Also plan to develop vacant lot opposite Council Offices into a green recreational area</i> 	
Item 6	Michal Nevin	<p>Update on the Draft Occupation of Vacant Commercial Premises Incentive Scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Not much progress</i> • <i>Low level of Start Up Business</i> • <i>Overhang of debt impinging some initiatives</i> 	
Item 7	Michal Nevin	<p>Enhancement of signage for Business Parks in the county</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Work in Progress for Longford Business & Technology Park. 50% matched funding required</i> 	
Item 8	Seamus Butler	<p><i>Notice of Motion referred from meeting of Longford Municipal District Committee held on the 25th March 2015 – raised by Councillor Gerry Warnock at that meeting as follows</i></p> <p>In addition to the existing efforts to tackle the vacancy issue in Longford Town, I propose that Longford County Council provide a Pop-Up Shop Initiative that makes use of empty commercial property in the Town Centre to offer temporary low-cost space for community benefit, social enterprise and local business entrepreneurs. Such an initiative is an opportunity to try out new retail or exhibition space that offers economic and social benefits to the area with the main aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the visual impact of vacant property in the Town Centre • Increase footfall and attract new visitors to the Town Centre by providing a range of exciting business activities and exhibitions • Generate positive publicity for Longford Town Centre 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer reduced cost space for community organisations, social enterprise and entrepreneurs to try out new ideas and reach new audiences • Allow property owners to showcase empty properties to potential tenants to help them re-let.” <p><i>As neither this ED&E committee or the County Council have any remit in this areas this is a ‘Commercial’ issue it was agreed to revert to the Longford Municipal District Committee stating same but also endorsing any initiative within ED&E control that would support retail activity in Longford town centre.</i></p> <p><i>Seamus Butler confirmed that a Christmas Market is planned for the Army Barracks</i></p>	
<u>Item 9 A.O.B</u>		<i>Councillor Peggy Nolan requested an update on any progress/initiatives in attracting jobs to Longford as a result of the Mexico trip – County Council to revert</i>	
<u>Next Meeting</u>		<i>Tuesday December 8th @ 15:30</i>	