



## Submission LCDC Review 15.12.17

County Longford Public Participation Network welcomes this review of the Local Community Development Committee

We believe that the people affected by decisions should be part of the decision-making process and the LCDC like the PPN is a crucial means in facilitating that. In County Longford's LCDC there are five PPN Representatives, all voluntary people who are extremely committed to overseeing its programmes and monitoring the LECP. We recognise the importance of the interagency approach to community development in the county.

To ensure the success of the LCDC and for it to continue to work effectively we need to review the LCDC mission;

- Coordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development
- Driving meaningful citizen and community engagement in the scoping, planning and evaluation of local and community development programmes
- Focusing on learning and feedback, enhancing the links between services delivery and policy development;
- Focussing on social inclusion and sustainable development

### **Equality and Training:**

We feel the LCDC review must look at the imbalances between the different groupings that make up the LCDC committee and seek to address these to increase attendance, participation and efficiency. All meetings are during the day which means that some of our PPN Reps must take time off/leave from their own jobs to attend. Training for all members is a must especially for new rep's who will be elected in the future. All groupings of the LCDC must have a clear understanding of their role on the LCDC and respect that all committee members are equal and have the right to contribute.

### **Reporting and Deadlines**

The LCDC review should also look at progress reporting in relation to the LECP actions and other county strategies. A lot of the LCDC meetings are focussed on operational details especially LEADER and SICAP. Deadlines are often extremely tight and do not allow enough time to read, evaluate and respond effectively. Department deadlines are also very tight leaving little time for real engagement and participation at local government level which is the fundamental objective of the PPN.

### **SICAP and LEADER**

The review should assess administrative matters relating to SICAP and LEADER while also looking at the administrative requirements set by the Department and Pobal. The review needs to investigate the real scope of the LCDC to change elements of SICAP and LEADER to meet local needs in a timely manner.

We also note at times a tension between the administrative partner for SICAP and LEADER and other LCDC members. This aspect must be explored in the review process.

## **LECP**

As developing, monitoring and revising the LECP to meet our community needs is the main aim of the LCDC, real impacts and outcomes need to be analysed, measured and reported on. This needs to be a priority but is sometimes over looked. The PPN progress reporting at Longford LCDC meetings was highlighted as a model of best practise for all stakeholders to use progress and outcomes can clearly be seen. The review need to look at ways of producing data both quantitative and qualitative.

## **Conclusion**

County Longford PPN welcomes the review of the LCDCs and recommends that it incorporates the issues above. We would also welcome an opportunity to meet with you to discuss further.