

**Minutes of South Tipperary County Development Board Meeting held in  
Fire Service Training Centre, Heywood Road, Clonmel  
on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2010.**

**Present:**

**Members:-**

**Local Government**

Cllr. Liam Ahearn  
Cllr. Michael Murphy  
Cllr. Jack Crowe  
Cllr. Denis Landy  
Cllr PJ Quinlan  
Cllr Joe Donovan

**Local Development  
Sector**

Ms. Maureen McNamara  
Mr. Toss Hayes

**State Agency Sector**

Mr. Donal Mullane  
Mr. Ciaran Lynch  
Chief Supt Catherine Kehoe

**Social Partners**

Sr. Patricia Wall

**Apologies Received**

Clodagh Whelan  
Fionuala McGeever  
Cllr Joe Brennan  
Margaret Lovatt  
John Devane

**In Attendance**

Mr. Edmond O'Connor  
Ms. Sinead Carr  
Mr. Pat Holland  
Ms. Cliona Tobin  
Mr. Anthony Fitzgerald  
Ms. Ann Ryan  
Ms. Eileen Horgan  
Mr. Mark Ryan

Ms. Mairead English Maher  
Ms. Nuala Hickey  
Mr. Bill Thorne

Cllr. Liam Ahearn chaired the meeting.

**1. Approval of Draft Agenda**

The draft agenda was agreed and the Minutes of County Development Board meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2010 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Michael Murphy, seconded by Maureen McNamara.

**2. Director of Services Report**

S. Carr, Director of Services outlined her Director's report as circulated in advance and noted some specific items including:

- A Social Inclusion Week will take place from 17-22 October with events through the county during the week. Those interested to contact Mark Ryan in C&E who is co-coordinating the event.

- Kathleen Finn, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer has commenced work aimed at increasing physical activity opportunities for people with disabilities. Kathleen is contactable through the South Tipperary Sports Partnership
- Margo Hayes, RAPID co-coordinator, Carrick-on-Suir was on maternity leave and while C+E would do its best to cover as much as possible, the level of service will be affected
- Bernard Lennon was the new chair of the Community and Voluntary Forum
- A protocol for Community and Voluntary members sitting on various committees was to be agreed and would return to the LA21 PMG

*Matters Arising:* Maureen McNamara noted that St. Peter and Paul's Catholic church was to invite sports groups to a special mass and requested if the STSP could assist in promoting this event in any way.

### **3. County Data Unit**

Mr. Bill Thorn, Exodea Europe, outlined progress on the County Data Unit project (report already circulated). The main objective was to be much smarter with our data and to look at the connections and implications of same. Current issues included: possible methods of presenting data in graphical form, storage of the data by the Council, security of and access to data. The current themes were to be Enterprise and Training/Education. Protocols re a sharing initiative and fair use were to be agreed. The project is being advised by a Technical Group and reports to a Steering Group, itself reporting to the CDB.

*Matters arising:* Cllr Michael Murphy enquired as to whether time lines were being met. Bill Thorn reported that they were being broadly met and it was hoped to have results on Enterprise and Training/Education by November with a demonstration presentation on these topics. The second year would see the unit beginning to tackle more contentious issues

### **4. 'Strengthening Families Project'**

Mark Ryan gave an introduction to this project (detailed document already circulated). It was a programme of basic life coping skills with a mix of referred and non-referred clients with a budget from the family support programme. South Tipperary was aiming at a low cost model using existing community facilities. Front line staff of those agencies who attended the information event were supportive of the proposal. The project was being referred to the CDB for information and for a commitment in principle to explore it further with a view to rolling it out in South Tipperary. Sinead Carr, Director of Service, noted the requirement for staff time from the relevant agencies in a joined-up approach to a complex and constant issue. She requested the support of the CDB to agree in principle to the steering group continuing its work in this area.

*Principle Agreed.* Proposed by Cllr. Jack Crowe, Seconded by Cllr. Michael Murphy.

## 5. Food Producers

Mairead English Maher CEB and Nuala Hickey (Tipperary Food Network) gave a short presentation on the work of the Tipperary Food Producers, their strategic plan and requested that the CDB would give consideration to the adoption of their Strategic Plan (and the relevant players assist in its implementation). Their vision is for a basket of artisan foods being marketed under the Tipperary brand name. Their aims are to

1. have increased economic activity for themselves
2. deliver Tipperary as an iconic brand
3. maximize food production resources in the region
4. deliver Tipperary as green sustainable economy
5. develop a good centre of excellence in Tipperary

### *Matters arising:*

The network was congratulated on their work to date. It was noted that they were working with Transition Year students. It was also suggested that food and tourism should be sold together and it was noted that the chairperson of the food network, Pat Whelan was on the Tourism Board. Cllr M. Murphy asked if collective buying power was being used and Nora. Hickey stated it was being taken into consideration. The long table event this year would involve several local restaurants and would take place on the 28<sup>th</sup> August.

*The CDB approved the Food Networks Strategic Plan.*

Proposed by Maureen McNamara and seconded Cllr P. J. Quinlan.

## 6. Updates

Updates on 2009 Indicators (Social, Tourism, Economic and LA21) were presented (as circulated) as were updates on other topics

### Matters Arising/Comments

- a. The collection of data was a challenge but hopefully annual repetition would make it easier. Some indices, such as the Elderly at risk had changed.
- b. There was some public concern regarding the inspection programme of nursing homes
- c. HSE budget cuts should not be directed at children in care funds. There were some 160 such in the county and some 800 on the social worker books in the county. There was now a swing back towards social care as distinct from fosterage in general.
- d. Migrant worker numbers were an estimate based on a national figure.
- e. The investment in tourism infrastructure omitted personal/private investment.
- f. Cllr Jack Crowe noted that there seemed to be a general trend for tourists to proceed from Dublin to the west coast and the Tourism Company was looking at this issue.

- g. There would be a race night in Limerick Junction on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June to raise funds for the Tourism company and all support would be welcome
- h. The brown trout fishing facility in Cahir had been opened and both Paul Mulcahy, Area Engineer and Eileen Horgan CEAO were commended for their role in this project.
- i. Copies of the annual report would be posted out to members.
- j. The draft Regional Planning Guidelines were now out for consultation and the CDB submission had been made.
- k. A new two year contract had been offered to the Heritage Officer
- l. The CDB executive would meet on the 24<sup>th</sup> to consider a proposed strategy day.
- m. Three Economic Initiatives were to be launched on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June by Minister Batt O'Keefe and all CDB members were invited to attend.
- n. Tipperary Institute: Ciaran Lynch indicated that a document agreed between the governing bodies of TI and LIT was to be considered by Cabinet and in the meanwhile local discussions were taking place between various parts of the two institutions re changes.

*A motion of support for the amalgamation was proposed by Cllr Jack Crowe, seconded by Cllr Joe. Donovan and was agreed by the full Board. It was agreed that the CDB would indicate its support for this process in writing to the Minister for Education.*

- o. Chief Super. Kathleen Kehoe reported on a very successful consultation meeting re the Crime and Safety Strategy. It was hoped to have a draft of the consultation results for the next JPC meeting.
- p. Traveller Interagency Plan: Ann Ryan reported that funds were available to employ an officer in relation to the engagement of travellers in enterprise projects. While the project term was short and somewhat rushed, it was hoped that there would be benefit in terms of funding for successive years. It was also hoped that a high-level interagency committee would be formed at central level and SIM had written to seek this and to state the need for long term funding.
- q. Railways: Pat Holland indicated that a consultation call had gone out with many replies in already. The viability of the Limerick-Waterford line was in doubt and the Regional Authority had commissioned a report on it. The CDB members indicated their full support for the retention and upgrade of services on this line

## **7. AOB -**

The County Manager raised the issue of the hospital services in STGH and the proposed reconfiguration process. Commitments had been given to other hospitals re: their services and it was vital that the CDB, as the forum which captured all stakeholders in the community (from state sector, development sector, business pillar, social pillar and community pillar), illustrate their full support for the retention of services in STGH and their opposition to any move to downgrade or remove services. The CDB members fully supported this view and it was agreed that once the draft report was published, the Chair and

Director of the CDB would have the authority to prepare a response on their behalf.

Resignations: Jarlath Fallon Dept. of Education and Science had resigned due to new work commitments and Mary O Halloran had retired. The Chairman expressed his fulsome appreciation for their work and commitment to South Tipperary over the years and wished them every success. It was agreed that letters of appreciation and thanks would be sent to both.

The Chairman, on behalf of the CDB expressed his deepest sympathy to Kathleen Prendergast on the death of her mother, Margaret Prendergast, and the CDB stood in silent prayer as a measure of respect. Ar Dheis De go raibh a anam.

**Date of next meeting: 10.00 a.m. on 24<sup>th</sup> September at Clonmel Park Hotel**

Signed/ \_\_\_\_\_

Dated/ \_\_\_\_\_