

Draft Minutes of South Tipperary County Development Board Meeting
held in the Fire Training Centre, Heywood Road,
Clonmel on 2nd March, 2010.

Present:

Members:-

Local Government

Cllr. Liam Ahearne
Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien
Cllr. Michael Murphy
Cllr. Jack Crowe
Cllr. Siobhan Ambrose
Cllr. PJ Quinlan
Cllr. Joe Brennan

**Local Development
Sector**

Mr. John Devane
Ms. Maureen Mc Namara
Mr. Toss Hayes

State Agency Sector

Ms. Clodagh Whelan
Mr. Donal Mullane
Ms. Fionuala Mc Geever
Mr. Jarlath Fallon
Ms. Mary O'Halloran
Mr. Seamus Moore

Social Partners

Sr. Patricia Wall
Mr. Martin Quinn

Apologies Received

Mr. Edmond O'Connor
Cllr. Denis Landy
Cllr. Joe Donovan
Mr. Ciaran Lynch
Chief Supt. Catherine Kehoe
Ms. Margaret Lovatt
Ms. Olive Fogarty
Ms. Siobhan Mc Evoy
Mr. Kevin Collins
Mr. JJ Killian
Ms. Kathleen Prendergast

In Attendance

Ms. Sinéad Carr
Mr. Pat Holland
Ms. Eileen Horgan
Ms. Breda O'Connor
Ms. Ann Ryan
Mr. Gerry Hickey
Ms. Marian O'Neill
Mr. Jim Spillane
Ms. Jackie Tejada ni
Fhodaraigh
Mr. Anthony Fitzgerald

1. Approval of Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was proposed by Cllr. Michael Murphy and seconded by Fionuala Mc Geever.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of County Development Board meeting held on 1st December, 2009 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien and seconded by Maureen Mc Namara.

3. Report of the Director of Services

Sinéad Carr, Director of Services briefly outlined the issues addressed in the Director's Report.

4. Presentation by Comhairle na nÓg

Jim Spillane and Jackie Tejada ni Fhodartaigh, Comhairle na nÓg delegates, circulated a report and gave a presentation to the Members on role and functions of South Tipperary Comhairle na nÓg . They outlined their activities to date and highlighted their actions for 2010. They informed members that they were in process of developing a DVD on Comhairle na nÓg and that they would circulate it to members shortly. Sinéad Carr, Director of Services urged all the agencies to liaise with the Comhairle na nÓg process to consult on policies affecting youth in the county. S. Carr thanked the delegates on their excellent presentation and thanked the Comhairle for their positive input into the Teenspace Strategy and their support to the County Development Board over the last two years.

The Chairman also complimented the delegates on their presentation.

5. South Tipperary County Childcare Committee

Gerry Hickey, Manager, South Tipperary County Childcare Committee in his presentation outlined to the members the overall objectives; to enhance quality childcare and provide support and advisory services together with training for childcare workers, child minders and childcare providers in South Tipperary. South Tipperary County Childcare Committee has developed strong links with the various training agencies (VEC, FÁS and the County Enterprise Board, HSE) in rolling out the various training programmes and workshops in the county. Mr. Hickey outlined the number of childcare services and places in the county and details on the funding streams available.

In 2009 South Tipperary County Childcare was successful in rolling out the ECCE (free pre-school year) Scheme. STCC are currently working on a survey in collating data on the number of childcare places required for 2011. STCC in 2010 is committed to implementing actions set out in their Strategic Action Plan 2007-2010, relevant to 2010 programme and sustaining services, administering ECCE & CCSS Scheme and rolling out the higher level training and the child protection training.

The Chairman thanked Gerry Hickey for his comprehensive presentation.

6. Enterprise Web-Site

Marion O'Neill, Head of IS, South Tipperary County Council made a presentation to the members on the concept of developing the www.southtipperary.ie portal. The site was designed by an in-house group from South Tipperary County Council and the overall objective of developing the site was to attract employees and to promote the excellent quality of life in South Tipperary.

Marion O'Neill gave an overview of the key areas on the web-site which includes information on industry, tourism, community, living, heritage, sports. The main purpose of the site is to market and continue promoting South Tipperary online.

Ms. O'Neill welcomes inputs from the CDB Members to keep this promotional tool for South Tipperary up to date and she informed the members that this web-site together with South Tipperary Innovation Strategy will be launched by the Minister for Trade & Enterprise in the next few weeks.

The Chairman thanked Marion O'Neill for the presentation and complimented all involved in the development of the site.

7. **Cultural Programme Management Group Update**

Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien, Chair CPMG informed the Board Members that following the CDB's *Second Review of the Strategy*, completed in early 2009, the CPMG discussed the implications of the review for its role in the final four years of the strategy, The CPMG agreed the following:-

The Cultural Programme has a wide remit incorporating Arts, Heritage, Crafts, Sports Museum and Library services. For the earlier years of the strategy, it was appropriate that the CPMG had a hands-on role in filling gaps that had been identified. However, with the appointment of an Arts Officer, Heritage Officer, Sports Partnership Board, What's On Guide/Cultural Providers Group; the CPMG needs to adjust its role. Now that these gaps have been ably filled, and the personnel/groups involved are developing their respective programmes and reporting to their identified stakeholders, the CPMG should no longer have a role in collating reports on their ongoing regular actions.

The CDB might consider how it would envisage keeping up to date on these activities in the future. The CPMG will monitor investment and new developments in these area through the Indicators Template that is being developed. The CPMG will continue to report back on the inter-agency issues it addresses.

The CPMG agreed that from 2010 onwards, it would focus on the following types of actions:

Actions that need a *participation element* in its implementation. This would specifically include CPMG involvement in the development of the public consultation element of relevant strategies.

Inter-agency actions in relevant cultural strategies and plans.

The inclusion of cultural programmes *targeted at 'hard to reach' groups*

Cultural items of a *strategic nature, requiring inter-agency input*. This would include CPMG submissions to relevant county and national strategies.

Actions being taken on by the CPMG must be *driven by an identified need*. They must arise from some grouping, which will be part of the proposal/ action/ solution.

Before taking on a project the CPMG will determine *what value it can add*

Actions that address *gaps in provision of relevant infrastructure* that facilitates the citizen accessing cultural activities.

Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien highlighted two main items of concern for 2010:-

- *Position of the Heritage Officer*. This position is currently a contract position, which is coming to an end soon. Cllr. O'Brien urged that every effort possible is made to maintain the position. It would be a significant blow to the momentum developed; the level of resources available; and the participation levels in heritage activity should this position become vacant. This item was noted by the Board.
- *Restrictions in Rural Development Funding – co-funding with agencies*. The CPMG asks that the CDBs address the restrictions on inter-agency funding with LEADER monies at national level with urgency. There are only four (or so) years left in its funding programme and the ban on co-funding with agencies has the potential to severely restrict inter-opportunities in the cultural.
The CDB agreed that the Chair should write formally to the Minister of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs requesting that the Rural Development Programme and co-funding opportunities be facilitated with other agencies.

The Board Members noted the more strategic focus of CPMG.

The Chairman thanked Cllr. O'Brien for the CPMG update and the CPMG priorities were noted.

8. Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group Update

In the absence of Ciaran Lynch, Chair of LA 21 Programme Management Group, Eileen Horgan outlined the LA 21 update and proposed work programme for 2010. These were noted by the Board. E. Horgan reported that in 2009, the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group decided to refine the criteria the LA 21 PMG uses to take on projects.

The LA 21 PMG agreed that:-

- The LA21 PMG should continue to focus on actions and projects that have a Sustainability or Participation element.

- Actions being taken on by the PMG must be driven by need. They must arise from some grouping that will be part of the proposal/action/solution. Before taking on a project the PMG will determine what value it can add.

At the beginning of 2009, it was clear that there were a number of projects hanging over from the past which were not implemented because we were waiting for LEADER funding. The anticipation was that these could begin to be addressed during 2009. It was hoped that the downturn in the economy and the resulting restrictions in funding and resourcing from other agencies wouldn't impinge too much on the projects the group decided to pursue. Coming towards the end of 2009 two issues have begun to emerge. The first is that constraints on staff and resources in each individual agency were squeezing opportunities for inter-agency actions. This needs to be highlighted as a fundamental issue for the CDB, and the CDB may have to lower its expectations or address the constraints. The second is the restriction on the Rural Development funding (LEADER) to co-fund with agencies. This restriction really cuts across the inter-agency approach of the County Development Board and needs to be addressed at national level immediately or else many opportunities offered by the Rural Development Programme will be lost to the county.

The Chairman thanked Eileen Horgan for the update on behalf of the Local Agenda 21 PMG and their points were noted.

9. Overview by Anthony Fitzgerald, Business Development Officer

Anthony Fitzgerald, Business Development Officer informed the Members that he took up the position in June 2009; this position is a two year initiative. He is employed by Clonmel Business Park with the support of Enterprise Ireland and South Tipperary County Council. He outlined to the members that part of his role was to support the development of the business parks in the county, such as the Clonmel Business Development Park, Carrigeen and the units in Drangan and Ballingarry which involves working with existing occupants of the units and to identify new area of grown and business.

Mr. Fitzgerald's role is also to create linkages with the state agencies to identify supports and opportunities for both large and small enterprises and to seek to drive collaborative activity where this would generate additional market and jobs. Mr. Fitzgerald informed the members that he will also have a role in delivering and implementing the actions set out in the Innovation Strategy which will be officially launched shortly by the Minister O'Keefe, Enterprise, Trade and Employment. It was agreed that Anthony Fitzgerald's, contact details be inserted on the www.southtipperary.ie portal.

The Chairman thanked Anthony Fitzgerald for his update.

10. CDB Executive

Sinéad Carr, Director recommended that the new members of the Executive would arrange to meet and consider the CDB draft submission on the Regional Planning Guidelines

11. June CDB Workshop

It was agreed to call a meeting of the Executive Group to discuss the theme of the June Workshop.

12. Any Other Business

Training Workshop – It was agreed to hold the training workshop for CDB members on 26th March, training programme and venue details to be confirmed shortly.

The date of the training workshop was subsequently deferred. This was agreed by Sinéad Carr, Director to incorporate additional training being organised under the LA21 Programme. Details of the Local Agenda 21 and the CDB Training workshop to be announced.

The Chairman thanked the members for their contributions and declared the meeting closed.

Signed: _____

Date: _____