

**Minutes of South Tipperary County Development Board Meeting held in
Clonmel Park Hotel, Clonmel
on 3rd March, 2009.**

Present:

Members:-

Local Government

Cllr. Tom Ambrose
Cllr. Michael Maguire
Cllr. Patsy Murphy
Mr. Edmond O'Connor

**Local Development
Sector**

Mr. John Devane
Ms. Kathleen Prendergast
Ms. Maureen McNamara
Ms. Phil Shanahan

State Agency Sector

Mr. Terry Cunningham (for
Mr. Donal Mullane)
Ms. Mary Mc Evoy
Mr. Ciaran Lynch
Ms. Fionuala Mc Geever

Social Partners

Mr. Joe Brennan
Mr. Dan Fox

Apologies Received

Mr. Pat Neill
Mr. Jarlath Fallon
Mr. Patrick Mc Cormack
Mr. Tommy Cooke
Supt. Tom Duggan
Ms. Mary O'Halloran
Ms. Margaret Lovatt
Cllr. Tom Wood
Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien
Cllr. John Crosse
Cllr. Joe Donovan
Cllr. Mary Swords
Ms. Fiona Lonergan
Mr. Toss Hayes
Mr. Patrick A. Murphy
Ms. Julia Tarrant
Mr. Seamus Moore
Sr. Patricia Wall

In Attendance

Ms. Sinéad Carr
Mr. Pat Holland
Ms. Eileen Horgan
Ms. Breda O'Connor
Mr. Denis Mc Guire
Ms. Margo Hayes

1. Approval of Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was agreed on the proposal of Joe Brennan, seconded by Cllr. Patsy Murphy.

2. Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of the County Development Board meeting held on 2nd December, 2008 was adopted on the proposal of Fionuala Mc Geever, seconded by Cllr. Patsy Murphy.

3. Report of the Director of Services

Sinéad Carr, Director of Services briefly outlined the issues addressed in the Director's Report, which had been, circulated prior to the meeting.

4. Review of CDB Strategy 2005-2008 and Setting Targets for 2009-2012

S. Carr informed the Board that this review of the County Development Board Strategy for the period 2005-2009 and the setting of targets for 2009 – 2012, was requested by the Department of Environment. S. Carr made a presentation to the members on the draft review document which was circulated to the members prior to this meeting. S. Carr outlined the broad content of the draft review document in the following manner;-

- Outlining the key baseline statistics against which to assess progress during 2005-2009,
- Setting out the key achievements on each Programme Group basis for the 2005-2009 period
- Identifying the key issues/challenges arising from this review and the areas which were not achieved,
- outlining the proposed key actions and targets for each Programme Management Group 2009-2012; and
- seeking comments/adjustment from the Board members with a view to signing off by the end of April.

Following on from the presentation the following topics were discussed;

Possible INTERREG/EU programmes (LA21); R&D Funding (FÁS); Broadband; Town Centre Development, Food Tourism (TEAGASC); Litter; Anti-Social behaviour particularly in key Tourism areas; FÁS & South Tipperary County Council roll out of litter clean up initiative; Rural transport issues – Licencing; value for money – revisit existing routes; Ring-a-Link making presentation to next Transport SPC; Lack of access to capital by community groups and potential effects on Scheme of Capital Grants; Need to prioritise Entrepreneurship in the EPMG actions; Appointment of a Business Executive; Enterprise workshops focusing on the ‘Technology’ Start-Ups; Entrepreneurial links and regional work carried out by the Spirit of Enterprise need ongoing support.

The Education sector are feeling the cuts and there are caps on VEC places with no additional places. The student/teacher ratio is increasing and teacher job cuts are imminent. This will have further effect on young people. There was no filling of the Youth Officer position to cover maternity leave and there was an 8% cut in youth programme funding. The result is that there are equipped buildings but no staff to roll out programmes.

Discussion also related to the inability of the RDP to co-fund with the County Council and other state agencies. The difficulties that communities and small businesses are having in accessing funds from banks for innovative projects may also hold back the roll out of the RDP. It was noted that there is a Social Finance Foundation which specialises in funding for social infrastructure projects where banks have refused to offer bridging loans. They also provide match-funding. Link is at www.sff.ie

In relation to Broadband, it was agreed that the broadband targets in the plan should be increased as they are too low.

It was proposed by Cllr. Michael Maguire and seconded by Cllr Patsy Murphy to include the relevant actions arising from the discussion into the County Development Board Review and forward the review document to the Department by the April deadline.

5. Draft River Basin District Management Plans 2008

Denis McGuire, Executive Chemist, South Tipperary County Council made a presentation on the Draft River Basin District Management Plans 2008 and highlighted the implications of this plan on all sectors. Mr. McGuire encouraged all agencies to make a submission to the Plan, as all agencies will have to give consideration to this document in drawing up their Strategies.

It was agreed that an inter-sectoral group including Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Tipperary Institute, TEAGASC and the Community & Voluntary Forum to brainstorm on this topic and to make a formal submission on behalf of the County Development Board.

6. Report on Setting up of an Executive Group

S. Carr referred to the discussion document on the role of Executive Sub-Group of the County Development Board, which was circulated prior to the meeting. S. Carr recommended that;

- An Executive Group would be made up of the Chairs of the four Programme Management Groups and the Chair of the CDB. This group would be serviced by the Community & Enterprise office.
- This Group should be given the flexibility and responsibility to request the attendance of any other member(s) of the Board who have a particular expertise in relation to the topic/subject they are dealing with. This individual(s) would be expected to be an active participant at this meeting.
- A minimum of 3 Board members to act as an appropriate quorum (invited additional Board members to count as one such person)
- The Director of Services and/or the Chairman should have the responsibility for calling this group together
- All such meetings to be recorded
- Chair to update the Board of the outcomes of these meetings at the next available County Development Board meeting.

S. Carr recommendations were agreed on the proposal of Cllr. M. Maguire and seconded by Joe Brennan. The Chair thanked S. Carr for her recommendations on this item.

7. Centralised County Local Data Unit

S. Carr informed the members that at the December 2008 meeting it was agreed that S. Carr would work with Tipperary Institute and Tipperary Information Services to draw up a framework on a proposal for a Centralised County Local Data Unit, which would form the basis for discussion with key relevant stakeholders. S. Carr has met a number of agencies to date and all have indicated support in principle and would be willing to contribute data to the project on an on going basis. Of the 12 met to date, 5 have indicated definite financial support (inclusive of NTCC), S. Carr indicated the importance of as many agencies as possible financially supporting this process. S. Carr recommended that South Tipperary County Development Board would proceed with the following:-

- A steering group be set up to draw up a brief for tender purposes
- The Executive Committee of the two CDBs (or whatever vehicle is agreed by NTCC for their part) to sign off on Brief and tender to be progressed and assessed by June 2009
- Steering Group to assess tenders in accordance with pre-agreed criteria and make recommendations to the CDB at their next convenient meeting

The proposed cost of running this Data Unit will be in the region of €78,000 per annum. It was agreed by the Board that S. Carr would work with Seamus Moore and Ciaran Lynch in preparing brief for tender call. At the June meeting S. Carr will update the members of the tender submissions received.

8. Protocol for engagement with HSE & Local Elected Members

S. Carr informed the members that at the December 2008 meeting a number of Councillors expressed their concerns at not being able to access information from HSE on various issues. S. Carr agreed to meet with Seamus Moore, HSE on this matter and subsequently met with him and he agreed to circulate the list of South Tipperary Health Service Executive contacts for the Primary Community and Continuing Care services and the relevant contact person responsible for same. On receipt of this information S. Carr will arrange to circulate to South Tipperary County Council Members.

9. Work Programme Updates on

Economic Programme Management Group Update Report

Ned O'Connor, Chair of Economic Programme Management Group outlined the progress achieved by EPMG and its sub-groups for 2008 period and also set out the 2009 actions for consideration by the Board. These actions were agreed by the Board.

In terms of delivering these actions E. O'Connor outlined to the Board of the very serious downturn in the economy resulting in cutbacks in all areas. The County Development Board must ensure that they sustain the strong inter-agency links;-

- South Tipperary has a local task group set up through the CDB which has representation from the County Council, Enterprise Ireland, FÁS, County Enterprise Board, Tipperary Institute and IDA. This group is working
 - to have a focused input into the Dell Task Force
 - engage an Enterprise Executive to generate more entrepreneurial action
 - develop and R&D centre at TI in Ballingarrane
- The roads and water supply in the County have improved over the past decade. However there are still some crucial areas that need prioritisation. The County Council has highlighted these to appropriate Ministers, Departments and Agencies. The N24 Study prioritised by-passes of Carrick, Clonmel and Tipperary Town. Waste water treatment plants and water infrastructure need significantly more resources than are available.
- The County has a wide and plentiful supply of good land banks and buildings available for development.
- The County Enterprise Board is another local asset in the development of business and entrepreneurship. However the cut in funding and the new necessity to have every grant approved by the Department are significant handicaps for local initiatives and drive.
- Tourism is one of the few areas that has potential for growth in the current downturn. Two new hotels were developed over the period of the County Development Board strategy to date. It was hoped that there would be more. A key target is the award of World Heritage Status for Cashel.
- Litter. Littering is still a significant problem in some areas. However there are great community efforts through Tidy Towns and similar programmes and this needs to be encouraged and supported through all possible means.
- There is a need to continue lobbying for improvements in public transport provision. Work to lobby for development of the Waterford Limerick railway line needs to intensify.
- Education. Tipperary Institute and the County Council working together to develop Third and Fourth Level Education at Ballingarrane is critical for South Tipperary.

Update by Ciaran Lynch, Chair, Local Agenda 21 Group:

Ciaran Lynch, Chair of Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group outlined in his report the progress achieved by Local Agenda 21 and its sub-groups, C. Lynch circulated a progress report and details of 2009 actions on the areas identified under Local Agenda 21 Group and details were noted by the Board. C. Lynch thanked the members of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group and sub-groups for their tremendous work to date.

The Chair thanked Edmond O'Connor and Ciaran Lynch for their updates.

10. Endorsement of Community & Local Development Agency Plans

Phil Shanahan made a presentation on the LDSIP programme as it currently stands within the new South Tipperary Development Company (STDC). She outlined the programme of activities for 2009. A report was circulated and further information is available on request. P. Shanahan also proposed a South Tipperary Social Inclusion Employment Support Strategy. Match funding would be required as well as buy-in from relevant agencies. It was agreed that a meeting would be called with DSFA, FÁS, TI and STDC to move the idea forward.

John Devane, CEO gave a presentation on the Rural Development Programme for South Tipperary. J. Devane circulated a handout giving the budget outline, Rural Development measures, and grant rates. The Chair thanked both P. Shanahan and J. Devane for their updates.

11. Update on Regional Planning Guidelines

E. Horgan made a presentation to the members on the RPG Issue Paper. Following the presentation and discussion it was agreed by the Board that a submission would be sent to SERA from the County Development Board.

12. AOB

It was agreed to call a meeting of the Executive Group to discuss the Entrepreneurial Theme Workshop set for June

Mary McEvoy, Regional Executive, Enterprise Ireland is to make arrangements to attend a County Council to inform the members on entrepreneurship activity and proposed workshop in South Tipperary.

Cllr. thanked the members for their contributions and declared the meeting closed.

Signed/ _____

Dated/ _____