

**Draft Minutes of South Tipperary County Development Board Meeting
held in Hotel Minella, Clonmel on 12th February, 2008.**

Present:

Members:-

Local Government

Cllr. John Fahey
Cllr. Tom Wood
Cllr. John Crosse
Cllr. Mary Swords
Cllr. Patsy Murphy
Cllr. Joe Donovan

**Local Development
Sector**

Ms. Phil Shanahan
Mr. Toss Hayes
Mr. Tommy Cooke
Ms. Kathleen Prendergast
Ms. Maureen Mc Namara

State Agency Sector

Mr. Terry Cunningham
(for Donal Mullane)
Mr. Seamus Moore
Supt. Tom Duggan
Mr. Peter Hutchinson
(for Joe Palmer)
Ms. Celine McHugh
Ms. Margaret Lovatt
Mr. Ciaran Lynch

Social Partners

Mr. Joe Brennan
Mr. Dan Fox
Sr. Patricia Wall

Apologies Received

Mr. John Devane
Mr. Edmond O'Connor
Mr. Patrick A. Murphy
Mr. Michael Dee
Ms. Fionuala Mc Geever
Mr. Pat Neill
Mr. Jarlath Fallon
Ms. Julia Tarrant
Mr. Patrick Mc Cormack
Cllr. Michael Maguire

In Attendance

Ms. Sinéad Carr
Mr. Pat Holland
Ms. Eileen Horgan
Ms. Breda O'Connor
Ms. Ann Ryan
Ms. Valerie Connolly
Ms. Hilary Tarrant

1. Approval of Draft Agenda

The draft agenda was proposed by Cllr. John Fahey and seconded by Cllr. Patsy Murphy.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of County Development Board meeting held on 6th November, 2007 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Mary Swords, seconded by Seamus Moore.

3. Report of the Director of Services

Sinéad Carr, Director of Services briefly outlined the issues addressed in the Director's Report, S. Carr indicated to the Members that this meeting would agreed on 2008 priorities for each Programme Management Group.

4. Overview of the current position in relation to the proposed N24 By-Passes

Billy Mc Evoy, Director of Services outlined the progress to date on the N24 project. He informed the members that South Tipperary County Council has a policy to have all plans in relation to N24 prepared for when they receive approval for funding. However, this Council would require significant political representation to ensure that necessary funding for the N24 project is secured from the NRA as a matter of priority. He further informed the meeting that SERA have commissioned Consultants to carryout research on the economic importance of the N24 to this region, this report will be available shortly and will be used to support the N24 project.

The Members requested that once the SERA report was issued a letter of support from CDB members would be forward to the Minister and the NRA requesting that immediate funding be provided to upgrade this route.

It was proposed by Cllr. John Crosse and seconded by Ciaran Lynch that County Development Board will contact the Department of Transport and the NRA to express their support for this report.

Cllr. Tom Wood thanked Billy Mc Evoy for this update on the N24 project.

5. Report on 2008 priorities for each Programme Management Groups

EPMG Priorities

Tommy Cooke in the absence of Edmond O'Connor, Chair of Economic Programme Management Group outlined EPMG priorities as follows:-

Aim	Key Action	Process
1. Increase the Competitively of South Tipperary for investment and for income generation	Broadband	Broadband infrastructure management structure in place for Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary Town, Limerick Junction, Cashel and Cahir broadband infrastructure
	Business Park	Rural Broadband penetration expanded

	Hotels Rail Roads	<p>Ballingarrane Marketing campaign underway. Hotel developments proceeding in Cashel, Clonmel, Carrick-on-Suir</p> <p>Plans to upgrade Limerick Junction Rail Station being implemented</p> <p>Inclusion of the Tipperary Town and Carrick-on-Suir by-passes in the NRA programme per 2013</p>
	Engineering Sector	Engage with the engineering sector to: enable gathering of data on the state of the sector in the current economic situation; look at ways to grow markets; improve processes; bid jointly for projects; exchange experiences; improve competitiveness and identify relevant sector specific training opportunities
	Support the implementation of the Slieve Ardagh Business Plan	<p>Annual prioritization of projects prepared</p> <p>Annual report on project progress, critical issues and strategic direction made annually to CDB</p>
	Support the implementation of COSTEDC Plan	<p>Hold Clancy Festival</p> <p>Continue to promote “Friends of Carrick”</p> <p>Continue Ormond Castle promotion</p> <p>Progress River Walk</p>
2. Provide a Skilled Work Force for Current & Future Jobs	Implement actions arising from Skills and Training Analysis in South Tipperary	<p>Implement pilot scheme to set up a Training Association with the Engineering sector in the County</p> <p>Work to increase the participation of retail trade in the level 4 and level 6 FETAC course (FAS/Chamber)</p>

		Education and Training agencies working to promote the need for training and its availability with existing employers
3. Increase the economic performance of targeted sectors and to grow entrepreneurship	<p>In the development of a Rural Development Plan (Cohesion plan(s) for the county ensure that the economic component will have a strong emphasis on developing a strategic plan and accessing resources for rural development in Tourism and Food</p> <p>Prepare an action plan arising from the study of the equine industry</p>	<p>An Interim South Tipperary tourism structure in place for 2008.</p> <p>A consultant engaged to fulfil the following activities over the course of 2008: Relationship building; Product Bundling; Product Database; Funding Opportunities; Visitor Research</p> <p>A new tourism company set up in the third/fourth quarter of 2008</p> <p>Resources accessed/identified from stakeholders to support the new tourism company</p> <p>Preparations made for the appointment of a tourism manager to the new company</p> <p>A County food strategy emerging from the Rural Development Plan</p> <p>Set up working group to follow up actions relating to sport horse database: identify training association/network possibilities: identify potential linkages with larger studs/equine enterprises</p> <p>North Tipperary CDB will strengthen informal links that they have with the equestrian tourism sector and to expand and incorporate the whole county. They will look at bundling of the equine tourism product with product providers and relevant</p>

	<p>Create and environment within the County that nurtures and celebrates entrepreneurial activity</p> <p>Entrepreneurship</p>	<p>agencies.</p> <p>Work with Enterprise Forum Group to hold Entrepreneurial Awards 2008</p> <p>CDB to participate in regional Enterprise Week 13-17 October, 2008</p>
	<p>Create and develop an entrepreneurial region</p>	<p>Work with Spirit of Enterprise Forum to achieve its regional objectives</p>

It was proposed by Joe Brennan and seconded by Cllr. John Crosse that the actions outlined by Toomy Cooke be agreed.

The Chair thanked Tommy Cooke for the details of 2008 programme.

Social Inclusion Measures Group

Dan Fox, Chair of Social Inclusion Measures Group outlined in his report priorities for CDB to endorse:

- Youth provision in South Tipperary (create a five-year youth plan for the County)
- Assist the creation of a Social Inclusion Audit and Plan for the County
- Implementation of Disability Plan
- Implementation of Traveller Inter-Agency Plan
- Implementation of Elderly Plan
- Continue support for Migrant Network Process
- Seek way to extend ESL mentoring project to rest of County
- Complete the Cohesion Process

It was proposed by Ciaran Lynch and seconded by Cllr. Joe Donovan that these actions were agreed.

The Chair thanked D. Fox for his update on SIM programme.

Dan Fox requested that a letter be sent to Minister John Gormley, Department the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on behalf of SIM and CDB outlining the significant level of frustration at both SIM/CDB level at the delay in publishing the Indecon Review. D. Fox further outlined the lack of clarification in relation to the role of SIM and CDB is having a negative impact on the work of these groups.

It was proposed by Cllr. T. Wood and seconded by C. Lynch to ensure no diminishment in the role and activity of the SIM and CDB, both groups requested that the Minister support the following actions:

- ❑ That the Minister publishes the Indecon Review of the City/County Developments Board immediately
- ❑ The Minister issues a clear communication on the Department's position in relation to the Report and any recommendations contained in it.

Cultural Programme Management Group

Cllr. Jimmy O'Brien, Chair of Cultural Programme Management Group outlined the key priorities identified by Cultural Programme Management Group;

Increase participation in Cultural Activity:

Priorities for 2008

Art Officer

- Development of an Arts Strategy 2009 – 2012
- Public Art Review – Policy
- Feasibility study Arts Centre for Clonmel
- Developing the Arts Information and Advisory Service – including Arts Training.
- Establish Arts Grants
- Bealtaine – Celebrating Creativity in Older Age
- An exhibition programme June /July
- Youth Arts Festival
- Arts and Disability Project

Implementation of the short to medium term actions in the Heritage Plan

Proposed Heritage Projects for 2008:

- Archaeology in South Tipperary Seminar: - held in Jan 08 – 130 attended
- Review of County Heritage Plan due for 2008 and development of plan from 2009 – 2013 – review of actions in plan to take place in early 2008 with new plan to be developed in 2nd half of 2008
- Enhancement of Heritage Trails in 6 Heritage towns in South Tipperary – Cashel, Tipperary, Cahir, Carrick on Suir, Clonmel & Fethard & Promote Heritage Tourism – subject to funding from Failte Ireland
- Seminar on Care on Conservation of Graveyards
- Biodiversity plan for South Tipperary & Biodiversity training/seminar and guidelines – subject to funding from Heritage Council
- County Heritage Day perhaps focused on religious theme and to include a workshop on genealogy – being led by Community Forum and subject to funding from Heritage Council

- Continue Schools Heritage Project – Museum mainstreamed project
- Schools Heritage Poster project – subject to funding from heritage council
- Promote Heritage Specialists in Schools scheme & investigate possibility of one center being recognized as providers of teacher training summer courses focused on heritage
- Heritage Week activities – theme to be decided
- Enhance and further develop Heritage web sites
- Campaign for listing of Rock of Cashel as world heritage site
- Support Walled towns development & Fethard walled town day and festival
- Investigate the development of guidance policy re hedgerow management –

It was agreed that projects plans in the areas of Craft Heritage, Food Heritage may be developed with a view to applying to the Rural Development Fund when it is in place. Terry Cunningham, TEAGASC agreed to take lead on developing Food Heritage programme which could then be submitted to Rural Development programme when it is in place. It was agreed that the Craft Granary would be asked to prepare a plan in relation to regional /county Craft Fair with a view to having it ready to submit to Cohesion Company when Rural Development Funding is in place.

Agreement on sports and recreation plan and a 2005-2008 action plan

Implement the STSP Strategic Plan – (Cllr. Jimmy O’Brien informed the members that Valerie Connolly, Sports Co-ordinator will outline in details the structure and objectives of STSP.

Develop and implement an action plan for 2008 – Soccer development officer in place and implementing active programmes around the County.

Investment in the development of sustainable cultural services, products and facilities:-

Scheme of Capital Grants has supported playground development, Playgrounds are a priority in the Council’s Scheme of Grants for 2008-2009, however, this will be dependent on available finance. 2008 Scheme has been advertised and closing date for applications is 4.30 p.m. on 1st April, 2008.

Development of Cultural programme to enhance social inclusion of minority groups

This action was prioritised by CPMG for 2008 at the October, 2007. A sub-group of the CPMG and cultural providers will be formed to feed into the Social Inclusion Plan for the County.

On the proposal of Cllr. Jimmy O’Brien and seconded by Cllr. John Crosse the CPMG action plan for 2008 was endorsed. The Chair thanked Cllr Jimmy O’Brien for the update.

Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group

Ciaran Lynch Chair of Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group outlined the priorities identified by Local Agenda PMG

Sustainable Energy Strategy – priorities for 2008

- Development of 3 year Inter reg project focused on Sustainable Energy which may fund some of the activities
- Implement awareness programme – SEI web-site, schools project
- Seek additional sponsorship from commercial sources in absence of rural development fund

Participation – including volunteering, community participation, training awareness programmes

Ciaran Lynch informed the meeting that Hilery Tarrant, Volunteering Support Officer will provide details on this action.

Integrated Transport Policy for the County

A sub-group is investigating how integrated transport for South Tipperary can be developed further

Litter Management Plan

The members of CPMG agreed that the key funding source identified for the inter agency projects of the litter management plan is the Rural Development Fund – as this fund is not in place progress on this project will not be possible.

Key concern – many of the project in 2007 were funded with LEADER funding in conjunction with County Council funding. Without rural development funding in 2008 the amount and level of project implemented would be reduced.

The members expressed their concerns with the lack of Rural Development funding to support interagency projects in the Cultural, Social and Economic area. The fund has been a significant enabler for projects over the last number of years. The members asked if the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs could allocate funding for projects on an interim basis.

6. South Tipperary County Childcare Committee

Kathleen Prendergast, Chairperson, South Tipperary County Childcare Committee outlined to the members the overall objectives is to enhance quality and provide support and advisory services to develop childcare in South Tipperary.

These objectives were delivered in 2007, and STCC in 2008 is committed to implementing actions set out in their Strategic Action Plan 2007-2010, relevant to 2008 programme. K. Prendergast outlined the objectives of STCCC, the operating structure of Committee and also detailed staff complement.

Cllr. Tom Wood thanked K. Prendergast, for her comprehensive presentation.

South Tipperary Local Sports Partnership

Valerie Connolly outlined to the members the over-all objectives of the STSP are to increase opportunities for people of all ages to participate in physical activity, support the development of sport and set up an effective and sustainable partnership. However, the STSP priorities for 2008 are as follows:-

- Launch STSP Strategic Plan – 21st February, 2008
- Continue the delivery of Buntus Programme
- Provide training, information and programmes aimed at increasing physical activity for targeted groups e.g. older adults and women
- Continue to provide Code of Ethics training for coaches, leaders and officials
- Develop a Coaching & Development Funding Programme
- Deliver a range of sport specific and generic information seminars and training e.g. Sports First Aid and SAQ
- Management of the Partnership through the implementation of the STSP Strategic and Operational Plans
- Build and sustain relationship with partner agencies and key stakeholders
- Develop a web-site for STSP
- Secure revenue and resources for the Sports Partnership

The Chair thanked Valerie Connolly for the update on Sports Partnership and detail of priorities and date for the launch of Strategic Plan were also noted.

Volunteering Programme –

Hilery Tarrant outlined to the members that development and implementation of a strategic plan to develop volunteerism is a key action of the Local Agenda 21 programme. The Community Framework Working Group, which is a sub-group of Local Agenda 21 PMG, has taken responsibility for developing a strategic volunteer development plan. This plan identifies targets, actions, resource requirements, management structures and evaluation procedures. The primary action in the plan is to establish a Volunteerism Support Services. She informed the members that funding has also been secured from the department for two full-time posts; a Centre Manager and a Volunteer Placement Officer to roll out their three year work programme 2008-2010. She also informed the members that recruitment is underway to fill these two posts.

Application for the formation of a new Company and charitable status has been submitted. A web-site with a tool kit for groups will be up and running shortly.

The chair thanked Hilery Tarrant for her update on the Volunteering Programme.

7. Presentation on ‘Teen Space’ – National Recreation Strategy for Young People

S. Carr, Director of Services informed the members that CDB has a key role in implementing the seven core objectives set out in this strategy.

It was agreed that SIM (through Youth Plan/VEC), LA21 PMG (Volunteering Programme) and CPMG (Sport Partnership, Comhairle na nOg) should arrange to identify the objectives set out in ‘Teen Space’ it will have to be agreed what actions each programme will take responsibility for delivering from this initiative. S. Carr agreed that the members will be further updated on roll out of this new programme.

- 8. Cohesion:-** S. Carr informed the members that the First Directors of a new integrated company has been formed. The role of these 10 First Directors is a temporary one which is to incorporate the new company and invite nominations to the Board of the new Company. The new company has been incorporated and invitations for the first tranches of nominations has been issued, however there is a delay in this process and until these nominations from social partners are received the process can not proceed.

LDSIP: Phil Shanahan informed the members that work has commenced in having a Social Inclusion Audit Plan and ready when the call for submission is made.

9. June CDB Theme

S. Carr asked the members to have a discussion on what type of visionary theme they would deal with at June Workshop. Following this discussion a number of areas were highlighted; *Elderly, Town Centre Decay, Rural Villages, Migrant Population, Changing Economy, Rail*. S. Carr thanked the members for their contributions on possible themes. She agreed to set up a sub-group to develop a programme for June CDB workshop.

10. AOB

Phil Shanahan requested that the Operational Plan for Clonmel Community Partnership be endorsed by County Development Board this was agreed on the proposal of Joe Brennan and seconded by Maureen Mc Namara.

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

Signed: _____

Date: _____

