

**Minutes of South Tipperary County Development Board Meeting  
held in Hotel Minella, Clonmel on 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.**

**Present:**

**Members:-**

**Local Government**

Cllr. Joe Donovan  
Cllr. Sean Nyhan  
Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald  
Cllr. Patsy Murphy  
Cllr. Mary Swords  
Mr. Edmond O'Connor

**Local Development  
Sector**

Ms. Maureen McNamara  
Ms. Phil Shanahan  
(also for K. Prendergast)  
Mr. Toss Hayes

**State Agency Sector**

Mr. Terry Cunningham  
(for Donal Mullane)  
Ms. Fionuala Mc Geever  
Mr. Ciaran Lynch  
Mr Mick Cummins  
Mr. Michael Dee  
Ms. Siobhan Mc Evoy (for  
Celine McHugh)  
Supt. Pat Clavin  
Mr. Jarlath Fallon

**Social Partners**

Ms. Bridget O'Keeffe  
Mr. Joe Brennan

**Apologies Received**

Cllr. Denis Bourke  
Mr. Pat Neill  
Cllr. Sean McCarthy  
Cllr. Phil Prendergast  
Mr. Patrick A. Murphy  
Mr. Seamus Moore  
Mr. Tommy Cooke  
Mr. John Devane  
Ms. Margaret Lovatt  
Mr. Patrick Mc Cormack  
Ms. Mary O'Halloran

**In Attendance**

Ms. Sinéad Carr  
Mr. Pat Holland  
Ms. Eileen Horgan  
Ms. Breda O'Connor  
Mr. John Murphy

1. **Approval of Draft Agenda**

The draft agenda was proposed by Cllr. Sean Nyhan and seconded by Cllr Patsy Murphy.

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of County Development Board meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Patsy Murphy, 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, which had been, circulated prior to the meeting.

### **4. Economic Programme Management Group Update Report**

Edmond O'Connor, Chair, EPMG outlined the progress of the group and the meeting considered the following critical issues:-

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Critical Issues</b>
Broadband	County Development Board agencies are requested to participate in and support the marketing campaign.  Larger agencies requested to take up the MANS broadband
Market and promote Ballingarrane	Request agencies to assist Colin Buchanan and Partners consultants through the provision of data and information if requested
Slieve Ardagh Business Plan	Agencies involved requested to keep up participation to implement the Slieve Ardagh Plan
Set up a database of skill needs and supply	Set up a database of current skill needs and supply. Workable updating mechanism. Possible funding request requirements to cover shortfall
Assess the demand for a Workshop for advisors and providers of training and education	Identify agency support for a Workshop for advisors and providers of training and education. Agencies commitment to enable frontline staff to participate.
Produce a quality influencing document based on an analysis of the equine industry value linkage in the County.	Inter-agency commitment to funding needed.

The Chair thanked Edmond O'Connor for his update and the critical issues were noted. It was agreed that the interagency funding for the equine study would be discussed at the EPMG meeting following the CDB meeting and a decision would be made then as to whether it would proceed.

### **Entrepreneurship**

Michael Dee, Enterprise Ireland outlined the work programme for Enterprise Forum. Details of Michael Dee presentation is available on request from [Eileen.horgan@southtippcoco.ie](mailto:Eileen.horgan@southtippcoco.ie)

## **5. Social Inclusion Measures Working Group Update Report**

Fionuala McGeever, Chair of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group, outlined the critical issues carried out by SIM earlier in the day and the priorities, which emerged from SIM:-

### **Early School Leaving Group**

Fionuala McGeever, Chair, outlined the situation regarding disengaged youth. There are believed to be c 100-150 of these in the county who had left school early and who were not attending meaningful employment, apprenticeship or further education. There is a lack both of data and of a support/monitoring system. The group proposed a dedicated mentoring programme similar to the Waterford 'Pathways' programme however, only raise a portion of the cost from the discretionary funds of its members. Both the "Tipperary Pathways and the Barnardos project could assist areas where there are currently no agency working, where a real gap has been identified and where significant costs could be reduced. The Board members were also in agreement with this proposal, however it is unclear as to which agency should be concerned with this early school leavers (FAS).

### **Safety and Security Group**

John Murphy, Senior Probation Officer thanked the Safety and Security Group together with Pat Holland for their commitment to this group. It is clear that this group has created a forum for partners to discuss matter of concern and was having an import impact in our communities. Bonfire night was an example of targeted intervention, which reduced costs.

Mr. Murphy informed the meeting the way forward for this committee was to identify key issues and to move them forward by inter-agency discussion and examination.

### **Elderly Working Group**

The progress of the group to date; this group meets quarterly and awaiting details of the National Development Plan rollout. A meeting of Day Care Centres has taken place and several actions arose.

The Chair thanked Fionuala Mc Geveer and John Murphy for their updates and comments.

The discussion then broadened out to a general discussion of the role of Social Inclusion Measures and County Development Board;-

Having reviewed the way in which the Board operates, the targets and objectives set in the Plan, the Board Members agreed to move to the next level and try and genuinely tackle the real issues, which are facing the County. Notwithstanding this commitment and the very innovative manner in which the Board is trying to work on these issues, both The County Development Board and Social Inclusion Measures Group are becoming increasingly frustrated at the level of constraints that exist in terms of the operating environment of most agencies (particularly from a local flexibility and financial viewpoint)

The Board Members have highlighted the following issues:-

The ability to meet a funding shortfall or the ability for any agency to tackle the issues is hindered by their very centralised control systems with very little flexibility allowed for critical county issues to be resolved in the manner which is deemed to be the most relevant to that County. In order to overcome this, the County Development Board requested that the Government departments would be written to and asked to give serious consideration to the following;

- each agency to be allowed to ring fence a certain proportion of their budget for CDB purposes and to be allowed the flexibility and authority to allocate this as they see fit (clearly in line with CDB Strategy, approval of the CDB and whatever audit trails etc are required to ensure value for money)
- or/and, more authority is devolved to the local level from central level so that the CDB can carry out the work that is critically required to address the issues facing the County.
- This approach of local funding to support local initiatives was already recommended by the Fitzpatrick Report in their Evaluation of the RAPID Programme and there is no reason why the same analysis and conclusion does not apply to the CDB which is working in a wider area

The Board is sincerely trying to be more than a talking and information sharing forum but is finding that the environment in which it operates is overly restrictive and is denying any initiatives that it may wish to undertake. It was agreed that CDB networks continue to lobby for more flexibility in the manner in which it operates.

## **6. New Collaborate Interagency Issues**

There was no new collaborate interagency issues on this occasion.

## **7. Stakeholder Presentation – Toss Hayes, CEO., Co. Enterprise Board**

Toss Hayes outlined the role of the County Enterprise Board.

**8. Overview by E. Horgan on Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly Draft Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013**

Eileen Horgan, Development Officer highlighted the key areas in the Draft Regional Operational Programme.

The Board Members requested that the following comments be submitted to the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly for consideration.

Environment & Accessibility: It would not be considered sufficient to look only at the sustainable use of renewable energy within enterprises. It is proposed that a strong emphasis would be put on projects that develop the supply of renewable energy within the region.

Sustainable Urban Development: It is proposed that the City Renewal and Town Regeneration programmes focus on cities and towns that are not Hubs and Gateways as designated under the National Spatial Strategy. The National Spatial Strategy National Development Plan will be focusing development on the Hubs and Gateways. There are towns outside of these that need significant renewal and regeneration.

Innovation & the Knowledge Economy: It is proposed that applications from community enterprise and other forms of co-operatives will be included under this heading under Experimental Innovative Actions and Entrepreneurship.

**9. Presentation on National Development Plan**

Pat Holland, Development Officer, briefly outlined the types of investment set out in the National Development Plan 2007-2013. Pat Holland recommends that the County Development Board through Programme Management Group identify opportunities from National Development Plan funding and commence the necessary preparation to ensure these opportunities are achieved. A report of possible projects to be pursued will be provided to County Development Board for their information.

**10. AOB**

The following dates were agreed for the remainder of the year:

**16<sup>th</sup> April, 2007**

**2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007**

**3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2007**

**5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007.**

The Director requested that Members would give their full support in attending the Workshop on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2007.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_