

# **SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

## **Thirtieth MEETING REPORT**

Meeting held: April 3, 2006  
Members present: 24 (77%)  
Chair: Cllr Derry Foley

### **SUMMARY**

The County Development Board agreed to publish a summary document of its priorities in seeking to influence the next National Development Plan at its April Board meeting.

Since the previous CDB meeting in February 2006, 87.5% of General Practitioners have responded formally and positively to the Primary Care Strategy. The HSE is currently considering a paper seeking resources for a pilot project in optimizing the community input on how health services are planned, delivered and evaluated.

The Local Development Companies have agreed to continue in a facilitation process up to the end of April in relation to Minister O'Cuiv's priorities on local development cohesion. The option of a South Tipperary County overarching structure is to be looked at in the process.

The Director of Services, John Quinn, servicing the CDB will leave his post at the end of April.

### **1. County Submission to influence the next National Development Plan**

The Director circulated a report highlighting the feedback received from South Tipperary County Museum, John Hayes, SEBIC, Tipperary Energy Agency, South Tipperary Forum, Patrick Murphy and the South East Regional Authority.

**Decisions** (Proposed by Cllr Phil Prendergast, seconded by Joe Brennan):

- ✓ That the CDB publish and circulate its seven key priorities including the amendments to the text recommended by South Tipperary Forum.
- ✓ That the text of the 41 priority actions is amended to reflect the feedback – all of which enhances the original text and that the responsible board members use the revised text in following through on their influencing actions.

With regard to the priority actions within the County Spatial Strategy, the development of a Science and Technology Park in Ballingarrane is of critical importance. While planning permission has been given for a hotel development, the lands involved are reverting back to the Co Council, with the intention of seeking a new developer/operator. The Minister of Education has approved the transfer of Tipperary Institute to Ballingarrane. The Co Council is planning to carry out site development works so as to enable its own industrially zoned area to be developed. IDA Ireland has purchased 50 acres and is also contributing to the site development works that facilitate access to these lands. It is crucial that IDA Ireland and the County Council be able to facilitate projects that complement the evolution of a substantive Tipperary Institute campus.

**Decision** (Proposed by Cllr Phil Prendergast, seconded by Maureen McNamara).

- ✓ That Cllr Derry Foley, Ned O'Connor and John O'Mahoney continue as members of the Ballingarrane Working Group to optimize Ballingarrane's contribution to the County Spatial Strategy.

## **2. Preparing the ground for influencing delivery of a local health service in South Tipperary**

Seamus Moore, Local Health Office Manager with the Health Service Executive, updated the CDB on developments since February. He had met all the General Practitioners in South Tipperary regarding the Primary Care Strategy and the roll out of primary care teams in the county. The proposed strategy is General Practitioner population based. 87.5% of the GPs had already responded formally and positively to the opportunity presented and the HSE will now commence the process leading to between 8 and 12 Primary Care Teams in the County. A specific target for 2006 is that three of the proposed teams will be in an establishment phase. As part of the process in preparing to engage with community/user stakeholders, Ciaran Lynch, Chair of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group, had prepared a paper highlighting how the involvement of communities might be accommodated in the decision making of how health services are planned, delivered and accommodated. This paper is currently being reviewed by the HSE with an expected outcome that a pilot project that can have national resonance be resourced in South Tipperary.

Members of the CDB congratulated the HSE in South Tipperary on achieving a positive response from General Practitioners to the roll out of the new strategy.

## **3. Local Development Company Cohesion**

The Department of Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DCRAGA) has requested the County Development Board to report on local development cohesion by April 30, 2006.

Eileen Horgan outlined each of the preferred options emerging from a facilitation process involving the three companies concerned.

*Barrow Nore Suir (BNS) Rural Development:*

Option 1: Delivery of the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme (LSDIP) and the LEADER programme on the current footprint of the LEADER companies.

Option 2: BNS to provide an overarching structure to facilitate delivery of LEADER and LDSIP in both Kilkenny and South Tipperary with localised delivery in both counties. (i.e. BNS and CCP to develop and deliver partnership in South Tipp)

*Clonmel Community Partnership (CCP)*

Option 1: South Tipperary County (only) structure covering all of the South Tipperary administrative area. Expanded partnership Board with LEADER.

Option 2: Expanded Partnership Board only delivering LEADER and LDSIP in South Tipperary.

*Tipperary LEADER Group (TLG)*

Option 1: All Tipperary County LEADER/Partnership structure with two possible variations –

- (a) All of North and South Tipperary - entire county (+ or – Slieve Felim part of Limerick); and
- (b) Current LEADER footprint – North Tipperary and South Tipperary minus the Fethard area in South Tipperary administered separately. (+ or – Slieve Felim part of Limerick)

Option 2: Two separate and independent LEADER/Partnership Companies; one in North Tipperary and one in (the full) South Tipperary.

The process had been reviewed by the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group (SIM) earlier in the afternoon. Following the SIM meeting, the three local companies had met to discuss an emerging option – South Tipperary overarching structure with equality of Board members from the rural development and social inclusion aspects. The implications of this option needed much more discussion before it could be brought to the Board of the three companies.

Oliver Clancy reported on the outcome of the discussion at the SIM meeting. There were some similarities between the various options presented by the three groups and clarified in some detail by SIM. SIM members were most concerned that if there was no local agreement, that the Department will select one of the options presented. The three groups had a track record of co-operation and SIM is recommending that they continue in a facilitation process to try and reach agreement. SIM is recommending that two underlying principles be clarified at an early stage:

- Issue of all of County Tipperary or just a South Tipperary structure (body language at the SIM meeting would suggest that a South Tipperary structure seem to be preferred).

- Structure going forward would be chosen on the basis of optimising the value of the LEADER and LDSIP programmes for the County.

In summary SIM is of the view that it is crucial that the facilitation process leads to outcomes that are acceptable to all three companies because only with all three companies committed to a solution can the best way forward actually deliver good results for the county.

Tommy Cooke, Chair of BNS, clarified that all the local companies are committed to ensuring the most effective delivery of the two programmes now that DCRAGA has decided that both LEADER and LDSIP are delivered by one company in each area. The process has led to tensions between the three companies. There is also potential for tension in a company delivering both LEADER and LDSIP. BNS had a good track record of delivery in its part of South Tipperary which has been bedevilled with peripheral problems. BNS wants to continue working in its existing area. The good track record of BNS was also highlighted by Bridget O’Keeffe, who felt it would be a huge omission if BNS was not part of the delivery of the programmes going forward.

Phil Shanahan, Manager of CCP, agreed that the process was difficult. Clonmel Community Partnership had good experience in the LDSIP and had good connections with other local development social inclusion companies in the county. The CCP concern is that 80% of South Tipperary does not currently benefit from the LDSIP and there is a major challenge in rolling out LDSIP to the rest of the county.

John Devane, Manager of TLG, suggested that getting it right is very important. The TLG Board is meeting on April 11 to review the progress of negotiations in three counties and it should be given the opportunity to make its own decision without having a solution imposed on it. Like the other groups, TLG is committed to arriving at the best delivery outcomes for LEADER and LDSIP. Whatever structures emerge, there needs to be parity between LEADER/rural development interests and local development/social inclusion interests.

The Director of Services outlined that the three companies are among the best members of the CDB in terms of leading and participating in the actions agreed in the County Strategy. The DCRAGA offer in relation to more facilitation included three other groups in North Tipperary as well. Depending on the outcomes in North Tipperary and at the TLG meeting on April 11, further facilitation along the lines of what SIM had recommended would be delivered. In the event of the two counties in Tipperary separating for facilitation purposes, the Director offered to facilitate the process up to April 30 while Eileen Horgan is on annual leave.

Ned O’Connor, Manager of South Tipperary County Council, highlighted the difficulties facing local development companies who have uncertainty about future resources and are having changes imposed on them. There is considerable confusion amongst the general public about who is doing what. This confusion has been lessened in recent years because of the CDB structure creating opportunities for more co-ordinated initiatives. Central

government should be prepared to let local areas decide on how best to deliver programmes. One size fits all does not always work. There is also considerable evidence that Tipperary as a county receives considerably more resources because it is split into two administrative counties. One option that might be considered is to have the CDB act the overall County overarching structure, making the bids for resources and allocating those resources to the relevant local development companies.

The Chair in summarising the discussion on behalf of the CDB directed that facilitation continue to be provided up to April 30 as recommended by SIM and that the option of a South Tipperary County overarching structure be also looked at in the process.

#### **4. Other Information**

The CDB Officials Group for Tipperary Town and Carrick on Suir met earlier on April 3 to review developments with regard to the SRAM closure announcement. FÁS has commenced meeting the workers. To date, 20 temporary staff and five permanent staff have been made redundant. Approximately 40 more workers will be made redundant in the next two to three months. The SRAM factory has been purchased by Jack and Edmond O'Reilly, who plan to extend a current R&D operation based in Clonmel into a manufacturing operation taking up half of the SRAM factory area. FÁS in preparing to deliver training to the SRAM workers has been in discussions with Guidant who are recruiting 400 new workers this year and will also be linking with the new industry locating in the SRAM building.

On behalf of the CDB, the Chair thanked the Director of Services, who will be leaving the position in the next month, for his contribution to South Tipperary County Development Board. The Director's knowledge of development was a major asset in the Board evolving and implementing a coherent strategy that is delivering results. In response, the Director thanked the Board members for their work at Board meetings and their excellence in ensuring that the groups/agencies each represented were committed to achieving the shared development vision for the county. He also thanked the staff of the Community and Enterprise Section for their work in supporting the Board and its sub-groups. He stated that he was leaving South Tipperary enriched by the experience and that he was particularly proud given his own background of the superb contribution to the South Tipperary County Development Board by the South Tipperary Forum, the members of the County Council and the local development companies.