

SOUTH TIPPERARY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Meeting held: July 5, 2004
Members present: 71%
Chair: Cllr Mattie McGrath

SUMMARY

New members to the County Development Board include: Cllr Denis Bourke, Tracy Costello, Cllr Michael Fitzgerald, Cllr Mattie McGrath, Cllr Sean Nyhan, Cllr Phil Prendergast and Alan Price. The new chair of the County Development Board for 2004-2005 is Cllr Mattie McGrath, Cathaoirlíoch, South Tipperary Co Council. Fionnuala McGeever is the new Chair of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group. Cllr Michael Fitzgerald is the new chair of the Cultural Programme Management Group. Ciaran Lynch is the new chair of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group.

The Local Agenda 21 Programme was reviewed at the July CDB meeting. The Local Agenda 21 programme is centred on the provision of services and facilities at different spatial levels, village/small town, area town, county and regional. While the main challenge of building consensus on the appropriate services and facilities required at each spatial level remains, South Tipperary has a better framework for meeting the challenge via successful initiatives and structures such as: My Parish (data on 750 local groups), Local Authority development contribution schemes, South Tipperary Forum, the Local Development Company Network, Youth Services Network, Community Framework Working Group, pilot community planning projects and an increase in services – citizen information services, rural transport services and waste recycling services.

The County Development Board amended the County Strategy as follows:

- Measure 4.2 Key Support Services: Action 4.2.7 To facilitate the development of an integrated social inclusion plan and the delivery of local and community development services post 2006 (Lead Stakeholder: Local Development Company Network)
- Measure 2.2 Targeted holistic approach: Specific Target Groups in particular sub-county areas. Action: 2.2.11 To extend local and community development social inclusion services to Fethard and to two towns in West Tipperary (Lead Stakeholders: Clonmel Community Partnership and Knockanrawley Resource Centre).
- Measure 4.3 Multi-agency approaches to planning and delivering sustainable services and facilities. Action 4.3.6 Support the implementation of the 2000-2006 Urban and Village Renewal Scheme in South Tipperary (Lead Stakeholder: South Tipperary County Council).

A progress report on improved cohesion within the Local and Community Development Sector was reviewed and the Director's submission for additional resources to extend local development social inclusion services was approved.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has issued a circular letter in relation to a review of community and voluntary fora with a series of recommendations. The South Tipperary Forum meets all the recommendations concerning operations, relationship with the CDB and CDB members such as the local authorities, statutory bodies and local development agencies. In 2003 the Forum represented the community and voluntary sector on 30 different structures of the CDB/CDB members.

The County Development Board also agreed a recommendation from the CDB Officials Groups (Tipperary Town) to make a submission to the proposed Part 8 scheme relating to the N24 Western Corridor improvement – Pallasgreen to Bansha.

1. Local Agenda 21 Watch

Ciaran Lynch, Director of Sustainable Development at Tipperary Institute, reported on the implementation of the Local Agenda 21 Programme in South Tipperary. The Local Agenda 21 programme is centred on the provision of services and facilities at different spatial levels, village/small town, area town, county and regional. The main challenge still remains for the County Development Board which will be Ciaran Lynch's priority as the new chair of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group – the challenge of building consensus on the appropriate services and facilities required at each spatial level. The following actions are creating a framework for the building of consensus.

- ✓ MyParish gives information on groups and activities in each parish in the county – 750 groups entered.
- ✓ The County Council recreation and community facilities scheme has allocated over €900,000 to date to 40 projects (2003/2004).
- ✓ The South Tipperary Forum represents the voluntary and community sector on more than 30 bodies and delivers a range of services to its members. The Forum is considered to be one of the best such structures in the country.
- ✓ The Local Development and Community Development Sectors have established a very effective network that will shortly begin planning for the delivery of local development services post 2006. The performance of the Local Development Company Network is admirable given the context of uncertainty and cutbacks of 6 full time job equivalents in the past year.
- ✓ The Youth Services network has begun planning for the 2005-2010 period.

- ✓ The Community Framework Working Group supported by both Tipperary LEADER and Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development is coordinating four pilot community planning actions and the delivery of training programmes to the voluntary sector.
- ✓ Over the past year, there has been an increase in services – Citizen Information services, rural transport services and waste recycling services.

Mary O’Halloran, Ned O’Connor, Marian O’Dwyer and Michael Dee presented the following issues in response to the detailed progress report of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group.

- The issues facing the county have changed dramatically over the past decade. The main demands now relate to quality of life, childcare, play facilities and traffic management. Service and facility provision is an important challenge and the county needs to be proactive rather than reactive in facing them. Priorities already agreed include the provision of business parks and sites for micro-enterprise development and the development of hotels. The Business Pillar is proposing an action on entrepreneurship later in 2004. The delivery of broadband to rural areas also needs to be prioritized.
- Another challenge relates to social inclusion. Access to work and housing services need resources to ensure that the gap between those in employment and those at risk of social exclusion does not widen any further. While unemployment levels are low, there is a residual unemployment that is hard to impact upon. Local and community development services are particularly important in this regard. There needs to be more creativity to addressing housing needs and the public and community bodies involved might consider pooling resources to deliver more solutions. A further social and economic inclusion challenge relates to asylum seekers and people with disabilities, particularly with regard to access to work.

2. Proposals for improving cohesion in the delivery of local and community development services

The practical co-operative measures put in place (arising from the Local Development Company Network’s activities since 1999) include):

- ✓ Huge commitment by the individual companies to the establishment and work of the CDB, the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group, the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group, the RAPID Area Implementation Teams and their sub-structures (eg Tipperary LEADER Group hosts a RAPID Co-ordinator in Tipperary Town) and to each others’ structures (eg. CEB CEO is chair of Clonmel Community partnership, Clonmel Community Partnership CEO is chair of the County Childcare Committee).

- ✓ Knockanrawley Resource Centres hosts a second CDP (Tipperary Rural Traveller Project). Knockanrawley also hosted the offices of the Three Drives Family Resource Centre in the initial years until a community house was secured in the Three Drives area of Tipperary Town. Knockanrawley also provides facilities for outreach services for both public and community service providers.
- ✓ Local agreement between the County Enterprise Board and LEADER companies in relation to targeting and resourcing clients. There is also huge co-operation between these two types of company in implementing the CDB's economic priorities and other actions in the County Economic Programme.
- ✓ Local agreement between Waterford LEADER Partnership and Barrow-Nore-Suir Rural Development Ltd re the use of offices in Carrick on Suir.
- ✓ Strong co-operation between Tipperary LEADER Group and Barrow Nore Suir Rural Development Ltd regarding the implementation of programmes to support actions in the County strategy:
 - Supports for the implementation of action 4.3.5 relating to integrated planning in four pilot communities in the county.
 - Roll out of the rural transport initiative (Action 4.3.1)
 - Support to South Tipperary Forum (Actions 4.2.2, 4.2.5, 4.2.6)
 - Supports to the implementation of cultural priorities (actions 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.4.2)
- ✓ Local agreement on local development company representation on various networks arising from the work of the CDB (eg – County Shadow Sports Partnership)

Two new actions recommended by Alan Curtis, chair of the Local Development Company Network were added to the County Strategy:

- Measure 4.2 Key Support Services: Action 4.2.7) To facilitate the development of an integrated social inclusion plan and the delivery of local and community development services post 2006 (Lead Stakeholder: Local Development Company Network)
- Measure 2.2 Targeted holistic approach: Specific Target Groups in particular sub-county areas. Action: 2.2.11 To extend local and community development social inclusion services to Fethard and to two towns in West Tipperary (Lead Stakeholders: Clonmel Community Partnership and Knockanrawley Resource Centre).

3. Update on the Implementation of the County Strategy

The County Development Board amended the County Strategy to accommodate a recommendation from the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group as follows:

- Measure 4.3 Multi-agency approaches to planning and delivering sustainable services and facilities. Action 4.3.6 Support the implementation of the 2000-2006 Urban and Village Renewal Scheme in South Tipperary (Lead Stakeholder: South Tipperary County Council).

The County Development Board also agreed a recommendation from the CDB Officials Groups (Tipperary Town) to make a submission to the proposed Part 8 scheme relating to the N24 Western Corridor improvement – Pallasgreen to Bansha:

- That an intersection be provided on the proposed new N24 adjacent to where it is planned to cross over the L4204 (Boheratreen).

The Social Inclusion Measures Working Group has endorsed the RAPID Plan for Carrick-on-Suir.

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has issued a circular letter in relation to a review of Community and Voluntary Fora with a series of recommendations. Almost all the recommendations are already being implemented by South Tipperary Forum. The Forum has met its structural obligations via sectoral/thematic networks rather than area-based networks, although there is an area based network in Tipperary Town developed by the RAPID programme in conjunction with the South Tipperary Forum. Unlike many of the Community and Voluntary Fora around the country, South Tipperary Forum is an independent body and has an annual AGM (each November). The Forum's next AGM in November/December 2004 will meet the recommended obligation to re-constitute post the 2004 local elections. The Forum meets all the recommendations concerning operations, relationship with the CDB and CDB members such as the local authorities, statutory bodies and local development agencies. In 2003 the Forum represented the community and voluntary sector on 30 different structures of the CDB/CDB members.

Fionnuala McGeever, Chief Executive Officer, Tipperary S.R. VEC has replaced Seamus Moore as Chair of the Social Inclusion Measures Working Group. Cllr Michael Fitzgerald, Chair of the Corporate Affairs and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee, has replaced Barry O'Brien as Chair of the Cultural Programme Management Group. Ciaran Lynch, Director of Sustainable Development, Tipperary Institute, has replaced Brendan Griffin as chair of the Local Agenda 21 Programme Management Group.

New members to the County Development Board include: Cllr. Denis Bourke, Tracy Costello (Chair of the County Childcare Committee), Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald, Cllr. Mattie McGrath, Cllr. Sean Nyhan, Cllr. Phil Prendergast and Alan Price (Acting General Manager, South Tipperary Community Services, South Eastern Health Board).