

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 3rd April, 2006
Held at Minella Hotel, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. SIM agreed that the facilitation process between the three local development companies would continue
2. Preference should be given to ensuring county-wide coverage of LDSIP and best possible LEADER coverage
3. AIT support for projects via Dormant Accounts agreed

Present: Oliver Clancy FAS, Pat. Holland, C+E, John Devane, Tipperary LEADER, Declan Rice, BNS, Mary Egan Community and Vol. Forum, Eileen Condon VEC, Ronan Mulhall (Dept. of Ed and Science), Tina Kennedy SCP, Phil Shanahan CCP, Bridget O’Keeffe, Sean McSweeney, Knockanrawley, Carmel McKenna, CDP/FRC Network, Hilda O’Neill Health Promotion, HSE, Ann Ryan C+E, Patricia O’Shea Community Welfare, HSE-SE, Margo Hayes, Mark Ryan, RAPID co-ordinators, Breda Corr, Pobal, Dan Fox, Farming Pillar, Tracy Costello County Childcare Committee, Mick Cummins, Dept of Social and Family Affairs, Eileen Horgan, Community and Enterprise,

Apologies: Billy Doyle, Clonmel Borough Council, Alan Price, HSE-SE, Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC), Deirdre Hennessy Tipperary Regional Youth Service, Antje Hogan, Citizens Information Service, Martin Maher, Co. Libraries,

Chairperson: John Quinn, Director of Community and Enterprise.

1 and 2 The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted (proposed Oliver Clancy and seconded Declan Rice). Agenda agreed.

3 ‘Cohesion Process’

John Quinn gave a general outline of the various Social Inclusion bodies in the county and noted the Local Development Companies Network that had produced a Social Inclusion profile of the county as well as a more recent statement of how social inclusion services should develop in the county. Minister O’Cuiv was now seeking (1) complete social inclusion coverage, (2) two programmes being produced by one company and (3) county ‘coherence’. While objective one is agreed by all, objectives two and three are not agreed. Waterford LEADER had indicated that it will withdraw but Tipperary LEADER, Clonmel Community Partnership and Barrow Nore Suir are in discussion. CDPs and FRCs are not involved in the discussions at this time. The CDB was required to consider a report from the SIM and then to issue recommendations to the Minister. If it was unable to do so, then the issue would be referred to a change management group and to a Ministerial decision. Letters of support had been received from several local community groups urging that there be no change from the present situation.

Eileen Horgan reported on the facilitation process with the three local development companies. There was no agreement on a single proposal as yet. The current options being proposed by the three partners in the Cohesion process were:

Barrow, Nore, Suir (BNS) LEADER Company

1. Delivery of the LDSIP and LEADER programmes on the current footprint of the LEADER companies
2. BNS to provide the over-arching structure to facilitate delivery of the LEADER and LDSIP in both Kilkenny and South Tipperary –with localised delivery structures and strategies in both counties (ie BNS and CCP to develop and deliver partnership South Tipperary).

Clonmel Community Partnership

Preferred options:

1. South Tipperary County (only) structure covering all of South Tipperary administrative area. Expanded Partnership Company with LEADER
2. Expanded Partnership board delivering LDSIP and LEADER in all of South Tipperary administrative area.

Tipperary LEADER Group TLG

1. All Tipperary County LEADER/Partnership structure (with two possible variations)
 - a. All of North and South Tipperary (+or – Limerick area)
 - b. Current LEADER area footprint, North Tipperary and South Tipperary minus the Fethard, Carrick-on-Suir urban and rural electoral areas (+ or – Limerick area)
2. Two separate and independent LEADER/Partnership Companies; one in North Tipperary and one the full South Tipperary.

Clarifications and Discussion Points

1. There had been full consultation with the Boards of each organisation.
2. When will the FRCs and CDPs be involved ? (They had been excluded from the process to date but following Ministerial decision, the new arrangements would have to include them).
3. Why are community groups not included in process, they do not want to see the existing expertise lost.
4. Barrow Nore Suir does not want to willingly leave South Tipperary. It is not convinced that the current model is right or finally settled. It welcomes the LDSIP roll-out and is happy to participate and willing to partner with the CDPs etc. Administration expenditure in LEADER, like the total budget, is tied to population figures in the area of operation. It is important therefore to maintain large units. LEADER contracts will end in 2007 and most LEADER organisations want to pay out their funds in 2006 so as to be ready to launch new programmes in 2007. The Fethard area part of BNS contains one sixth of their area and some 15,000 persons. Kcan and BNS will form a new structure in Co. Kilkenny.
5. Clonmel Community Partnership noted the differences between the two programmes with the LDSIP being very targeted. Their main concern is be part of the process of extending the LDSIP to the whole county. Their option B is very much a lesser alternative. The dilemma lies in the cross-country roles of the two LEADER organisations.

6. A South Tipperary model makes more sense. However there is a loss of expertise. There also should be bottom-up consultation.
7. There are no massive problems with servicing a North/South Tipperary model
8. Tipperary LEADER has two principles: (1) What the Minister wants (a county structure) and (2) an equal partnership of LEADER and the Partnership. A new structure is needed with directors from both sides. There is much in common in the eight options presented. Their option two would have Tipperary LEADER continuing and nominating as a Board. LEADER is funded on a population basis while LDSIP is funded on a disadvantage and need basis. Tipperary LEADER's Board will meet on the 11th to review the process and to decide on their preferred option.
9. Equal representation on the new Board would be important but this would have to await Ministerial approval.
10. There are three fundamental principals in play here: (1) the North-South Tipperary link or not, (2) coverage in all areas and (3) LDSIP coverage in Kilkenny.
11. There were calls both for and against a facilitation process.

Agreed:

That Eileen Horgan and Oliver Clancy would brief the CDB on the issues as outlined above. The facilitation process should continue with early clarification of the North/South Tipperary issue and with preference being given to ensuring overall coverage by the LDSIP and best possible LEADER coverage.

4 Rural Isolation:

This issue watch, as circulated, was deferred until the next meeting.

5 RAPID Applications to Dormant Accounts:

The RAPID AIT funding proposals were agreed.

1. Tipperary Town AIT proposed to give 150,000 to a youth facility and the balance of the funds to smaller local community projects including a community events programme, a community journalist programme and a FAI soccer development officer proposal for the three RAPID towns.
2. Carrick-on-Suir will also part fund a youth facility as well as the Foroige building for community use, a community development course and the soccer proposal
3. Clonmel AIT will invest in actions from their plan dealing with youth matters in Elm Park with the refurbishment of a location owned by the CDP.

6 Any Other Business.

1. TACTIC CDP: This project would be refounded as a Traveller-focused project, hosted by CCP. A post would be advertised shortly. While the changes would mean the loss of some of the original aims (the community development part), there remained the possibility that the Dept. might fund a worker for this purpose under the Partnership.

2. Resignation of John Quinn, Director of Service: John Quinn thanked all present, the present and past chairs of the SIM and those SIM members who had been involved since the start of the process, some six and a half years ago. Oliver Clancy praised John's dedication to the process and to the challenge of the SIM. He had made a number of very significant achievements which were based on his relationship with the community and which created models of partnership and working for his colleagues. John Devane, Mick Cummins and speakers on behalf of the Community Voluntary Sector and the whole SIM also thanked and congratulated John Quinn on his work in the county.

7 Date of next meeting

3rd of July 2006, 2.00 –4.45pm, Minella Hotel