

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group

Meeting notes of 7th Feb., 2005

Held at Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. Several CDP Work Plans, RAPID plans and projects were endorsed
2. Presentations were made by Tipperary Rural Travellers Project and Chomhairle na nOg
3. The next SIM meeting will review key Social Inclusion actions

Present: Alan Price, SEHB, Mick Cummins, DSFA Sean McSweeney (South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Forum), Eileen Condon, VEC, Bridget O’Keeffe (Carrick on Suir Resource Centre), Mark Ryan Tipperary RAPID, Margo Hayes, Carrick-on-Suir co-ordinator, Eileen Horgan, Pat. Holland, John Quinn, County Development Board, Jim Dillon (Clonmel Borough Council), Supt. Mary FitzGerald, GS. Phil Shanahan, Clonmel Community Partnership, Ruth Smith (Tipperary Women’s Network), Kathleen Prendergast Clonmel RAPID co-ordinator, Carmel McKenna, CDP/FRC Network, Deirdre Hennessy (A/Director Tipperary Youth Service), Margaret Griffin, Margaret Casey (Tipperary Rural Travellers Project), Tracey Costelloe (County Childcare Committee), Tina Kennedy (School Completion Project), Sinead Carr, County Council.

Apologies: Liam Kilbride, Ronan Mulhall, Billy Doyle, Collette Laffin, John Devane, Tipperary LEADER group,

Chairperson: Fionuala McGeever (Tipperary S.R. VEC)

1 and 2 The meeting report of the last meeting was adopted (proposed Brigid O Keeffe and seconded Ruth Smith with one emendation: 5.4 The CDP’s in the county were committed to the process of creating rules of engagement for the inter-agency group. A vote of sympathy with Kathleen Prendergast on the recent death of her father was passed.

3 Matters Arising:

Report of Unemployment Working Group (circulated)

Oliver Clancy, agency representative for the lead agency for this action reported on this group which had decided on four action items for their next meeting:

1. All the agencies on the group would produce data on their work re employment
2. How can we provide data to local groups, CDPs etc.
3. Employer/employee liaison needed
4. Consider the future needs of the workforce (training etc).

The four actions were to take place in the context of falling unemployment, the need to create better links with employers, and two Actions in the County Strategy (one economic, one social).

Report on Discussions by Local Development Companies re local development and social inclusion post-2006.

Phil Shanahan reported on current discussions re: current provisions, gaps and the proposed situation post-2006. In many ways, social inclusion provision especially, South Tipperary was not a ‘premier county’. The process should be completed shortly and a report presented to the March SIM meeting. South Tipperary SIM, and LEADER groups nationally, were well to the fore in planning for post-2006.

Dept. Reply to SIM Submission

A reply had been received from ADM to note that the Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs had taken note of SIM's recommendations re: use of the term 'under-resourced' and reasonable working timescales for applications.

4 Review of Four Main Actions in Social Programme

The SIM will review progress on key actions at the April meeting

- 2.2.2 Strategic plan for physically disabled, Cashel catchment area
- 2.3.5 Co. Traveller action re accommodation programme
- 2.2.5 Inter-agency initiatives for youth
- 2.3.7 Action plans re anti-social behaviour

The target groups will give feedback in September and/or November re: the these actions, how they are being implemented and do they need to be amended.

5 Endorsements

John Quinn supported the endorsement of the plans as so much was being achieved with so few resources by the projects.

The following work plans were endorsed

Knockanrawley Work plan, 2005-2006, Proposed: Phil Shanahan, Seconded: Oliver Clancy

Waterford LEADER Partnership: Proposed: Oliver Clancy, Seconded: Sean McSweeney

Carrick-on-Suir CDP: Proposed Ruth Smith, Seconded Mick Cummins,

Men's Development Network: Proposed Phil Shanahan, seconded Carmel McKenna, endorsed subject to Tipperary pages of work plan being circulated to SIM and no issues raised within one week of circulation:. It was noted that a proposal to fund a men's development worker in the county was included and it was agreed to consider a more detailed proposal.

Agency Plans

Agencies were requested to forward their operational plans to the SIM for consideration of congruence with the County Strategy.

- The Council Corporate plan will be available for the April meeting.
- The VEC will be creating a five year plan this year with a nine-month consultation period.
- The VEC annual report will be available on the website.
- The HSE service plan is being put into a new format but will be available when completed.
- The Garda Policing plan is available at national and divisional level. Local area plans will follow and submissions are welcome.

6 RAPID

The RAPID reports for Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary and Clonmel were presented and endorsed as follows

Tipperary: proposed Eileen Condon, seconded: Sinead Carr

Carrick-on-Suir: proposed Brigid O'Keeffe, seconded Sean McSweeney

Clonmel: proposed Ruth Smith, seconded Treacy Costelloe

Specific recommendations were made regarding: Youth Facilities, Community Policing, the need for a feedback mechanism from the Dormant Accounts Board and the issue of facilities which are vital for a RAPID area but which are sited immediately outside the RAPID boundary.

The EPAC project for a childcare project in Elm Park was discussed. Issues in having the proposed land valued was threatening to delay the entire project, as was the need to refer all decisions regarding the sale of Health Board lands to the new HSE HQ. A meeting would take place shortly to try to move the issue onwards.

The Clonmel report was amended by the inclusion of Tipperary Women's Network to those projects involved in the development of the 'Tipperary Integrated Model of Empowerment project'.

The following list of RAPID projects was endorsed: proposed Treacy Costelloe, seconded Sinead Carr.

Clonmel AIT:

Group: St Mary's GAA
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 300,000eu

Group: Clonmel Town FC
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 185,000eu

Group: Clonmel Boxing Club
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 7,900eu

Tipperary Town AIT:

Group: Clanwilliam RFC
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 170,000eu

Group: Arravale Rovers GAA Club
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 170,000eu

Group: Tipperary Regional Youth Service
Funding Line: Community Youth Project (DES)
Amount Required: 60,000eu

Carrick-on-Suir AIT:

Group: Rock Rovers AFC
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 250,000eu

Group: Carrick on Suir Utd. AFC
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)

Amount Required: 45,000eu

Group: Sean Kelly Sports Centre
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 374,000eu

Group: Carrick-On-Suir Handball Club
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 100,000eu

Group: Carrick Swans Hurling, Football and Camogie Club
Funding Line: Sports Capital Programme (DAST)
Amount Required: 100,000eu

7 Presentations to SIM

Margaret Griffin and Margaret Casey of the Tipperary Rural Travellers Project made the following submission:

1. Under Section 21 of the Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998, the local authority set up the Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee. This statutory committee is, we consider, the appropriate place for consultation to take place between elected members and officials of the local authority and Travellers to advance the issue of Traveller Accommodation at a local level. We are concerned that the Interagency Committee will undermine the potential of the L.T.A.C.C.
2. We consider it utterly inappropriate that personal information about families is shared between agencies without their knowledge and consent. We are also concerned that this information is shared with a further group by being circulated in the minutes. We note that, for instance, somebody from Cashel can have access to information about Travellers in Tipperary Town, Cahir and Clonmel whom they don't know and are unlikely to work with.
3. We consider that discussing individual families in this way is tantamount to case conferencing families for accommodation. There is no basis in law for this to happen.
4. We are of the opinion that trust is central to a good working relationship and we consider continued involvement in this committee would compromise our work with Travellers in the area and would be counter-productive.
5. They also noted that it had been a very hard decision to step back but confirmed their full commitment to the Traveller Consultative Committee.

Feedback from SIM:

- Disappointed by the withdrawal from the Traveller Inter-Agency Committee after the call for inter-agency working by the SIM
- The two committees were separate and distinct
- The Council had requested its own legal advice which might have implications for other inter-agency actions

- All housing applications are considered in the same way
- Minutes are circulated on a professional and confidential basis
- The Inter-Agency group has helped to date but in the long term the Council was open to alternative approaches (Sinead Carr).
- The Network of CDPs had a long hard debate and have now left it to each project to decide for themselves (Carmel McKenna).
- The Chair noted that mediation might be a possibility but the Tipperary Rural Travellers representatives noted that theirs was a final decision.

Michael Mulvihill and Eric FitzGerald, representatives of the South Tipperary Comhairle na nOg spoke on the following issues/recommendations:

Alcohol and Drugs: This was a problem in all areas with some delegates feeling that it was easier to get drugs than alcohol. 'Having nothing else to do' was an issue and some advocated a lowering of the drinking age or a softer approach on certain drugs.

Recommendation: The Council (and other agencies presumably) should support No Name Clubs.

The clubs should have:

1. Improved locations,
2. Lower costs (entry and soft drinks),
3. Be longer and end later
4. Have a noticeable but discrete Garda presence
5. A controlled ticket distribution
6. Be run more often
7. Be part of much more and improved youth facilities where youth can meet, hang out etc.

Safety and Security: Most people felt unsafe at night. Bullying at school is an issue as is fear of unregulated bouncers.

Recommendations

1. 'Bouncers' should be regulated and trained
2. There needs to be more Guards available
3. Gardai should be trained in social skills and in building trust in local communities

Consultation of Young People: There should be more consultation of young people

Recommendations:

1. Training and on-going support to be provided for young people
2. Commitment and funding for youth consultation

Ending Child Poverty: A range of issues seen here

1. All young people under 18 should have a medical card
2. More youth hostels for homeless
3. Free childcare for those who need it

4. Teachers should be more aware of family problems

Education: there were many issues here with several recommendations

1. Dress Codes in schools should be relaxed
2. Student Councils should have more power
3. There should be recognition for PE and other extra-curricular activities in exam system
4. The Leaving Cert. Applied should be available in all schools
5. All schools should have homework help classes
6. Conversational techniques should be more prominent in the teaching of languages
7. Work experience should be more integrated into the school system
8. Home economics should be compulsory until 3rd year
9. There should be no examinations in CSPE, Health Education and Religion
10. Classes should be sufficiently small to allow for effective learning
11. Irish should be made optional or easier.

Feedback from SIM

- The Report from the 2005 Comhairle should be circulated
- Some of the supports requested were not easily available (e.g. Leaving Cert. Applied though this was a very good programme and should be given a better status).
- Great to hear from the Comhairle and to be aware of the views of youth
- No Name Clubs were a very good initiative but adult volunteers were needed

The meeting agreed to consider the recommendations from the Comhairle submission at the next meeting.

6 Any Other Business

A proposal to provide the Disability Forum of the Community and Voluntary Forum with a seat on the SIM was agreed: proposed Brigid O’Keeffe, seconded Phil. Shanahan.

7 Date of next meeting

Monday 4th of April, 2005, 2.00 –4.45pm, Minella Hotel