

Social Inclusion Measures Working Group
Meeting notes of 1st Nov., 2004
Held at Hotel Minella, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary

Summary

1. The Report of the Unemployment Working Group and of the Local Development Companies discussions were noted
2. Three projects were endorsed (Equality for Women Measure and National Action plan against Racism).

Present: Alan Price, SEHB, Mick Cummins, DSFA, Declan Rice BNS, Sean McSweeney (South Tipperary Community and Voluntary Forum), Eileen Condon, VEC, Ronan Mulhall, Dept of Education and Science, Bridget O'Keeffe (Carrick on Suir Resource Centre), Mark Ryan Tipperary RAPID, Jo Conroy, County Childcare Committee, Eileen Condon Adult Education VEC, Pat. Holland, Eileen Horgan, John Quinn, County Development Board, Phil Shanahan, Clonmel Community Partnership. Ruth Smith (Tipperary Women's Network) Kathleen Prendergast Clonmel RAPID co-ordinator, Margo Hayes, Carrick-on-Suir co-ordinator Carmel McKenna, CDP/FRC Network, Dan Fox, Farming Pillar, John Devane, Tipperary LEADER group, Eddie Harris, CWU Unions, Margaret Casey, TRTP, Sinead Carr, County Council, Eoin O'Neill, Waterford Youth Service.

Apologies: Billy Doyle (Clonmel Town Council), Oliver Clancy FAS, Supt. Mary FitzGerald, GS., Denis Leamy, ADM., Betty Coughlan, Co. Network CDPs/FRCs.

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

Agenda items 1 and 2

Those attending introduced themselves and the notes of last meeting were proposed and seconded (Ronan Mulhall and Ruth Smith).

3 Report of Unemployment Working Group (circulated)

The Chairperson noted that Oliver Clancy, agency representative for the lead agency for this action could not be present and a detailed discussion should be deferred. John Quinn outlined the background to the action with manual workers subject to long term unemployment, new Regional and Enterprise Strategies (to be circulated), the new tactic of 'One Step Up' for the unemployed and a general move to a developed economy with high wage levels.

Some comments were made by the meeting:

1. Life Long Learning was needed in a rapidly changing environment. The reference in 4.2 to it being only at 20% needed to be clarified so that it was clear that this was the current (anecdotal) level rather than the actual need
2. The VEC did not receive funding for Life Long Learning but rather found it under other budget sub-heads. There is a huge unfulfilled demand for adult literacy services but budgets and programmes are set at national level as with other state agencies such as FAS
3. 4.6 This point was very broad and a more detailed explanation was required
4. The report required more detailed work, derived from further meetings, examination of data and greater stakeholder inclusion.
5. Adult literacy courses are being run in partnership with other agencies but the funds committed nationally do not match the developmental aims/vision.

6. Literacy was a fundamental need for employment and pre-pre developmental courses were needed.
7. The working group needs to be broadened to include stakeholders such as representatives from the Travelling Community.

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

Phil. Shanahan reported on the progress of these discussions, which were at a preliminary stage. It was agreed that this process had value, was worth the investment of time and energy and that a one page briefing and list of members would be circulated in advance of the next SIM meeting. It was noted that it was most unlikely that many more CDP's would be funded and that this would leave some gaps in county-wide provision. However the existing local development companies were receiving more contracts/roles. It was up to the Local Development Companies to put forward proposals on how SIM will provide social inclusion services to the county post 2006. The Scheme of Capital Grants for Recreational and Community Amenities and Facilities can be used for capital projects only.

5 Endorsements

Tipperary Rural Travellers Project

Margaret Casey, Project Coordinator introduced the plan and noted that the project was working on a Primary Health Care project in Cashel for 2005 and that ownership of the project was now being taken up by the Travelling Community.

Points raised:

1. There is a need for employment for travellers (male and female) on employment schemes.
2. Sinead Carr, Director of Service, County Council, welcomed the document as a positive advance. However she did feel that it was essential for local development companies to take part in the inter-agency committee agreed to by SIM. The Traveller Accommodation Consultation Committee was separate from the Inter-Agency committee. The Inter-Agency committee's role was to implement and support the content of the strategic plan set up by the TACC.
3. Margaret Casey replied that she, and her Board, had difficulties in participating in the process, preferring to put their efforts into the Accommodation committee as they believed it might undermine the work of the TACC. They also had difficulties with regard to issues of confidentiality She would ask her Board to reconsider their position but noted that there might be other ways forward.
4. Carmel McKenna noted that the other CDPs were
 - a. aware of the issues faced by the Tipperary Rural Travellers Project
 - b. themselves interested in and committed to the process.
5. The question of 'endorsement' as provided for in recent departmental circulars was discussed. Some CDPs had been told that 'information sharing purposes' was now the aim. Multi-annual plans, once endorsed, certainly did not have to be re-examined each year. The issues of the position of a community worker in relation to the partnership process, the 'endorsement' process and the options available to

SIM if a stakeholder did not wish to support a project, and the nature of discussion and decision-making in SIM, were all discussed.

6. It was agreed that the two parties in this case would have further discussions to see if agreement could be reached. If the delay in endorsement created any financial issues, then the matter should be raised with the Director and Chairperson at once. If, following further discussion, there was no resolution of the issue, the plan could be endorsed with a record of an objection.

Proposals for two applications under the National Action Plan against Racism (Bridgewater House, Carrick-on-Suir and the County Museum, Clonmel) were endorsed.

6 Equality for Women's Measure Application

Phil. Shanahan introduced this application, which would seek to provide developmental training and associated supports to women in three RAPID areas. Points raised: (1) BNS would have a similar application in the Ballingarry area and (2) the Regional Assemblies might have a role

Proposal endorsed, proposed by Dan Fox, seconded by Declan Rice

It was noted that replies to applications made under Dormant Accounts were due shortly. The Knockanrawley application, recently approved, had been commended as a model of its kind.

7 Any Other Business

1. The Shadow Sports Partnership had recently held a successful meeting on grants available and would shortly be working with a consultant on a sports plan
2. A booklet on Training and Development Opportunities had recently been published
3. The VEC Sports and Youth Grants application 'window' had opened
4. It was noted that the February meeting of SIM would deal with 'endorsement' if required and the meetings in April, July and September would deal with the target groups previously identified for issue watches.

8 Date of next meeting

Monday 7th of February, 2005, 2.00 –4.45pm, venue to be notified