Minutes Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Meeting held on 13th February, 2015

**Present:** Sean McKeown, Local Enterprise Office
Loretto O’Driscoll, Teagasc
John Bambrick, Irish Farmers Association
Sheila Donnelly, Family Resource Centres
Eileen Curtis, Carlow Kilkenny Education Training BoardSadhbh O’Neill, Environmental Pillar
John Mulholland, Acting CEO, Kilkenny County Council
Mary Barron, Department of Social Protection
John Connolly, Community & Voluntary Forum
Declan Rice, County Kilkenny Leader Partnership
Cllr. Mary Hilda Cavanagh, Elected Representative
Cllr. David Fitzgerald, Elected Representative
Cllr. Eamon Aylward, Elected Representative

**In Attendance**: Nickey Brennan (Interim Chairman), John McCormack, Martin Mullally, Brid Hynes, Lindsey Butler, Lisa Bourke.

**Apologies:** Fergus Keane, Kilkenny Forum for Social Inclusion and Participation
Trish Brennan, Kilkenny Forum for Social Inclusion and Participation

**Absent:** Cllr. Andrew McGuinness, Elected Representative
 Martin Costello, Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce
Shirley Power, Community & Voluntary Forum

**Item 1 – Minutes**The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December, 2014 were adopted on the proposal of John Connolly and seconded by Sheila Donnelly.

**Item 2 – Correspondence**John McCormack went through all correspondence received, a listing of same was included in the meeting pack, copies of all correspondence were available at the meeting for inspection.

**Item 3 – Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**
Due to conflicts of interest, the following members absented themselves from the meeting for the duration of the SICAP discussion - Cllr Eamon Aylward, John Connolly and Declan Rice.

Members were requested to sign a Declaration of Impartiality and Confidentiality prior to any discussion regarding SICAP, declarations were signed by all present.

Lindsey Butler gave an update on the SICAP process to date, including the following

* Overview of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme
* Overview of the procurement process
* Evaluation of tenders
* Outcomes and next steps

Members present were shown the lot outcome for Kilkenny based on the findings of the Evaluation Sub Committee. Some discussion followed regarding the process of evaluating tenders and the role of the LCDC in same. It was proposed by Cllr Mary Hilda Cavanagh, seconded by Sadhbh O’Neill and agreed by all present that:

*“County Kilkenny Leader Partnership Ltd would be appointed as local programme implementers of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme for County Kilkenny.”*

Lindsey Butler stated that in line with guidelines outcome letters will be issued to tenderers on the same day nationally – scheduled for 18th February, 2015.

**Item 4 - Establishment of Public Participation Network (PPN)**Brid Hynes gave an update on the PPN process to date utilising a four phased approach

* Phase 1: June- July – Information dissemination
* Phase 2: August – October – Registration
* Phase 3: November – December – Establishment of the PPN
* Phase 4: January – March - Operational Phase

Two workshops were held in November, 2014 with the aim of establishing the PPN, however at the request of those present it was agreed to defer establishment until groups had the chance to get to know one another and look at the logistics of establishing a PPN. Further meetings to facilitate this request were arranged across the 3 Pillars and 4 Municipal Districts in January/February, 2015. Three meetings have been held to date with a poor turnout in each. No nominations have been received to the Secretariat as a result. The first meeting of the secretariat has been scheduled for 4th March, 2015 due to the urgency of having PPN representation on the various committees.

**Item 5 - Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020**Declan Rice absented himself for the duration of this discussion.

John McCormack referred to DECLG Information Note on LEADER 2014 – 2020 (included in meeting pack) which gave an update on the Governments position following engagement with the EU. He confirmed that it was the government’s preference that the LCDC should be the LAG with the Local Development Company as the key implementation partner.

 He stated that the LCDC would be submitting an expression of interest on being the LAG and that he was aware that this was also the intention of County Kilkenny Leader Partnership. In such circumstances this could potentially result in two LAGs for Kilkenny resulting in a split of the funding available under the programme. This would also have implications for KLP’s future involvement with the LCDC itself. He stated that such a scenario would not be in the best interests of the county and maximising the potential of the various funding programmes. Expressions of interest will be advertised shortly and will be adjudicated on by a national committee.

Chairman Nickey Brennan stated that it was his opinion that it was not advisable for the county to go down a dual LAG route.

**Item 6 - Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**Sean McKeown, Head of Local Enterprise Office gave an update on the key steps involved in the preparation of the LECP for County Kilkenny under the following headings:

* Background
* Purpose of the LECP
* Preparation structure of the LECP
* Five stages to the LECP
* Structure of the plan
* Preparation phase
* Public consultation phase
* Main guiding principles for the LECP
* Timelines – four phases completion by end October, 2015

Some discussion followed with Sadhbh O’Neill raising concerns over the lack of reference to environmental sustainability, Kilkenny’s unique heritage and its importance to tourism. She stated there was now an opportunity to look at conflicts in policy and address these issues in the LECP.

**Item 7 - Draft Standing Orders for LCDC**Martin Mullally updated the members of changes made to the draft LCDC standing orders (copies of same were circulated in meeting packs). He stated that the standing orders were a work in progress until the full LCDC is in place. Some discussion followed regarding whether alternates should be permitted if a member is unable to attend. John McCormack agreed to bring the government regulations in relation to same to the next meeting for further discussion.

**AOB**Chairman Nickey Brennan wished to remind members of their role in progressing the LCDC and of the importance of attendance at meetings and confirming ability/non ability to attend prior to the meeting date, to enable staff to ascertain if quorum etc will be reached. This is especially important should a vote be required, to ensure the required balance between public and private members in attendance is achieved to proceed to a vote.

This concluded the business of the meeting.