

# Urban & Rural Community Development & Social Inclusion Linkage Group

---

## Summary of Meeting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 19.30 via Zoom

### Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Statements of outcomes
- Consultation Focus Group: Local Economic Community Plan feedback
- Climate Action and Biodiversity Environment Linkage group Proposal
- Work plan and report 2021
- Facilitation and date of next Linkage group meeting
- AOB

### Attending

Edel Geraghty- Facilitator	NCCWN Limerick Women's Network
James Prior	Southill Family Resource Centre
David Tobin	Limerick Pedestrian Network
Vidette Ryan Molyneaux	Limerick Dragons
Susan Meagher	SMILE SCP
Paul Burkley	Down Syndrome Limerick
Ann Piercy	Midwest Migrant Community Network
Leona O'Callaghan	Haven Hub
John Nugent	Garryowen Residents Association

### Statements of Outcomes

The LCDC meeting on 02/03/2021 was attended by Susan Meagher, James Prior, Edel Geraghty and David Tobin. Apologies from Tony Lynch.

The main topics included an update on SICAP and the Covid 19 Emergency Fund.

JP became a member of the LCDC subcommittee in relation to funding distribution of over €16K

### Consultation Focus Group: Local Economic Community Plan feedback

EG gave a great explanation of the LECP, first initiated in 2015. She was part of the Focus Group held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The Department of Rural & Community Development

wish to develop new guidelines. These should be released in the near future but no specific date is available as yet.

Going forward EG believes we as a group should familiarise ourselves with the whole LECP consultation process. DT agreed to put a link on chatter and it was agreed to have this item on the next agenda

It was agreed that we ask Eileen Humphries in LCCC can give us a presentation on the LECP at our next meeting.

### **Climate Action and Biodiversity Environment Linkage group Proposal**

The correspondence below was read by Edel and it was unanimously agreed that we as a group support the topic. Edel agreed to check with Liz Gabbett of Climate Action and if it is supported by all PPN Linkage groups, we will query if it is going just from the Linkage group or as whole PPN

“Hi Limerick Climate Action and Biodiversity Environment Linkage Group

At our linkage group meeting, 29th March 2021, I asked for support from those present to put forward a letter to the Local Community Development Committee detailing the realities of community groups struggling to cover core administration costs. Here is the proposed letter. I would appreciate your feedback and confirmation of your support for the letter, or not.

Dear Members of the Local Community Development Committee,

Limerick Climate Action and Biodiversity Environment Linkage Group wish to bring to your attention that local community groups are struggling to cover core administration costs, e.g. insurance, bank charges, accountancy costs, etc. We ask that you recommend to council and government departments who set the rules for funding opportunities allow for core administration costs to be submitted and considered in funding applications.

In the past, community groups and local NGOs would have run events that allowed them to raise money from the public support that goes towards the running costs of an organisation. Necessary COVID-19 restrictions have made these events impossible to host.

On top of the fundraising event restrictions, lack of insurance cover or increasingly very expensive insurance costs are making many community group activities impossible. The number of insurance underwriters in the Irish market has been severally reduced due to Brexit. These three factors alone are just some of the many reasons for increasing insurance costs but the effect at the local level is that many community groups who support and provide events and facilities that enhance our quality of life and environment will not be able to do their core activities and may cease to exist.

In conclusion, we reiterate our request, please can you recommend to council, government departments and agencies who set the rules for funding opportunities allow for core administration costs to be submitted and considered in funding applications.

Yours sincerely

Limerick Climate Action and Biodiversity Environment Linkage Group”

## **Work plan and report 2021**

We agreed the plan for 2021

- LECP Development presentation, EG to arrange
- SICAP presentation, JP to arrange
- LEADER presentation, JP to arrange
- Each meeting going forward will have a 10 minute presentation from alternative groups.

## **Facilitation and date of next Linkage group meeting**

- Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 at 19.30. Facilitator DT, support JP & SM, presentation by Ann Piercy
- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2021 at 19.30. Facilitator JP Support by LOC. Presentation by Leona O'Callaghan.
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Facilitator SM, supports DT. Presentation TBA.

## **AOB**

EG did a check out round. It was agreed by all that it was a very interactive and positive meeting, welcomed especially by the new groups.