

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 29th April, 2022 at 10.30 am

Held by phone conference as a result of Covid-19. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG) Farming Sector

Present:

Mr Des Foley (DF)	Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Noel French (NF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Michael Ludlow (ML)	Meath Partnership
Mr Garret O'Brien (GOB)	Community Sector
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)	Social Inclusion
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Ms Donna Farrell (DF)	Chamber of Commerce

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)	Chief Officer, Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Áine Bird (AB)	Administrative Officer, Community Department, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Department, MCC
Ms Alison Lynch (AL)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Department, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Ms Suzanne Brady	Environmental Section
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Johann McKeever (JMCK)	HSE
Gráinne Ní Choisdealbha (GNÍC)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Vacant	Community Sector

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th March, 2022</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the 25th March 2022 were proposed by ML and seconded by SK.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>FF advised that there were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>FF briefed the Committee on one item of correspondence that had been circulated to the LCDC members in relation to EU Funding opportunities available to enhance communities.</p>
4.	<p>To receive an update on the PPN</p> <p>FF confirmed that the Meath PPN held an online plenary event for member groups on the 27th April 2022 and with the support from an independent facilitator, the event was an opportunity for member engagement and network development.</p> <p>SMcG stated that he attended this online meeting and said it was a good meeting, very informative and stated that the PPN is doing a good job in keeping people up to date with the sending of their monthly newsletter.</p> <p>GOB stated that he also attended this online meeting noted a number of concerns in relation to the plenary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The quorum wasn't met for the meeting • Meeting was a top-down approach and lacked transparency as all comments made during the meeting were not addressed <p>GOB also advised that feedback received from other attendees was similar to what was noted above.</p>
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Ukraine Crisis</u></p> <p>FF briefed the Committee on the work being carried out in the county of Meath by the Community Response Forum in relation to the Ukraine refugee crisis. Meath County Council are working with IPAS in sourcing accommodation for the Ukrainian refugees. A response centre has</p>

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

been set up at the Civil Defence HQ in Mullaghboy Industrial Estate in Navan and further accommodation has been sourced in Hotels, Hostels and B & Bs in Oldcastle, Ashbourne, Dunboyne, Donore, Kells. To date approximately 500 refugees have been accommodated that have come through this system however there are more in the County that have sourced their own accommodation through family and friends so we don't have accurate figures. FF explained that the Community Response Forum is working in conjunction with a number of other state and community agencies who each play a key role in assessing the needs of the refugees and who put the correct measures in place to assist them in meeting their needs and thanked each and every agency for their work to date. She advised that that each Local Authority is awaiting more information and direction from Government in relation to responding to this crisis.

EMcG congratulated the Community Response Forum on the work they have carried out to date and mentioned the refugees who have also been housed in the Centre in Duleek and the City North Hotel in Gormanstown. She stated that she had contacted the Local Link Bus Services to see if they could put on a service from Gormanstown to Laytown/Bettystown/Drogheda and asked if the Committee had any other suggestions as there is no transport from Gormanstown presently. She also asked if there was any portal for a Ukrainian refugee with a degree or qualification in English to offer their services and if there was any community funding available to provide an outdoor cinema for the Ukrainian refugee children.

FF advised that she has been in touch with Flexi Bus regarding the possibility of a service from Gormanstown to nearby villages and has been advised that the National Transport Authority have provided additional funding for such a service. She stated that she is not aware of any portal for Ukrainian Nationals with qualifications in the English language to apply to but that ML might be in a better position to give details on job opportunities for Ukrainian Nationals. FF also stated that she is not aware of any specific streams of funding for organising events for Ukrainian Nationals but that the Community Grant Scheme has been extended to 13th May 2022 and that such an event suggested by Elaine would qualify for funding under that scheme should someone wish to make an application.

DF also thanked all the agencies who are working together to help in this crisis. He confirmed that the emergency accommodation in the County in B&Bs, Hostels and Hotels is now drying up and the next step as per Government notification will involve identifying suitable vacant buildings in the County to house refugees in and the possible building of modular homes. He welcomed any follow on supports.

SWMcD stated that the LMETB are working with Ukrainian refugees in securing childcare, primary and secondary education and made reference to the REALT for Ukraine (Regional Education and Language Teams) who are available to ensure that clear, accessible information flows are in place between schools, local education support services and national support structures in relation to people arriving from Ukraine. She stressed the importance of referring

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

any family in the county to the REALT team if they are not already in this system and are in need of educational supports and links for transport. She also stated that the DSP are carrying out skills assessments on Ukrainian nationals presenting with high qualifications and are guiding them towards available job opportunities. She advised that the LMETB currently have a large campaign running in which they are looking for Ukrainian teachers and stated that qualified Ukrainian Nationals should be directed to that campaign.

ML stated that Meath Partnership are providing an Assistance programme for Ukrainian refugees and they would welcome any Ukrainian Nationals with English qualifications for interpretation services. The SICAP Programme is currently trying to help provide any Ukrainian Nationals who had started 3rd level education in their home country to resume their studies online in order to complete their courses and obtain their qualifications.

MB advised that he was aware of a family of Ukrainians who are housed in Fordstown and their children are attending school in Fordstown. He also stated that there were Ukrainians being housed in the Old Christian Brothers school in Kells and thanked all the agencies for the work being carried out.

GOB stated that insurance companies are helping in the crisis by extending the cover of their policies free of charge, therefore opening up more premises for availability.

FF reminded the Committee that the next meeting is scheduled for Friday 27th May, 2022.

SMcG thanked all for their attendance and participation.

Meeting concluded at 11.20 .am

Signed:


Chairperson

Date:


3rd August 2022