

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 26th May 2023 at 10.38 a.m.

Held by phone conference/in person. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Ms Suzanne Brady (SB) Environmental Sector

Present:

Ms Jackie Maguire (JM)	Chief Executive, Meath County Council
Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Ms Lorraine Flynn (LF)	Health Service Executive
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath

Guest:

Angel Marroquin Cultúr Migrant Centre, Navan (AMq)

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)	Chief Officer, Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Valerie McHugh (VMcH)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Alison Lynch (AL)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Cllr Yemi Adenuga (YA)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Mr Sean O'Coisdealbha (SO'C)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)	Social Inclusion Sector
Mr Garret O'Brien (GOB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Vacant	Community Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th April 2023</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 10.38 and SB welcomed all in attendance.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2023 were confirmed on the proposal of MB and seconded by EMcG.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>FF advised that there were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>FF confirmed that there were no items of correspondence.</p>
4.	<p>To receive a presentation from Cultúr on the progress of the Community Development Project</p> <p>Angel Marroquin from the Cultúr Migrant Centre gave an informative presentation to the committee on the work being carried out on the Migrant Network Community Development Project for Meath & Louth. This project aims to challenge the social exclusion and inequality experienced by local migrant communities and vulnerable groups, and seeks to address the intersecting issues of poverty, racism and isolation. He listed the various target groups and detailed the work carried out under the project to date in identifying the issues and needs raised by migrants and the steps taken to address those issues and needs by creating social connection and inclusion support. He invited the LCDC to attend future interagency meetings and to support the implementation of actions agreed upon at the interagency meetings in supporting the delivery of mainstream services to migrants and to help in identifying any funding available to them. He asked the LCDC for support in exploring the possibility of providing a Community Hub in Navan to support community groups and Leader's development and in creating a forum to address the issues faced by migrant workers in rural areas of Meath. He welcomed a multiagency support approach in aiding with the challenges they face.</p> <p>SB thanked Angel for the informative and impressive presentation and praised Cultúr for the immense work they had carried out to date in ensuring new entrants to our County are integrated into society. She agreed that with the help of the various agencies and sectors represented on the LCDC, that further links can be made to help Cultúr in their endeavours. She opened up to the floor for discussion.</p>

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EMcG also thanked Angel for all the work that is being carried out by Cultúr. She stated that there are many highly skilled Ukrainian Doctors and Nurses living in East Meath and other areas and highlighted that the language barrier is the issue for them in gaining employment. She recommended that online courses are made available to them and also English conversation classes and recommended circulation of the leaflet that had been produced in relation to the Cambridge English Course. She advised that Sonairte have offered their premises in Laytown for use if such classes could be provided.

AMq advised that Cultúr are starting the rollout of Online English Tutor (OET) classes specifically for doctors and nurses in July and he agreed to share the leaflet that EMcG referred to with the LCDC. He also stressed the need for a forum to link local businesses with the various migrant workers who he stated have a lot to offer their local communities so that they can address the barriers affecting their access to employment.

NM offered the use of the office at the Dan Shaw Centre in Navan to Cultúr if they planned on expanding their employment rights workshops.

SB advised that the Local Economic & Community Plan for Meath is currently being drafted and it has factored in lower paid workers in rural areas which covers the various migrant workers. She agreed that a Community Hub in Meath would be beneficial in creating a forum to link migrant workers and local businesses.

CL noted that he had met Tinu Achioya from Cultúr and is aware of the issues and barriers affecting migrant workers as mentioned in the presentation. He advised that Meath Partnership are currently in the process of drafting the Local Development Strategy for LEADER and he will take the contents of this presentation into account in its preparation.

CB informed AMq that she has a business premises in Duleek and suggested that a festival could be organised in Duleek for the Brazilian Community and offered her premises for such an event. She noted that work visas should be made available for the spouses of the migrant workers as they currently hold holiday visas.

AMq advised that talks are currently taking place with the Brazilian Ambassador to Ireland in relation to the matter of visas among the Brazilian community and their spouses. He welcomed CB's offer of a venue in Duleek to host a festival for Brazilian nationals.

CB asked AMq to send her a list of the Brazilian Leaders in Meath so that she could liaise with them in relation to organising a festival.

JM asked AMq for more clarification on what Cultúr mean by a Community Hub from the Councils perspective. She acknowledged that the premises they currently occupy in Navan is small. She

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	<p>questioned if the Community Hub they refer to will be used both for their office accommodation and also for holding their meetings/courses and asked for a better understanding of what their idea of a HUB included.</p> <p>AMq advised that that new migrant groups that have recently been established don't have a designated venue where they can come together, they are currently using the Resources Centre in Railway Street, Navan. He feels that if they had a designated Hub that it would promote greater group participation. He welcomed the support of Meath County Council in creating a hub.</p> <p>SB agreed with JM that if there was more clarification from Cultúr on what their idea of a hub is that the Committee could collectively come up with a few options and welcomed further discussion on this matter upon receipt of this clarification. She advised Cultúr that there are new Community Hubs being set up and opened around the County through the Broadband Connection Points which might be an option for Cultúr in the interim.</p> <p>SWMcD acknowledged the great work being carried out by Cultúr and noted that the LMETB are now conducting more structured English classes for migrants and these could be rolled out to rural areas if there were suitable hubs identified.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>To receive a progress update on the preparation of the LECP</p> <p>SY left the meeting at 11.10</p> <p>FF confirmed that the final LECP Steering Committee will take place on Tuesday 30th May and it is hoped that the Draft LECP will be reviewed and finalised following that meeting.</p> <p>FF advised that if agreed, the draft will then be sent to the Eastern & Midlands Regional Assembly for a compliance statement. If deemed compliant, the Draft LECP will be presented to each of the 6 Municipal District Committees for review and approval by mid-July. It will then be presented to the LCD C for approval at their meeting in late July and it is hoped that it will be approved and adopted by Full Council by September, 2023.</p> <p>FF thanked all the various agencies for their input in the process.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>FF gave an update on the PPN as follows and noted that this update had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting:</p> <p>The Plenary meeting took place on Saturday May 20th with 26 different groups being represented by 51 people on the day. The proposed Workplan and Constitution were presented to the Plenary, with an online vote to take place on the latter. Several policies are currently in development to be brought to a later Plenary.</p>

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	<p>Staff from Meath Fire Safety and Rescue, Climate Action Section of Meath County Council and from LAWPRO presented on the day with information on grants, funding, equipment available for citizen science opportunities as well as consultation on the New Climate Strategy.</p> <p>Afternoon showcase included young people from Involve discussing their No Shame Game and new podcast, with an invite to the PPN to be a guest on a future episode.</p> <p>The Chief Executive Officer of Meath Partnership was in attendance to discuss the new LEADER programme.</p> <p>Meath PPN staff attended the Age Friendly Alliance Day in Fairyhouse on 16th May and conducted a training needs analysis with attendees as well as a discussion on the opportunities for active retirement groups to be members of the PPN network.</p> <p>Laytown/Bettystown PPN meeting took place on 10th May.</p> <p>The Meath PPN staff attended the PPN Staff Conference in Athlone in late April.</p> <p>The Meath PPN will host the next meeting of Midlands Regional grouping of 6 PPN's in Johnstown House, Enfield on 28th June.</p> <p>565 groups are now registered with Meath PPN.</p>
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>FF advised that the next LCDC Meeting will be held on Friday 30th June 2023.</p> <p>SB thanked all for their attendance. She acknowledged that this was JM's final meeting on Meath LCDC and thanked her for her dedication and commitment on behalf of all of the Committee and wished her well in her retirement.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 11.18 a.m.</p>

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: 5th July 2023