

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

***Local Community Development Committee
Meeting – 22nd September 2023 at 10.42 a.m.
Blended Meeting***

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG) Farming Sector

Present:

Ms Fiona Lawless (FL)	Chief Executive, Meath County Council
Cllr Yemi Adenuga (YA)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Sean O’Coisdealbha (SO’C)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms Lorraine Flynn (LF)	Health Service Executive
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Ms Susuana Komolafe (SK)	Social Inclusion Sector
Mr Garret O’Brien (GOB)	Community & Voluntary Sector

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

Ms Suzanne Brady (SB)	Environmental Sector
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Vacant	Community Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th July 2023</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 10.42 and SMcG welcomed all in attendance.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 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 one item of correspondence, the SICAP Annual Report 2022, was circulated in advance of the meeting for information purposes.</p>
4.	<p>To receive an update from Údaras na Gaeltachta re: Gteic Digital Hub in Rathcairn</p> <p>SOC gave an updated in relation to the GTEIC Digital hubs that are being developed along the Gaeltacht areas from the North to the South of Ireland. There will be 27 hubs in total with 900 seats being offered. He advised that in County Meath it is hoped that the GTEIC hubs in Rathcairn and Baile Ghib will be completed by the end of the year. When it opens, the hub in Rathcairn will offer 11 seats. Each Hub will be operated by a local co-operative who will employ a full time Manager. He advised that the functions of the hubs are for 1) to accommodation remote workers 2) to facilitate people who wish to develop a business concept 3) to support people in growing their start-up businesses 4) to provide communication of digitilisation on a number of levels and will introduce working with EU Digital Hubs and will link SME's in with Mullingar Robotics and Drives.</p> <p>He advised that their strategy will involve forming a Designated Activity Company (DAC) to take over the running of the GTEIC Hubs. It will also include engaging with a number of EU Programmes and using the GTEIC network to broadcast and dissiminate the current information and technology into areas and communities.</p> <p>SMcG thanked SOC for the update and opened to the Committee for questions.</p> <p>There were questions from CB, MB, EMcG, SMcG and YA in relation to: the costs of renting a desk, the timeline for opening and services that will be available in Rathcairn, how the Hubs will be managed, the current level of interest in rentings the spaces, subventions for start up businesses, all of which were responded to by SOC to the satisfaction of the Committee.</p>

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	<p>SOC noted that the LCD C will be invited to the official opening of the Rathcairn Digital Hub.</p>
5.	<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>Meath PPN held 2 Leaderships training workshops in Ballinlough GFC (Aug 22nd) and Dunshaughlin library (Sept 14th) where 36 volunteers attended over both nights.</p> <p>A Social Inclusion pillar meeting occurred on September 7th, where 14-member groups learned of PPN developments, future social inclusion events and vacant committee positions.</p> <p>A range of policies and procedures have been developed and agreed by Secretariat to go forward for ratification of PPN membership at next Plenary.</p> <p>Staff continued to progress work on Meath Comhairle na nÓg and Healthy Meath Steering Committees.</p> <p>Staff presented at the national PPN networking meeting via Zoom on August 31st.</p> <p>Staff attended the Ploughing Championship in Laois on Thursday September 21st where they interacted with visitors to the PPN stand in the DRCD tent.</p> <p>The National Conference will take place in October, hosted by Wicklow PPN in Arklow. Meath will be represented by 2 Staff and 4 Secretariat Members.</p> <p>590 groups are now registered with Meath PPN</p> <p>SMcG commended the great work that is being carried out by the current Meath PPN team and advised of the benefit for groups to be registered with the PPN for the amount of information that is shared by them.</p>
6.	<p>AOB</p> <p>FF advised that the next LCD C Meeting will be held on Friday 20th October 2023.</p> <p>SMcG thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 11 a.m.</p>

Signed: 
Chairperson

Date: **20th October 2023**