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Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 28th February 2025 @ 11.22 a.m.

Held by phone conference/in person @ Deerpark Community Hub, Carlanstown, Kells

Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)

Farming Section Sector

Present:

Mr Barry Lynch (BL)

Director of Services, Meath County Council

Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)

Councillor, Meath County Council

Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)

Councillor, Meath County Council

Cllr Pádraig Coffey (PC)

Councillor, Meath County Council

Mr Joe English (JE)

Local Enterprise Office

Mr Sean O Coisdealbha (SOC)

Udaras na Gaeltachta

Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)

Meath Partnership

Mr Garret O'Brien (GO'B)

Community & Voluntary Sector

Ms Shola Yahya (SY)

Social Inclusion Sector

Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)

Community & Voluntary Sector

Ms Aileen Brady (AB)

Social Inclusion Sector

Guest:

Monica Nelson, (MN)

Social Inclusion Programmes Manager,
Meath Partnership

Margaret Grey (MB)

Carlanstown Kilbeg Community Development
Committee CLG

Officials:

Mr Brian Hora (BH)

Chief Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Ms Valerie McHugh (VMcH)

Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)

Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Ms Anne O'Brien (AO'B)

Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Ms Sharon Curran (SC)

Department of Social Protection

Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)

Louth Meath Education Training Board

Ms Johann McKeever (JMCK)

Health Service Executive

Mr Noel Maguire (NM)

Trade Union Sector

Ms Ger Hogarty (GH)

Youth Work Ireland Meath

Ms Ciara Burke (CB)

Chamber of Commerce

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th December 2024</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 11.22 a.m.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of MM and seconded by JE.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>BH stated that various items of correspondence had been circulated to the Committee in January and February for their information and attention.</p>
4.	<p>To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>BH advised that a detailed PPN update had been circulated to the Committee. He reported that PPN Staff welcomed recent news from the Department of Rural and Community Development that Meath PPN have been selected to host the 2025 National PPN Conference. This will take place in the Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim on October 16th & 17th 2025.</p>
5.	<p>To receive and approve the SICAP End of Year Report 2024</p> <p>BH informed the Committee that the SICAP subgroup had met on 5th February to discuss the above and he noted that all targets had been exceeded. There was also unspent funding which the sub-group had discussed and had recommended that funding carryover be approved together with approval of the annual plan 2025. He welcomed MN to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation.</p> <p>MN gave a report on the 2024 SICAP programme as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KPI1 had been overachieved for 2024 at 111%. 40 Community Groups were supported with 6 LCG's receiving grants to the value of €4,300. The total intervention figure was 345. All groups were encouraged to engage with Meath PPN. MN highlighted an increase in engagement with 2 target groups namely, people living in disadvantaged areas and refugees and 3 of the focus areas of older people (aged 65+years) in isolation, Refugee and migrant rights and integration and Youth (Aged<18 Years). - G1.1. Pobal Le Cheile had a target of 15 and supported 20 Local Community Groups - G1.2 Teach Mna had a target of 4 and supported 5 LCG's - G1.3 Legacy4Meath (BESC) had a target of 3 and supported 4 LCG's - G1.4 Connecting Cultures had a target of 6 and supported 6 LCG's

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- G1.5 Meath Befriending Network had a target of 3 and supported 4 LCG's
- G1.6 Resilient Roots had a target of 3 and supported 4 LCG's.
- G1.7 IP Connect Groups had a target of 3 and supported 4 LCG's.

MN confirmed that all targets in KPI1 had been exceeded and outlined the targets and achievements under each category. She noted that the 2024 Plan was achieved over 9 months as opposed to the 12-month norm.

- **KPI2** had also been overachieved for 2024 at 136%. 296 individuals had been supported. 82% of the clients were new to the programme. The total intervention figure under KPI2 was 1,670 over the 9 months. She noted that there has been welcome engagement with people with a criminal history who represented 3% of the caseload. There was also an increased in engagement with the Roma target group in 2024. She advised that 35% of KP12 caseload in 2024 progressed into Employment or self-employment within 9 months of service provision.
- G2.1 Youth Progression Initiative – Target 35 – Actual 47 Individuals
- G2.2 Follaine – Target 40 – Actual 43 Individuals
- G2.3 Cultivating Cultures – Target 83 – Actual 99 Individuals
- G2.4 Cultural Crossroads – Target 26 – Actual 82 Individuals
- G2.5 IPA Response Initiative – Target 34 – Actual 38 Individuals

MN noted that the Local Priority Target groups for County Meath has been chosen as follows and that progress against the LPTG's had been very strong throughout 2024.

1. People impacted by educational disadvantage
2. People living in disadvantaged communities
3. People living in households that are jobless or are in low-paid and/or precarious employment

MN advised that Meath Partnership are seeking approval for the underspend amount of €29,656.04 to be carried into 2025. She noted that this amount was within the 5% threshold allowable under the programme and the underspend would be used against actions in the 2025 Annual Plan. She opened to the floor for questions.

MM congratulated the SICAP team for their work under the programme in 2024 and commended the team on their social media posts which she said clearly highlighted the funding available.

BH confirmed that the End of Year review for 2024 and the Annual Plan for 2025 were discussed in detail by the SICAP subcommittee at their meeting in February and the committee agreed to approve the SICAP end of year review for 2024, the request to carryover the underspend of €29,656.04 and the Annual Plan for 2025.

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	<p>The approval of the SICAP End of Year Report for 2024 and the carryover of the underspend for 2024 of €29,656.04 was proposed by BL and seconded by MM.</p>
6.	<p>To receive and approve the SICAP Annual Plan 2025</p> <p>MN made a presentation to the group on the various Goals within the 2025 Annual Plan and stated that the actions will remain the same under each heading. The budget for 2025 is €839,121. She advised that KPI1 is set at 48 and KPI2 is set at 290. MN discussed in detail the plan under each action in the GOAL 1 Category for Local Community Groups. MN advised that all groups are encouraged to engage with Meath PPN.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G1.1. Pobal Le Cheile which will support 20 LCG's – Budget €14,000 - G1.2 Teach Mna which will support 5 LCG's – Budget €5,000 - G1.3 Legacy4Meath BESC which will support 4 LCG's – Budget €10,000 - G1.4 Connecting Cultures which will support 6 LCG's – Budget €12,000 - G1.5 Meath Befriending Network which will support 4 LCG's – Budget €4,000 - G1.6 Resilient Roots which will support 4 LCG's – Budget €8,000 - G1.7 New Arrivals Connects Group which will support 5 LCG's <p>MN outlined in detail the plan under each action under the GOAL 2 category for Individuals: These actions as the same as the 2024 plan as the 2024 plan was only over 9 months so there is scope for development under each action. MN stated that a lot can be achieved through collaboration with other agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G2.1 Youth Progression Initiative which will support 40 individuals - G2.2 Follaine which will support 45 individuals - G2.3 Cultivating Careers which will support 90 individuals - G2.4 Cultural Crossroads which will support 60 individuals - G2.5 New Arrivals Response Initiative which will support 55 individuals <p>MN opened to the floor for questions.</p> <p>MM complimented MN for her detailed and information slide presentation at today's meeting.</p> <p>EF commended Monica and the SICAP team on their immense work to date.</p> <p>CL stated that a number of members are new to the LCD C Committee and he suggested that if any members would like a more in-depth insight into the SICAP or LEADER programmes, that he is open to facilitating this at any time.</p> <p>This offer was welcomed by the Committee.</p> <p>The approval of the SICAP Annual Plan 2025 was proposed by EF and seconded by BL</p>

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7.	<p>To approve the SICAP list of sub-contractors for 2025</p> <p>GOB left the meeting at 11.30</p> <p>BH advised that the list of subcontractors for 2025 had been circulated in advance of the meetings.</p> <p>The approval of the SICAP list of sub-contractors for 2025 was proposed by MM and seconded by BL.</p>
8.	<p>Agency Updates</p> <p>SMcG advised that the Committee will receive a presentation from Margaret Grey from Carlanstown Kilbeg Community Development Committee CLG (CKCD) in relation to the process involved in the development of the Community Park and Hub and the funding received for same.</p> <p>BH noted that the presentation will begin after item 9 on the agenda is discussed as there are a couple of items for discussion under item 9.</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>1) Cultúr Community Development Programme: BH advised that as Chief Officer of the LCDC, he was requested by the DRCD to carry out checks on Cultúr's Community Development Programme, for both the End of Year report for 2024 and their Annual Plan Report for 2025 and to provide feedback on both to the DRCD. He stated that the Annual Plan for 2025 will build on the success of the 2024 Annual Plan. He noted that he had received a reply from the DRCD in relation to both submissions confirming their approval and he welcomed the support of the LCDC today in this matter. He noted that the DRCD had approved an extension and have granted additional funding for the Community Development Programme Pilot for the original 7 projects to 2026, which includes this project from Cultúr.</p> <p>The approval of the Cultúr CDP End of Year Report for 2024 and Annual Plan for 2025 was proposed by MM and seconded by CL.</p> <p>2) SICAP Subcontractors: CL advised that following the Local Government Auditing Services Audit of SICAP in 2024, both he and BH had met to discuss the streamlining of the process involved in determining what constitutes a "subcontractor" under the SICAP Programme. Following discussions, it was agreed locally by both the Programme Implementer and the LCDC that those individual suppliers who are supplying goods/services and are simply supporting the delivery of SICAP, for example a caterer supplying sandwiches for an event, would not be deemed a subcontractor. They agreed that only those external suppliers who are subcontracted for the purpose of directly delivering the SICAP Programme, such as those providing direct training, mentoring or education services and tutors or consultants or those subcontracted for the provision of transport services for SICAP beneficiaries or the engagement of facilitators for community-based initiatives or SICAP workshops will be</p>

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deemed “subcontractors”.

This local agreement to determine the definition of a sub-contractor under the SICAP Programme was approved on the proposal of **SMcG** and seconded by **EF**.

3) Presentation from Carlanstown Kilbeg Community Development Committee CLG Margaret Grey

The LCDC Committee received a detailed and informative presentation from Margaret Grey from the Carlanstown Kilbeg Community Development Committee CLG (CKCD) in relation to the lengthy process involved in the development of the park and the Community Hub at Deerpark, Carlanstown. She explained how this committee was formed back in 2012 when the need for a community facility was identified following a series of public consultation workshops which took place under the Village Renewal Initiative (RENAISSANCE) funded by Meath Partnership. She gave details of the grant aid secured by the Committee under LEADER funding and the support they received from several organisations including Meath Partnership, Meath County Council, Meath Local Community Development Committee, Louth/Meath Education and Training Board, along with support of the local community and the former Carlanstown Group Water Scheme. She stated that in 2013/2014 the Committee engaged with Meath County Council and subsequently secured a lease agreement for 20 acres of Deerpark with the objective of developing a community park and community facilities. Developments undertaken within the park included the development of the 1.6 km walkway, the installation of the agility trail play space for children, the planting of a variety of different trees and the installation of a footbridge. She noted that CKCD established a sub-committee (Deerpark Development Group) to oversee the design and development of a community hub to complement the outdoor area and provide opportunities for people to come together and meet up regardless of the weather. She advised that the Deerpark Community Hub building is phase 1 of a 2-phase development, the 2nd of which will include the development of a large multiuse hall which will be linked to the Community Hub. She stated that adopting a 2-phase approach offers better opportunities to maximise grant aid and is more financially prudent. She thanked all the various agencies for their continued support in the development of this community facility.

SMcG thanked Ms Grey for the detailed presentation and congratulated the Carlanstown Kilbeg Community Development Committee and the Deerpark Development Committee for their work in the development of this park and community facility. He thanked the LCDC for their attendance today, particularly those who attended in person and advised that the next LCDC meeting will be held on 28th March 2025.

The meeting concluded at 11.56 a.m.

Signed:  Date: 28th March, 2025

Chairperson