

## ***Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes***

***Local Community Development Committee***

***Meeting – 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 @ 11.13 a.m.***

***Held by phone conference/in person. 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

Mr Joe English (JE)

Local Enterprise Office

Ms Johann McKeever (JMCK)

Health Service Executive

Ms Sharon Curran (SC)

Department of Social Protection

Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)

Louth Meath Education Training Board

Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)

Meath Partnership

Mr Noel Maguire (NM)

Trade Union Sector

Mr Garret O'Brien (GO'B)

Community & Voluntary Sector

Ms Shola Yahya (SY)

Social Inclusion Sector

Ms Ger Hogarty (GH)

Youth Work Ireland Meath

Ms Ciara Burke (CB)

Chamber of Commerce

### **Officials:**

Mr Brian Hora (BH)

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 Anne O'Brien (AO'B)

Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

### **Apologies/Absent**

Cllr Pdraig Coffey (PC)

Councillor, Meath County Council

Mr Sean O Coisdealbha (SOC)

Udaras na Gaeltachta

Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)

Community & Voluntary Sector

Ms Aileen Brady (AB)

Social Inclusion Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p><b>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b></p> <p>The meeting commenced at 11.13 a.m. following the Local Action Group Meeting.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February were confirmed on the proposal of <b>CL</b> and seconded by <b>JE</b>.</p>
2.	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
3.	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p><b>BH</b> advised that 3 items of correspondence had been issue to the Committee over the month of March. He reminded the Committee that the correspondence related to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Public consultation survey for new rural development policy with a closing date of 2<sup>nd</sup> April</li> <li>2. Details of the Health Meath Microfund which has been advertised with a closing date of 11<sup>th</sup> April, and</li> <li>3. An invitation from DRCD to a focus group meeting taking place in Tullamore on 31<sup>st</sup> March to develop a communications campaign for LCD C's.</li> </ol> <p><b>BH</b> stated that if any committee members wish to attend on behalf of Meath LCD C on Monday next, to contact him.</p>
4.	<p><b>To receive an update on the PPN</b></p> <p><b>BH</b> gave an update on the PPN for the month of March as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First stakeholder meeting with DRCD and MCC re National Conference took place</li> <li>• Linkage Groups meetings took place, reps in attendance. Workplans for each group discussed, feedback for reps to bring to SPC. Need for training identified.</li> <li>• Staff attended CommUnity Connect launch in Deerpark Hub, Carlanstown.</li> <li>• Governance support training re: changing from trusteeship to CLG for committee members of Community Centres, particularly those established in late 1980s and 90s.</li> <li>• Further grant writing/fundraising workshops planned for April or May.</li> <li>• PPN Staff Retreat taking place in Galway 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>• 753 groups are registered with Meath PPN.</li> </ul>

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5.	<p><b>To approve the draft LCDC Annual Report for 2024</b></p> <p><b>BH</b> advised that the draft Annual Report 2024 had been circulated in advance of this meeting and noted that if approved by the LCDC today, it would be brought to Full Council for approval at their April meeting. He noted that 3 meetings did not take place in 2024 due to lack of a quorum and he stated that there wasn't full attendance by the LCDC at any meeting in 2024. He advised that the draft report also contains the percentage attendance from each LCDC Committee Representative for the 2024 meetings. He gave a brief outline of the contents of the LCDC Annual Report which included details of changes in Membership throughout the year, a list of current members and a list of meetings that took place during 2024. He added that 2024 was another successful year with the launch of the Meath Local Economic &amp; Community Plan 2023-2029, and the signing of the contract for the SICAP Programme 2024-2028. He further added that in 2024, the LCDC had approved funding allocations for the Local Enhancement Programme and the Healthy Ireland Round 4 Funding and had overseen the work of the Community Development Pilot Programme being delivered by Cultúr Migrant Centre and had secured funding under the Dormant Accounts Funding for LGBTI+. BH thanked the LCDC and all involved in delivering the various work programmes and initiatives in 2024.</p> <p><b>SMcG</b> thanked BH for preparing the report and commended all involved in rolling out the various programmes and initiatives in 2024.</p> <p>The approval of the Annual LCDC Report 2024 was proposed by <b>NM</b> and seconded by <b>GO'B</b>.</p>
6.	<p><b>To approve the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 grant applications.</b></p> <p>BH advised that the draft Local Enhancement Programme report was circulated by <b>AOB</b> in advance of this meeting for their consideration. He stated that following the LCDC approval, the report listing of the recommended community groups for funding approval will be sent to the DRCD, who will approve. The DRCD will then advise MCC when the successful groups can be notified and only at that stage should groups be notified of the funding allocations.</p> <p>He stated that the LEP supports groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with capital funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, energy efficiency type projects and purchase of equipment. Groups will also be able to use the current element of funding to support their non-pay running costs for example, energy costs/bills, rental/lease costs and insurance costs.</p> <p>He gave a brief overview the applications received and of how the fund was allocated.</p> <p>There was a small carry over of funding from last year's LEP scheme (€11,336 in capital &amp; women's funding). The Department have confirmed that this can be added to this year's capital LEP scheme. Therefore, the funding for 2025 (including carry over from last year's LEP scheme) and including the 5% administration fee can be broken down as follows:</p> <p>€190,945 – Capital funding allocation (2025 LEP capital allocation of €190,745, minus €11,127 admin fee plus €11,336 underspend from 2024 LEP).</p> <p>€31,791 – Current funding allocation</p> <p>€11,127 – 5% administration fee (5% of capital and current LEP allocation - €22,536)</p> <p>160 applications were received under the Capital stream to the value of €859,769 and 101 applications under</p>

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	<p>the current funding stream to the value of €378,141.</p> <p>He advised that 36 Applications under the capital stream had not received funding for the following reasons, having used the assisted criteria provided by the DRCD 1) the financial assistance sought was deemed too large to be considered as a small capital grant application 2) it was deemed that projects would not be adequately financially assisted under an LEP allocation to facilitate a successful completion of the projects 3) the groups submitted more than 1 application and due to the over subscription of capital allocations, only one application per community group was considered 4) the groups did not submit their required number of quotations to support their applications 5) the application submitted was not aligned with the LECF.</p> <p>He advised that under the Current stream of funding, 5 applications had not received funding for the following reasons 1) the nationwide element of the applications submitted 2) the groups had submitted more than one grant application and funding was limited</p> <p>He stated that of the 261 groups that applied for funding, 221 groups were allocated funding, and it is proposed that 125 groups will receive funding under the capital stream and 96 groups groups will receive funding under the current stream and that under the Capital stream, a minimum grant of €500 applied.</p> <p><b>SMcG</b> thanked <b>BH</b> and <b>AO'B</b> for the preparation of report and opened to the Committee for questions.</p> <p><b>CL &amp; CB</b> suggested that groups who didn't secure funding under this Scheme or who were looking for larger amounts of funding could apply for other grants or could be referred to the LEADER team to discuss their projects.</p> <p><b>GO'B</b> asked if the 3 groups who submitted incomplete applications would be contacted and given feedback on where they went wrong. <b>BH</b> advised that the 3 groups would be contacted.</p> <p><b>MM</b> stated that PPN was a great resource for the sharing of information in relation to grants available and other helpful information.</p> <p><b>BH</b> thanked <b>AO'B</b> for the work involved in preparing the report for the LCD C.</p> <p>The approval of the LEP 2025 grant applications was proposed by <b>GO'B</b> and seconded by <b>BL</b>.</p>
7.	<p><b>Agency updates</b></p> <p>There were no agency updates for today's meeting.</p>
9.	<p><b>A.O.B.</b></p> <p><b>SMcG</b> thanked all for their attendance and noted that the next meeting would take place on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</p> <p><b>The meeting concluded at 11.40 a.m.</b></p>

Signed:   
Chairperson

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2025