Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Meeting – 26th September 2025 @ 10.37 a.m.
Held by phone conference/in person. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Ms Johann McKeever (JMcK)	Health Service Executive

Present:

Mr Gerry Boyle (GB)	A/Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Sean O Coisdealbha(SOC)	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Ms Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Mr Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Mr Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector
Ms Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Officials:

Mr Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Valerie McHugh (VMcH)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Anne O'Brien (AO'B)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Guests:

Ms Monica Nelson (MN)	Meath Partnership
Christina Nestor (CN)	National School Completion Programme Co-Ordinator

Apologies/Absent

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Section Sector
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Cllr Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector

Community Section, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291, Telephone: 046 9097400, Web: www.meath.ie Email: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

LCDC
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Mí
Meath Local Community Development Committee

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Item	Discussion / Action
1.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th July 2025** The meeting commenced at 10.37 a.m. **BH** advised that both the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson were unavailable for today's meeting and therefore as per the Standing Orders, the members in attendance at today's meeting would have to select somebody to Chair both the LCDC and the LAG meetings today. **Johann McKeever** offered to Chair the meetings. This was confirmed on the proposal of **GOB** and seconded by **EF.** **BH** welcomed new LCDC member Marie Brennan from Meath Alzheimers Café to the Committee. *The minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **MG** and seconded by **MM.***
5.	**To approve SICAP case study 2025 "Belonging at Every Age: SICAP's Holistic Suport for Older People across Meath"** **BH** advised that today's meeting will start today with item 5. He stated that a copy of the case study video and the supporting written report had been circulated in advance of the meeting to the LCDC. He noted that the case study is fully in line with departmental case study guidelines and requirements. MN gave a brief overview of the case study which is titled "Belonging at Every Age". **BH** thanked **MN** for the work involved in preparing the case study and he stated that after the next LCDC meeting in October, he hopes to hold an event to formally launch the case study video. This will be the first time a case study has been launched, and the purpose of the launch is to promote the work of the SICAP Team and showcase the work they undertake under the programme. **BH** informed the committee that this is Monica Nelson's last meeting with the LCDC as she is moving from Meath Partnership into a new role. On behalf of the LCDC, **BH** thanked **MN** sincerely for all her hard work and dedication to the SICAP programme. As Acting Chairperson of today's meeting, **JMcK** also expressed her sincere thanks to **MN** on behalf of the LCDC. *The SICAP Case Study 2025 was approved on the proposal of **EF** and seconded by **SC.***

Community Section, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291, Telephone: 046 9097400, Web: www.meath.ie Email: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

6.	**To consider the SICAP 2024 Audit Report** **BH** advised that this report had been circulated in advance of today's meeting to the Committee and he stated that overall, there is satisfactory assurance in the controls and processes reviewed for the implementation of the 2024 SICAP Programme by the Programme Implementer, Meath Partnership. **MG** asked for clarification on what "Swazi" refers to (on page two of Cultúrs Mid-Year Report). **BH** clarified that the report for consideration under Item 6 is the SICAP Audit Report and his query relates to Cultúrs Mid-Year Report which will be dealt with under the next agenda item. *The SICAP Audit Report for 2024 was approved on the proposal of **GOB** and seconded by **SC**.*
7.	**Cultur Community Development Programme Mid-Year Report** **BH** informed the LCDC that a detailed presentation from the Cultur team on Cultur Community Development Programme had been presented to the LCDC in November 2024 and the end of year 2024 report has previously been signed off. He advised that the mid-year review is now before the LCDC for approval and the financial report and department report have been circulated prior to this meeting for their perusal. He stated that feedback and a report from the Department confirmed that the mid-year report is compliant with the elements of programme. **BH** informed the LCDC that the Department has no specific issues that they want to raise in terms of the report or the financial report. They note that there is an underspend due to staff changes **BH** clarified to MG that "Swazi" is a group of nationals from Swaziland. **BH** recommends that the LCDC continue to support Culture and outlined that there are no areas of concern in either reports and requested LCDC approval to submit back to the Department of Rural & Community Development and the Gaeltacht. *The Cultúr Community Development Programme Mid-Year Report was approved on the proposal of **JE** and seconded by **MM.***
8.	**PPN Update** **BH** advised that the PPN update for September had been circulated to the Committee in advance of this meeting along with the Agenda and the Brochure for the PPN National Conference which is being hosted by Meath PPN on 16th and 17th October. He gave a brief overview of both the Agenda and the brochure and stated that over 250 attendees are expected to attend over the 2 days. He congratulated Nicky McDonnell and David Griffin from Meath PPN for organizing the event. **BH** noted that the PPN membership continues to grow and that there are now 801 groups registered with Meath PPN, 671 from the community & voluntary pillar, 106 from the social inclusion pillar and 24 from the environmental pillar.

Community Section, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291, Telephone: 046 9097400, Web: www.meath.ie Email: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

1.	**Presentation on Windtown School Transport Initiative.** **BH** welcomed **Christina Nestor**, Co-Ordinator of the National School Completion Programme, to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation to the LCDC on the Windtown School Transport Initiative. **CN** gave a detailed presentation to the committee in relation to the Initiative which was established as a pilot Scheme in 2017 and continues to date. She gave details in relation to the allocation of bus spaces to students living in and around the Windtown Area who attend the DEIS/SCP Schools which are situated approximately 4.5 km from their homes. Students are picked up at 8 am and arrive at school for breakfast club, complete the school day and attend homework club. **CN** noted that in 2017, school attendance rates in the Windtown Area averaged 84%, and by the end of 2018, this had increased to 95%. To date 97% of students living in the Windtown Area are completing the leaving cert, 100% are transferring to 1st year and 99% are completing the junior certificate. She stated that attitudes to school attendance are engrained with no distraction enroute to school, students feel valued and supported which has had a positive impact on attendance, retention and progression. This is a key intervention in the Schools Completion Programme Strategic Plan and embedded in the school's DEIS process. She noted that in 2018, the student capacity under the programme was 36 this figure has now grown to 110 students. She discussed the challenges being faced such as the level of need and the capacity of the current service. She advised that the hope for the future of the initiative would include the consideration of the Windtown Area as a pilot site under the reduced school transport Scheme. **CN** finished her presentation by giving a breakdown of the costs of funding this initiative and expressed her thanks to all the various parties involved in rolling out and funding this initiative. **EF** left the meeting at 11.12 a.m. **JMcK** thanked **CN** for her detailed presentation and welcomed questions from the Committee**.** **CN** answered a couple of general questions from the Committee**.** **JMcK** noted that the programme is a wrap around service that supports young people to ensure they have the same opportunities as their peers.
9.	**Agency Updates** **BH** advised that there are no agency updates this month.

Community Section, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291, Telephone: 046 9097400, Web: www.meath.ie Email: customerservice@meathcoco.ie

LCDC
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Mí
Meath Local Community Development Committee

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

3.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the Minutes.
10.	**A.O** **JMcK** thanked all for their attendance and noted that the next meeting will take place on 23rd October 2025. **The meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus Mc Gee **Date:** 24th October 2025

Chairperson

Community Section, Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, County Meath, C15 Y291, Telephone: 046 9097400, Web: www.meath.ie Email: customerservice@meathcoco.ie