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

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 12th December 2025 @ 11.10 a.m.
Held by phone conference/in person. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming 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 Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Ms Johann McKeever (JMcK)	Health Service Executive
Mr Sean O Coisdealbha (SOC)	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Ms Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)	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 Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Anne O'Brien (AO'B)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Mr Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2025** The meeting commenced at 11.10 a.m. The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2025 were confirmed on the proposal of **CB** and seconded by **EF**.
2.	**Matters arising** MG stated that he would like the November minutes amended to include his suggestion of using inventive thinking to overcome staffing bottlenecks in industries in order to get young people back to work which was discussed under Item 6.
3.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were no items of correspondence for circulation in December. He advised that the DRCDG had issued guidance in relation to the timeline for the carrying out of the SICAP Annual Performance Review 2025 and the submission of the SICAP Annual Plan for 2026. However, he noted that he had received confirmation from the DRCDG that there is a delay in relation to the issuing of confirmation of the Annual Budgets for 2026, but that budget information would be confirmed next week and this may have a slight impact on the dates originally set by the DRCDG. He advised that the Annual Performance Review for 2025 and Annual Plan for 2026 must be formally approved by the LCDC by 27th February. BH also stated that he had received confirmation that the budget allocation for Cultúrs Migrant Development Programme for 2026 is €150,000 and this is an increase of €25,000 on the 2025 Budget Allocation.
4.	**To receive an update on the PPN** BH advised that the PPN update for December had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting and included a link to the National Conference 2025 Report which included details of the presentations, speeches and photos relating to the event: **Plenary** Winter plenary took place on Thursday 27th November in Navan. Attendees received updates from Meath PPN and presentations form Meath Climate Action, Crann Support Group and Meath DPO. Meath PPN highlighted how the current Secretariat were reaching the end of their terms. Four members were at the end of their first term while a further three were at the end of their second term. It was explained how the election of new Secretariat members will take place. To ensure the PPN continues to function according to its governance and policies, the longest serving members step down first whereby nominations and elections, if required, will take place across these pillars and MDs.

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	Following this, those coming to the end of their first term step down and a similar callout is done in these pillars and areas. In line with this governance, this marked the end of all terms for Garret O'Brien, Ronan Murtagh and Andy Ogle having reached a total of 10 years' service on the Secretariat. The Plenary expressed their thanks for their commitment and wished them well in the future. **2026** Some of the bigger plans for Meath PPN in 2026 include: • Developing a Strategic Plan for 2027-2030 • Creation of a Community Resilience Toolkit for groups • Research and a wider review of the volunteering crisis in Community &Voluntary sector. This is being brought to national PPN level as it now at a tipping point: IT Article **Membership** 821 groups are registered with Meath PPN: • 687 Community/Voluntary • 109 Social Inclusion • 25 Environment **BH** on behalf of the Meath LCDC, thanked the 3 Secretariat Members above for their time and commitment to Meath PPN He noted that the DRCDG had completed review of a pilot programme in relation to the Community & Voluntary Sector and the recommendations of that review are currently considering the recommendations of that report. **SMcG** thanked the PPN staff for their work during 2025.
5.	**Agency Updates** **BH** advised that in relation to the review of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP 2023-2029), the 1st 2-year review has commenced with the launch of an online cloud-based solution, which went live this week. As part of this review, each Action Lead received an email asking for updates to their actions and training on how to upload those actions was also provided to system users. He noted that the training session was recorded and will be sent to all Action Leads. **SOC** advised that GTEIC digital development hub had opened to the public in Rathcairn this week. **JMcK** stated that as Flu season is upon us, on behalf of the HSE, she encourages people to avail of the flu vaccine in order to prevent admissions to A&E.

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	She also noted that the NE-Doctor on Call is at capacity, and this service is available from 6 pm to 8 am each day and it operates a 24-hour service at weekends. She advised that the busiest waiting times for this service are from 6 pm to 8 pm each day and from the hours of 10 am to 2pm on Saturdays and Sundays. She noted that the flu vaccine is available to under 17's as a nasal spray and she advised of those who are eligible for a free flu vaccine. There was a general discussion in relation to the lack of General Practitioners in County Meath per head of population and how the public are having to use the Doctor on Call Services as they can't get appointments with their own GP's. There were queries from **CB** and **PC** in relation to Doctor of Call Service Hours and the replacement of retired GP's, both of which were answered by **JMcK.** **JMcK** advised that the Department of Health is currently running a 4-year training programme for GP Trainees and the GP must be an accredited trainer. She stated that at present, there are 107 GP Trainees availing of this training in County Meath and it is hoped that the majority of those who complete this training are retained within the County. She added that the HSE are actively monitoring GP's who are coming up to retirement age and assigning GP Trainees to those practices. **MG** asked **JMcK** if there is any update in relation to the proposed introduction of a fee on the provision of blister packs to older and vulnerable people effective from January 2026. **JMcK** advised that she will revert to MG on this matter.
6.	**To agree schedule of meeting dates for 2026** **BH** advised that the proposed list of meeting dates for the LCDC for 2026 had been circulated in advance of today's meeting and the 1st meeting of the LCDC on 23rd January will take place in the Meath Partnership offices in Kells. This will be an opportunity for the LCDC to meet both the LEADER and SICAP Team staff in person and to discuss the SICAP and LEADER programmes in more detail. **BH** noted that 11/12 LCDC meetings had been held in 2025 with one being cancelled in January due to Storm Eowyn. **SOC** left the meeting at 11.33 a.m.
7.	**A.O.B.** **BL** advised the LCDC that Joe English is retiring. He acknowledged Joe's valued contribution to the LCDC over the last number of years and on behalf of the Committee, he wished Joe well in his retirement.

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	BH stated that a number of additional subcontractors had been added to the SICAP subcontractor list, and he looked for approval of same by the LCDC. He presented the list to the Committee for their viewing. The additional SICAP subcontractors were approved on the proposal of **CB** and seconded by **EF.** **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance over the past year and noted that the first meeting of 2026 will take place on 23rd January. **The meeting concluded at 11.36 a.m.**

Signed: _____ **Date:** 23rd January 2026

Chairperson