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

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 27th March 2026 @ 11.14 a.m.
Held at THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence/Online via Teams

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector

Present:

Barry Lynch (BL)	Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Johann McKeever (JMcK)	Health Service Executive
Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector
Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Officials:

Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Valerie McHugh (VMcH)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Anne O'Brien (AOB)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Sean O Coisdealbha (SOC)	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Lorraine O'Malley (LOM)	Department of Social Protection
Vacant	Local Enterprise Office

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

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	**To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February 2026** The meeting commenced at 11.14 a.m. and the minutes of the meeting held on 27th February were confirmed on the proposal of **MG** and seconded by **CL**.
2.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
3.	**Presentation by Meath County Council Climate Action Team** **BH** advised that this presentation has been deferred until the April meeting.
4.	**To approve allocations under the 2026 Local Enhancement Programme** **BH** advised that the report on the recommendations in relation to the LEP 2026 had been circulated yesterday. He reiterated that this report is embargoed and none of the information contained in the report can be shared with the community groups. He noted that the LEP is administered by the LCDC on behalf of the Dept of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and that recommendations made by the LCDC are subject to final approval by the DRCDG and are embargoed until approved by the Department. **BH** advised that the LEP provides Capital funding to support community groups, particularly those in disadvantaged areas as identified in the LECP to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities and to purchase equipment. He noted that the DRCDG recommended that LCDC's ringfence 30% of the funding to provide small capital grants of €1,000 or less, allowing a larger volume of those with limited resources to receive funding. He advised that the total allocation for Meath for 2026 was €222,745 and there was a carryover of underspend from 2025 of €8,971.58, 58, giving a total allocation amount of €231,507.31 for 2026. A total of 158 applications had been received to the value of €755,905.15. He asked Committee members to leave the meeting if they have any conflicts of interest relating to any of the Groups. **EF** and **GH** declared conflicts of interest. **BH** asked them to leave the meeting and return when this agenda item had been discussed and approved. **EF** and **GH** left the meeting at 11.35 a.m. **BH** stated that a comprehensive and detailed assessment of the 158 applications had taken place and a total of 125 groups had been recommended for funding. The minimum amount recommended was €300 and maximum amount €7,000. He noted that all 125 recommended groups are not-for-profit community/voluntary bodies and all recommended projects were assessed against the guidelines and confirmed as eligible costs only. He gave a clear and detailed rationale for the 33 applications that were not allocated funding or deemed ineligible.

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	He gave a breakdown of funding recommendations per funding band, per Municipal District and discussed the assessment methodology used including cross-referencing the group location with the HP Deprivation Index. He stated that the assessment of applications addressed disadvantage, consistency with the LECP, adding value/community gain and the provision of quotations. **BH** advised that the LCDC Chief Officers Network Meetings had raised the issue of the need for funding for current expenditure for community groups which had not been included in this year's LEP and this will be brought to the attention of the DRCDG by the Chief Officers Network. **BL** thanked BH and AOB for the work they carried out in the detailed assessment of this funding recommendation and in such a short period of time. The LECP 2026 funding allocation recommendation was approved on the proposal of **MM** and seconded by **PC.**
5.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were 4 items of correspondence circulated since February's meeting relating to: • The Healthy Meath Microfund which is currently open for applications on a new online portal until 19th April • Details of the draft submission by Meath LCDC to the Healthy Ireland Framework Public Consultation • An Invitation to the launch of the Civic Dollars App in County Meath on 2nd April • Details of the launch of the Community Centres Investments Fund 2026
6.	**To receive an update on the PPN** **BH** advised that the PPN update for March had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting as follows: Along with Meath Community Safety Partnership, a Community Support Hubs information workshop took place on 24th March for centres/organisations that had completed an EOI. Questions from groups will inform the future support and training needs of the centres. Staff attended the launch of Willows (formerly Meath Women's Refuge) on 11th March and Tusla's Meath Child and Family Support Network Event on 24th March. Along with Healthy Meath, Meath PPN had the opportunity to showcase the Civic Dollars app at the Apprenticeship Expo in Trim on 12th March. The launch of the app will take place in Bective GFC on 2nd April. Meath PPN had an information stand at the SEAI's Energy Upgrade event in Ashbourne on 7th March and again at Meath Partnership's Social Prescribing event also in Ashbourne on 23rd March.

	A Governance for Community Groups training took place on 2 evenings with 34 people attending representing 39 groups. **Membership** 842 groups are registered with Meath PPN: • 704 Community/Voluntary • 113 Social Inclusion • 25 Environment
7.	**To consider making a submission to the Public Consultation on the next Healthy Ireland Framework** **BH** advised that a draft submission to the new Healthy Ireland Framework Consultation had been prepared by the Healthy Meath Co-Ordinator on behalf of Meath LCDC and had been circulated to the Committee earlier in the week and he was seeking their approval for its submission. He gave a summary of the draft recommendation which included the 4 population groups selected which are also Healthy Meath Target Groups and provided a summary on how the new Healthy Ireland Framework could better support people or communities who face barriers to good health. He advised that the 3 factors selected for this submission to be prioritised to make Ireland a healthier place over the next 10 years are 1) Mental Health & Wellbeing, 2) Physical Activity and Social Connection and 3) Loneliness. He noted that only a maximum of 3 factors could be selected. The submission to the next Healthy Ireland Framework was approved on the proposal of **BL** and seconded by **PC.**
8/9.	**Agency Updates and A.O.B.** **BH** advised that the LCDC will receive a presentation at the April or May meeting from the Family School Community Liaison Officer who is employed by the Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC), under the Child Poverty Fund since late 2025. **MM** left the meeting at 11.44 a.m. **BH** advised that the new online portal for reporting on the LECP is currently open for action updates by Action Leads, however he stated that there are currently many actions that have not been updated. He requested that actions are updated as soon as possible as the first report will be due before Full Council in April or May of this year.

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

	BL stated that it is important that Action Leads provide the relevant updates as soon as possible in relation to the Actions assigned to them and this is much more streamlined now with this new cloud-based solution. **BH** asked the LCDC if they agree to commencing the meetings at the earlier time of 10 a.m. in the future to prevent any issues in trying to maintain a quorum. The LCDC agreed to move the start time from 10.30 a.m. to 10 a.m. **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance today and noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 24th April 2026. **The meeting concluded at 11.46 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus Mc Gee **Date:** 24th April 2026

Chairperson