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

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 24th April 2026 @ 10.02 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
Johann McKeever (JMcK)	Health Service Executive
Seán Ó Coisdealbha (SO'C)	Údarás na Gaeltachta
Lorraine O'Malley (LO'M)	Department of Social Protection
Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector
Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Guests:

Aisling O'Donnell (AO'D)	Health Meath Coordinator, Community Dept, MCC
Mary D'Arcy (MD)	Climate Change Coordinator, Environment Dept, MCC

Officials:

Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive 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

Cllr Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Vacant	Local Enterprise Office

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	**To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2026** The meeting commenced at 10.02 a.m. SMcG thanked all for attending and welcomed Lorraine O'Malley to the Meath LCDC for her first meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 27th March were confirmed on the proposal of **MG** and seconded by **MM**.
2.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the minutes. **BH** asked if we could discuss the Health Meath Microfund Grant agenda item ahead of receiving the presentation by the Meath County Council Climate Action Team and this was agreed.
3.	**Approval of projects under the Healthy Meath Microfund Grant** **AO'D** gave an update on the Healthy Meath Microfund which she stated was launched in 2024 and provides small grants to support local groups and organisations to improve health and wellbeing, respond to emerging needs and reach communities that have not previously engaged with Healthy Meath. In relation to the 2026 Microfund Grant which launched on 18th March, she advised that 54 applications were received over the 6 Municipal Districts of Meath seeking a total sum of €82,586. She noted that this grant scheme was the first to go on Meath County Councils own online system. She gave an overview on the criteria used for assessing the 54 applications received to ensure the project description requirements were met. She stated that of the 54 applications received, 30 applications were categorised under the Healthy Lifestyle category and 24 were received under the Positive Mental Health category. She advised that the total amount available for allocation under the 2026 Health Meath Microfund was €20,230 and that 13 projects had been selected for funding. She gave an overview of the 7 projects selected for funding under the Healthy Lifestyle Category to the value of €10,680 and of the 6 projects selected for funding under the Positive Mental Health Category to the value of €9,550. She advised that projects were selected for funding from within all 6 Municipal Districts under each category. **SMcG** thanked AO'D for her presentation and AO'D answered a small number of questions from the Committee. **BH** stated that later in the year he would invite a couple of grant recipients to the LCDC meeting so that they could show how their grant allocation had benefitted their Groups/Community. **SO'C** left the meeting at 10.15. **SY** joined the meeting at 10.15 The approval of projects under the Healthy Meath Microfund 2026 was agreed on the proposal of **CB** and seconded by **MG**. **AO'D** left the meeting at 10.16

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4.	**Presentation by Meath County Council Climate Action Team** Mary D'Arcy, Climate Change Coordinator from Meath County Council, gave a presentation on the progress being made in relation to Climate Action and highlighted the scale and diversity of initiatives delivered. She highlighted the collaborative, cross-departmental effort undertaken by Meath County Council staff and Elected members across all local authority functions to drive positive Climate Action and meet our national objectives. She gave an overview of the data position of the Local Economic & Community Plan 2023-2029 to date against the ambition of the plan based on Governments National Objectives in relation to Energy Efficiency, Resilience, GHG Reduction, Awareness and of reaching Net Zero by 2025. She advised that the LECP 2023-2029 is aligned with Meath County Councils Climate Action Plans and reporting framework and the Agenda 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She discussed the Climate Action Governance Structure within Meath County Council and stated that the Climate Action Section is also supported with funding from the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE). She advised that the Climate Action Section is also supported by the Chief Executive of Meath County Council and the Senior Management Team who provide strategic guidance and oversight to the Climate Action Section, Climate Action Team (CAT) and Energy Team. The CAT and Energy Team comprises of staff from all Meath County Council's service areas, and their role is to act as champions for climate action and energy efficiencies within their service areas, and to deliver and report on the actions within the Climate Action Plan. She added that the Climate Action Forum (CAF), which is comprised of cross-party Council Elected Members, also promote and support the delivery of climate action. The CAF encourages community leadership, citizen engagement and enhances a two-way climate action conversation between Meath County Council and the public. MD gave an overview of the progress being made by MCC in the delivery of its Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 including the 9 decarbonising zones across County Meath. She advised that 71 Climate Actions were monitored during 2025, 53 Actions were completed including 46 recurring actions which are embedded in day-to-day Council operations. She advised that 18 Actions remain in progress and 0 actions were recorded as not started. This reflects climate action being embedded into the day-to-day Council operations, rather than standalone projects. She also gave an overview of the progress being made in relation to each of the Actions within the LECP including: • The setting up of 35 Active Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) in Meath which have facilitated over 4,000 property upgrades • Extensive environmental inspections carried out including farm, planning and discharge inspections • Strong engagement on the Hare's Corner Project • The launch of Meath's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025 – 2030 • The launch of the Community Climate Action Programme Fund. Phase 1, 26 Projects, Phase 2, with DCEE for evaluation • 37 Events were hosted across the County during Climate Action Month with 1,152 people in attendance • The launch of phase 3 of the GAA Green Clubs Programme. Meath GAA have the highest number of green clubs in the Country • A number of events were hosted across the County focusing on the circular economy, including EcoChic, EcoGrow and Furniture Repair events • Continuous work on embedding the Sustainable Development Goals in policy and practice • Launch of the 9 Decarbonising Zones across Meath

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	MD finished by giving an update on the priorities for 2026 which include accelerating the delivery of the decarbonising zones across the County and turning plans into visible actions, completing major energy projects, delivering Phase 2 of the Community Climate Action Programme Fund, deepening partnerships with communities and businesses and maintaining strong relations with the Local Elected Representatives. **SMcG** thanked MD for her detailed and informative presentation and commended her and the Climate Action Team on their extensive and impressive work in relation to Climate Action. There were various questions from the Committee, all of which were answered by MD**.** **CL** thanked MD for the detailed presentation. He advised that the LEADER Programme has the capacity to provide funding for rural energy capital projects and for feasibility studies for green energy. He invited the Climate Action Team to refer queries to the LEADER Team if they receive any queries on any such projects. **MD** left the meeting at 10.47 a.m.
5.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were 3 items of correspondence circulated since the March meeting as follows: • Details of the open call for applications under the Community Services Programme • An Invitation to participate in the Public Consultation on Irelands Government Digital Wallet • Details of the launch of the Community Safety Fund 2026
6.	**To receive an update on the PPN** BH advised that the PPN update for April had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting as follows: Along with Healthy Meath, the launch of the Civic Dollars App took place in Bective GFC on 2nd April. The event was well attended by various community groups, with demos and competitions on the day. The App has been mentioned in various media (Meath Chronicle) and promotion is ongoing. As part of National Spring Clean month with An Taisce, a clean-up of Jamestown Bog was organised with the local bog development group and residents on 11th April. It also provided a valuable networking opportunity and discussion around grants and funding, as well as promotion of the Civic Dollars app. Staff attended the regional meeting of Midlands PPNs which took place in Offaly on 15th April. Issues were raised around communication among national PPN bodies as well as promoting environmental groups through the networks.

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	As previous hosts of the National PPN Conference, this year Meath PPN staff are part of the subgroup for the 2026 hosts, Roscommon PPN. The conference will take place in the Hodson Bay Hotel on 22nd and 23rd September. **Membership** 846 groups are registered with Meath PPN: • 706 Community/Voluntary • 114 Social Inclusion • 26 Environment
7.	**A.O.B.** **BH** advised that, on behalf of Meath LCDC, he had carried out a review on the 2025 Annual Plan End of Year Progress Report and associated Annual Budget End of Year Progress Reports received in relation to CULTÚR Migrant Centre Community Development Pilot Programme. He advised that there were no concerns arising from this review and he gave the LCDC an overview of the feedback being returned to the DRCDG on their behalf. The 2025 End of Year Review for CULTÚR Migrant Centre Community Development Pilot Programme was approved on the proposal of **BL** and seconded by **GO'B**. **GH** joined the meeting at 10.52 a.m. **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance today and noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 22nd May 2026. **The meeting concluded at 10.53 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus Mc Gee **Date:** 22nd May 2026

Chairperson