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

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 22nd May 2026 @ 10.04 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 Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
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
Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector
Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Guests:

Megan Sharpe (MS)	Preschool Home Liaison Officer, Crann Support Group
Marie Daly (MD)	Chief Executive, Crann Support Group

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 Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
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 receive a presentation on the Preschool Liaison Pilot Project** The meeting commenced at 10.04 a.m. SMcG welcomed Megan Sharpe and Marie Daly to the meeting to give a presentation on the above project. **MD** introduced herself to the LCDC as Chief Executive Officer of the Crann Support Group. She also introduced MS, an experienced Early Years Practitioner with the Crann Support Group who has been appointed as the Preschool Liaison Pilot Project Officer since September 2025. MD advised that the Pilot Project is being funded by CYPSC, Meath County Council and the Crann Support Group. She emphasised the importance of early intervention and family support in Meath. **MS** gave a detailed and informative presentation in relation to the Preschool Home Liaison Pilot Project and her role as the Liaison Officer. She advised that the overall aim of this project is the strengthen the connection between parents, early years educators and community support services and to work closely with and support parents and guardians as their children go through preschool and transition to primary school. She stated that this improves educational outcomes for children by working with the key adults in their lives. This helps to: • Bridge the gap between vulnerable families and early years education services • Support families facing poverty, language barriers, disability related barriers and social isolation • Ensure children can access preschool education and supports to ensure school readiness She advised that her role as Preschool Home Liaison officer entails: • Supporting parents completing ECCE and NCS application forms • Liaising with preschools, schools, disability services and community supports • Providing home visits and direct family engagement to build trust • Advocating for children with additional needs and those from minority groups • Organising English classes for parents and working with interpreters to help those facing language barriers She noted that the project has highlighted the shortage of accessible ECCE places in Navan Town. Most of the places available are on the outskirts of the town and she must work with parents to organise transport to preschools both in Navan and across Meath. As part of this project, MS collaborated with Navan Travellers Workshop to produce a booklet, My Preschool Day, to support and promote inclusive preschool education for Traveller children across County Meath. Both MD and MS stated that it is imperative that funding continues for this project, and they hope it can be rolled out across all schools in the County, and they stressed the importance of early intervention with children. MD highlighted the lack of preschool places available across the County and especially in Navan due to the lack of premises available and another preschool provider has recently closed in Navan creating a shortage of spaces. There were questions from **SWMcD, MG, GOB and PC**, all of which were answered by **MD** and **MS.** **MD** confirmed that there is no duplication of funding in relation to this Scheme and what is being provided by the State for Deis schools. She advised that Crann Support group work closely with Meath Community Childcare Committee (MCCC) on an ongoing basis and she stated that the Deis schools are not doing the same work that is being carried out under this pilot project as they don't have the time. She stated that teachers in primary

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	schools are now realising the importance of preschool and a summer camp was held for teachers informing them of what is carried out in preschools and this was very well received by teachers. **SMcG** thanked both Marie and Megan for the information provided in the presentation and stated that the LCDC support them in the roll out of this project.
2.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2026** The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April were confirmed on the proposal of **BL** and seconded by **MG**. **MG** stated that the GAA Green Clubs Programme Initiative has been very successful and he hopes that it can be rolled out across other sports.
3.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were 2 items of correspondence circulated since the April meeting as follows: • Details of EU funded National Photography Competition • Invitation to Meath Seniors Information Day BH also advised that he had received details from POBAL in relation to the timeline for the SICAP Mid-year Review Process and he hopes that to bring the details same to the LCDC for approval at their July meeting.
5.	**To receive an update on the PPN** BH advised that the PPN update for May had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting as follows: Promotion of the Civic Dollars app continues with a targeted promotional campaign, in conjunction with Healthy Meath including engagement with all five Parkruns in Meath. This activity is intended to increase awareness, encourage participation, and support broader community wellbeing and volunteer engagement. A structured six-week plan will also focus on promoting key sites, one across each Municipal District, to be rolled out over the key summer holiday months. An online Grants Writing Workshop for PPN member groups took place on 20th May with 75 people representing 86 different PPN groups in attendance. The session focused on supporting groups to successfully

	access funding opportunities, with particular emphasis on the *Community Sports Facilities Fund* and the *Community Centres Investment Fund*. Due to demand and a large waiting list, this workshop will be run out again in the Autumn. The PPN Plenary took place on 21st May at Bective GFC. Presentations on the night included Meath Community Safety Partnership and the Community Safety Plan consultations; TUSLA Fostering supports and opportunities; Meath GAA Healthy and Green Clubs initiatives with local case studies; and a networking section where local groups discussed best practice across the network. As part of Volunteer Week, several community and voluntary groups were presented with a tea hamper in acknowledgement of their contribution across areas such as community development, social inclusion, volunteering, and local service delivery. This initiative recognizes the ongoing impact of volunteers and community organisations throughout Meath. **Membership Update** Meath PPN membership currently stands at 854, representing an increase of 3 groups since April. • Community Pillar: 713 (up from 711 in April) • Environment Pillar: 26 (no change) • Social Inclusion Pillar: 115 (up from 114 in April)
7.	**A.O.B.** **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance today and noted that the next meeting will be held on Friday 26th June 2026. **The meeting concluded at 10.43 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus Mc Gee **Date:** 26th June 2026

Chairperson