Coiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil
Local Community
Development Committee

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee
Date – 25th September 2026 @ 10.05 a.m.
Held at THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence/Online via Teams

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG)	Farming Sector

Present:

Gerry Boyle (GB)	A/Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Padraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, 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
Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Kieran Clince (KC)	Community & Voluntary Sector

Officials:

Brian Hora (BH)	Chief Officer/SEO, Community Dept, MCC
Francis Regan (FR)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Anne O'Brien (AO'B)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Lorraine O'Malley (LO'M)	Department of Social Protection
Michelle Goodwin (MCG)	Local Enterprise Office
Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Michael Gunn (MG)	Environmental Sector
Marie Brennan (MB)	Social Inclusion Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	**To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 24th July 2026** **SMcG** welcomed new LCDC member to Kieran Clince who was nominated from the Community & Voluntary Sector of the Meath Public Participation Network to the Committee for his first meeting and wished him well. The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July were confirmed on the proposal of **CL** and seconded by **EF.**
2.	**Matters arising** There were no matters arising from the minutes.
3.	**Correspondence** **BH** confirmed that there were four items of correspondence circulated since the July meeting as follows: • An invitation to the LCDC to engage in the Adult Literary for Life (All) Strategy • An invitation to the LCDC to the launch of the CommUnity Connect Louth & Meath website • Details of the launch of the ESF+ EIST Gender Equality Funding Call 2026 • Details of the PPN Stakeholder training from the being carried out by DRCDG
4.	**To approve the SICAP Case Study 2026** **NM** joined the meeting at 10.10 a.m. **BH** advised that the SICAP Case Study Written Document and the link to the video had been circulated prior to today's meetings . He noted that the thematic focus area for this case study was climate action and the just transition and described how the video shows how the SICAP team work collaboratively with other agencies and used engagement with the tenants in both the Oaklawns and its neighbouring Mineview estate to identify a green space and use it not only for community gardening and environmental learning but also for volunteering, family activity, youth engagement and collaboration with local organisations**.** **CL** said that the creation of the greenspace and garden was created through great collaboration between the SICAP Team and Respond Housing Body, Meath Local Sports Partnership and the local men's shed and incorporated sport and play elements which was great for the children in those estates and also involved educating and upskilling children and adults living in those disadvantaged areas on climate action, biodiversity and upskilling in order to improve their local areas. He noted that this project demonstrates community cohesion and shared learning and could be replicated across Meath**.** **BH** added that the deadline for submission of the case study is 30th October. He stated that if approved today, the Case Study would be launched after the LCDC/LAG meetings on 23rd October in the THRIVE Centre of Business Excellence in a similar manner to last year's case study launch.

	EF advised that he had visited the above sites and commended the SICAP team and all the agencies and community involved in this project. The SICAP Case study 2026 was approved on the proposal of **EF** and seconded by **PC**. **CL** encouraged the LCDC members to view the video and share among their networks.
5.	**To approve the Internal Audit report on SICAP 2025** **BH** advised that the internal audit report for SICAP 2025 had been circulated in advance of today's meeting. This audit is a mandatory annual audit to ensure that Meath Partnership complies with the programme requirements and contract conditions for the SICAP Programme 2024-2025. He gave a brief outline of the audit and advised that the 5 recommendations that were outstanding from the previous audit had all now been actioned and addressed satisfactorily. He advised that overall, there was a high level of compliance and satisfactory assurance in the controls and processes reviewed for the implementation of the 2025 SICAP Programme by the Programme Implementer, Meath Partnership. The internal audit report on SICAP for 2025 was approved on the proposal of **MM** and seconded by **JMcK.**
6.	**To note the mid-year review of Cultúr Migrant Centre Community Development Pilot Programme** **GH** joined the meeting at 10.20 a.m. **BH** advised that following the review of the Mid-Year Progress Report and budget report submitted by Cultúr for the Community Development Pilot Programme 2026, it was evident that the reports were completed satisfactorily and that a comprehensive account of activities and expenditure had been provided. He stated that the to date, the project demonstrates strong progress against the agreed objectives with evidence of effective community development approaches, significant engagement with migrant communities in Meath and positive outcomes in relation to participation, leadership development, representation and community capacity building. He further noted a number of significant achievements including the leveraging of additional funding to support project activities. In relation to the financial report, it was noted that a couple of budgets had over/underspends and there was one budget reallocation, however a rationale for each over/under spend was given and he said that Meath LCDC will continue to monitor all budget headings during the second half of the year. He stated that the LCDC acknowledges the strong level of activity delivered during the reporting period and he welcomes the collaborative work undertaken with community groups, statutory agencies and other stakeholders, and said that the project is on track to achieve its planned objectives and targets for 2026. There were questions from **CL** and **JMcK** in relation to the budget reallocation mentioned above and management of the budget, both of which were answered by **BH** to the satisfaction of the members. The report was noted.

7.	**To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)** **BH** advised that the PPN update for September had been circulated to the Committee prior to today's meeting as follows: September saw a significant increase in calls and emails to Meath PPN as community groups returned from the summer break. Support was provided through volunteer training, group facilitation, and information on grants and funding opportunities. These supports remain vital in helping groups continue their work and maintain a positive impact within their communities. PPN staff delivered training and information workshops at the Healthy Louth and Healthy Meath Community Connect Champions Days. The training equips Community Connect Champions with the skills and knowledge to engage effectively with people in their local areas and develop programmes with other volunteers to support mental health and wellbeing. PPN staff and members of the Secretariat were invited by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht to attend the National Ploughing Championships in County Offaly. Representing PPN networks nationally, the event provided an opportunity to promote the work of PPN's and highlight supports available to community and voluntary groups across rural Ireland. Staff and Secretariat are attending the 2026 National PPN Conference which is being hosted by Roscommon PPN. Meath PPN, as last year's hosts, were members of the steering committee for this year's event. **Membership Update** Meath PPN membership currently stands at **883**, an increase of 10 groups since July. • Community Pillar: 735 (+9) • Environment Pillar: 28 (+1) • Social Inclusion Pillar: 120 (-)
8.	**A.O.B.** **SMcG** thanked all for their attendance today and advised that the next meeting will be held on 23rd October, followed by the launch of the SICAP Case Study. **The meeting concluded at 10.26 a.m.**

Signed: Seamus mc Gee **Date:** 23rd October 2026

Chairperson