

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNTY BUILDINGS, WICKLOW ON MONDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2017, COMMENCING 2PM

PRESENT:

**COUNCILLOR E. TIMMINS, CATHAOIRLEACH,
COUNCILLORS T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, T. CULLEN, S. CULLEN,
P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N.
LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, O. O'BRIEN, M.
O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, P. VANCE, G.
WALSH AND I. WINTERS.**

APOLOGIES:

COUNCILLORS G. DUNNE, M. MCDONALD, D. NOLAN AND J. WHITMORE

IN ATTENDANCE:

**MR. F. CURRAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE.
MR. S. QUIRKE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. J. LANE, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. T. MURPHY, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. D. O'BRIEN, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. NICHOLSON, DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. M. GEANEY, A/DIRECTOR OF SERVICES
MR. B. GLEESON, HEAD OF FINANCE
MR. M. FLYNN, SENIOR ENGINEER
MS. S. WALSH, SENIOR PLANNER
MS. L. GALLAGHER, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR
MS. C. FLOOD, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MS. A. MINION, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MR. J. SEXTON, EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST
MS. R. WOOD, STAFF OFFICER
MR. T. HUGHES, IT SUPPORT**

Votes of Sympathy

Elected Members Collectively passed a vote of sympathy to Cllr. Gail Dunne on the recent passing of his brother Mr. James Dunne. A vote of sympathy was also passed to the family of the late the Mr. Kevin Hallahan of the Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team. A minutes silence was observed for the deceased.

Votes of Congratulations

Elected Members passed votes of congratulations to Mr. Paul Dunne on winning the British Golf Masters. It was proposed by Cllr. G. Walsh and seconded by the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. E. Timmins that a civic reception be held to honour Mr. Dunne's achievement. It was agreed that the protocol committee consider the matter at its meeting scheduled for 5.00pm. Cllr. N. Lawless proposed that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Blessington Brothers, Sean and Conor Price on succeeding to the Six Chair Challenge stage of the X Factor. Glenealy Senior Hurlers and Laragh Junior A Champions were also congratulated.

ITEM 7

Update on Council owned lands at Burgage, Blessington

On the proposal of the Cathairleach it was agreed that this matter be referred to the Baltinglass Municipal District for consideration and agreement.

ITEM NO 1

To consider the disposal of C1,860 sq ft approx. in the townland adjacent to Arklow Masonic Hall to Arklow Masonic Lodge, Arklow, Co Wicklow.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald, seconded by Cllr. S. Bourke and agreed to defer the matter of the disposal of C1,860 sq ft approx. in the townland adjacent to Arklow Masonic Hall to Arklow Masonic Lodge, Arklow, Co Wicklow in accordance with statutory notice previously circulated, pending further discussions.

ITEM NO 2

To consider the disposal of 0.1083 hectares of land at Blessington Demesne to Mr. Fergal Donoghue, Ballinatona, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co Wicklow (Boom and Platform Hire, Blessington Industrial Estate, Blessington, Co Wicklow).

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ruttle, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed to dispose of 0.1083 hectares of land at Blessington Demesne to Mr. Fergal Donoghue, Ballinatona, Manor Kilbride, Blessington, Co Wicklow in accordance with statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO. 3

To consider the disposal of 0.1414 hectares of land at Blessington Demense to Mountain View Motors Ltd., t/a Kelly Motors, Blessington Business Park, Blessington.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Ruttle, seconded by Cllr. G. O'Neill and agreed to dispose of 0.1414 hectares of land at Blessington Demense to Mountain View Motors Ltd., t/a Kelly Motors, Blessington Business Park, Blessington in accordance with statutory notice previously circulated.

ITEM NO 4.

To formally approve the County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Bye-Laws of 2017 with amendments

Elected members were circulated with the document: County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limit Bye-Laws, 2017, (including the changes adopted by the Elected Members on the 4th of September, 2017).

It was proposed by Cllr. C. Fox, seconded by Cllr. P. Fitzgerald and agreed by a margin of 26 votes for and 6 not present to adopt the County Wicklow Road Traffic Special Speed Limits Bye – Laws of 2017, including the amendments adopted by the elected members at Council meeting held on Monday the 4th of September, 2017 effective from the 31st of December, 2017 viz-

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| FOR 26 | CLLRS. T. ANNESLEY, J. BEHAN, V. BLAKE, S. BOURKE, S. CULLEN, P. DORAN, P. FITZGERALD, T. FORTUNE, C. FOX, M. KAVANAGH, P. KENNEDY, N. LAWLESS, S. MATTHEWS, D. MITCHELL, M. MURPHY, O. O'BRIEN, M. O'CONNOR, G. O'NEILL, J. RUTTLE, J. RYAN, J. SNELL, B. THORNHILL, E. TIMMINS, P. VANCE , G. WALSH AND I. WINTERS. |
| NOT PRESENT 6 | CLLRS. T. CULLEN, G. DUNNE, M. MCDONALD, G. MCLOUGHLIN, D. NOLAN AND J. WHITMORE. |

ITEM NO 5

To receive a presentation from Wicklow County Tourism Ltd: Chairman Mr. Pat Mellon and Manager Mr. Fred Verdier.

Mr. Pat Mellon, Chairman of Wicklow County Tourism Ltd., and Mr. Fred Verdier, Manager Wicklow County Tourism Ltd. jointly made a presentation to the Elected Members setting out the work of the Board and its objective to grow the revenue by 20% in the coming year. The Board is also seeking an increase of 20% funding in the allocation from Wicklow County Council to the 2018 budget:-

WEBSITE: visitwicklow.ie - Popularity:

- **2016:**

440,000 sessions (up 27% from 2015); 2.7 Million pageviews; 2017 expectations: Sessions currently 26% up from 2016; 60% of traffic on mobile device

Strong Ranking on Search Engine:

- Top ranking for Wicklow keywords: Glendalough, Powerscourt, Wicklow Walks, etc
- Top ranking for many towns and villages:
Wicklow Town, Arklow, Greystones, Blessington, Bray, etc.
- Hub for all Wicklow Tourism searches

2017 Audience

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1.  Ireland | 169,131 (66.64%) |
| 2.  United Kingdom | 26,287 (10.36%) |
| 3.  United States | 23,970 (9.44%) |
| 4.  Germany | 4,981 (1.96%) |
| 5.  Canada | 3,498 (1.38%) |
| 6.  Australia | 3,086 (1.22%) |
| 7.  France | 2,685 (1.06%) |
| 8.  Netherlands | 2,552 (1.01%) |
| 9.  Spain | 2,467 (0.97%) |
| 10.  Belgium | 1,462 (0.58%) |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. England | 18,773 (71.42%) |
| 2. Northern Ireland | 4,887 (18.59%) |
| 3. Scotland | 1,621 (6.17%) |
| 4. Wales | 789 (3.00%) |
| 5. (not set) | 147 (0.56%) |
| 6. Isle of Man | 70 (0.27%) |

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Dublin | 125,823 (74.39%) |
| 2. (not set) | 9,658 (5.71%) |
| 3. Wicklow | 4,430 (2.62%) |
| 4. Greystones | 3,251 (1.92%) |
| 5. Bray | 2,817 (1.67%) |
| 6. Cork | 2,402 (1.42%) |
| 7. Naas | 1,826 (1.08%) |
| 8. Arklow | 1,660 (0.98%) |
| 9. Galway | 1,177 (0.70%) |
| 10. Dundalk | 1,177 (0.70%) |

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook:

Likes: 16,200 likes (+34% since Jan 2017); Video Views: 571,000 (since Jan 2017); Twitter: 1,875 followers (+50%); Youtube: 258,113 views (+16%); Instagram: 549 followers (+500%)

ACCOUNTS:

Facebook: wicklow.tourism; Instagram: visitwicklow Twitter: @visitwicklow

VIDEO PRODUCTION

- Producing one video per week
- Filming & Editing done in-house
- Invested in Drone
- Primary use: Social Media
- Facebook last week:
 - Reach: 80k people
 - Video views: 29k people
- Looking for more options to display videos
- Producing one video per week
- Filming & Editing done in-house
- Invested in Drone
- Primary use: Social Media
- Facebook last week:
 - Reach: 80k people
 - Video views: 29k people
- Looking for more options to display videos

PROMOTE: PRINT MATERIAL - 2017 Maps: 80,000 copies (+60%)

Distribution:

- Extensive throughout the County
- Dublin Tourism Business Association
- Dublin Tourist Offices
- Local Events
- Tradeshows and Fairs
- Ireland & Abroad

FAIRS, SHOWS & EVENTS: Holiday World Show Dublin; Meitheal ; Networking Evening

2016 PR CAMPAIGN - #WakeUpInWicklow

- Campaign running from July to December 2016
- Dedicated PR Agency to push and promote
- Extensive exposure on Local & National Press
- Two weeklong competitions on TV3
- Extensive use and reach on social media
- Widely embraced and used by Wicklow business, residents and users
- Re-energise membership base
- #MyWicklow
- Launched Wicklow Gardens Season
- Partnership with Mobility Mojo
- Hainan Friendship Agreement

WICKLOW WAY PROJECT - Wicklow Way E-book & Research - Phase 1: Ebook

- Public and private transport
- Mobile phone coverage
- WiFi points along the route
- Accommodation, eateries & shops along the route.
- Points of historical interest
- Flora and fauna of the route in general terms
- Points of geological interest
- Map of sections
- Photos

Phase 2: Research and improvement

- Suggestions on signage and other needs to improve user experience.
- Research routes and opportunities to extend the Wicklow Way into Dublin City Centre
- Options to link the Wicklow Way with other long international walking routes (Camino, Snowdonia, etc.)
- Research options to enhance the Wicklow Way baggage handling (with drop off options in Dublin / Marlay Park)

ANCIENT EAST - 5000 YEARS OF HISTORY

Phase 1: Framework: Introduce the themes; Source local stories

Phase 2: Interpretation: Web / Social Media; Videos; Book; Etc

THEMES: Geology Wicklow; Ancient / Pre-Historic Wicklow; Early Christians; The Vikings; The Normans; Rebellions; Big Houses & Gardens; Industrialisation; Family History; Literature & Arts; People of Wicklow; Town & Villages

VIDEO PRODUCTION & DISPLAY: GROW VIDEO DATABASE: Attractions; Activities: Food & Drinks; Stories

INCREASE DISPLAY NETWORK: Own Social Media; Media Partners (bloggers, National, International Media); TV Production Companies; Develop 'screens network' through tourism members and local information points

MOBILITY MOJO: Define and promote type of accessibility available in Wicklow

- Help members to assess and list own accessibility
- Wicklow to take the lead in accessibility in Ireland
- Tremendous business opportunity
- Extensive PR to be gained

WALKING APP FUNDING APPLICATION - Project in partnership with County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Uplands Council, Wicklow Sports Partnership, Wicklow County Council**App to include:**

- Offer a listing of the various marked trails and walks around Wicklow.
- Users to choose walk according to current location, distance, terrain, time, etc.
- All walks will have basic information (distance, climb, difficulty, location) and link to local services (website)
- After choosing the walk, user gets direction to the walk
- User can 'Do the Walk' when map opens with walk marked and marker on user's current location
- App to include emergency

BREXIT

- Failte Ireland figures tell -9% UK holiday makers 'flying' to Ireland
- Local industry feedback tells numbers have declined by anywhere from 15-28% (includes Northern Ireland).
- UK/NI accounts for approximately 23% of all the bed nights sold in Wicklow
- Those who are coming are spending 20% less
- Potential €100 million less revenue over 12 months
- Ireland less competitive against weak Pound

WICKLOW CANNOT WAIT: NEED TO BE PROACTIVE! COMMUNICATION - IMPROVE COMMUNICATION:

- Wicklow enjoys limited exposure at home and very little abroad
- Wicklow needs to fight harder for share of UK decreasing market (Brexit)
- Develop partnership with Hainan Province: tremendous opportunity with new direct flights from China.
- Resources needed to bring Wicklow's Destination, News & Stories to broader national and International audience.
- WCT working on an extensive communication strategy

FUNDING

2017 Wicklow County Tourism: Membership Revenue +19%; Wicklow County Council: €80,000

2018; For info, County Council's contribution in 2007 was €135,000 per annum; Wicklow County Tourism: objective to grow revenue by 20% (increase membership fee, chase new members); Wicklow County Council: request to increase support by 20% (€96,000)

END.

The Cathaoirleach and elected members collectively congratulated Wicklow County Tourism Ltd. for their very valuable work in contributing to the tourism economy of County Wicklow and the initiative brought forward by them in 2017. They wished the Company ongoing success into the future.

ITEM NO 6**To receive a presentation from Comhairle na nOg.**

Ms. Tara Trevaskis Hoskins, Mr. Colm Roche, Ms. Jade O'Hagan and Ms. Laura Byrne gave a presentation to the Elected Members as representatives from Comhairle na nOg. The students were accompanied by Mr. Dermot O'Brien, Co-Ordinator.

The Presentations covered the following areas:-

- Comhairle is a place for young people to voice their opinions
- Comhairle na nOg is represented by child and youth councillors in 31 local authorities
- Children and young people have the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies
- Launch of a youth survey
- Launched BeWell Wicklow
- Working on cyberbullying
- Working on child homelessness
- Ongoing consultations on cyberbullying received over 400 responses
- Linking with other committees such as Simon Community to deal with child homelessness
- The Annual AGM is a big date for the calendar
- Over 100 students from secondary schools and youth groups are invited
- A cyber bullying charter was been printed
- Cyber bullying is the use of technology to harass, threaten, embarrass or intimidate another person – it is a big issue today in secondary schools
- Conversation cards were printed and distributed to coffee shops – they are intended to start conversations between people

The Cathaoirleach and elected members collectively thanked the An Comhairle na nOg team for their presentation and commended them on their interest and involvement on such topical issues of cyber bullying and homelessness. The members wished them well for the future.

ITEM NO 7**Update on Council owned lands at Burgage Blessington, Co Wicklow.**

Referred to the Baltinglass Municipal District for consideration

ITEM NO 8**To consider the Monthly Management Report, September 2017.**

The Cathaoirleach advised that the provision of a more comprehensive monthly management report had been discussed at Council level and at CPG meeting and that it was proposed to develop a more informative report for the November Council meeting. The Chief Executive, Mr. F. Curran advised that the document was being revised focussing on three core areas (1.) Housing and Community (allocations, applicant numbers, capital schemes etc.) (2.) Development Planning and Infrastructure (information on the LEO, update on Planning issues and informational issues in relation to Roads, Services etc. and (3.) Organisational information, finance, expenditure, rates, customer service etc. The Cathaoirleach advised that he would like to see the area of grants and grant drawdowns be included.

ITEM NO 9**To set a date for the Annual Budget Meeting 2017**

It was agreed to set the date of 27th November 2017, at 10.00 a.m., for the Annual Budget Meeting 2017.

ITEM NO 10**To receive update on: Water Framework Directive – Draft River Basin Management Plan – Update and Feedback.**

Mr. J. Sexton, Environment and Water Department updated the elected members in relation to the Water Framework Directive, Draft River Basin Management Plan, update and feedback. He advised the elected members that the second stage is now coming into existence and of the importance of the members feedback. He presented to the members on the following areas and circulated the presentation:-

- New approach to management of our Rivers lakes and coastal waters
- Water Framework Directive 2000
- The draft River Basin Management Plan
- Regulations and Consultations as part of the process
- The draft plan, a work in progress
- Technical approach
- County Wicklow determine water body Status (by EPA)
- County Wicklow, Water Body Risk Map
- Why 'prioritised areas for action'
- Wicklow Water Body status
- How the areas were prioritised
- How were 'areas recommended action' selected
- What does the prioritisation mean for people living within the catchments
- What happens next

Discussion on the matter concluded with Mr. J. Sexton responding to the queries raised by the elected members.

ITEM NO 11

Update: Objective CCE6 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2016-2022 (See Notice of Motion 3)

L. Gallagher advised that this matter had been discussed at Council meeting held on Monday the 4th of September, 2017 and that elected members had been circulated with legal advice of Mr. James Connolly SC dated the 19th of September, 2017 regarding Proposed Variation of existing County Development Plan under Section 13 of the Planning and development Act, 2000 as amended. Elected members noted the advice circulated. It was proposed by Cllr. J. Behan, seconded by Cllr. T. Fortune and agreed that the legal advice be forwarded to the 5 County Wicklow TD's and request their comments and views in this matter.

ITEM NO 12

To receive a presentation/update on : LEADER/LAG/SICAP: Mr. M Nicholson, DOS, gave the following presentation to the Elected Members.

Background

- **Putting People First – Action Programme for Effective Local Government** outlines Government policy for reform and development across the local government system. It sets a vision of local government “as the main vehicle of governance at local level – leading economic, social and community development”.
- The local government reform programme is built around this vision with a clear rationale for the role and potential of local government. Consistent with the vision, Government policy provides that the functions of government at local level will be performed through the local government system to the greatest extent possible.
- In the context of local and community development, *Putting People First* outlines a central role for local authorities in oversight and planning of local and community development interventions and programming, with **Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs)** and **Local Economic and**

Community Plans as the primary governance mechanisms through which this will be achieved. This commitment was given legislative effect through the **Local Government Reform Act 2014**.

- LCDCs can comprise between 15 and 21 members drawn from a range of public and private socio-economic interests, though membership ranges typically from 17-19 members in most cases. Membership is determined locally with the majority of members drawn from the private sector. In a typical 19 member LCDC, nine members are drawn from the public sector with 10 members drawn from the private sector.
- Wicklow LCDC has 19 members.
- The public members include local authority elected members and officials. Each LCDC typically has between three and four local elected members and two local authority officials, namely the Chief Executive (or their nominee) and the head of Local Enterprise Office. They also include representatives from locally-based State bodies, including the HSE, ETBs, the Department of Social Protection, third level institutions etc.
- The private members include representatives from local development bodies, the PPN, business interests, trade union and other community or local interests. The PPN nominate a minimum of five members representing community & voluntary interests (2), social inclusion (2) and environmental interests (1).
- LCDCs have been established on a statutory basis as committees of their respective local authorities, however they are wholly independent in the functions assigned to them, such functions being assigned by their parent local authorities or Government Departments and State agencies, as appropriate.

S.I.C.A.P.

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme

SICAP 2015-2017

- **SICAP** has its origins in the Local Community Development Programme (Jan 2010 – March 2015)
- **SICAP** aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration
- **SICAP** commenced on 1st April 2015 and is funded and overseen by the new Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and co-funded by the European Social Fund, including a special allocation under the Youth Employment initiative (YEI)
- The Programme Budget in 2016 was €35.8 million
- The Programme Budget in 2017 is €37.5 million
- SICAP is delivered by 45 Programme Implementers (PIs) covering 50 lots across the country and is led by Local and Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

2016 Programme Achievements

- **47,511** individuals on a one-to-one basis
- **3,076** Local Community Groups (LCGs)
- **22,427** individuals, including 4,517 young people (aged 15-24), received an educational support under Goal 2
- **30,206** individuals, including 4,051 young people (aged 15-24), received employment supports under Goal 3
- **2,208** individuals progressed into employment
- **5,752** individuals progressed to self-employment

SICAP Delivery in Wicklow

- Delivered in Co. Wicklow by two Programme Implementers
- Bray Area Partnership Company (based in Bray town centre) in conjunction with Little Bray Family Resource Centre (based in the Fassaroe estate) runs the programme in the Bray & Greystones MD Areas (referred to as Lot 15-1)
- Co. Wicklow Partnership company (based in Arklow) runs the programme in the Wicklow, Arklow & Baltinglass MD Areas (referred to as Lot 15-2)

SICAP GOALS

- To support socially disadvantaged areas and society's most marginalised groups to improve their quality of life and create more sustainable communities (capacity building, engaging with relevant state agencies etc.)
- To support disadvantaged individuals to engage in further education/training and to support those most disengaged from the labour market in accessing employment and self-employment opportunities

SICAP Target Groups

- Disadvantaged Children and Families
- Disadvantaged Young People (aged 15 – 24)
- Disadvantaged Women
- Lone Parents
- Low Income Workers/Households
- New Communities, including Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- People living in Disadvantaged Communities
- People with Disabilities
- Travellers
- Roma
- Unemployed
- Those disengaged from the Labour Market (economically inactive)
- Substance Misusers

SICAP – Tender Process & Structure

- Bray Area Partnership & Co. Wicklow Partnership won the contract to run the programme from 2014-2017 through a competitive tendering process.
- The annual budget for Lot 15-1 is €712,000
- The annual budget for Lot 15-2 is €584,000
- SICAP is not a grant awarding or project funding programme. Its structure is such that its budget is mainly for staff, so that it can recruit professional community development workers to work directly with marginalised communities and individuals.
- There is a new tendering process currently underway to determine who will run the programme in the county from 2018-2022.

Bray Area Partnership: Case Studies

Training: Provision of accredited, vocational training in areas such as: Information technology, Barista training, Construction skills courses including safe pass and manual handling.

Positive Mental Health: Support for those with mental health difficulties: (i) Be Well Bray project – a youth mental health project (ii) Project for adults with mental health difficulties focused on enabling them to access training and further education opportunities.

Migrants & New Communities: Fáilte Isteach project which provides a safe and social space for migrants to mix with locals to improve their English language skills.

Co. Wicklow Partnership (CWP): Case Studies

Substance Misuse Rehabilitation:

Tiglin Residential Rehabilitation & Treatment Centre, Ashford: CWP provide vocational and life-skills training which provides the residents with the self-confidence and qualifications required to reintegrate into society, and in many cases back into employment.

Children & Young People At Risk: Equestrian project based at Ballyrogan Stud, Redcross which works with vulnerable children and young people from the local authority housing estates of Ballyguile, Broadlough and Hillview (Wicklow town). Using the carrot of learning equestrian skills, these young people also engage in personal development training with professionally trained youth workers. This project has resulted in much more confident and assertive young people who can recognise and resist peer pressure which may lead to early-school leaving or anti-social behaviour.

SICAP 2018-2022

- Changing Economic Climate
- Census 2016 Summary Results:
 - Labour force increased by 3.2% since 2011
 - Unemployment fallen by 127,447 since 2011 or 30%
 - Education saw an increase in the number of students aged 15 years and over since 2011
 - Up from 408,838 to 427,128, a rise of 4.5% or 18,290.

Policy Context

- **SICAP 2018-2022** design considerations have been influenced by national policy document from Government, including:
 - Programme for Government
 - Action Plan for Jobs
 - Updated National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2015-2017
 - Action Plan for Rural Development
 - Further Education and Training Strategy

Our Communities: A Framework Policy for Local and Community Development in Ireland

Core Findings from SICAP Consultation Process

- Programme must continue to have a stronger focus on social inclusion & community development
- More local autonomy/flexibility in programme to meet changing/local needs (setting targets/budget allocation/determining target groups)
- Integration and alignment of SICAP with work of other agencies and as far as possible with national policies and programmes
- Reduce emphasis on activation towards more developmental work with individuals/communities
- Reduce administration burden re: level of monitoring
- Employment/Education focus important but not always suited to those most distant from the labour market

Self-employment targets for 15-24 year old not always realistic

- Reduction of targets
- Issue with the quantitative versus qualitative nature of SICAP
- More flexibility required across goals to allow programme to adapt to changing needs
- Exclusion of specific target groups
- The Deprivation Index does not always capture those most “in need”
- Incorporate innovation into core design of SICAP
- ESF co-financing will cover accredited and non-accredited training completed by eligible participants.

Audit of SICAP

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with Local Government Audit Service (LGAS)
- LGAS audit work will commence Qtr 4
- Will verify, inter alia, that the LA, LCDC's and PI role with regard to the appropriate procedures and processes of financial control and management, risk management and corporate governance are implemented in accordance with the programme requirements and core ESF governing regulations, rules and guidelines for the European Structural and Investment Funds Programme 2014-2020.

Role of the LCDC

- Manage the public procurement process locally
- Manage the evaluation process
- Ensure the rules of the competition are being followed and applied correctly by the Evaluation Team and the Evaluation Sub-Committee
- LCDC will ratify recommendations
- The LCDC will review the Final Evaluation Report with Individual Evaluation reports attached
- Ensure the timelines are adhered to.

LCDC members with a conflict of interest cannot participate

All participating LCDC members **must sign Declarations of Impartiality and Confidentiality.**

L.E.A.D.E.R.- (Acronym)

Liaisons Entre Actions de Developpement de L'Economie Rurale
Links Between Actions for the Development of the Rural Economy

Policy in Context**LEADER - Rural Development Programme**

- Originates – EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)
- Supported through – European Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- Delivered through – National Co-Financed Programme
- Local Government Reform Act – Establishment of LCDC Committees (LAG)
- **LEADER RDP Programme**
- LEADER is a Community Led Local Development (CLLD)
- approach that involves the participation of rural communities in
- developing responses to the key economic, environmental and
- social challenges identified in their areas.
- **Local Development Strategy (LDS)**
- The Local Development Strategy is a Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Plan, developed and driven by rural communities through the LAG, to address the needs identified and to achieve a defined set of local objectives.

Role of the LAG (LCDC)

- Build Capacity in operational area (CWP/IP)
- Determine direction and strategic changes for delivery of LEADER
- Develop fair and transparent selection criteria for project assessment
- Ensure that at least 51% of decision making votes are not from public authorities or any single interest group
- Ensure coherence with the Local Development Strategy
- Agree and publish calls for proposals (time specific/rolling) (IP)
- Makes all Funding Decisions
- Monitor & Evaluate LDS progress and implementation

LAG (LCDC) Meetings & Decisions

- Ensure a quorum of 50 percent to hold LAG meeting (17 member = a quorum of 9)

- Ensures that any member with a Conflict of Interest absents themselves from the relevant deliberations/decision-making process
- Ensure decisions are voted on by a least 50% of the LAG membership (following any COI issues)
- Ensure that at least 51% of the votes are from non-public sector partners
- Ensure decision-making is non discriminatory and transparent
- No casting vote for Chair
- Restricted facility to accommodate votes by written procedures or phoned in decisions in advance
- Record in respect of each decision - public/private member balance has been achieved; and the sectors represented by the members attending the LAG meeting.

Role of the Financial Partner (WCC)

- Provide advance administration & animation funding to support the activity of the LAG/IP
- Make payments to Promoters on behalf of the LAG
- Carry out administration and financial oversight
- Verify and approve claims through LAG
- Submit LAG approved drawdown claims to Department
- Support and provide secretarial duties to the LAG

Role of Implementing Partner (CWP)

- Animate the Programme (including targeted promotional activities)
- Manage calls for proposals (Rolling & Time Specific Calls)
- Assist promoters at all stages of the Application process
- Prepare all projects for review by the Independent Evaluation Committee
- Maintain all project files (physical and electronic)
- Ensure all files are compliant for Article 48 checks
- Review claim documentation and ensure compliance for drawdown
- Annual monitoring of the outcome and impacts of the LDS
- Lead and progress in-house projects as identified in LDS

Appeals Procedure

The LAG must publicise in all its Programme publication materials that there is a right of appeal by the applicant and promoter to all funding decisions by the LAG.

Step 1 – Appeal to the LAG – LAG replies within 2 months

Step 2 - Dept. Appeals Officer (replies within 21 days and will only consider the following:

- The processes and procedures followed by the LAG in reaching its original decision and carrying out the appeal review
- The LAG's interpretation of the relevant national/EU regulatory requirements

This decision is final and will not be re-considered by the Department

Wicklow Local Development Strategy

- In October / November 2015, public consultation meetings were held in five locations across the County to get feedback on local requirements and potential actions under each of the themes and subthemes outlined above.
- Meetings were also held with relevant agencies and stakeholders in each sector. The information gathered from these meetings was used to devise a **Local Development Strategy (LDS)** for Wicklow.
- The following breakdown of themes were finalised as priority strategic actions in the Wicklow Local Development Strategy (LDS):

Other Guiding / Binding Documents

- Operating Rules / Circulars / FAQ's
- National Law i.e. Procurement law, Health & Safety
- National Standards i.e. Fáilte Ireland, National Trails Office, EHO
- Heritage Guidelines
- Wicklow Specific Policies approved by LAG
- Seek to support rather than compete with other programmes and policies i.e. LECP, REDZ, Town & Village Renewal, Rural Recreation Scheme etc.

Wicklow Specific LAG Policies

1. Sporting Facilities – Capital Funding
2. Community Facilities – Capital Funding
3. Accommodation
4. Publications
5. Enterprise Funding
6. Festival & Events
7. Training facilities and Training Courses
8. Social Enterprise
9. Race & Sport horse Industry (Ancillary supports)
10. Voluntary Labour
11. Outdoor Recreation Policy

Amendments to LDS

- All amendments to the LDS must be approved in advance by the Department and cannot take place in the first 12 months following the signing of the Agreement.
- Thereafter the LDS can be amended no more than once in any calendar year during the Programme

Targeted/Rolling Calls

From 2017 – Minimum one specific targeted call annually

Purpose of targeted calls to ensure that LEADER funding;

- Delivers the most value
- Approves funding based on a comparative assessment
- Secures equal opportunities for all potential applicants
- Ensures funding is available for the duration of the Programme

Target Calls – Procedure

- Widely publicised (targeted animation/publicity)
- Preceded by an EOI Stage

Each Call will detail

- The Theme/s for which the call is issued
- Proposed overall budget for the call
- Maximum level of funding available to any individual project
- Qualifying criteria and marking scheme to be used
- Closing date for the receipt of applications
- Timeframe for assessing and notifying applications of results

Rolling Applications – Procedure

- Promoters still to fill out an EOI form
- Scheduled Application Dates to be agreed on between CWP, IEC, WCC and LAG annually
- Projects can be accepted in any theme/subtheme - not restricted (unless targeted call coming up)

- Expected to be 6 Evaluation committee meetings per year
- All projects still have to be eligible under the programme, LDS and LAG policies

Targeted Call number 1:

Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation

Call for Expressions of Interest - **Closed on Friday 16th Dec**

Closing date for Applications - **28th July 2017**

Budget Allocated to call - **€1,324,000**

Evaluation Meetings - **September 5th & October 10th**

Types of Funding Support Available

- **Capital**
 - Building
 - Works
 - Equipment
- **Analysis & Development**
 - Feasibility Studies
 - Plans
 - Designs
- **Marketing**
 - Advertising
 - Promotion
 - Branding
- **Training**
- **Co-operation Projects**
- **Artisan Food Initiative**
- **Voluntary Labour/Contribution-In-Kind**

LAG/IP In-House Projects

- Adhere to standard application procedure
- Arrange match finance (Potential – Financial Partner)
- Where the LAG proposed the IP to administer an In-House Project, the EOI is presented to the IP Board for confirmation that the resources are in place to deliver the project.

IEC - Evaluation Procedures/Meetings

Role

- Solely responsible for evaluating funding proposals under LEADER programme and to make recommendations to the LAG
- IEC required to be fair, non-discriminatory, open and transparent

Evaluation Procedures

- Documents circulated in advance of meetings – Application Form & Project Summary
- IEC Members may contact CWP for further information on projects
- IEC Checklist (quorum/conflict of interest)
- IEC collectively complete a score sheet for each project
- Projects must reach a minimum of 65% on aggregate to be recommended for approval to LAG
- In Targeted Calls – Projects to be ranked highest to lowest as per the scoring template
- Record all decisions (rate/ceilings/conditions)
- LAG may request the IEC to reconsider or seek further information before reaching a final decision
- Where the LAG rejects a recommendation from the IEC, it must clearly record the rationale for its decision
- Where the LAG rejects a recommendation not to award funding, it must carry out its own scoring record, ensuring that a minimum aggregated threshold of 65% is met.

Terms of Reference for IEC

- Role & Authority of the LEADER Independent Evaluation Committee
- Frequency of Meetings
- Structure
- Communication with IEC
- Minutes of IEC meetings
- Conflicts of Interest
- Data Protection & Confidentiality
- Changes to the Terms of Reference

County Wicklow PPN

Public Participation Network

International & National Background

- Aarhus Convention – adopted 1998 & entered into force Sept 2012
- Local Government Reform Act 2014 – Section 46 – Consultation with local community
- National Action Plan 2016-2018 – Commitment 2: Support PPNs

Local Background

- Community Fora first established around 2000 at the same time as County Development Boards and Strategic Policy Committees
- Wicklow Community Platform (social inclusion) & Wicklow Communities Networking
- County Wicklow Community Forum formed in January 2011
- 2014 Public Participation Networks

What is Co Wicklow PPN?

A network of community groups from all over County Wicklow.

How Does It Work?

- Community Groups Register with the PPN by:
 1. Their Municipal Area:
 - Arklow, Baltinglass, Bray, Greystones, Wicklow, Co-Wide Groups (work across more than 1 municipal area)
 2. Their College Grouping:
 - Social Inclusion, Community & Voluntary, Environmental
- All the groups together form Co Wicklow PPN
- Groups within each Municipal Area form the Municipal PPNs

What Does it Do?

PPN has 3 main functions:

- To provide a structure for Co Wicklow community groups to nominate community representatives to decision and policy making bodies in the county
- To act as a channel of information between various local & national bodies and Co Wicklow community groups
- To support members to grow, develop, be informed and be heard

How Does it Do That?

- Organising seminars and workshops on various themes. Organise and take part in consultations. Attending community meetings and events and all the time we listen to what people are saying
- Sometimes a board or committee wants community expertise in their group so they talk to the PPN and seek nominations from members.
- PPN Representatives highlight the concerns issues and ideas that they have through community engagement
- Written submissions to local, national and international bodies
- Keeping members informed through: Update E-bulletin, Facebook, Website
- Organising information sessions and training to help members be informed and grow

Why Have a PPN?

- Local knowledge & expertise is inputted into the decision making arena
- Development of local inclusive solutions to local issues
- Create opportunities for the wider community to contribute to local and national policies and plans
- Public participation will lead to improved quality of decisions & better outcomes

Representation**The Role of the Representative**

Representatives are required to represent Co Wicklow PPN and are accountable to the PPN membership. They are not representing their own organisation.

Specifically the Representative should:

- Make every effort to attend the meetings they were nominated to
- Bring issues of relevance from PPN member groups, consultations etc. to the policy making arena
- Ensure that the diversity of the community views are reflected in their representation
- Give feedback to PPN members and groupings as appropriate – Report Template

PPN Workplan

- **PPN Development** – Developing & supporting structures/sub-groups/networks, working in all MDs as well as county level, national networking/participation,
- **Capacity Building/Training** - Secretariat/Representatives, Member groups, Resource Worker
- **Communications & Information** – PR/Awareness Raising, Channelling national & local information, E-bulletin, Web/Social Media
- **Representation/Policy Development** – Consultation/Facilitation/Representation
- **Administration** – Working with stakeholders, department/legal reporting, policies & procedures, database management

Benefits of PPN Membership

- Keeping informed of local government plans and decisions for your area
- Opportunity to influence and change local government policy through participating in consultations, feeding into submissions and linking in with PPN Representatives
- Opportunity to be part of a strong collective voice for communities
- Receive Representative reports from the Committees they sit on
- Opportunity to find out about and attend information sessions/seminars on topics of interest to member groups
- Opportunity to network – share experiences- mutual/peer support
- Receive information about upcoming funding opportunities
- Advertise your group's events & fundraisers through the PPN Network
- Receive support through the PPN Resource Worker e.g. networking contacts, policy templates etc.

PPN Highlights

- Growth– from 60 members to 172
- Raising the community voice through:
 - Representatives
 - Written Submissions
 - Contributing to & Raising Awareness of Local Plans
 - Organising Seminars
- Participating Nationally & Networking Workers Network/Advisory Group
- Supporting Members policies, training, courses
- Information Provision Facebook 528-638 likes – Web Page

PPN Challenges

- Resourcing!
- Awareness Raising, Growing our Membership, Engaging Groups
- Developing their Structures

- Demonstrating that Community Consultation is Worthwhile and Valued

END

Mr. M. Nicholson advised that he would circulate the presentation to the elected members. The members wished the LCDC and the Community Cultural and Social Development SPC success in implementing the relevant programmes and strategies.

CORRESPONDENCE

Wicklow County Council Joint Policing Committee Public meeting: L. Gallagher reminded elected members that the WCC Joint Policing Committee public meeting will take place on Wednesday the 18th of October, 2017 commencing 7.30 p.m.

Irish Water Councillors Clinics: L. Gallagher reminded elected members that Irish Water will be present in the Seminole Room, County Buildings Wicklow on the 6th of November next to hold Councillors Clinics from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and that members should forward their questions.

Protocol Committee Meetings Minutes: L. Gallagher advised the members that they had been circulated with minutes of meetings of the Protocol Committee from 1st January, 2017 to 30th September, 2017. It was proposed by Cllr. P. Vance and seconded by Cllr. N. Lawless to adopt the minutes as circulated.

Minutes of meetings of CPG: L. Gallagher advised that the members had been circulated with minutes of CPG meetings held on 6th March, 2017, 12th June, 2017, 2nd August, 2017 and 4th September 2017. It was proposed by Cllr. J. Snell, seconded by Cllr. S. Cullen and agreed to adopt the minutes as circulated.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

**CLLR. EDWARD TIMMINS
CATHOIRLEACH
WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MS. LORRAINE GALLAGHER
SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER/
MEETINGS ADMINISTRATOR**