

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30th November 2022 at 12.30pm in Wicklow County Council Chamber

Present: Jason Mulhall, Brian Carty, Patrick Mboci (via Microsoft Teams), Jim Ruttle, Brian Gleeson, Vibeke Delahunt, Stephen Fitzgerald, Aisling Heffernan, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr. Peir Leonard and Cllr. Melanie Corrigan.

Apologies: Peter Brennan, Frank Quaid, Amanda Mooney, Pat Ó'Suilleabháin, Lorraine Hennessy Cllr. Dermot O'Brien and Eileen Cullen.

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson (CO), Patricia Carmody (WCC), Deirdre Whitfield (WCC), Patricia Reilly (SICAP) and Barbara Mason (WCC)

Item 1 Welcome & Apologies

Cllr. Pat Kennedy welcomed everybody to the meeting and gave the apologies. He explained that Tom Byrne was unable to attend and that this would have been his final meeting as he has stepped down from the committee and the PPN will nominate a member to replace him.

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the LCDC meeting of 27th September 2022 were adopted with no matters arising.

Proposed by Jim Ruttle

Seconded by Cllr. Peir Leonard

Item 2 SICAP update

Stephen Fitzgerald gave the following report –

-Submission of Annual Plans 2023:

The original deadline for submission of the SICAP Annual Plans 2023 by the two Programme Implementers was November 18th. However, this submission date was dependant on LCDCs/Pis being informed by the Department of the 2023 SICAP budgets and the Ukrainian budgets in advance. While SICAP budgets have since been released we still await word from the Department in relation to Ukrainian budgets. The new submission date for the Pis to submit their Annual Plans will not be set by Pobal until it is known what the Ukrainian budgets for 2023 will be. In the meantime, the Pis are drafting their Annual Plan actions as much as possible within the budgets and information they have to date. The 2023 SICAP budgets for the Wicklow Lots are as follows: Lot 15-1 Bray Area Partnership: €793,231 and for Lot 15-2 Co. Wicklow Partnership: €721,960. This represents a 3% increase on the 2022 budgets.

-International Protection Integration Fund 2022:

Both of the Wicklow local development companies have been informed that they were successful in their applications to this fund which is to support the needs of asylum seekers in the county. Bray Area Partnership were awarded €20,000 and Co. Wicklow Partnership €16,600. Work on the projects applied for will begin shortly.

Item 3 LECP -

Deirdre Whitfield gave a presentation around the review of the LECP, explaining the aims of the Plan and the vision for the new plan. She explained that the input of the LCDC is necessary in terms of the Community element of the plan.

She explained that the LECP will –

- Secure a more strategic approach to the delivery of local services and align the myriad local planning processes (including programme plans)
- Lead to a more effective planning and service delivery
- Better harness expertise and capabilities of local actors
- Secure improved targeting of resources and delivery of bespoke solutions

Deirdre reminded the meeting that there will be a workshop for a targeted consultation on the Co. Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) on Wednesday 6th December and invited the members to attend.

December report on the LECP

Goal 1 – Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban regeneration and rural development.

ORIS 2022

Blessington Greenway	Enhancement of trails within Russborough House	€178,380.00
Glenmalure	Glenmalure community riverside walk and recreation area – upgrade existing trail	€119,790.00
Coolkenno	Construction of equestrian trail	€198,000.00
Roundwood	Roundwood Recreation area – bike hub, bridge, signage, promotion	€495,000.00

Goal 2 – Promote active citizenship and public participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making.

PPN	Online Training courses in November: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lets Develop Group Teamwork and Leadership • Q & A on Governance Event – ‘Falling Through the Cracks – Hidden Poverty in Co. Wicklow’ (an online conversation) – report available
Comhairle na nÓg	Comhairle na nÓg Youth Summit Three priority areas chosen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health • Drugs • Cost of Living
Older Person’s Council	Wicklow Older Person’s Annual Council & Seminar 2022

Goal 3 – Develop high quality integrated services available to all communities, in particular, disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups

Draft Food Poverty Report will be completed by end 2022 and launched 2023.

Key recommendations:

- County wide co-ordination of community food provision
- Improve and build on Community Food Infrastructure
 - Additional Meals on Wheels providers
 - Community Cafés
 - Food Banks
 - Food Vouchers **
- Information Provision
- Resources to Address Short-term Growth in Food Poverty

- 'Middle Class' Food Poverty
- Database of Community Food Providers and Services
- The Rose of Schools and Community Early Years
- Addressing Food Knowledge Poverty
- Develop and Agree an Action Plan on Food Poverty in Wicklow
- 'Cost of Living' crisis requiring immediate intervention:
 - **Establish an emergency fund to provide emergency food/fuel vouchers distributed through project partners

New €10 million fund of local community & voluntary groups with their energy bills and other costs

The new scheme has been devised to support groups with their energy costs who may not have been deemed eligible under previous Government schemes.

The new scheme is about supporting these groups with their costs whether it's the electricity bill, insurance costs or other overheads.

Groups can also use the funding to carry out small upgrade works and to purchase equipment to support their activities such as laptops and printers, lawnmowers, training equipment etc.

The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs).

Development of the new LECP

Workshops with key stakeholders will be held on 6th December for the community sector and on the 9th December for the economic sector.

Consultation process so far:

- Social Inclusion Women's Network – 60 participants
- Breakfast Briefing – approx. 100 participants
- Comhairle na nÓg – approx. 100 participants
- Wicklow MD
- Greystones MD
- Baltinglass MD
- Arklow MD
- Bray MD
- Online consultation
- 2 written submissions
- Online survey

Engagement with Marginalised Communities

County Wicklow has been selected as one of four pilot projects to develop and test engagement strategies to support inclusive participation. The project aims to develop toolkits that can be adapted and used by local authorities and other state agencies to enable better engagement with hard to reach groups.

Following an expression of interest process administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development, funding of up to €40,000 has been approved for each of 4 LCDCs.

Clare, Fingal, Galway City and Wicklow will undertake pilot programmes to support participation and engagement by marginalised and disadvantaged communities in the Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) process, which is currently underway in each local authority area. The process will take six months and in Co. Wicklow's case, involves both participation and capacity building.

Core Aims & Actions

- Through the networks available – to members of the LCDC, WCC & Co. Wicklow PPN, key community leaders and service providers within/working with, the target groups will be identified and encouraged to undertake training that will support them to understand the background and context for developing the VCWB & the LECP as well as providing them with the facilitation skills & tools needed for them to run this process of consultation in their communities & those they work with.
- This will extend the reach of the consultations and engage with those groups which are harder to reach.
- The facilitators will also be trained to support data analysis process that will inform and development the VCWB as well as the LECP
- This in-depth consultation should also provide direction and help prioritise some of the actions within the LECP
- Collaborating with key agencies in this process should also result in cohesive & complimentary local plans, work plans and strategies e.g. SICAP and LEADER plans.
- Record and report on the learning from this process.

There was a discussion around how the plan fits in with the local communities and how important it is for the members to contribute to the making of the LECP for this reason.

There was also a discussion around the ORIS funding and that receiving this funding, while very important to the county, brings it's own problems with regard to organisation, match funding etc. but Michael Nicholson and Brian Gleeson both agreed that this would not deter Wicklow County Council from completing these funded schemes.

PK thanked all who are involved in the work going into the LECP.

Item 4 – HSE update – Aisling Heffernan

Aisling explained her role within the HSE and explained about the new re-structuring of the HSE coming about.

She had circulated, prior to the meeting, information regarding what services are available in the Primary Health Care buildings.

She also spoke about, and welcomed, the launch of the National Traveller Health Action Plan.

PK thanked Aisling for her very informative report.

Item 5 – Any other business

Intercultural awareness training for LCDC members – as per email circulated previously.

In response to needs expressed in recent engagement fora, Pobal will organise joint training workshops for members of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and staff of Local Development Companies (LDCs) on Inter-Cultural Awareness. These workshops will address topics including culture and identity, power dynamics, racism, and immigration status, and will facilitate reflection on how to apply the knowledge gained in the workplace.

This training initiative is jointly organised by the Dormant Accounts Funded Engagement Project (DAFEP) and the SICAP programme, with support from the Department of Rural Community and Development.

There was a request for 2 nominations from the LCDC, to attend the training workshop.

Item 5 Date of next meeting.

Cllr. Kennedy thanked everybody for their attendance and wished them a Happy Christmas.

The date for the first LCDC meeting of the new year will be 18th January 2023.

Signed: _____
Pat Kennedy.
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____