

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL ACTION GROUP COMMITTEE HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025 2:30pm VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cllr John Snell, Cllr Dermot O'Brien, Michael Nicholson, Liz Wall, Amanda Mooney, Carina Holmes, , Patrick O'Driscoll, Linda Lambert

**Apologies:** Eileen Cullen, Vibeke Delahunt, Pat Ó'Suilleabháin, Fionnuala Curry, Oisín Jordan, Imelda Halton

**In Attendance:** Máire Halvey, Anne Marie Kelly, Lia Reynolds, Alison Keogh, Evelyn Murray

Peter Brennan joined at 15.00

Tom Cavanagh joined at 14.45

Patrick O'Driscoll left at 15.28

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### **Item 1 Welcome & Apologies**

Melanie Corrigan welcomed everybody to the meeting and gave the apologies

### **Item 2 Adoption of minutes of the previous meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

The minutes of the meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> October were approved with no matters arising.

**Proposed by** Linda Lambert

**Seconded** Patrick o'Driscoll

### **Item 3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

MC reminded everybody that if they have a connection to any projects being brought forward for approval for funding, they must declare this and would have to leave the meeting for the duration of the outlining, discussion and voting process for that project, returning after it is completed.

### **Item 4 LEADER updates**

- **The LEADER returns** for the months of Dec '24 – April '25 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved by the Committee.

**Proposed by** Michael Nicholson

**Seconded** Cllr Melanie Corrigan



County Wicklow Partnership

- De-committals/Withdrawals to note.

Project ID	Project Name	Promoter Name	Theme	Sub Theme	De-Committal / Withdrawal	Notes	RDO
IE34W KP1012 24	Greystones Picnic in the Park 2025 The Greystones Town Teams CLG	Greystones Town Teams CLG	(1) Economic Development & Job Creation	(1c) Rural Tourism & Recreation	De-committal of balance of grant aid unclaimed in the amount of €3,003.00	The project was successfully delivered and not impacted by the de-committal	EM

**Proposed by** Michael Nicholson  
**Seconded** Carina Holmes

- EOI's received 2025 to date.

A list of all Expressions of Interest applications received by County Wicklow Partnership received to date (for 2025) had been circulated prior to the meeting. Alison Keogh presented this listing to the members for noting.

- Targeted call proposals 2025.

### Targeted Call Proposal 2025

**Background:**

LAGs are required to run at least one targeted call per year. For 2025, we are proposing to carry out a call for analysis and development funding for community groups to develop plans relating to climate action.

The purpose of this call is to break down barriers to action at community level with regard to climate action and environmental initiatives. It emerged through LEADER LDS consultation that communities would like to develop climate action projects in their area but are unsure of where to start. Community groups will be able to apply for analysis and development Funding to engage consultants with the relevant expertise to develop plans for local environmental and climate action initiatives. This will help advise applications for capital funding through LEADER and other funds e.g. Community Climate Action Programme.

**Call details**

Stage 1 Details	
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote call week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>• Promote on CWP website and social media</li> <li>• Promote through PPN</li> </ul>
Theme	Theme 3: Sustainable Development of the Rural

Sub theme	Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
LDS Strategic Action	Sub-theme 3b. Climate Change Capacity Building  Strategic Action 12.1 Capacity building to empower climate action and environmental actions
Proposed Overall Budget	€100,000
Target Groups	Community and voluntary groups
Grant rate	90%
Level of funding available to each individual project	€3,000 - €20,000
Closing Date for receipt of EOIs	Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025
Additional Qualifying Criteria	Proposals must be aligned to relevant local plans / policies e.g. Wicklow County Development Plan, Wicklow Climate Action Plan, Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan, Wicklow Heritage Plan, LEADER Local Development Strategy 2023 – 2027.
Timeframe for assessing and notifying EOI applicants of results	EOI applicants will be informed of eligibility in early 2026
<b>Stage 2 Details</b>	
Application Deadline	Spring 2026
Timeframe for assessing and notifying applicants of results	LAG approval by Summer 2026

Alison Keogh presented this proposal to the Committee

The Committee was in agreement with the proposal, **but** with the following amendments

- To push out the closing date for receipt of Expressions of Interest.
- Set the minimum grant amount to €1250.00

**Proposed by** Cllr Dermot O'Brien  
**Seconded** Linda Lambert

• **Report and recommendations from Evaluation Committee regarding projects seeking approval**

Cllr Melanie Corrigan advised the Committee that the Alive Outside project was not ready for discussion at this meeting.

Project ID	Project Name	Promoter Name	Grant Amount	RDO
IE34WKP103273	Alive Outside	Rural Youth Adventure Hub	€55,942.75	EM

IE34WKP101700	The Glenree Society	The Glenree Society	€120,382.07	EM
IE34WKP103276	Feasibility Study for a Perfumery – Joanne Hynes	Joanne Hynes	€12,915.00	EM
IE34WKP103379	Made in Wicklow Expansion Project	County Wicklow Partnership CLG	€76,609.01	EM
IE34WKP102773	Blessington Christmas Lights Phase 2 - 2025		€32,056.87	AK
IE34WKP101099	Ashford Development Assoc. CLG, The Community and Heritage Centre.		€5,213.91	AK

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Evelyn Murray outlined the following project:

<b>Project Name</b>	The Glenree Society
<b>Project ID</b>	IE34WKP101700
<b>Project Location</b>	Aurora, Glenree, Co Wicklow
<b>Project Promoter</b>	The Glenree Society
<b>Promoter Address</b>	As above

1	Statement of eligibility – Is the project promoter eligible for LEADER funding? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i>	YES	NO
		X	
Outline the checks that were carried out to verify that the project promoter is not excluded from funding due to serious non-compliance, that there is no current outstanding debt associated with support provided under this or any previous LEADER programme and if there is a debt confirm that a repayment plan is in place:  <b>Promoter has confirmed in Q.50 of the LEADER application form that they have no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme. Internal check was also carried out by CWP to verify same.</b>			
2	Is the project eligible per the LEADER Operating Rules? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i>	YES	NO
	<b>Promoter is eligible as per 2023-27 Operating Rule 6.5;</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promoter meets de Minimis requirements in relation to state aid</b></li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary is not excluded from receiving funding</b></li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary is solvent (Bank statements and accounts submitted)</b></li> <li>• <b>There is no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme</b></li> </ul>	X	
<b>Provide description of project:</b>  This project will deliver essential upgrades to <b>The Grove</b> , a 19th-century cottage that has been central to the Glenree Society's activities for more than 60 years. The works are designed to safeguard the building's long-term use while ensuring it remains safe, welcoming, and sustainable for future generations.  <b>Background</b> The Glenree Society, as outlined in its constitution on file, is an organisation dedicated to fostering an appreciation of the Irish countryside through its centre at Aurora, Glenree, County Wicklow. Its main objective is to own, maintain, develop, and organise this recreational and educational centre for the benefit of those who use it. In pursuit of this aim, the Society also upholds several subsidiary objectives, including encouraging organised groups of young people to explore the Wicklow Uplands, assisting user groups			

in broadening their education in outdoor pursuits as well as arts and drama, supporting environmental projects in a way that respects and protects the local ecology, and providing services of benefit to the local community in line with the Society's overarching goals.

**The planned improvements include:**

- Re-roofing, insulation, and installation of energy-efficient windows and doors to protect and preserve the historic structure.
- Modernising washroom facilities and Leader accommodation to meet current standards of comfort and accessibility.
- Redesigning the entrance area to enhance safety, accessibility, and the overall visual impact of the site.

The total project cost is estimated at €160,509. The Glenree Society will contribute 25% from its capital reserve, with support from the LEADER Programme enabling completion of this vital investment.



The Grove

For more than five decades, the Glenree Society has provided affordable, community-based recreation and education opportunities at its 40-acre centre in Glenree, Co. Wicklow. Since the 1960s, the Society has welcomed over 55,000 young people and community groups—many from disadvantaged backgrounds—offering safe, supportive environments for outdoor learning, personal development, and community engagement.

The Centre comprises two residential properties and a campsite:



Aurora House

- **The Grove:** a traditional Wicklow cottage with a purpose-built study and recreation hall, accommodating 24 people with full self-catering facilities.
- **Aurora House:** a two-storey residence beside the Glenree River, providing accommodation for 18, with a large dining room and fully equipped kitchen, ideal for mature groups, retreats, and families.
- A campsite for organised groups, set within the Centre's extensive woodland and farmland.



**Accommodation Costs (per group booking):** are exceptionally reasonable as set up below and work out at about €25 - €30 per person for a weekend stay.

Booking Type	The Grove (Sleeps 24)	Aurora House (Sleeps 18)	Both Houses
Weekend (2 nights)	€660	€580	€1,100
Mid-week Day (no stay)	€180	€150	€300
Mid-week (1 night)	€300	€280	€490

These affordable rates ensure that groups from diverse backgrounds can access high-quality facilities in a safe, rural setting, just 17km from Dublin city. The Centre offers excellent access to the Wicklow Mountains, forest trails, rivers, and lakes—making it an ideal environment for recreation, education, and youth development.

3	Has project promoter provided all the required information and documentation to process this application for funding?	YES X	NO
	If No, what:		

- documentation / information has not been provided.
- efforts were made to obtain this documentation/information
- reason(s) were given by the project promoter for not providing the requested information/documentation?

Where after 3 months the requested information/documentation has not been provided by the project promoter, the project should be presented to the Evaluation Committee for evaluation and then presented to the Administrative Checking Body for adjudication.

4	Is the project eligible under the Theme, Sub-theme and Objectives of the Local Development Strategy?	YES X	NO
	Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:		

**Theme 1 – Economic Development and Job Creation**  
**Sub-theme – Social, Community & Co-operative Enterprises**  
**Wicklow LDS Strategic 6.1 Continue to develop a strong Social Enterprise Sector**

5	<b>Clearly describe in detail the nature of the proposed project including innovative aspects:</b>
	<p>The proposed project centres on the preservation and modernisation of <b>The Grove</b>, a 19th-century cottage and dormitory that has long served as the heart of the Glencree Society's Recreation and Education Centre. The works are designed both to secure the future of this historic building and to enhance its functionality as a safe, accessible, and sustainable facility for a wide variety of users.</p> <p>The conservation element of the project will include re-roofing, improved insulation, and the installation of heritage-appropriate windows and doors, ensuring that the building retains its traditional character while meeting modern performance standards. In parallel, the washrooms and accommodation areas will be upgraded to provide a higher level of comfort, hygiene, and accessibility, allowing the Centre to welcome a broader spectrum of users, including individuals with special needs. A redesign of the traffic entrance will further improve visitor safety, circulation, and the visual impact of the site, creating a more accessible and welcoming</p>

	<p>arrival point.</p> <p>The project also introduces a number of innovative aspects. By integrating modern insulation, glazing, and heating systems, the Centre is expected to reduce its energy consumption by up to 40 percent, significantly lowering both running costs and its carbon footprint.</p> <p>With these improvements, the Centre will be able to expand its reach, hosting an estimated 500 to 700 additional participants annually, including Transition Year students, Scouts, community groups, and families supported by organisations such as Focus Ireland.</p> <p>In addition, the project will strengthen the Society's outdoor education model, which already incorporates environmental trails, outdoor classrooms, and biodiversity initiatives. Since 2019, more than 3,300 trees have been planted on the site, embedding sustainability into the landscape as well as the Centre's programming</p>														
6	<p>Define the eligible expenditure, maximum limit of grant and the rate of aid</p> <p><b>Costs of each element of the Project:</b></p>														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Nature of Contract / Goods / Item / Donations / Voluntary Labour</th> <th>Supplier</th> <th>Cost excluding VAT (€)</th> <th>Cost including VAT (€)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Construction Works</td> <td>Ronan, Mason</td> <td>€141,418.00</td> <td>€160,509.43</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;"><i>Total cost of project:</i></td> <td>€141,418.00</td> <td>€160,509.43</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Nature of Contract / Goods / Item / Donations / Voluntary Labour	Supplier	Cost excluding VAT (€)	Cost including VAT (€)	Construction Works	Ronan, Mason	€141,418.00	€160,509.43	<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€141,418.00	€160,509.43		
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	Construction Works	Ronan, Mason	€141,418.00	€160,509.43											
	<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€141,418.00	€160,509.43											
	<b>Financed by:</b>														
	<b>Sources of funding</b>		<b>Value €</b>	<b>% of overall cost</b>											
	LEADER Programme		€120,382.07	75%											
	Donation of property (where applicable)		N/A												
	Voluntary labour (where applicable)		N/A												
Own resources:	Cash / money in account	€40,127.36													
	Loan / bridging finance	€0													
Other Public funding from non-EU Sources, e.g. Local Authority, Fáilte Ireland, etc. (List the sources and the value of funding provided by each source)		N/A													
<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€160,509.43	100%												
7	<p>Is there a Commercial basis for the project?  <i>Where the Community rate of aid* is being sought by the project promoter, document the evidence submitted by the project promoter in support of their status.</i>  <i>*Social Enterprises are not eligible for Community Rate of Aid.</i></p>		<p>YES</p>	<p>NO X</p>											
	<p>Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:</p> <p><b>Theme 1 – Economic Development and Job Creation</b>  <b>Sub-theme – Social, Community &amp; Co-operative Enterprises</b>  <b>Wicklow LDS Strategic 6.1 Continue to develop a strong Social Enterprise Sector</b></p>														
	<p><b>Public Procurement</b> – Indicate below the required procurement process which must be followed with regard to this application.</p>														
	Category 1 – National Procurement Guidelines		X												
	Category 2 – LEADER Specific Procurement Guidelines														
	<p>Please provide the rationale for the selected option above:</p> <p><b>The promoter is a community group seeking 75% funding and must follow Category 1 National Procurement Guidelines.</b></p>														
9	<b>Matching Funds</b>														
	<p>a. Are proposed matching funds eligible?</p> <p><i>Evidence that the proposed matching funds have not come from other EU funds must be provided and retained. Confirmation letter from other State agency source will identify the nature of the funding.</i></p> <p><b>This project is seeking 75% grant assistance</b>  <b>Bridging funding is available in promoters bank account</b></p>		<p>YES X</p>	<p>NO</p>											

	b. Does Contribution-in-kind Voluntary Labour form part of this application?	YES	NO X
	If 'Yes', has an agreed schedule been included on the file?	YES	NO
	c. Does Contribution-in-kind Donation of land form part of this application?	YES	NO X
	<i>Please confirm that the valuation of the proposed donation of land has been certified by an independent, qualified person:</i>		
	d. Contribution-in-kind – Outline the checks undertaken to confirm that any previously used contribution has been excluded from this application.		
<b>10</b>	<b>Double Funding</b> – Has the project been awarded funding from any other public body?  <b>Promoter has confirmed same in question 48 of the application form</b>	YES	NO x
<b>11</b>	<b>State Aid / De Minimis</b> – Has the project been assessed to establish if it involves economic activity?	YES X	NO
	Have statement(s) / declaration(s) from funding bodies been provided of any State Aid / De Minimis funding awarded within the three-year fiscal period to the project promoter / any linked enterprises of the project promoter?  <b>No funding has been secured previously.</b>	YES	NO X
	Does the funding awarded, in addition proposed LEADER funding, comply with State Aid / De Minimis thresholds?	YES x	NO
<b>12</b>	<b>Deadweight</b> – Consider if the project would not go ahead without grant aid – include reference to project promoter's response to question Q10 on application form and Project Development Officer's own assessment.  <b>Promoter has confirmed in question 10 of the application form that the project would go ahead but on a reduced basis without LEADER funding.</b>		
<b>13</b>	<b>Displacement</b> – Outline the steps taken to determine the potential impact this project may have on similar ventures or businesses.  The Glenree Society has assessed the potential impact of this project on similar ventures and determined that there will be no displacement of existing businesses. The Centre is unique in Co. Wicklow as an affordable, fully self-catering, sole-occupancy facility serving organised youth groups, schools, Scouts, and disadvantaged communities, rather than commercial or tourist markets. The nearest comparable facility is the National Scout Centre at Tibbradden, Co. Dublin, which serves a separate network of users and has never been in competition with Glenree. Instead of competing with local enterprises, the Centre complements the local economy by encouraging visiting groups to source supplies and services from nearby towns such as Enniskerry and Bray, and by engaging Wicklow-based contractors for capital works.  As a registered charity with a strong social inclusion mission, Glenree operates in a distinct space that does not overlap with private accommodation providers, ensuring that the project strengthens rather than displaces local economic and community activity.		
<b>14</b>	Is the proposed project subject to Heritage Project Requirements as set out in Section 8 the LEADER Operating Rules, and the Guidelines for 2023-2027 LEADER Projects Affecting Heritage?	YES	NO x
	If 'yes', have all the required consents and approvals been obtained and has a designated expert(s) appropriate to the project been appointed?	YES	NO
	<i>Outline any conditions that are attached as a result of these required consents and approvals being obtained:</i>		
<b>15</b>	<b>Analysis &amp; Development / Training</b> – Provide an assessment of the Terms of Reference for Analysis & Development or Training projects, as appropriate. Confirm that it has been established that a clear need has been demonstrated and that the relevant Analysis & Development / Training has not previously been undertaken or does not form part of a normal education programme:  n/a		
<b>16</b>	<b>Required Skills/Training</b> – Does the project promoter have the required abilities/skills to complete the proposed project?	YES X	NO

<b>Please provide details of the project promoter's business or other experience to support your response above:</b>			
<p>The Glenree Society, a registered charity since 1968, has over 60 years' experience managing and developing its 40-acre Recreation and Education Centre in Co. Wicklow. The voluntary management committee combines expertise in finance, HR, IT, PR, and property maintenance with extensive youth work and community development backgrounds. The Society has successfully delivered major capital works including the restoration &amp; refurbishment of Aurora House, installation of heating and fire safety systems, and large-scale environmental projects such as tree planting and outdoor classrooms. With a proven track record of strong governance, financial stewardship, and sustained service to more than 55,000 users, the Society has the capacity and experience to deliver this project effectively and responsibly.</p>			
Has a business plan/marketing plan been provided to show viability?		YES	NO
<b>N/A non-economic activity</b>			X
<b>Outline the proposed performance indicators and expected impacts, for economic measures:</b>			
<b>18</b>	<b>Added Value</b> – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?		
<p>LEADER funding will enable the Glenree Society to deliver this project to full scale and modern standards, going beyond essential repairs to create a sustainable, accessible community facility. While the Society is contributing 25% from its own reserves, external support is vital to complete the conservation of the cottage, upgrade washrooms and accommodation, and improve site safety and environmental design in one integrated programme. The funding will add value by preserving the building and expanding capacity for disadvantaged youth groups and schools.</p>			
<b>19</b>	<b>Artificial Conditions</b> – From their assessment of this project application, is the Development Officer satisfied that artificial situations have not been created in relation to this project to receive the aid (Art. 62 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2116)?		YES
		X	NO
<p><i>i.e. that this project is not the result of a potential bigger project being artificially split to avoid procurement thresholds that might apply, or that the project promoter has not artificially created conditions to qualify for LEADER Grant Aid or for a higher rate of LEADER Grant Aid.</i></p>			
<p><i>If the answer to this question is 'No', the reason for this assessment must be set out and advised to the Evaluation Committee and ultimately to the LAG for decision:</i></p>			
<b>20</b>	Recommendations from Development Officer: <i>(tick one)</i>		
	Approve: X	Reject:	Defer:
	Recommended Grant Amount	€120,382.07	
	Rate of Aid (%)	75%	
	Rationale for the recommendation:		
<p>This project is recommended for support because it preserves a unique community facility while modernising it to meet current safety, accessibility, and environmental standards. The works will deliver lasting cultural, educational, and economic benefits for Wicklow and ensure the long-term sustainability of the Centre</p>			
<b>21</b>	Declaration by Development Officer that he/she does not have a conflict of interest in this project.	NO CONFLICT X	CONFLICT
<b>22</b>	Outline how this project demonstrates Value for money / Reasonableness of Costs: <i>(Reference quotations, tendering process and any additional steps taken to ensure reasonableness of costs.)</i>		
<p>A QS drew up the necessary specification which was sent to five suppliers, with only one quote being received back, one unable to quote due to pressure of work and three who did not respond at all .</p>			
<b>23</b>	Outline the need or requirement the project will meet:		
<p>The project addresses the urgent need to preserve and modernise The Grove, a 19th-century cottage and dormitory that forms the core of the Glenree Society's Recreation and Education Centre. The existing facilities no longer fully meet contemporary standards for safety, accessibility, and comfort, limiting the Centre's capacity to host organised youth groups, schools, Scouts, and</p>			

	disadvantaged communities. Upgrading the cottage, washrooms, and site infrastructure will ensure the Centre remains a safe, functional, and inclusive environment, supporting educational, recreational, and personal development activities. Additionally, improvements to the site's entrance and landscaping will enhance accessibility, environmental sustainability, and the overall visitor experience, meeting both current and future demand		
<b>24</b>	In the case of capital projects, is there evidence of title / leasehold?	YES X	NO
	<i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>		
<b>25</b>	Is there planning permission, exemptions from planning and consents as appropriate?	YES	NO X
	<i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>		
<b>26</b>	<b>Provide details of the Marketing and Promotional Strategy: (if applicable)</b>		
	The Glenree Society will use a combination of targeted outreach, digital communication, and community engagement to promote the upgraded Centre. Marketing will focus on organised youth groups, schools, Scouts, community organisations, and educational programmes, highlighting the improved facilities, heritage setting, and enhanced outdoor learning spaces. Promotion will include updates on the Society's website, newsletters, and direct engagement with local partnerships and networks such as the City of Dublin Youth Services Board and community-based youth projects.		
<b>27</b>	Outline the benefits to local employment: <i>(if applicable)</i>		
	<b>There is no employment connected to this project</b>		
Discussion:	<p>Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimis, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were discussed by the IEC.</p> <p>This project is seeking funding towards accommodation facilities. One property 'The Grove' would be renovated from its currently unusable state for dormitory style accommodation.</p> <p>The application comes from a strong group however they could perhaps benefit from marketing assistance and perhaps focus on targeting the Wicklow market as much as the Dublin market.</p>		
Scoring	Scoring undertaken, a score of 84% was achieved. Scoring sheet completed for this project		
Absenters:	None		
Results:	<p><b>Project recommended by the committee to the LCDC to approve funding.</b></p> <p>€120,382.07 at 75%</p> <p>Proposed by: Deirdre Burns Seconded by: Monica Byrne</p> <p>All in agreement.</p>		

## LCDC Decision

<b>LCDC Discussion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project outlined by Evelyn Murray.</li> <li>No Queries</li> <li>Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimus, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were considered by the LAG.</li> </ul>
<b>Absenters:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>
<b>Results:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All voted in favour and the project approved for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Proposed by:</i> Cllr Melanie Corrigan</li> <li><i>Seconded by:</i> Cllr Pier Leonard</li> </ul>
<b>Quorum Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quorum was achieved and project approved for funding.</li> </ul>

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Evelyn Murray outlined the following project:

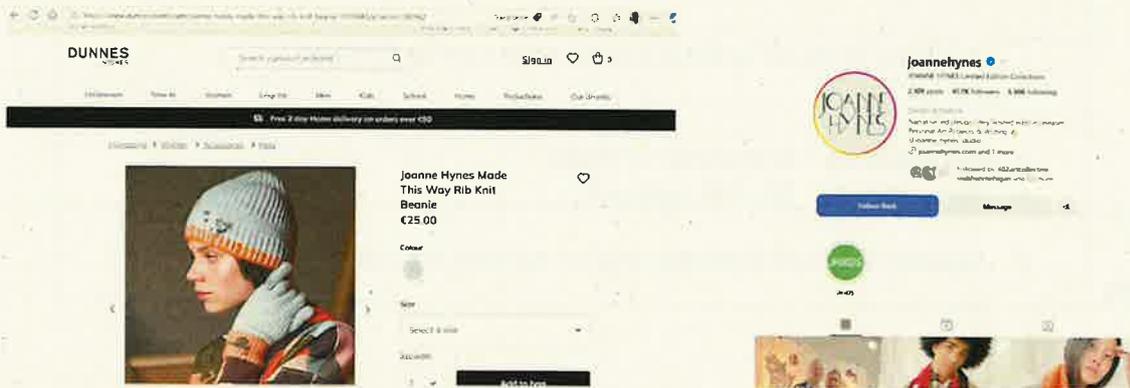
<b>Project Name</b>	Feasibility Study for a Perfumery – Joanne Hynes
<b>Project ID</b>	IE34WKP103276
<b>Project Location</b>	4 Ferrybank, Arklow, Co Wicklow
<b>Project Promoter</b>	Joanne Hynes
<b>Promoter Address</b>	As above

<b>1</b>	<p>Statement of eligibility – Is the project promoter eligible for LEADER funding?</p> <p><i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i></p>	YES  X	NO
	<p>Outline the checks that were carried out to verify that the project promoter is not excluded from funding due to serious non-compliance, that there is no current outstanding debt associated with support provided under this or any previous LEADER programme and if there is a debt confirm that a repayment plan is in place:</p> <p><b>Promoter has confirmed in Q.50 of the LEADER application form that they have no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme. Internal check was also carried out by CWP to verify same.</b></p>		
<b>2</b>	<p>Is the project eligible per the LEADER Operating Rules?</p> <p><i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i></p> <p><b>Promoter is eligible as per 2023-27 Operating Rule 6.5;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Promoter meets de Minimis requirements in relation to state aid</b></li> <li><b>Beneficiary is not excluded from receiving funding</b></li> <li><b>Beneficiary is solvent (Bank statements and accounts submitted)</b></li> <li><b>There is no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme</b></li> </ul>	YES  X	NO

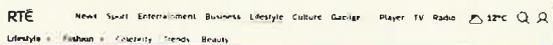
**Provide description of project**

This project will undertake a feasibility study into the development of an independent Irish perfumery brand under the internationally recognised Joanne Hynes name. Building on over 20 years of creative practice in fashion and design, the project represents a natural progression of Hynes' philosophy, where identity, memory, and storytelling are central to creative expression.

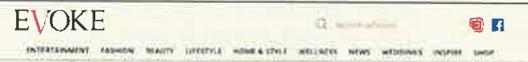
Joanne Hynes is one of Ireland's leading contemporary designers, known internationally for her distinctive, rebellious, and narrative-driven aesthetic. Since establishing her label in 2003, her work has retailed in global luxury spaces such as Harvey Nichols, Barneys NY, and Brown Thomas. She has collaborated with Topshop and Pretty Polly, and since 2016 has been employed as a fashion designer with Dunnes Stores, where she continues to design exclusive, limited-edition collections that combine craft, innovation, and accessibility. While this position reflects a senior creative role within the company, Dunnes does not own the rights to Hynes' wider practice, and she retains the freedom to pursue independent projects under her own name.



Her profile is widely recognised: she has received extensive coverage across Irish and international press, including RTE features and a recent in-depth interview with *The Sunday Times*. She has also built a substantial direct audience, with over 41,000 followers on Instagram engaging with her creative output. Beyond fashion, Hynes is an artist and writer, with her first solo exhibition held in 2023 and recent publications in *New Irish Writers* and *The Stinging Fly*. This established platform, audience, and credibility provide a strong foundation for diversification into perfumery.



**Joanne Hynes: "I'm always on the side of the complicated woman"**



**Joanne Hynes' childhood-inspired collection with Dunnes Stores is all about nostalgia**



The proposed perfumery brand will be based in Arklow, County Wicklow, anchoring the project in a local context and supporting regional craft and production. Over a 12-month feasibility study, the project will assess market opportunities, competitor positioning, product development pathways, operational requirements, and financial models. It will also investigate potential partnerships with local formulators, suppliers, and packaging providers.

The study will conclude with detailed recommendations for brand launch, market entry strategies, and scaling potential. Its outcomes will inform the creation of a distinctive Irish fragrance brand with both domestic and international appeal, contributing to business diversification, local employment, and Ireland's cultural reputation in luxury goods.

Has project promoter provided all the required information and documentation to process this application for funding?	YES X	NO
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If No, what:

- documentation / information has not been provided.
- efforts were made to obtain this documentation/information
- reason(s) were given by the project promoter for not providing the requested information/documentation?

Where after 3 months the requested information/documentation has not been provided by the project promoter, the project should be presented to the Evaluation Committee for evaluation and then presented to the Administrative Checking Body for adjudication.

4	Is the project eligible under the Theme, Sub-theme and Objectives of the Local Development Strategy?	YES X	NO
Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:  <b>Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation</b> <b>Sub-theme – Enterprise Development</b> <b>Wicklow LDS Strategic Action – 4.1 Craft and Creative Industries</b>			
5	<p><b>Clearly describe in detail the nature of the proposed project including innovative aspects:</b></p> <p>The proposed project is an 12-month feasibility study to explore the establishment of an independent Irish perfumery brand under the internationally recognised Joanne Hynes name, based in Arklow, County Wicklow. The study will examine all aspects of creating a niche fragrance business, including market opportunities, competitor positioning, product development pathways, operational requirements, regulatory compliance, and financial viability.</p> <p>It will explore fragrance formulation pathways, sustainable packaging, and production options in collaboration with local artisans and suppliers, integrating Joanne Hynes’ distinctive narrative-driven approach that links scent with memory, identity, and storytelling. The project is innovative in combining high fashion sensibilities with artisanal perfumery, creating a multi-sensory brand experience that is uniquely Irish and culturally anchored.</p> <p>By prioritising sustainability, local craft, and ethical production, the study aims to differentiate the brand from international competitors and appeal to both domestic and global niche markets seeking authenticity, provenance, and luxury innovation. The study will also investigate brand positioning, marketing strategies, and audience engagement, leveraging Joanne Hynes’ established creative platform, extensive media profile, and social media following of over 41,000. By the end of the 12 months, the project will deliver detailed recommendations for product development, brand launch, market entry strategies, and scaling potential, providing a robust foundation for the creation of a distinctive, commercially viable, and culturally resonant Irish perfumery brand.</p> 		



Art Works

Joanne Hynes Art Studios  
Joanne Hynes Projects

6 Define the eligible expenditure, maximum limit of grant and the rate of aid  
**Costs of each element of the Project:**

Nature of Contract / Goods / Item / Donations / Voluntary Labour	Supplier	Cost excluding VAT (€)	Cost including VAT (€)
Feasibility Study	Arts Leaders	€14,000.00	€17,220.00
		€	€
		€	€
<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€14,000.00	€17,220.00

Sources of funding		Value €	Financed by: % of overall cost
LEADER Programme		€12,915.00	75%
Donation of property (where applicable)		0	
Voluntary labour (where applicable)		0	
Own resources:	Cash / money in account	€4,305.00	25%
	Loan / bridging finance / family loan in bank account	€	
Other Public funding from non-EU Sources, e.g. Local Authority, Fáilte Ireland, etc. (List the sources and the value of funding provided by each source) Wicklow County Council		€	
<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€17,220.00	100%

7 Is there a Commercial basis for the project?  
Where the Community rate of aid\* is being sought by the project promoter, document the evidence submitted by the project promoter in support of their status.  
\*Social Enterprises are not eligible for Community Rate of Aid.

YES X	NO
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Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:

**Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation**  
**Sub-theme – Enterprise Development**  
**Wicklow LDS Strategic Action – 4.1 Craft and Creative Industries**

8 **Public Procurement** – Indicate below the required procurement process which must be followed with regard to this application.

Category 1 – National Procurement Guidelines

	Category 2 – LEADER Specific Procurement Guidelines	<b>x</b>	
Please provide the rationale for the selected option above:			
<b>The promoter is a private individual seeking 75% funding and must follow Category 2 LEADER Procurement Guidelines.</b>			
<b>9</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>		
	a. Are proposed matching funds eligible?  <i>Evidence that the proposed matching funds have not come from other EU funds must be provided and retained. Confirmation letter from other State agency source will identify the nature of the funding.</i>  <b>Match Funding will be provided by WCC and CWP.</b>	YES X	NO
	b. Does Contribution-in-kind Voluntary Labour form part of this application?	YES	NO X
	If 'Yes', has an agreed schedule been included on the file?	YES	NO
	c. Does Contribution-in-kind Donation of land form part of this application?	YES	NO X
<i>Please confirm that the valuation of the proposed donation of land has been certified by an independent, qualified person:</i>			
	d. Contribution-in-kind – Outline the checks undertaken to confirm that any previously used contribution has been excluded from this application.		
<b>10</b>	<b>Double Funding</b> – Has the project been awarded funding from any other public body?	YES	NO x
<b>11</b>	<b>State Aid / De Minimis</b> – Has the project been assessed to establish if it involves economic activity?	YES X	NO
	Have statement(s) / declaration(s) from funding bodies been provided of any State Aid / De Minimis funding awarded within the three-year fiscal period to the project promoter / any linked enterprises of the project promoter?	YES	NO X
	Does the funding awarded, in addition proposed LEADER funding, comply with State Aid / De Minimis thresholds?	YES x	NO
<b>12</b>	<b>Deadweight</b> – Consider if the project would not go ahead without grant aid – include reference to project promoter's response to question Q10 on application form and Project Development Officer's own assessment.  <b>The promoter has indicated the project would not proceed without LEADER funding due to the level of investment required.</b>		
<b>13</b>	<b>Displacement</b> – Outline the steps taken to determine the potential impact this project may have on similar ventures or businesses.  The proposed Joanne Hynes perfumery brand will not displace existing Irish fragrance producers such as Brooke & Shoals Fragrances or INIS, as it will offer a distinctly different creative approach, product proposition, and market positioning. Brooke & Shoals, based in Greystones, create artisanal fragrances, candles, diffusers, and body products with a focus on sustainable, natural ingredients and locally inspired scents. Whereas INIS, inspired by the wild Atlantic coast, produces sparkling, clean fragrances that evoke a sunny day by the sea, targeting consumers seeking fresh, accessible scents with a strong Irish identity. It is heavily marketed as a tourist perfume also.  In contrast, the Joanne Hynes perfumery will operate most likely as a luxury niche fragrance brand that combines high fashion, narrative-driven design, and artistic storytelling. Each fragrance will explore memory, identity, and cultural narrative, reflecting Hynes' internationally recognised design aesthetic. Targeting domestic and international audiences seeking designer-led, conceptual fragrances, the brand complements rather than competes with existing Irish perfumery.		
<b>14</b>	Is the proposed project subject to Heritage Project Requirements as set out in Section 8 the LEADER Operating Rules, and the Guidelines for 2023-2027 LEADER Projects Affecting Heritage?	YES	NO x
	If 'yes', have all the required consents and approvals been obtained and has a designated expert(s) appropriate to the project been appointed?	YES	NO
<i>Outline any conditions that are attached as a result of these required consents and approvals being obtained:</i>			

15	<p><b>Analysis &amp; Development / Training</b> – Provide an assessment of the Terms of Reference for Analysis &amp; Development or Training projects, as appropriate. Confirm that it has been established that a clear need has been demonstrated and that the relevant Analysis &amp; Development / Training has not previously been undertaken or does not form part of a normal education programme:</p> <p>The full details of the feasibility study are outlined in the specification sent and are on file with this application.</p>		
16	<p><b>Required Skills/Training</b> – Does the project promoter have the required abilities/skills to complete the proposed project?</p>	<p>YES X</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Please provide details of the project promoter's business or other experience to support your response above:</p>			
<p><b>Required Skills/Training</b>          Joanne Hynes possesses extensive creative, commercial, and project management experience, providing all the skills necessary to complete input into the proposed perfumery feasibility study. As an internationally recognised fashion designer, she has over 20 years' experience in design, production, and brand development, including establishing her eponymous label in 2003 and designing exclusive collections for Dunnes Stores since 2016. Her work combines high-level creativity with commercial viability, demonstrating the ability to develop products that are both conceptually innovative and market-ready.</p> <p>Hynes has also developed skills in storytelling, artistic practice, and writing, with recent solo exhibitions and publications reflecting her ability to create narrative-driven, multi-disciplinary projects. She has extensive experience in collaborating with suppliers, manufacturers, and international retailers, as well as managing production, marketing, and operational processes.</p> <p>In addition, Joanne has established networks in fashion, art, and creative industries, which provide access to expertise in fragrance formulation, sustainable production, and brand marketing. Her existing platform, including a strong media profile and over 41,000 social media followers, equips her with the audience engagement skills essential for launching a new luxury brand. Collectively, this combination of creative, commercial, and operational experience demonstrates that Joanne Hynes has the abilities, knowledge, and networks required to successfully undertake the feasibility study and inform the launch of a distinctive perfumery brand</p>			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">    </div>			
17	<p>Has a business plan/marketing plan been provided to show viability?</p>	<p>YES x</p>	<p>NO</p>
<p>Outline the proposed performance indicators and expected impacts, for economic measures:</p>			
18	<p><b>Added Value</b> – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?</p> <p><b>LEADER funding will enable the Joanne Hynes perfumery feasibility study to access specialist expertise in fragrance formulation, sustainable packaging, market research, and operational planning. Joanne sought three quotes for key services; two responses were received, and one was considered unsuitable, demonstrating careful financial stewardship. Funding will ensure the study delivers robust, actionable recommendations for a distinctive, commercially viable brand while supporting local suppliers and creative enterprise in County Wicklow</b></p>		
19	<p><b>Artificial Conditions</b> – From their assessment of this project application, is the Development Officer satisfied that artificial situations have not been created in relation to this project to receive the aid (Art. 62 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2116)?</p> <p><i>i.e. that this project is not the result of a potential bigger project being artificially split to avoid procurement thresholds that might apply, or that the project promoter has not artificially created conditions to qualify for LEADER Grant Aid or for a higher rate of LEADER Grant Aid.</i></p>	<p>YES X</p>	<p>NO</p>

	If the answer to this question is 'No', the reason for this assessment must be set out and advised to the Evaluation Committee and ultimately to the LAG for decision:		
<b>20</b>	Recommendations from Development Officer: <i>(tick one)</i>		
	Appro	Reject:	Defer:
	X		
	Recommended Grant Amount	€12,915.00	
	Rate of Aid (%)	75%	
	Rationale for the recommendation:  The recommendation is supported because Joanne Hynes combines internationally recognised creative expertise, commercial experience, and an established audience, providing a strong foundation to develop a niche, high-end perfumery brand. The feasibility study will ensure a well-researched, commercially viable, and culturally distinctive project that also supports local suppliers and creative enterprise in County Wicklow, and will serve as a high-profile exemplar project for LEADER.		
<b>21</b>	Declaration by Development Officer that he/she does not have a conflict of interest in this project.	NO CONFLICT X	CONFLICT
<b>22</b>	Outline how this project demonstrates Value for money / Reasonableness of Costs: <i>(Reference quotations, tendering process and any additional steps taken to ensure reasonableness of costs.)</i>  <b>Joanne sought three quotes for the study, with two suitable responses and one unable to quote. She choose the cheapest quote.</b>		
<b>23</b>	Outline the need or requirement the project will meet:  There is currently a gap in Ireland for independent, luxury perfumery brands that combine high-quality design, storytelling, and cultural identity. Consumers are increasingly looking for niche fragrances with authenticity, provenance, and sustainability—qualities often missing from mass-market products. This project will address that gap by exploring the creation of a distinctive Irish perfumery brand that builds on Joanne Hynes' internationally recognised design expertise.		
<b>24</b>	In the case of capital projects, is there evidence of title / leasehold?  <b>This is not a capital project</b>	YES	NO
	If 'yes', provide details:  n/a		
<b>25</b>	Is there planning permission, exemptions from planning and consents as appropriate?  <b>NOT APPLICABLE –</b>	YES	NO
	If 'yes', provide details:		
<b>26</b>	<b>Provide details of the Marketing and Promotional Strategy: (if applicable)</b>  No marketing activity is planned as part of this feasibility study. However, once the perfumery brand is developed, it is expected to undergo extensive marketing and promotion, leveraging Joanne Hynes' established audience, media profile, and social media following to reach both domestic and international customers. It is recommended on launch that LEADER is given due recognition.		
<b>27</b>	Outline the benefits to local employment: <i>(if applicable)</i>  As this is a feasibility study, there are no immediate employment benefits. However, the project is designed to inform the creation of a perfumery brand that will engage local suppliers, artisans, and creative professionals in County Wicklow, creating future employment opportunities and supporting the regional creative economy		

Discussion:	<p>Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimis, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were discussed by the IEC.</p> <p>This promoter is seeking funding towards a feasibility study with a view towards developing a perfume brand. The promoter has a strong profile in the fashion world.</p>
Scoring	Scoring undertaken, a score of 87% was achieved. Scoring sheet completed for this project
Absenters:	None
Results:	<p><b>Project recommended by the committee to the LCDC to approve funding.</b></p> <p>€12,915.00 at 75%</p> <p>Proposed by: Monica Byrne Seconded by: Deirdre Burns</p> <p>All in agreement.</p>

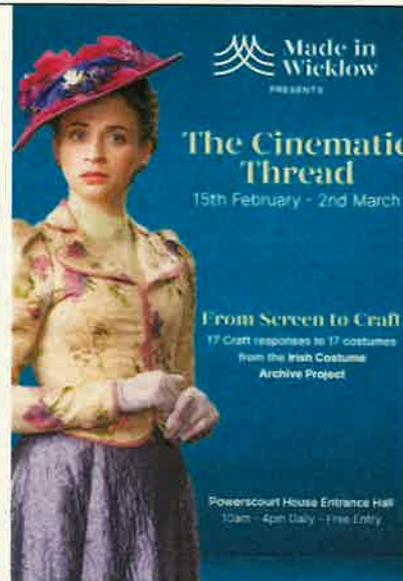
LCDC Decision	
<b>LCDC Discussion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evelyn Murray outlined this project.</li> <li>• A question was asked as to what market segment would this product be aimed at? – Evelyn explained, that the proposed feasibility study once undertaken would give a clearer picture, but more than likely the perfume would be aimed at the higher end of the market.</li> <li>• The proposed project was praised by some of the committee members as fascinating and exciting.</li> <li>• Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimus, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were considered by the LAG.</li> </ul>
<b>Absenters:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Results:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All voted in favour and the project was approved for funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Proposers</b>	<p><b>Proposed by:</b> Cllr John Snell <b>Seconded by:</b> Tom Cavanagh</p>
<b>Quorum Requirements</b>	Quorum was achieved and the project was approved for funding.

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Evelyn Murray outlined the following project:

<b>Project Name</b>	Made in Wicklow Expansion Project
<b>Project ID</b>	IE34WKP103379
<b>Project Location</b>	Co. Wicklow
<b>Project Promoter</b>	County Wicklow Partnership CLG
<b>Promoter Address</b>	3rd Floor Avoca River House, Bridgewater Centre, Arklow, Co Wicklow

1	Statement of eligibility – Is the project promoter eligible for LEADER funding? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i>	YES X	NO
	<p>Outline the checks that were carried out to verify that the project promoter is not excluded from funding due to serious non-compliance, that there is no current outstanding debt associated with support provided under this or any previous LEADER programme and if there is a debt confirm that a repayment plan is in place:</p> <p><b>Promoter has confirmed in Q.50 of the LEADER application form that they have no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme. Internal check was also carried out by CWP to verify same.</b></p>		
2	Is the project eligible per the LEADER Operating Rules? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i>	YES X	NO
	<p><b>Promoter is eligible as per 2023-27 Operating Rule 6.5;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promoter meets de Minimis requirements in relation to state aid</b></li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary is not excluded from receiving funding</b></li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary is solvent (Bank statements and accounts submitted)</b></li> <li>• <b>There is no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Provide description of project:</b></p> <p><i>Made in Wicklow (MIW) has rapidly grown into a flagship initiative for County Wicklow’s creative sector, providing a digital trail, marketing platform, and showcase &amp; retail opportunities for over 50 vetted craft practitioners. Growing from strength to strength, in 2025, the Head, Heart and Hands craft exhibition and <i>Cinematic Thread; from Screen to Craft</i> exhibition at Powerscourt House drew more than <b>18,000 visitors</b>, generating national press, social media engagement, and television coverage. This demonstrated both the strong public demand for creative experiences and the potential of MIW to act as a cultural driver for the county.</i></p>		



This new application seeks support to deliver and expand the scope of MIW through enhanced digital infrastructure support, a stronger focus on opportunities for economic sales, and the expansion of *Powerscourt 2026* – to become *The Made Arts of County Wicklow*, a month-long celebration of craft, art, and film. Through the generosity of Sarah Slazenger, the use of Powerscourt has been expanded from the current use of the Hallway Gallery to the use of the Ballroom, the Garden Room (overlooking the Sugar Loaf) and the side smaller salon room.

#### **Powerscourt 2026 – Proposed Programme Highlights**

- Head, Heart & Hands – Craft Exhibition: Featuring the excellence of Wicklow’s craft makers – showcase exhibition
- Craft Inspired by Screen Exhibition: A continuation of MIW’s unique crossover with Wicklow’s film heritage.
- Art in the Ballroom Exhibition: Wicklow’s first open call for visual artists, displaying 90–120 works in the Ballroom.



#### Garden Room Fringe Events

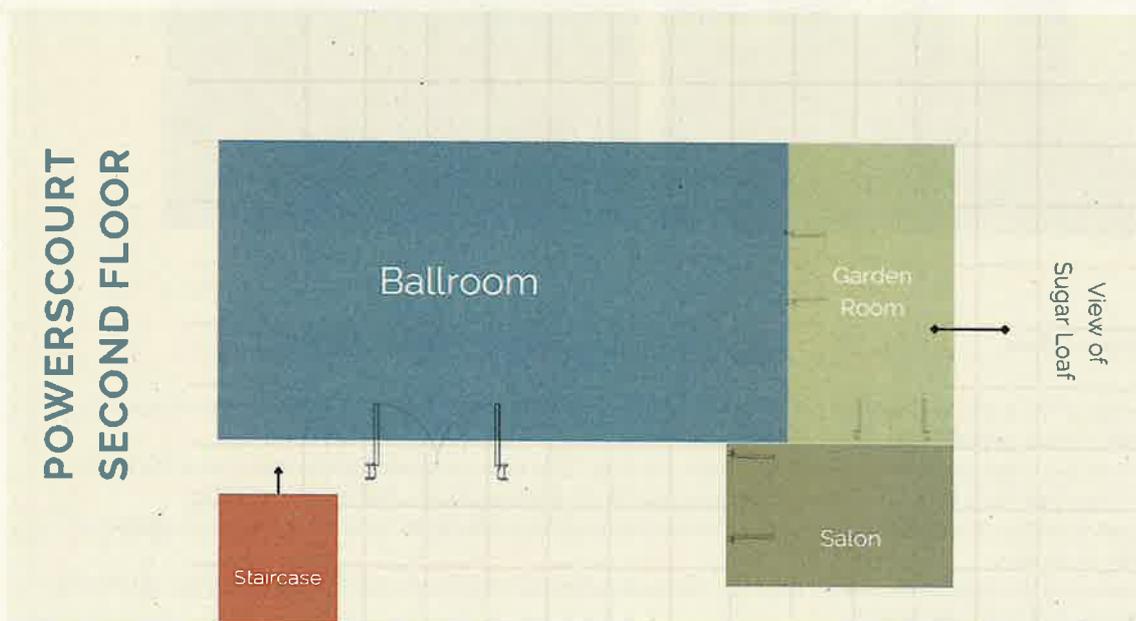
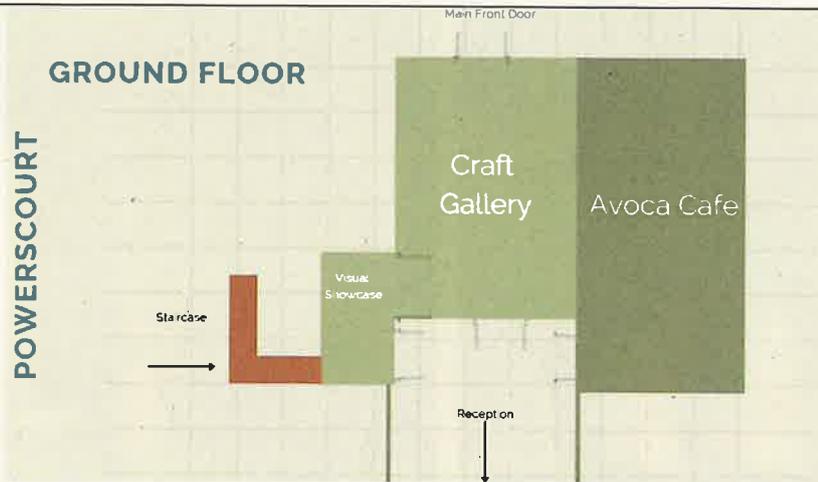
- The Wicklow Film Shorts Weekend (31 Jan–2 Feb): Screenings in the Garden Room celebrating the shorts film talent of Co Wicklow – including 4 WCC Arts / Screen Wicklow funded pieces.
- The Artists Salon Weekend hosted by WCC Arts Office (8–9 Feb): Talks, networking, and the final showcase of *The Wicklow Arc – Where East Meets West*, a bi location craft and textiles initiative linking groups in Baltinglass and Arklow.
- The Craft of Writing & Craft Demos (14–15 Feb): A writers’ learning weekend led by author Nadia Ramoutar, alongside live craft demonstrations.
- The Heritage of Shuttleknit Showcase (21–22 Feb): A heritage-funded exhibition marking 25 years of Shuttleknit, celebrating community, resilience, and tradition.

#### Impact

By building on the extraordinary success of 2025, *Powerscourt 2026* will establish February as Wicklow’s annual month-long showcase of creativity, attracting local, national and international attention. It will:

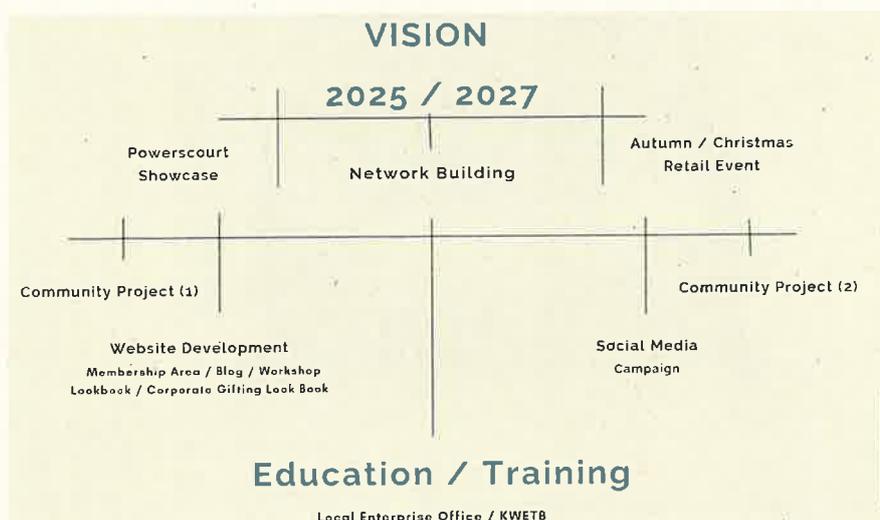
- Continue to offer new professional platforms for over 50 craft makers and between 80 to 120 artists.
- Draw to build on last year’s visitor numbers with associated tourism and economic benefits.
- Provide opportunities for community engagement, collaboration, and cultural exchange.
- Strengthen Wicklow’s reputation as a county of creativity, innovation, and heritage.
- Powerscourt has also agreed to cross promote this event in all their national, international tradeshows with a booklet featuring all county brands.

Together, these actions will position *Made in Wicklow* as a sustainable, high-impact cultural enterprise at the heart of Wicklow’s creative economy.



3	Has project promoter provided all the required information and documentation to process this application for funding?	YES X	NO
<p>If No, what:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>documentation / information has not been provided.</li> <li>efforts were made to obtain this documentation/information</li> <li>reason(s) were given by the project promoter for not providing the requested information/documentation?</li> </ul> <p>Where after 3 months the requested information/documentation has not been provided by the project promoter, the project should be presented to the Evaluation Committee for evaluation and then presented to the Administrative Checking Body for adjudication.</p>			
4	Is the project eligible under the Theme, Sub-theme and Objectives of the Local Development Strategy?	YES X	NO
<p>Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:</p> <p><b>Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation</b>  <b>Sub-theme – Enterprise Development</b>  <b>Wicklow LDS Strategic Action – 4.1 Craft and Creative Industries</b></p>			
5	<p><b>Clearly describe in detail the nature of the proposed project including innovative aspects:</b></p> <p>The innovation of <i>Made in Wicklow</i> (MIW) lies in both its visionary design and its unique project structure, which is fully underpinned by</p>		

the Wicklow Craft Strategy 2023–2027. Unlike one-off cultural projects, MIW is a multi-phase initiative that learns from each stage, adapts, and grows, ensuring long-term sustainability and relevance.



### A Unique Structure

The project is framed by two “bookends”:

- **Powerscourt House** – an annual, month-long showcase of creativity that highlights exhibition and visibility. The relationship developed with Powerscourt is MIW’s strongest innovation: the generous gift of the Ballroom, Garden Room, and Salon provides a ready-made audience and a national platform to showcase Wicklow’s craft, art, and film talent. It is, in effect, the ultimate cultural pop-up—delivering maximum impact without the prohibitive costs of a permanent venue.
- **Wicklow Gaol** – a heritage venue – focus on direct sales opportunity for makers while drawing strong local and visitor footfall.

Layered beneath these anchors are two **community-focused projects** that use craft as a vehicle for learning, creativity, and social connection. These will include initiatives such as *The Wicklow Arc – Where East Meets West*, which brings together communities in Baltinglass and Arklow through ceramics and textiles, culminating in a shared showcase. Or the Arklow Gansey and Lusitania show project, which uses artifacts as inspiration for creating new work.

Finally, the planned structure is drawn together by an **education programme** designed to try engage younger audiences and nurture the next generation of makers, ensuring the craft sector’s sustainability into the future.

Long term financial sustainability has now become central to the development of *Made in Wicklow* and while the project has benefitted from significant support from the LEADER programme, Wicklow County Council, and County Wicklow Partnership, it has demonstrated excellent value for money through the careful use of resources and the building of a strong asset base.

To date, MIW has established a **robust register of assets** that ensures long-term usability without the need for recurring hire costs. These include:

- A professional website and active social media presence
- 40 museum-quality plinths / 4 jewellery lockable tops
- An 85-inch screen for film display
- 22 professionally produced craft videos
- 20 handcrafted Wicklow Willow baskets
- 26 branded tablecloths
- Specialist display items, including a purple mannequin!

This asset base ensures that each annual programme is delivered with professional standards at reduced cost, and future funding can be directed towards innovation and growth rather than rental or replacement.

Looking ahead, this MIW expansion project will strengthen sustainability by introducing **income-generating activities**. For the first time in Wicklow, countywide open calls will be launched for visual arts and film. Based on projected participation rates, these open calls have the potential to generate significant income streams (up to €18,000 from the visual arts call alone, with additional revenue expected from the film strand). Combined with exhibition fees, a small commission on sales, and other earned-income opportunities, MIW anticipates the ability to generate upwards of **€30,000 annually**.

Together, this combination of a strong asset base, reduced recurring costs, diversified income streams, and the development of MIW as a Social Enterprise creates a credible pathway towards long-term financial sustainability. The support of this expansion phase will

allow MIW to complete the transition from a funding-dependent project to a mini self-sustaining cultural enterprise, ensuring it continues to benefit Wicklow's craft and creative community for years to come.



**6 Define the eligible expenditure, maximum limit of grant and the rate of aid  
Costs of each element of the Project:**

Nature of Contract / Goods / Item / Donations / Voluntary Labour	Supplier	Cost excluding VAT (€)	Cost including VAT (€)
<b>Wicklow Gaol Christmas Fair</b>			
Craft focused Kids zone	Kids Club	2,450.00	2,450.00
Portaloo	Environ	760.00	934.80
<b>Powerscourt 2026</b>			
Art Display Boards	Eoin Shanley – Copperfish Lighting	10,800.00	13,284.00
Art Tracks		1,761.00	1,761.65
Costume Hire	Irish Costume Archive Project	4,500.00	4,500.00
Digital Totem Pole	Digini	1644.67	2022.95
Easels x 5	Amazon.co.uk	934.76	1149.75
Graphic Design	We Make Visual	2,500	3075.00
Lockable Jewellery Box / Plinth (Brain Clarke Display) x 3	Plinth and Display Cases.ie (Solits)	2230.44	2743.44
Project Management – Art in the Ballroom	Schoolhouse for Art	15,400.00	15,400.00
Project Management – Craft Exhibition x 2	Lineal	7,800.00	7,800.00
Mannequins	The Cloth Shop	833.90	1025.70
Powerscourt Hire		2756.50	3390.50
Musician	Scott Newman	820	820
Music Powerscourt and Wicklow Gaol	The Gramophone Social	1,100.00	1,353.00
Printing	Blueprint	2944.00	3,412.60
Social Media	C Sherriff	2200	2,200
Van Hire	Leicester Freight	3024.39	3,720.00
Website Hosting x 24 months plus support	Modus	2,809.00	3,455.07
Video Launch	Stubborn Monkey	900.00	1021.00
Graphic Design and Booklet Print for Powerscourt	Ger Armstrong	3,000.00	3,690.00
AV	Planet Sound	4,822.50	5,931.68
<b>Community Project (1)</b>			
Arklow Gansey / Lusitania Shoe Project	Eleanor Swan	6328.00	6328.00
<b>Community Project (2)</b>			
<b>The Wicklow Arc</b>			
Ceramic Workshop Baltinglass	Eleanor Swan	2,500.00	2,500.00
Textile Workshop Baltinglass	Sharon Wells	2990.00	2,990.00

	Ceramic Workshop Arklow	Hilary Jenkinson	2,650.00	2,650.00
	Textile Workshop Arklow	Anock O'Connell	1,950.00	1,950.00
	Printmaking Workshop Arklow		2,436.00	2,436.00
	Printing Press	Scarva	2662.45	2,662.45
	<i>Total cost of project:</i>		<b>€97,507.61</b>	<b>€106,658.09</b>
				<b>Financed by:</b>
<b>Sources of funding</b>			<b>Value €</b>	<b>% of overall cost</b>
LEADER Programme			€76,609.01	71.82672%
Donation of property ( <i>where applicable</i> )			N/A	
Voluntary labour ( <i>where applicable</i> )			N/A	
Own resources:	Cash / money in account		€8,717.46	8.17328%
	Loan / bridging finance		€	
Other Public funding from non-EU Sources, e.g. Local Authority, Fáilte Ireland, etc. ( <i>List the sources and the value of funding provided by each source</i> )			€21,331.62	20%
Wicklow County Council				
<i>Total cost of project:</i>			<b>€106,658.09</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>7</b>	Is there a Commercial basis for the project? <i>Where the Community rate of aid* is being sought by the project promoter, document the evidence submitted by the project promoter in support of their status.</i> <i>*Social Enterprises are not eligible for Community Rate of Aid.</i>		YES	NO X
Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:				
<b>Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation</b> <b>Sub-theme (1f) – Enterprise Development</b> <b>Wicklow LDS Strategic Action 4.1 Craft and Creative Industries</b>				
<b>8</b>	<b>Public Procurement</b> – Indicate below the required procurement process which must be followed with regard to this application.			
Category 1 – National Procurement Guidelines			<b>X</b>	
Category 2 – LEADER Specific Procurement Guidelines				
<i>Please provide the rationale for the selected option above:</i>				
<b>The promoter is a community group seeking 75% funding and must follow Category 1 National Procurement Guidelines.</b>				
<b>9</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>			
a. Are proposed matching funds eligible?  <i>Evidence that the proposed matching funds have not come from other EU funds must be provided and retained. Confirmation letter from other State agency source will identify the nature of the funding.</i>  <b>Match Funding will be provided by WCC and MIW .</b>			YES X	NO
b. Does Contribution-in-kind Voluntary Labour form part of this application?			YES	NO X
If 'Yes', has an agreed schedule been included on the file?			YES	NO
c. Does Contribution-in-kind Donation of land form part of this application?			YES	NO X
<i>Please confirm that the valuation of the proposed donation of land has been certified by an independent, qualified person:</i>				
d. Contribution-in-kind – Outline the checks undertaken to confirm that any previously used contribution has been excluded from this application.				

10	<b>Double Funding</b> – Has the project been awarded funding from any other public body?	YES	NO x
11	<b>State Aid / De Minimis</b> – Has the project been assessed to establish if it involves economic activity?	YES x	NO
	Have statement(s) / declaration(s) from funding bodies been provided of any State Aid / De Minimis funding awarded within the three-year fiscal period to the project promoter / any linked enterprises of the project promoter?  <b>Not required as this project does not involve economic activity and is not subject to de minimis</b>	YES	NO x
	Does the funding awarded, in addition proposed LEADER funding, comply with State Aid / De Minimis thresholds?  Yes, this project has been assessed. CWP is not engaged in economic activity in relation to this project so the de-minimis threshold is not applicable.	YES x	NO
12	<b>Deadweight</b> – Consider if the project would not go ahead without grant aid – include reference to project promoter’s response to question Q10 on application form and Project Development Officer’s own assessment.  There are no other known sources of public funding for this project. This project cannot proceed without LEADER funding. The costs have been determined by a procurement process and Wicklow LCDC (LAG) / CWP does not have the required resources to proceed without funding.		
13	<b>Displacement</b> – Outline the steps taken to determine the potential impact this project may have on similar ventures or businesses.  To determine potential impact, we found no existing platform representing a vetted comprehensive craft network or trail for Co Wicklow.		
14	Is the proposed project subject to Heritage Project Requirements as set out in Section 8 the LEADER Operating Rules, and the Guidelines for 2023-2027 LEADER Projects Affecting Heritage?	YES	NO x
	If ‘yes’, have all the required consents and approvals been obtained and has a designated expert(s) appropriate to the project been appointed?	YES	NO
	<i>Outline any conditions that are attached as a result of these required consents and approvals being obtained:</i>		
15	<b>Analysis &amp; Development / Training</b> – Provide an assessment of the Terms of Reference for Analysis & Development or Training projects, as appropriate. Confirm that it has been established that a clear need has been demonstrated and that the relevant Analysis & Development / Training has not previously been undertaken or does not form part of a normal education programme:  <b>N/a this is not an A&amp;D project</b>		
16	<b>Required Skills/Training</b> – Does the project promoter have the required abilities/skills to complete the proposed project?	YES x	NO
	<i>Please provide details of the project promoter’s business or other experience to support your response above:</i>  CWP has successfully implemented Local Development Strategies in Wicklow since 1992. CWP has the experience and internal expertise to deliver this project.		
17	Has a business plan/marketing plan been provided to show viability?	YES	NO x
	<i>Outline the proposed performance indicators and expected impacts, for economic measures:</i>  The core basis of the actions that underpin this funding application are to aid the implementation of the Wicklow Craft Strategy 2023-2027		
18	<b>Added Value</b> – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?  Through this project and with the support of LEADER funding, it will create significant added value for County Wicklow by enabling <i>Made in Wicklow</i> to deliver a high-quality, professionally executed event that will highlight the county craft sector, visual artists, film sector and so stimulate tourism, economic activity, and cultural development.  <b>Tourism:</b> Building on the success of 2025, The Powerscourt 2026 showcase, spanning craft, visual arts, and film, will see Wicklow grow as a national destination for creative tourism. Using the prestigious exhibition spaces there, backed by interactive workshops,		

<p>talks and family-friendly experiences, it will start to raise the county's profile as a hub of creativity.</p> <p><b>Economic Development:</b> Supported retail and market initiatives, including <i>Wicklow Wrapped</i>, giving local food and craft producers a professional platform to sell directly to the public. Investments in infrastructure—plinths, baskets, exhibition materials, and display equipment—enhance the professionalism and appeal of the events, increasing sales and economic benefit for local makers. Open calls for visual arts and film also provide opportunities to generate new income streams, contributing to the long-term sustainability of the project.</p> <p><b>Cultural and Community Impact:</b> LEADER support allows MIW to expand educational and community-focused craft projects, nurturing the next generation of makers and strengthening skills development across the county. By integrating professional showcase, community engagement, and heritage promotion, the project creates a multiplier effect that benefits tourism, local business, and the creative economy.</p> <p>In short, LEADER funding ensures MIW delivers tangible economic, cultural, and social impact, while building a sustainable platform for Wicklow's craft and creative sector into the future.</p>			
19	<p><b>Artificial Conditions</b> – From their assessment of this project application, is the Development Officer satisfied that artificial situations have not been created in relation to this project to receive the aid (Art. 62 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2116)?</p> <p><i>i.e. that this project is not the result of a potential bigger project being artificially split to avoid procurement thresholds that might apply, or that the project promoter has not artificially created conditions to qualify for LEADER Grant Aid or for a higher rate of LEADER Grant Aid.</i></p>	YES	NO
	<p><i>If the answer to this question is 'No', the reason for this assessment must be set out and advised to the Evaluation Committee and ultimately to the LAG for decision:</i></p>		
20	<p>Recommendations from Development Officer: <i>(tick one)</i></p>		
	Approve: X	Reject:	Defer:
	Recommended Grant Amount	€76,609.01	
	Rate of Aid (%)	71,82672%	
	<p>Rationale for the recommendation:</p> <p>It is recommended that this application for funding be approved, as <i>Made in Wicklow</i> demonstrates a well-structured, innovative, and sustainable approach to developing the county's craft and creative sector. The project delivers clear economic, cultural, and tourism benefits, while building capacity and long-term opportunities for local makers and communities."</p>		
21	Declaration by Development Officer that he/she does not have a conflict of interest in this project.	NO CONFLICT X	CONFLICT
22	<p>Outline how this project demonstrates Value for money / Reasonableness of Costs: <i>(Reference quotations, tendering process and any additional steps taken to ensure reasonableness of costs.)</i></p> <p>The project involves the procurement of goods and services, and in line with Category 1 requirements, the promoter has sought a minimum of three quotations for each element. In the majority of cases, the lowest quote was selected to ensure value for money. Where the lowest quote was not chosen, a clear and robust rationale is provided in the tender report, detailing why an alternative supplier offered greater quality, suitability, or added value for the project.</p> <p>This process demonstrates that all expenditure has been carefully considered, that costs are reasonable, and that public funding will be used efficiently to deliver maximum impact.</p>		
23	<p>Outline the need or requirement the project will meet:</p> <p>The expansion phase will assist the ongoing development of County Wicklow's craft sector, building on the successes of Phases 1 to 3 (34LDRWKP 118755 &amp; 118408). The project addresses key needs by providing high-profile showcase opportunities (Powerscourt 2026), enhancing retail and sales platforms (<i>Wicklow Wrapped</i>). By combining professional exposure, income generation, and education, this phase ensures the long-term sustainability, visibility, and economic impact of Wicklow's craft community.</p>		

24	In the case of capital projects, is there evidence of title / leasehold?  <b>This is not a capital project</b> <i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>	YES	NO
25	Is there planning permission, exemptions from planning and consents as appropriate?  <b>Not Applicable</b> <i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>	YES	NO
26	<p><b>Provide details of the Marketing and Promotional Strategy: (if applicable)</b></p> <p><i>Made in Wicklow</i> employs a multi-channel approach to maximize visibility for craft practitioners and attract visitors to the county. The MIW website and social media platforms provide a central hub for event listings, practitioner profiles, and digital content, supported by a partnership with <i>Wicklow News</i> to amplify reach. Key events, including <i>Powerscourt 2026</i> and <i>Wicklow Wrapped</i>, are promoted through press releases, radio advertising, print materials, and experiential elements such as workshops, <i>Meet the Maker</i> sessions, and the planned <i>Craft KidsZone</i>. Strategic partnerships with Wicklow County Council, Wicklow County Partnership, and local tourism organisations further enhance promotion and integrate the project into broader county tourism initiatives. This targeted strategy ensures strong audience engagement, supports income generation for makers, and positions Wicklow as a hub for craft, creativity, and cultural tourism.</p>		
27	<p>Outline the benefits to local employment: <i>(if applicable)</i></p> <p><i>Made in Wicklow</i> contributes directly and indirectly to local employment across County Wicklow. The project provides <b>short-term employment</b> through paid roles for craft practitioners exhibiting at events, professional fees for workshop leaders, and the engagement of a project manager x 2 to oversee delivery. By strengthening the craft sector, creating income-generating opportunities, and fostering skill development, the project also contributes to <b>long-term employment potential</b>, helping retain talent in the county and encouraging new entrants into the creative economy.</p>		
Discussion:	<p>Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimis, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were discussed by the IEC.</p> <p>Evelyn outlined the next stage for <i>Made in Wicklow</i>. A project going from strength to strength. There is a requirement for items to see this project through to the next phase and beyond.</p>		
Scoring	Scoring undertaken, a score of 85% was achieved. Scoring sheet completed for this project		
Absenters:	None		
Results:	<p><b>Project recommended by the committee to the LCDC to approve funding.</b></p> <p><b>€106,658.09 LEADER grand aid of €76,609.01 at 71.82672% equates to the remaining level of funding available in this budget category ).</b></p> <p>Proposed by: Deirdre Burns Seconded by: Catherine Shaw</p> <p>All in agreement.</p>		

## LCDC Decision

<b>LCDC Discussion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project outlined by Evelyn Murray.</li> <li>• Evelyn informed the LAG that she previously was a creator on the Made in Wicklow platform. Although still involved in the creative realm, she has since removed herself off the Made in Wicklow platform. The LAG did not query or raise any issues with this.</li> <li>• One of the Committee members stated the importance of supporting craft in County Wicklow.</li> <li>• Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimus, reasonableness of cost, cost effectiveness of other providers and justification for the project were considered by the LAG.</li> </ul>
<b>Absenters:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Wall</li> <li>• Cllr Pier Leonard</li> </ul>
<b>Results:</b>	All present voted in favour and the project was approved for funding.
<b>Proposers</b>	<b>Proposed by:</b> Tom Cavanagh <b>Seconded by:</b> Cllr Dermot O'Brien
<b>Quorum Requirements</b>	Quorum was achieved and the project was approved for funding.

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Alison Keogh outlined the following project:

<b>Project Name</b>	Blessington Christmas Tree 2025
<b>Project ID</b>	IE34WKP102773
<b>Project Location</b>	Blessington, Co. Wicklow
<b>Project Promoter</b>	Blessington and District Forum
<b>Promoter Address</b>	C/0 47 Ashton, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

<b>1</b>	<p>Statement of eligibility – Is the project promoter eligible for LEADER funding? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i></p> <p>Outline the checks that were carried out to verify that the project promoter is not excluded from funding due to serious non-compliance, that there is no current outstanding debt associated with support provided under this or any previous LEADER programme and if there is a debt confirm that a repayment plan is in place:</p> <p><b>Promoter has confirmed in Q.50 of the LEADER application form that they have no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme. Internal check was also carried out by CWP to verify same.</b></p>	YES	NO
		X	
<b>2</b>	<p>Is the project eligible per the LEADER Operating Rules? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i></p> <p><b>Promoter is eligible as per 2023-27 Operating Rule 6.5;</b></p>	YES	NO
		X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoter meets de Minimis requirements in relation to state aid</li> <li>• Beneficiary is not excluded from receiving funding</li> <li>• Beneficiary is solvent (Bank statements and accounts submitted)</li> <li>• There is no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme</li> </ul>		
Provide description of project See section 5 below			
3	Has project promoter provided all the required information and documentation to process this application for funding?	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
If No, what: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documentation / information has not been provided.</li> <li>• efforts were made to obtain this documentation/information</li> <li>• reason(s) were given by the project promoter for not providing the requested information/documentation?</li> </ul> Where after 3 months the requested information/documentation has not been provided by the project promoter, the project should be presented to the Evaluation Committee for evaluation and then presented to the Administrative Checking Body for adjudication.			
4	Is the project eligible under the Theme, Sub-theme and Objectives of the Local Development Strategy?  <b>Theme 2 Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion</b> <b>Sub-theme 2a Rural Infrastructure</b>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:  <b>Wicklow LDS Strategic Action 7.1 Improve community infrastructure in towns and villages experiencing the pressures of accelerated development</b>			
5	<b>Provide description of project:</b>  Blessington and District Forum was established in 2005 and aims “To advocate for all the people in Blessington and District in the promotion of the societal, educational, cultural, and economic welfare of the whole community”.   <p>Since its inception the group has undertaken many projects including in association with others, the provision of the Senior National School, Phase 1 of Blessington Greenway, Town-wide CCTV system, development of Blessington Town Park (in association with developer – still under construction), annual Ninette de Valois Dance Festival and the construction, fitting out, and operation of Tramway Theatre.</p> <p>In 2024, the group received LEADER support to implement a new Christmas/ festive lights scheme for the town. The group now wrap the trees instead of just laying the light strings on the branches which results in a better display. They also colour-wash</p>		

some buildings and use up-lighting on specimen trees. They have laid cluster lights along the gutter line on houses where there may be no trees. Additionally, they now mount a projector so as to project a Christmas image on to the tower of St Mary's Church. This project also provided the opportunity to deploy more energy efficient low-power devices and install a system that can be used for other events and promotional activities throughout the year.

It is now proposed to instal an 8 metre programmable Christmas Tree, controlled by an associated app, by which the lighting effects on the tree can be varied according to the event taking place – primarily Christmas, but this would also be suitable for other events as the light show can by synchronized with music and animated effects and custom features can be added.

This will impact the whole town, and in particular Main Street and the businesses located there. It is expected that there will be an increased footfall in the town which will give rise to increased retail and commercial activity. This will add to the general positive attitude amongst the residents of Blessington as a whole. Given the proximity of Blessington to Dublin, Naas etc, the goal is to make Blessington the primary destination in the area for Christmas lights display, bringing more visitors in to the town.

It is proposed to engage with local businesses on Main Street, plus other local businesses and community groups, to ensure the best match for the town not only at Christmas but also at other key events and dates throughout the year (for example, St Patricks Day, (Ninette de Valois) Dance Festival, Darkness into Light etc). It is also proposed that elements of the lighting scheme could be activated for specific promotional events.

Wicklow County Council has been consulted in the development of this project and have provided correspondence in support of same.

**6 Define the eligible expenditure, maximum limit of grant and the rate of aid**

**Costs of each element of the Project:**

Nature of Contract / Goods / Item / Donations / Voluntary Labour	Supplier	Cost excluding VAT (€)	Cost including VAT (€)
Supply of tree with lighting effects	Fantasy Lights	34,750.00	42,742.50
<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€34,750.00	€42,742.50

**Financed by:**

Sources of funding	Value €	% of overall cost
LEADER Programme	€32,056.87	75% (actual rate of aid on system 74.99999%)
Donation of property (where applicable)	N/A	
Voluntary labour (where applicable)	N/A	
Own resources:	Cash / money in account	€10,685.63 25%
	Loan / bridging finance	
Other Public funding from non-EU Sources, e.g. Local Authority, Fáilte Ireland, etc. (List the sources and the value of funding provided by each source)	N/A	
<i>Total cost of project:</i>		€42,742.50 100%

7	<p>Is there a Commercial basis for the project?  <i>Where the Community rate of aid* is being sought by the project promoter, document the evidence submitted by the project promoter in support of their status.</i>  <i>*Social Enterprises are not eligible for Community Rate of Aid</i></p> <p><b>Blessington and District Forum constitution is on file demonstrating that this project is eligible for the community rate of aid</b></p>	YES	NO X
8	<p><b>Public Procurement</b> – Indicate below the required procurement process which must be followed with regard to this application.</p> <p>Category 1 – National Procurement Guidelines <span style="float: right;">X</span></p> <p>Category 2 – LEADER Specific Procurement Guidelines</p> <p><i>Please provide the rationale for the selected option above:</i></p> <p><b>The promoter is a community group seeking 75% funding and must follow Category 1 National Procurement Guidelines.</b></p>		
9	<p><b>Matching Funds</b></p> <p>a. Are proposed matching funds eligible?</p> <p><i>Evidence that the proposed matching funds have not come from other EU funds must be provided and retained. Confirmation letter from other State agency source will identify the nature of the funding.</i></p> <p><b>Matching funds are from community groups own funds (Bank Statements provided)</b></p> <p>YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</p> <p>b. Does Contribution-in-kind Voluntary Labour form part of this application?</p> <p>YES NO X</p> <p>If 'Yes', has an agreed schedule been included on the file?</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>c. Does Contribution-in-kind Donation of land form part of this application?</p> <p>YES NO X</p> <p><i>Please confirm that the valuation of the proposed donation of land has been certified by an independent, qualified person:</i></p> <p>d. Contribution-in-kind – Outline the checks undertaken to confirm that any previously used contribution has been excluded from this application.</p>		
10	<p><b>Double Funding</b> – Has the project been awarded funding from any other public body?</p> <p><b>Promoter has confirmed same in question 48 of the application form</b></p>	YES	NO x
11	<p><b>State Aid / De Minimis</b> – Has the project been assessed to establish if it involves economic activity?</p> <p><b>This project is not income generating and does not involve any direct economic activity</b></p> <p>Have statement(s) / declaration(s) from funding bodies been provided of any State Aid / De Minimis funding awarded within the three-year fiscal period to the project promoter / any linked enterprises of the project promoter?</p> <p><b>This project does not involve economic activity and so is not subject to deminimis checks.</b></p>	YES X	NO X

	Does the funding awarded, in addition proposed LEADER funding, comply with State Aid / De Minimis thresholds?  <b>Promoter has confirmed that they have received €271,843.37 in community grant funding over the last 3 years through various schemes with Wicklow County Council.</b>  <b>This project does not involve economic activity and so is not subject to deminimis checks.</b>	YES x	NO
12	<b>Deadweight</b> – Consider if the project would not go ahead without grant aid – include reference to project promoter's response to question Q10 on application form and Project Development Officer's own assessment.  <b>Promoter has confirmed in question 10 of the application form that the project would not proceed without LEADER funding as they do not have sufficient funds from their own resources. Our Plan B is to secure a small real tree for this year and try again next year. Profit and Loss accounts and Bank Statements submitted by the group would support this.</b>		
13	<b>Displacement</b> – Outline the steps taken to determine the potential impact this project may have on similar ventures or businesses.  <b>This project will enhance the streetscape of Blessington town specifically and will not result in the displacement of any other business or community project. A Christmas tree has been provided by the Forum for the community for a number of years now but they are in need of something new and what is proposed includes innovative features that can be used for other events.</b>		
14	Is the proposed project subject to Heritage Project Requirements as set out in Section 8 the LEADER Operating Rules, and the Guidelines for 2023-2027 LEADER Projects Affecting Heritage?	YES	NO x
	If 'yes', have all the required consents and approvals been obtained and has a designated expert(s) appropriate to the project been appointed?	YES	NO
	<i>Outline any conditions that are attached as a result of these required consents and approvals being obtained:</i>		
15	<b>Analysis &amp; Development / Training</b> – Provide an assessment of the Terms of Reference for Analysis & Development or Training projects, as appropriate. Confirm that it has been established that a clear need has been demonstrated and that the relevant Analysis & Development / Training has not previously been undertaken or does not form part of a normal education programme:  <b>N/a this is not an A&amp;D project</b>		
16	<b>Required Skills/Training</b> – Does the project promoter have the required abilities/skills to complete the proposed project?	YES x	NO
	<b>Please provide details of the project promoter's business or other experience to support your response above:</b>  Blessington and District Forum members bring a wealth of experience and expertise between them including in the areas of finance, administration, fundraising and construction. A number of subcommittees operate under the Forum including a Christmas Lights Committee. The community development experience of the group has been outlined in Section 5 above seeing them well placed to carry out this project.		
17	Has a business plan/marketing plan been provided to show viability?  <b>N/A non-economic activity</b>	YES	NO x

	<b>Outline the proposed performance indicators and expected impacts, for economic measures:</b>		
	Blessington Town recorded a population of 5,611 in 2022. However, this project serves a much wider hinterland.		
18	<b>Added Value</b> – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?  This project adds value by bringing the community together for festive events. Increased footfall should also be of benefit to local businesses. This project will provide a new, more cost effective and environmentally friendly lighting system.		
19	<b>Artificial Conditions</b> – From their assessment of this project application, is the Development Officer satisfied that artificial situations have not been created in relation to this project to receive the aid (Art. 62 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2116)?  <i>i.e. that this project is not the result of a potential bigger project being artificially split to avoid procurement thresholds that might apply, or that the project promoter has not artificially created conditions to qualify for LEADER Grant Aid or for a higher rate of LEADER Grant Aid.</i>	YES  <b>X</b>	NO
	<i>If the answer to this question is 'No', the reason for this assessment must be set out and advised to the Evaluation Committee and ultimately to the LAG for decision:</i>		
20	Recommendations from Development Officer: <i>(tick one)</i>		
	Approve: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reject: <input type="checkbox"/>	Defer: <input type="checkbox"/>
	Recommended Grant Amount	€32,056.87	
	Rate of Aid (%)	75% (actual rate of aid on system 74.99999%)	
	Rationale for the recommendation:  This project will bring people into the town for Christmas and other events which should have a positive impact on local business and social inclusion.  Acknowledgement of LEADER support in local and social media should be a grant condition		
21	Declaration by Development Officer that he/she does not have a conflict of interest in this project.	NO CONFLICT <b>X</b>	CONFLICT
22	Outline how this project demonstrates Value for money / Reasonableness of Costs: <i>(Reference quotations, tendering process and any additional steps taken to ensure reasonableness of costs.)</i>  <b>The project involves a supply/services contract. In line with Category 1 requirements 3 quotes were sought and 3 suppliers responded. The successful bidder was chosen against an award scheme as specified in the RFT. A report on project scoring undertaken by the promoters is on file. The lowest priced quote was also chosen</b>		
23	Outline the need or requirement the project will meet:  This project will raise the level of pride in the town. Given the challenges small towns currently face it is important to take all possible steps to raise the degree of positivity within the area. The general population will be uplifted by the lighting display while businesses should see an uplift in their commercial activity. As the schools and creches also run events to add to the general 'feel-good' attitude of the season the whole mood of the town is lifted. One of the great events each year is the switching-on of the Christmas which usually attracts a crowd of at least a thousand – which is significant for Blessington		
24	In the case of capital projects, is there evidence of title / leasehold?	YES	NO <b>X</b>

	<i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>		
	<b>N/a this is a supply contract</b>		
25	Is there planning permission, exemptions from planning and consents as appropriate?	YES	NO X
	<i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>		
	<b>As this is a supply contract and does not involve construction/ works planning is not required. Correspondence from Wicklow County Council is on file in support of this project</b>		
26	<b>Provide details of the Marketing and Promotional Strategy: (if applicable)</b>		
	<p><b>The Forum plans on the following</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Window Sticker: "Proud Supporter of Blessington Christmas Lights" to display in shop windows and on social media pages.</li> <li>2. Social Media Shoutout: Feature the businesses in social media posts, thanking them for their contributions and highlighting their support of the community.</li> <li>3. Certificate of Appreciation: Provide a decorative certificate businesses can display</li> <li>4. Website Acknowledgment: Add a supporter page on blessington.ie listing all business donors, with links to their websites if applicable</li> <li>5. Event Recognition: Have a supporter wall at main "turning on" event</li> <li>6. Press Release: Include link to "supporter page" in any press releases about the event/lights as key community supporters.</li> <li>7. Public Fundraising events</li> </ol>		
27	Outline the benefits to local employment: <i>(if applicable)</i>		
	<b>There is no employment connected to this project</b>		

### IEC Discussion

Discussion:	<p>Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimis, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were discussed by the IEC.</p> <p>The grant is for the purchase of a programmable tree to add to their Christmas Lighting, phase 1 of which was LEADER funded previously (Project ID IE34WKP100787). The tree can be programmed for other events which adds to its versatility and it can be dismantled and stored until required.</p> <p>The town benefits greatly from increased footfall because of their Christmas lighting, not just for the local business, but because the display brings people together and increases a sense of community.</p> <p>There are issues around the price, sourcing and disposal of a natural tree.</p> <p>Alison advised that the budget in sub-theme '2a Rural Infrastructure', if this project is approved, has a remaining budget of €121.329.77</p> <p>Discussion took place around the 'environmentally friendly' aspect of the tree purchase and around LED lighting potentially being more harmful than traditional lighting due to blue light. Uplighting is a cause of light pollution, however, it is acknowledged that this proposed tree purchase is not for an up lit tree. Could a suggestion be made to the promoter to have lighting turned off in the town by 10pm, for example?</p> <p>Special conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong promotion in recognition of any LEADER funding in addition to the standard requirements under the operating rules of the programme – social media for example.</li> <li>• Duration and curfew of the lighting</li> </ul>
Scoring	Scoring undertaken, a score of 65% was achieved. Scoring sheet completed for this project
Absenters:	None

Results:	<p><b>Project recommended by the committee to the LCDC to approve funding, <u>subject to the conditions suggested regarding publicity/duration and curfew</u></b></p> <p>€32,056.87 at 75%</p> <p>Proposed by: Jim Callery Seconded by: John Powderly</p> <p>All in agreement.</p>
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## LCDC Decision

<b>LCDC Discussion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project outlined by Alison Keogh.</li> <li>• Alison advised that should project go forward, it would be on condition that this time round, the promoter would give greater acknowledgment of LEADER.</li> <li>• Questions/Observations/Concerns were raised by various Committee members.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Concern was raised regarding the cost of the tree and if a precedent is being set by granting funding for Xmas trees</b> – AK outlined that other groups have successfully received funding for Xmas lights etc. AK further advised that this tree would be used for other occasions/events and oftentimes it can be difficult to source a real tree.</li> <li>2. <b>A question was raised as to where this tree would be stored?</b> AK advised that it would be stored in a designated storage unit and that the tree can be taken apart.</li> <li>3. <b>It was asked if the tree would be in place for Xmas?</b> AK advised that it is hoped that it would be in place, however this is subject to supplier availability.</li> <li>4. <b>It was asked what the lifespan of the tree is?</b> AK did not know, but advised that it needs to be in use for 5 plus years in order to qualify for LEADER funding.</li> <li>5. <b>It was asked if the tree was separate to the lights?</b> AK advised that the lights were integrated into the tree structure.</li> <li>6. <b>It was requested that a map be provided showing geographical spread of LEADER funding.</b> AK advised that this could be facilitated. AK further advised that there are still funds remaining under this category.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimus, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were considered by the LAG.</li> </ul>
<b>Absenters:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Dermot O'Brien</li> </ul>
<b>Results:</b>	All present voted in favour and the project was approved for funding.
<b>Proposers</b>	<p><b>Proposed by:</b> Cllr Melanie Corrigan <b>Seconded by:</b> Cllr John Snell</p>
<b>Quorum Requirements</b>	Quorum was achieved and the project was approved for funding.

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Alison Keogh outlined the following project:

<b>Project Name</b>	Storage Facilities Ashford Community and Heritage Centre
<b>Project ID</b>	IE34WKP101099
<b>Project Location</b>	Ashford, Co. Wicklow
<b>Project Promoter</b>	Ashford Development Association CLG
<b>Promoter Address</b>	The Community & Heritage Centre, Ashford, Co. Wicklow

1	Statement of eligibility – Is the project promoter eligible for LEADER funding? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i>	YES  X	NO
	<p>Outline the checks that were carried out to verify that the project promoter is not excluded from funding due to serious non-compliance, that there is no current outstanding debt associated with support provided under this or any previous LEADER programme and if there is a debt confirm that a repayment plan is in place:</p> <p><b>Promoter has confirmed in Q.50 of the LEADER application form that they have no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme. Internal check was also carried out by CWP to verify same.</b></p>		
2	Is the project eligible per the LEADER Operating Rules? <i>In making this determination, particular reference should be made to the requirements set out in Section 6 of the LEADER Operating Rules.</i>	YES  X	NO
	<p><b>Promoter is eligible as per 2023-27 Operating Rule 6.5;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Promoter meets de Minimis requirements in relation to state aid</b></li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary is not excluded from receiving funding</b></li> <li>• <b>Beneficiary is solvent (Bank statements and accounts submitted)</b></li> <li>• <b>There is no current outstanding debt under this or any previous LEADER programme (internal check)</b></li> </ul> <p>Provide description of project:  See section 5 below</p>		
3	Has project promoter provided all the required information and documentation to process this application for funding?	YES  X	NO
	<p>If No, what:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• documentation / information has not been provided.</li> <li>• efforts were made to obtain this documentation/information</li> <li>• reason(s) were given by the project promoter for not providing the requested information/documentation?</li> </ul> <p>Where after 3 months the requested information/documentation has not been provided by the project promoter, the project should be presented to the Evaluation Committee for evaluation and then presented to the Administrative Checking Body for adjudication.</p>		
4	Is the project eligible under the Theme, Sub-theme and Objectives of the Local Development Strategy?	YES  X	NO
<p><b>Theme:</b> Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion <b>Sub-theme:</b> Accessible Services</p>			

	<p>Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:</p> <p><b>Wicklow LDS Local Objective 8</b> Enhance and develop accessible services to foster social inclusion</p> <p><b>Strategic Action 8.2</b> Facilitation of local service provision</p> <p>Facilitating local service provision in rural areas</p>		
5	<p><b>Clearly describe in detail the nature of the proposed project including innovative aspects:</b></p> <p><b>Project Background</b></p> <p>The Ashford Community &amp; Heritage Centre is a community based facility, available as a venue for a range of events and includes a purpose built, museum standard heritage centre. The facility is relatively new, having opened in 2014 with support from the LEADER programme.</p>  <p>The unique character of this fully renovated stone building from the 17th century offers itself perfectly for off-site business meetings, lectures, workshops, readings, small performances, screenings, exhibitions, talks etc.</p> <p>The centre has a strong connection to poet Seamus Heaney due to his time living at Glanmore Cottage nearby, which the centre has commemorated with exhibitions, including one for his 80th birthday. The centre also received an auction donation of his notes, further cementing his link to the community.</p> <p>The centre offers a number of multipurpose rooms of different sizes that can cater for groups from 3 to 75 people. The venue is fully secured with an alarm facility and has its own kitchen facilities.</p> <p>Groups that use the Ashford Heritage Centre include the Ashford Historical Society, which holds its meetings there, and the Parkinson's Ireland Wicklow branch, which hosts "Cuppa" meetings. Other groups that use the centre for its multipurpose rooms include the Barn Ensemble, various community groups, and organisations for events like music, art workshops, and public meetings.</p> <p><b>Project Details</b></p> <p>There has been an increase in local people particularly older people taking up music. The acoustic sounds in the main hall are excellent, given the pitch of the ceiling. The centre has attracted a number of groups for music rehearsals — viz, live-action music videos, live performances, etc, in addition to the regular music groups who play classical and mix, traditional Irish, old-style music of Ireland. Many of these players are local, while some travel from nearby localities. It is important to have musical instruments like keyboard, drums, etc, easily accessible. To that end it is essential to have safe storage.</p> <p>The group are seeking to fit secure storage units in the music store room for valuable music instruments. This will be of great benefit for those who haul their bulky instruments to and from their vehicle, especially some older musicians, at night.</p> <p>They also require countertop/storage space on 1st floor for storage of heritage items (Heaney/Synge/local heritage memorabilia, etc), for preparation of exhibitions and for storage of general equipment.</p>		

	The main beneficiaries of the new ground floor lockable storage cabinets will be the various musicians. The Parkinsons' Choir and the other three regular musical groups will store their lyric books, stands, keyboard and speakers, drums within their own cabinets. In addition, the units will provide safe storage for the centre's own audio-visual projector. This will contribute to the improved management of the culture and heritage programme, for which they are renowned.		
<b>6</b>	Define the eligible expenditure, maximum limit of grant and the rate of aid <b>Costs of each element of the Project:</b>		
	<b>Nature of Contract / Goods / Item / Donations / Voluntary Labour</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Cost excluding VAT (€)</b>
	Supply & Fit of storage units	EdeB Carpentry Services	€6,125.00
			€6,951.88
	<b>Total cost of project:</b>		<b>€6,125.00</b>
			<b>€6,951.88</b>
	<b>Financed by:</b>		
	<b>Sources of funding</b>	<b>Value €</b>	<b>% of overall cost</b>
	LEADER Programme	€5,213.91	75%
	Donation of property (where applicable)	n/a	n/a
	Voluntary labour (where applicable)	n/a	n/a
	Own resources:	Cash / money in account	€1,737.97
		Loan / bridging finance	n/a
	Other Public funding from non-EU Sources, e.g. Local Authority, Fáilte Ireland, etc. (List the sources and the value of funding provided by each source)	n/a	n/a
	<b>Total cost of project:</b>		<b>€6,951.88</b>
<b>7</b>	Is there a Commercial basis for the project? <i>Where the Community rate of aid* is being sought by the project promoter, document the evidence submitted by the project promoter in support of their status. *Social Enterprises are not eligible for Community Rate of Aid.</i>		YES
			NO
			X
	Identify the relevant Theme and sub-theme from the Local Development Strategy:  See section 4 above		
<b>8</b>	<b>Public Procurement</b> – Indicate below the required procurement process which must be followed with regard to this application.		
	Category 1 – National Procurement Guidelines	X	
	Category 2 – LEADER Specific Procurement Guidelines		
	Please provide the rationale for the selected option above:  The promoter is a community group seeking 75% funding and must follow Category 1 National Procurement Guidelines.		
<b>9</b>	<b>Matching Funds</b>		
	a. Are proposed matching funds eligible?	YES	NO
	<i>Evidence that the proposed matching funds have not come from other EU funds must be provided and retained. Confirmation letter from other State agency source will identify the nature of the funding.</i>  Matching funds are from community groups own funds. Bank Statements have been provided showing sufficient matching and bridging funding.	X	
	b. Does Contribution-in-kind Voluntary Labour form part of this application?	YES	NO
			X

	If 'Yes', has an agreed schedule been included on the file?	YES	NO
	c. Does Contribution-in-kind Donation of land form part of this application?	YES	NO X
	<i>Please confirm that the valuation of the proposed donation of land has been certified by an independent, qualified person:</i>		
	N/a not a works project		
	d. Contribution-in-kind – Outline the checks undertaken to confirm that any previously used contribution has been excluded from this application.		
	N/a no contribution in kind being used		
<b>10</b>	<b>Double Funding</b> – Has the project been awarded funding from any other public body?  Promoter has confirmed same in question 48 of the application form	YES	NO X
<b>11</b>	<b>State Aid / De Minimis</b> – Has the project been assessed to establish if it involves economic activity?  This project is not income generating and does not involve any direct economic activity	YES X	NO
	Have statement(s) / declaration(s) from funding bodies been provided of any State Aid / De Minimis funding awarded within the three-year fiscal period to the project promoter / any linked enterprises of the project promoter?  This project does not involve economic activity and so is not subject to deminimis. In addition, in response to Q 46 on the application form the applicant has stated that they have not received funds from any public sources in the last 3 years.	YES	NO X
	Does the funding awarded, in addition proposed LEADER funding, comply with State Aid / De Minimis thresholds?  See above	YES X	NO
<b>12</b>	<b>Deadweight</b> – Consider if the project would not go ahead without grant aid – include reference to project promoter's response to question Q10 on application form and Project Development Officer's own assessment.  The project would proceed on a much reduced basis as the group is highly dependent on fundraising to maintain local services.		
<b>13</b>	<b>Displacement</b> – Outline the steps taken to determine the potential impact this project may have on similar ventures or businesses.  This project specifically serves the local area of Ashford so there is no displacement. This project will enhance an existing local service.		
<b>14</b>	Is the proposed project subject to Heritage Project Requirements as set out in Section 8 the LEADER Operating Rules, and the Guidelines for 2023-2027 LEADER Projects Affecting Heritage?	YES	NO X
	If 'yes', have all the required consents and approvals been obtained and has a designated expert(s) appropriate to the project been appointed?	YES	NO
	<i>Outline any conditions that are attached as a result of these required consents and approvals being obtained:</i>		
<b>15</b>	<b>Analysis &amp; Development / Training</b> – Provide an assessment of the Terms of Reference for Analysis & Development or Training projects, as appropriate. Confirm that it has been established that		

	<p><i>a clear need has been demonstrated and that the relevant Analysis &amp; Development / Training has not previously been undertaken or does not form part of a normal education programme:</i></p> <p>N/a this is not an A&amp;D project</p>		
<b>16</b>	<p><b>Required Skills/Training</b> – Does the project promoter have the required abilities/skills to complete the proposed project?</p>	<p>YES X</p>	<p>NO</p>
	<p><i>Please provide details of the project promoter's business or other experience to support your response above:</i></p> <p>The group has been successfully running the centre for over 10 years now and has significant experience of delivering capital projects having been involved in the construction phase of the building. The proposed units will be installed by an experienced local company.</p>		
<b>17</b>	<p>Has a business plan/marketing plan been provided to show viability?</p> <p>N/A non-economic activity. Sufficient detail provided in application form</p>	<p>YES</p>	<p>NO X</p>
	<p><i>Outline the proposed performance indicators and expected impacts, for economic measures:</i></p> <p>N/A no economic impacts</p>		
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Added Value</b> – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?</p> <p>This project will enhance the quality of life of local people, particularly older people by providing ease of access to safe storage for musical instruments. The music groups and classes bring people together helping to foster social inclusion and tackle rural isolation. There is also a strong cultural aspect to this project.</p>		
<b>19</b>	<p><b>Artificial Conditions</b> – From their assessment of this project application, is the Development Officer satisfied that artificial situations have not been created in relation to this project to receive the aid (Art. 62 of Regulation (EU) No 2021/2116)?</p> <p><i>i.e. that this project is not the result of a potential bigger project being artificially split to avoid procurement thresholds that might apply, or that the project promoter has not artificially created conditions to qualify for LEADER Grant Aid or for a higher rate of LEADER Grant Aid.</i></p>	<p>YES X</p>	<p>NO</p>
	<p><i>If the answer to this question is 'No', the reason for this assessment must be set out and advised to the Evaluation Committee and ultimately to the LAG for decision:</i></p>		
<b>20</b>	<p>Recommendations from Development Officer: <i>(tick one)</i></p>		
	<p>Approve: X</p>	<p>Reject:</p>	<p>Defer:</p>
	<p>Recommended Grant Amount</p>	<p>€5,213.91</p>	
	<p>Rate of Aid (%)</p>	<p>75%</p>	
	<p>Rationale for the recommendation:</p> <p>Promoter has demonstrated the need and potential local benefits of this project</p>		
<b>21</b>	<p>Declaration by Development Officer that he/she does not have a conflict of interest in this project.</p>	<p>NO CONFLICT X</p>	<p>CONFLICT</p>

22	Outline how this project demonstrates Value for money / Reasonableness of Costs: (Reference quotations, tendering process and any additional steps taken to ensure reasonableness of costs.)  5 quotes were sought for this project and the lowest price quote was chosen		
23	Outline the need or requirement the project will meet:  See section 5 above		
24	In the case of capital projects, is there evidence of title / leasehold?  N/a this is a supply contract with installation element.  While not required for the file a lease has been provided (30 year term) to demonstrate viability and durability of investment  <i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>	YES	NO  X
25	Is there planning permission, exemptions from planning and consents as appropriate?  <i>If 'yes', provide details:</i>  As this is a supply contract and does not involve construction/ works planning is not required	YES	NO X
26	Provide details of the Marketing and Promotional Strategy: <i>(if applicable)</i>  The centre is featured on many local websites and directories e.g. Visit Wicklow and Wicklow Heritage and promotes its activities through its own social media page and local notes.		
27	Outline the benefits to local employment: <i>(if applicable)</i>  There is no employment connected to this project		

#### IEC Comments

Discussion:	Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimis, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were discussed by the IEC.  The promoter is seeking storage for their premises for musical instruments, AV equipment and other general items. The facilities are well used by the community, and the group is an active one. Agreed by all that this would be a valuable and useful addition.
Scoring	Scoring undertaken, a score of 86% was achieved. Scoring sheet completed for this project
Absenters:	None
Results:	<b>Project recommended by the committee to the LCDC to approve funding.</b>  €5,213.91 at 75%  Proposed by: Deirdre Burns Seconded by: Caroline Henry  All in agreement.

## LCDC Decision

<b>LCDC Discussion:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project outlined by Alison Keogh.</li> <li>• Members of the committee praised this project for its value for money, responsiveness and example of good community use.</li> <li>• Added value, innovation, deadweight, displacement, de minimus, reasonableness of cost and justification for the project were considered by the LAG.</li> </ul>
<b>Absenters:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>Results:</b>	All present voted in favour and the project was approved for funding.
<b>Proposers</b>	<p><i>Proposed by:</i> Cllr Dermot O'Brien  <i>Seconded by:</i> Cllr John Snell</p>
<b>Quorum Requirements</b>	Quorum was achieved and the project was approved for funding.

### Item 5 Any Other Business.

Nothing raised.

### Item 6 Date for next Meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in the 17<sup>th</sup> December in person. Lunch will be provided and details to be forwarded by Anne Marie Kelly in advance.

Signed: Melanie Corrigan  
 Cllr. Melanie Corrigan  
 Cathaoirleach

Date: 17/12/25.

