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| MINUTES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 18th DECEMBER 2024, AT WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL |
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Present: Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (Chair), Peter Brennan, Tom Cavanagh, Cllr. Peir Leonard, Patrick Mboci (via Teams), Cllr. John Snell, Patrick O'Driscoll, Fionnuala Curry, Stephen Fitzgerald, Vibeke Delahunt, Amanda Mooney (via Teams), Brian Carty, Pat Ó Suilleabháin, Cllr. Dermot O'Brien and Oisín Jordan.

Apologies: Emer O'Gorman, Carina Holmes, Imelda Halton and Eileen Cullen

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson, Patricia Reilly and Barbara Mason

Item 1 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan welcomed everyone and gave the apologies

Item 1 Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 16th October 2024 were adopted, with no matters arising.

Proposed by Stephen Fitzgerald

Seconded by Vibeke Delahunt

Item 3 SICAP Update

Stephen Fitzgerald gave the following report –

Annual Plans 2025: Budgets for 2025 have been confirmed by the Department as follows: Lot 15-1 covered by Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership, SICAP budget will be €873,406.00. Budget for New Arrivals will be € 136,067.00. Lot 15-2 covered by Co. Wicklow Partnership, SICAP budget will be €794,932.00. Budget for New Arrivals will be € 167,345.00. These amounts represent a 3.15% increase in the SICAP budgets on last year's funding for each area. There is little or no increase in the funding for New Arrivals as the numbers of New Arrivals in the county have remained largely unchanged.

As the budgets have only just been finalised by the Department both Partnerships have been given an extension deadline until later this week to submit their Annual Plans onto the online IRIS system. These Plans will then be reviewed by the SICAP Sub-group and by Pobal before coming before the LCDC in February where the Partnerships will present their Plans to the LCDC for their approval.

While the increase in SICAP funding this year was welcomed, both CEOs did point out that these budgets represent considerably lower amounts compared to pre-recession funding for SICAP's predecessor programme. This is a national issue which all LDCs across the country are collectively lobbying the Department on in conjunction with their representative body the Irish Local Development Network. The two Wicklow LDCs will re-visit and update the LCDC on the topic at February meeting.

Acknowledgment of 2024 achievement: On behalf of the SICAP Sub-group and the LCDC appreciation was expressed for the huge amount of valuable and hard work undertaken by both Partnerships in 2024. This was the first year of the new SICAP programme which came with its new

priorities and new challenges but both Partnerships more than rose to the occasion. This work makes life-changing differences to the individuals and community organisations supported which in turns enriches society as a whole across Co. Wicklow. Peter and to Brian asked to pass on our appreciation to members of both SICAP teams.

PB explained that while there is an increase in the budget, this is still smaller than the original budget had been in 2012.

There was a discussion around whether the LCDC could do something about this and whether lobbying, done in the correct way, would be of benefit.

BC suggested that both County Wicklow Partnership and Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership could do a diagnostic of where they are and MC suggested it might be done for the next LCDC meeting. BC suggested that Pobal and the ILDN should have the information required.

Item 4 SING update – Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, SING member, gave the following report -

Despite the challenging weather brought by Storm Darragh, a very successful meeting took place at the Glencree Reconciliation Centre, bringing together groups from across the county for a morning of diversity and bias training. While attendance was reduced, this allowed us to form one large group, creating a more conducive environment for sharing.

It was inspiring to see so many diverse individuals representing various organizations, as they openly discussed the biases and discrimination they had encountered. The atmosphere was open, honest, and safe, thanks to the excellent facilitation by the staff at the reconciliation centre, along with support from County Wicklow Partnership and the Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership, particularly Mary Millett, Chair of the SING.

The day was marked by the building of bridges and the laying of stepping stones for future collaboration. Following a beautiful lunch, we held a second session where participants, feeling more relaxed and comfortable, shared personal stories. Everyone agreed it was a highly successful day, and there is enthusiasm for continuing with further sessions.

Item 5 Any other business

Patricia Reilly gave an update on the funding applied for and received from the Department of Rural and Community Development from the 2024 Dormant Account Fund, as follows:

Dormant Accounts funding for Co. Wicklow was awarded in September to the proposal put forward by Crosscare Belong To LGBTQ Youth Group in Bray. This was an award of €20,000 to be spent over the next two years. However, this group has since come back to the LCDC to say that unfortunately they are not now in position to utilise this funding. We have therefore approached the Department to see if they would allow us reallocate the funds to the Greystones Family Resource Centre (GFRC) LGBTI+ project proposal also submitted in August. In follow-up, the Department have said that before they can consider this request GFRC should submit a new proposal. We are currently liaising with GFRC on this and will submit their new proposal to the Department in the new year.


MN outlined to the committee that this account is made up from money which has been sitting for many years in people's accounts. He explained that the government borrow this money to fund various initiatives.

OJ said that Disability in Sports receives some funding from this also.

BC told the committee that their new Strategic Plan was launched last week.

Item 6 Date for next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 2.00pm on Wednesday 19th February, via zoom.

Signed: 
Michael Nicholson
Acting Cathaoirleach

Date: 12th Mar 2025

