

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
HELD ON 1st September 2021
AT 16.12 p.m. via Zoom**

Present: Peter Brennan, Jason Mulhall, Frank Quaid, Amanda Mooney, Tom Byrne, Pat O'Suilleabhan, Lorraine Hennessy, Brian Carty, Philip Beck, Jim Ruttle, Cllr. Pat Kennedy, Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and Eileen Cullen.

Apologies: Mary Fitzpatrick, Frank Curran, Vibeke Delahunt, Stephen Fitzgerald and Cllr. Dermot O'Brien.

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson (Chief Officer), Martina Byrne, Patricia Reilly, Deirdre Whitfield, Cllr. Gerry Walsh and Barbara Mason

Item 1 Welcome & Apologies and minutes of meeting of 28th July 2021

As Pat Kennedy welcomed everybody to the meeting and gave apologies from those members unable to attend.

The minutes of the meeting of 28th July 2021 were adopted and there were no matters arising.

Proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Seconded by Jason Mulhall

Item 2 SICAP

Patricia Reilly gave the SICAP report –

-The audit of Co. Wicklow Partnership's 2020 SICAP programme took place the week of August 23rd and the audit of Bray Area Partnership's 2020 SICAP programme is scheduled for week of September 13th. The reports will be circulated to the LCDC once finalised.

-The SICAP Mid-programme review requires each SICAP Lot area/Programme Implementer to compile a statement of priorities detailing marginalised groups they intend to prioritise over the next two years until end 2023. The groups which the Department are asking programme implementers to focus on include (i) New communities with particular focus on those living in Direct Provision (ii) Mental health (including youth) (iii) Long term unemployed (iv) Travellers/Roma (v) Older people and isolation (vi) a miscellaneous category where the PI may identify a different group. These priority statements will be drawn up over the next six weeks and will be circulated to the LCDC once completed.

Item 3 LECP updates

Deirdre Whitfield went through the report, which had been previously circulated to the members –

LECP UPDATE September 2021

Goal 1: Develop community capacity in disadvantaged communities and engage in urban and rural regeneration

Town & Village Funding Scheme to Revitalise Towns and Villages 2021

The Town and Village Scheme objectives are being refocused to align with commitments within 'Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021-2025'. The 2021 Scheme will prioritise the objectives of this policy such as tackling vacancy in towns and villages, remote working and supporting town centre living. Other projects which will be welcomed include regeneration projects that support active and vibrant town or village centres, upgrading shopfronts and street facades, and green spaces and parks, etc.

Grant Levels:

For the 2021 Scheme, the minimum grant which is available is €20,000. The maximum level of grant funding available is being raised to €500,000 in respect of one application from each Local Authority. A maximum of €250,000 will apply in respect of 2 applications and €100,000 in respect of 4 applications. **2 applications must** be in respect of Towns/Villages that have not previously received funding under the Standard Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Town and Village Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
Kiltegan	Transform a derelict vacant site into a multi purpose community facility. The project aims to purchase the site and renovate the existing building to rehouse the community shop and café, provide community space, rehouse the CE scheme and provide a remote working hub.
Lacken	Refurbish a town centre building into a community shop, café and remote working hub. The project aims to maximise opportunity for economic benefit from the Blessington Greenway and from walkers and cyclists. It also aims to develop a heritage hub and a community space to create a resilient and socially cohesive community, using the Smart Village Model
Wicklow	This is a placemaking project to reconnect Wicklow centre to the port area by reanimating and revitalising the network of laneways with creative lighting, murals, riverside seating with canopy and parklet planting
Hollywood	Placemaking project to create a quality and environmentally friendly public space. This project aims to transform an underutilised space which is close to woodland so lends itself to a natural approach to designing a pocket park with associated walkway and car parking.
Ballinaclash	Renovate the community hall to revitalise the village by providing access to remote working facilities and community activities to the community and possible new residents. This includes the replacing a dividing wall with a movable divider, fitout of remote working space and insulation works to the building
Coolboy	A placemaking project to improve public space in Coolboy and maximise social and economic benefits to the area. It will rejuvenate the village green by resurfacing and upgrading existing paths to make them more accessible and age friendly and reconnect a small underused annex area. It will also see the addition of picnic benches, a bandstand and an area of planting and landscaping, improving the biodiversity of the area.
Donard	Rejuvenation of community hall to develop a community café and to provide remote working spaces.

Announcement of the Rural Regeneration Development Fund Category 2

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, on May 12th, announced the third call for Category 2 applications to the €1 billion Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This fund is for projects that will drive economic growth and footfall, combat dereliction, regenerate town centre and heritage buildings, develop pedestrian zones and outdoor spaces and make rural towns more attractive places to live, work and raise a family.

The €1 billion Fund is also part of the Department's Rural Development Investment Programme, which is funded under Project Ireland 2040. Projects that will be funded under Category 2 are those that require significant development before they reach the stage of being shovel ready.

RRDF Applications Submitted July 2021

Town/Village	Project
South West Wicklow – Shillelagh, Tinahely, Carnew	<p>Reimagining South West Wicklow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximise all opportunities for the area, arising from significant planned infrastructural investment and development of the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway. 2. Revitalise Rural Towns in Southwest Wicklow to become vibrant sustainable SMART centres of commerce and attractive places to work, live and recreate in harmony with the natural environment 3. Maximise all economic & social opportunities arising from the Coollattin Footprint in line with the Irelands Ancient East brand 4. Maximise economic, social and environmental benefits from the critical mass of ‘National Walking Loop Trails’ already developed in the area.
Blessington	<p>Regeneration of Blessington</p> <p>Renovation of the town centre and public space and significant development works to Russborough House to enhance visitor experience and maximise economic opportunities arising from the Blessington Greenway development.</p>

CLAR 2021 – funded projects

Area	Project	Cost	Match funding	
Askanagap community group	Astro turf	€55,555.55	5555.555	€50,000.00
Knockananna Youth Projects	MUGA floodlights	€25,011.25	€2,501.13	€22,510.13

Goal 2: Promote Active Citizenship and Public Participation to improve governance, participation and enrich decision making

Age Friendly Programme

The national Age Friendly Primary care centre guidelines were launched in June. These guidelines were compiled by Kildare and Wicklow Age Friendly Programme managers. Walkability audits are still to take place.

The final Garda vetting process is being undertaken for the Arklow Befriending service.

Regarding housing, we are looking into making Rathcoran Estates in Baltinglass an Age Friendly estate. It was built by and will be run by Respond.

Comhairle na nÓg

The Comhairle na nÓg, through the Coordinator, are taking part in the COVID-19 Community Response Forum, bringing the perspective of young people to the table. They are also taking part in the Time Machine project which is an intergenerational project.

Funding has been secured from DCYA to continue to support the Comhairle na nÓg. Tablets were purchased for use by the Comhairle in each Municipal District, to help them to keep the youth council going during the COVID-19 restrictions.

PPN – report attached

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

1. Healthy Wicklow Strategy

Round 3 of Programme is underway but implementation has slowed down because of COVID-19. An extension to 31st December 2021 has been granted.

In 2021 the Healthy Ireland Programme has focused on the Keep Well Campaign which is coming to an end. The final round of reporting is being completed at present.

The HSE is launching the following:

- 1. The launch of the HSE National Office for Suicide Prevention Annual Report for 2020**
Friday 3rd September 2021, 10:00am to 11:30am
- 2. The launch of Developing a Community Response to Suicide**
Wednesday 15th September 2021, 3:00pm to 4:30pm

Goal 4: Develop a vibrant and innovative community and social enterprise sector

Bray Area Partnership

In addition to the ongoing work being undertaken by BAP in supporting the operation of social enterprise activity in the Bray and north Wicklow areas, some key developments to note are as follows:

1. A market research and feasibility study report is nearing completion with respect to the establishment of a social enterprise employing individuals having had interaction with the Probation Service and criminal justice system. Collaboration Ireland has been commissioned to undertake the report with funding being provided through the Probation Services Kickstart grants scheme and supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund.
2. As part of a collaboration involving BAP and two neighbouring LDCs, a support initiative, SEED 2, has been developed to work with social enterprises in the Bray/north Wicklow, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and South Dublin areas. SEED 2 will cover Strategic Planning; Income Diversification and Governance guidance and supports using group training, individual mentoring and networking sessions. This work is being resourced by the Covid 19 Social Enterprise Regeneration Programme through the Dormant Accounts Fund and will run for six months, commencing in September/ October coming.
3. Work is continuing on developing the Care and Repair Action social enterprise initiative aimed at providing home supports to older people living in the Bray and north Wicklow areas.

Tom Byrne pointed out that with regard to the Arklow to Shillelagh Greenway, he feels there is a lot of angst around this proposal.

In answer to a query on the criteria for scoring of the Town & Village applications, Deirdre explained that there are 4 headings under the Selection Criteria, as follows –

- Meeting the Scheme Objectives and Requirements
- Demonstration of Need
- Value for Money
- Quality and Achievability

Philip Beck, one of the PPN representatives, raised a query with Michael Nicholson, regarding the update for funding for the employment of a Refugee Integration Support Worker.

Michael confirmed that, as yet, there is no update but that he will inform the committee of any progress.

Philip said that there are various events coming up for Autumn and information regarding these can be found on the Wicklow PPN website.

Item 4 Healthy Communities Initiative – and establishment of a Healthy Communities Sub-Group

Michael Nicholson explained the Healthy Communities Initiative to the committee – the documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. He informed them that the HSE have selected 19 sites nationally that will be aligned to SICAP areas and Bray is one of them. It is strongly aligned to SICAP and to the former RAPID areas. The Healthy Communities Initiative comes with a series of supports that will be rolled out through the Local Authority, utilising the LCDC and also through the HSE. Slaintecare are funding a Healthy Communities Officer through the HSE for each area and also a ‘Local Community Development Officer’ which will be recruited through the Local Authority at Grade 6 level. There is also a once off ‘Enhancement Fund’ of €225,000 available for capital expenditure in the area, with a closing date of 30th September 2021. It is a stipulation that by the end of the year the LCDC will have established a Healthy Communities subgroup.

The following members put their names forward for the sub-group:

Cllr. Melanie Corrigan
Pat O’Suilleabhan
Peter Brennan

Michael suggested that the new member who will be representing the HSE on the LCDC might also join and Cllr. Dermot O’Brien.

Tom Byrne had a query regarding any form of remuneration for voluntary members of committees but Michael explained that there is no procedure for this, unless it would come through the group they are representing. He suggested that the PPN might take up this cause as it is an issue in all Counties, and perhaps they would prepare a paper on the issue to send to the department.

Item 5 AOB, correspondence and date for next meeting

Frank Quaid told the meeting that there is a new wonderful Health premises in Baltinglass but that due to the proximity to Naas and Tallaght Hospitals, with X-ray equipment, there will be no X-ray equipment installed. He felt that this was a shame and wondered if the new HSE representative could put this forward when she is in place on the committee. Michael informed the committee that the Age Friendly Alliance would be following this up as well.

Cllr. Pat Kennedy thanked everybody for their attendance.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 27th October 2021 – this date will be confirmed nearer the time.

Signed: _____
Cllr. Pat Kennedy.
Cathaoirleach

Date: _____