

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
29th OCTOBER, 2025 VIA ZOOM**

Present: Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Peir Leonard, Michael Nicholson, Stephen Fitzgerald, Tom Cavanagh, Fionnuala Curry, Oisín Jordan, Amanda Mooney, Imelda Halton, Carina Holmes, , Patrick O'Driscoll, Linda Lambert

Apologies: Peter Brennan, Brian Carty, Eileen Cullen, Vibeke Delahunt, Pat Ó'Suilleabháin

In Attendance: Máire Halvey, Anne Marie Kelly, Lia Reynolds, Patricia Reilly

Item 1 Welcome and Apologies

Melanie welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the apologies.

Item 2 Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 16th July 2025 were adopted, with no matters arising.

Proposed by Stephen Fitzgerald

Seconded by Patrick O'Driscoll

Item 3 Presentation by Adele O'Neill (CYPSC) on Child Poverty (FACES) Pilot Project

Adele O'Neill delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Family Adult and Child Enhanced Service (FACES) pilot project. Adele will send the information on stakeholder connections after the meeting for circulation to the members.

Item 4 SICAP Update

Stephen Fitzgerald gave the following SICAP report:

SICAP Annual Plans 2026: Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership have begun working on their SICAP Annual Plans for next year. Deadline for submission is December 12th. The actions within each plan are largely informed through local analysis by the local development companies but LCDC members may also submit a proposal and rationale for a piece of work or supports they would like to see included in the plan too. Please reach out to the SICAP Sub-group or the local development companies directly on this.

Key Performance Indicators: A proposal to retain current KPIs for 2026 has been agreed in conjunction with the local development companies as circumstances and resources remain largely unchanged. LDCs can still work with more groups and/or individuals as the year progresses should the situation arise. KPIs for 2026:

	KPI 1	KPI 2
Lot 15-1: Bray and North Wicklow Area Partnership	26	488
Lot 15-2: Co. Wicklow Partnership	15	402

Approval of the KPIs proposed by Tom Cavanagh and seconded by Michael Nicholson.

Case Studies 2025: The case studies for 2025 from both Partnerships are now complete. They will circulate them to the LCDC shortly.

SICAP Showcase event, Athlone: National SICAP showcase event took place in Athlone on October 2nd with Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development, Jerry Buttimer TD. One of the projects selected for presentation at the event was Wicklow Travellers' Shuttleknit project. The event was a great opportunity for the staff from the project to publicise all of their great work, the products they are creating and their exciting plans for the future.

Item 5 SING update

Melanie gave a brief update on SING.

The final event in the 'Hear my Voice' series take place in Glencree for the 'on Saturday 8th November. This is a bottom-up exploration community discussion where the participants' Voice is the centre part of the day in an open and transparent dialogue of speaking and listening. Insights will help shape recommendations going forward to the LCDC.

The results of all three 'Hear my Voice' sessions will then be collated, and Melanie will present the results in January 2026.

Item 6 LECP Update

Máire Halvey gave an update on the LECP as follows:

Pride of Place

The 23rd IPB Pride of Place National Awards will take place on Friday 7th November in Limerick.

County Wicklow will be represented in four categories:

1. Population 0-300 – Ballinaclesh
2. Community Youth Initiative – Blessington Youth Hub
3. Inclusive Communities – Wicklow Travellers' Group CLG
4. Community Wellbeing Initiative – Coolkenno Community Field

The Local Enhancement Programme 2025

The 2025 applications have been assessed and the funding allocated.

- 206 Capital Applications paid to date €170,609.00 - (6 grants pending awaiting applicant response)
- 161 Current Applications paid to date €28,435.00 – (2 grants pending awaiting applicant response)

The Department has advised that there will be a scheme for 2026, and details will be announced shortly.

The Community Grant Awards Scheme 2025

Applications completed and funds allocated.

- 216 community grants paid €73,700.00 (4 grants pending awaiting response from Applicants)

County Wicklow Age Friendly Programme

Sarah McElroy began her role of Age Friendly Programme Manager, Disability & Inclusion Access Officer and Comhairle na nÓg Administrator in mid-July. I'd like to express my appreciation and thanks to Stephanie Lang who worked in the role for the previous year.

Old Person's Council: The Older Person's Council AGM took place on the 5th of September.

There will be an Age Friendly Expo in the Arklow Bay Hotel on Thursday 30th October to showcase age friendly services available in County Wicklow in the Arklow Bay Hotel. It will take place from 11am to 4pm. There will be spaces for 200 participants at this event, and it has been very well subscribed.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance: The Alliance last met on the 23rd of June, with another meeting to be scheduled in November. Plans are in place to strengthen the membership and attendance of the Alliance.

Over 55's Climate course: The Age Friendly Programme Manager along with the Climate Action Officer Wicklow County Council are organising a Climate Action Programme which will be run by Jacinta Barrins. It will be a six-week programme which will accommodate maximum 40 people and will educate people on Climate Change. This will take place in February and March 2026 in Bray. Promotion of the programme is ongoing among local community groups in the county.

Comhairle nan Óg

A Comhairle na nÓg youth gathering will be held in the Assembly Hall in Wicklow Town on Tuesday 4th November.

Preparations are underway for Seanad na nÓg on Friday 14th November.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Genio Trust- The Bray Travellers Community Development Group: A new Part-Time Housing Accommodation Officer, Oscar O'Broin, has recently been appointed through the Genio Trust under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. Oscar began his role last week with the Bray Travellers Community Development Group and will focus on supporting Traveller families in the Bray area with housing-related needs, liaising with Wicklow County Council, Bray M.D and local services, and addressing broader social determinants of health such as mental health, addiction, and family wellbeing. His work will play a key role in building stronger connections between the Traveller community and local support systems.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities Conference: The Children's Wellbeing Hub in Bray continues to be recognised as an outstanding example of collaboration and community impact under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme. Iseult Kinsella, Wicklow's LDO was invited to give a presentation at the national Sláintecare Healthy Communities Conference on October 21st, alongside Maria Healy,

SHC Local Development Officer for Kildare. The presentation focussed on how the Children's Wellbeing Hub was developed, the strong partnership between the Bray Family Resource & Development Project, The Marian Centre, and The Bray Travellers Community Development Group, and the positive outcomes achieved for children and families in the community. This was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the power of collaboration and to highlight the meaningful progress being made in disadvantaged communities through initiatives like this one.

Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP)

The Policing, Security and Community Safety Act 2024 came into effect on April 2nd, 2025, mandating all Local Authorities to establish Local Community Safety Partnerships. Under the Act, Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSP) have replaced the Joint Policing Committees in each Local Authority area.

Membership of the LCSP will consist of 30 members including representatives from state agencies (HSE, TUSLA, An Garda Síochána), local authority members, and community representatives. Wicklow's LCSP is currently being formed, with nominations being sought. The finalised list of nominees will be sent to the National Office on the 10th of November, for appointment by the Minister of Justice. Following the appointment of the Partnership members by the Minister, the inaugural meeting of the Partnership will likely be held in late November/early December.

Tom queried the results of the walkability studies and what actions may be taken based on the findings. Máire confirmed that these details will be circulated to the committee.

Item 7 Any other business

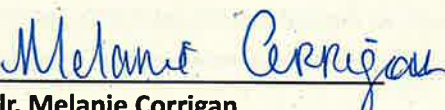
Peir brought up the issue of the Arklow Men's Shed. They currently operate from a premises outside of Arklow, however their aim is to secure a premises within the town. Patricia Reilly confirmed she will bring this up with SICAP and include in the plan for next year. Patrick said he is a member of Arklow Men's shed and will link in with Patricia and Stephen on this matter.

Item 8 Date for next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 19th November 2025 (online).

Also noted was to save the date for an in-person meeting on Wednesday 17th December.

Signed:



Cllr. Melanie Corrigan
Cathaoirleach

Date:

19/11/25