

**MINUTES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON
12th MARCH 2025 VIA ZOOM**

Present: Peter Brennan, Patrick O'Driscoll, Tom Cavanagh, Amanda Mooney, Carina Holmes, Pat Ó'Suilleabháin, Fionnuala Curry, Brian Carty, Linda Lambert, Oisín Jordan, Michael Nicholson, Vibeke Delahunt, Stephen Fitzgerald, Cllr. John Snell, Cllr. Dermot O'Brien

Apologies: Cllr. Melanie Corrigan, Cllr. Peir Leonard, Imelda Halton and Eileen Cullen

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson, Máire Halvey, Patricia Reilly, Jennifer D'arcy, Jennifer Maher, Eithne Gunning and Barbara Mason

Item 1 Welcome and Apologies

Barbara Mason explained to the committee that as Emer O'Gorman has stepped down from the committee, Michael Nicholson has now taken her place on the LAG and the LCDC so will no longer be the Chief Officer. He will now be replaced by Máire Halvey.

Máire then introduced herself and explained that as neither Cllr. Melanie Corrigan (chair) or Aisling Heffernan (vice chair) were in attendance, a member of the committee would be required to act as chair for this meeting. She proposed that Michael Nicholson would undertake to do this and this was seconded by Stephen Fitzgerald.

Michael then welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the apologies. He also welcomed new member, Linda Lambert who is representing PPN Social Inclusion. Linda is replacing Patrick Mboci who has stepped down from the committee and MN thanked Patrick for his contribution and time

Item 2 Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting of 18th December 2024 were adopted, with no matters arising.

Proposed by Stephen Fitzgerald

Seconded by Pat Ó'Suilleabháin

Item 3 SICAP Update

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

Annual Plans 2025:

Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership presented their Annual Plan 2025. They also presented on annual funding issue raised at last LCDC meeting highlighting how current budgets represent considerably lower amounts compared to funding for SICAP's predecessor programme. It was agreed that the LCDC in collaboration with other LCDCs through their networks and forums will raise this issue. Due to time constraints the presentation of Co. Wicklow Partnership's 2025 Annual Plan was postponed until the April meeting. In advance of this, the SICAP sub-group can approve Annual Plans on behalf of LCDC and bring to April meeting for formal approval.

End of Year Reports 2024:

All elements of both LDC end of year reports have been reviewed by the SICAP Sub-group and Pobal and have found to be in order. Overall assessment of performance by both Partnerships in 2024 has

been very positive with over-achievement once again of all Key Performance Indicators. Approval of both End of Year Reports 2024 was approved –

Proposed by Michael Nicholson

Seconded by Carina Holmes.

Approval of social enterprise grant for Bray & North Wicklow Partnership's CARA project: BNWAP propose to allocate a grant of €2,500 through SICAP towards the CARA Initiative social enterprise. The grant will be used to pay for job-specific tools, PPE, business equipment, office supplies, maintenance, marketing materials and signage.

Proposed by Michael Nicholson

Seconded by Carina Holmes.

Item 4 SING update

Linda Lambert who is a member of SING and was going to give the update, had to leave the meeting so the SING report is postponed to the next LCDC meeting.

Item 5 LECP Update March 2025

Máire Halvey gave the following update –

The LECP 2024-2029 is currently being prepared as a traffic light document which will make it easier to see progress on the targets and objects at a glance. This will be available at the next meeting.

Some Activities

Local Enhancement Programme 2025 - County Wicklow has received €199,044 as part of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025, details of which were shared by Ministers Humphreys and Joe O'Brien TD. The allocation is broken down as follows:

Community Recognition Fund (CRF) 2024 - Window 3 applications has been submitted to the Department for consideration.

County Wicklow Age Friendly Alliance Alliance meeting was held on the 22nd January 2025. Each Stakeholder gave an update on their Programmes.

"Care and Repair" for the Arklow Area – This is a programme aimed at helping the older person in the community avail of minor works being carried out around their home. Initially this programme will be a pilot project following which a decision will be made regarding the viability of rolling out in other areas/towns within the county.

Citizens Information Centre (CIC) got Accreditation for Age Friendly Status. They are hoping to put their Arklow Office forward for the award this year.

Comhairle na nÓg - The position of Co-ordinator has been filled and contact has been made with the secondary schools to get meetings up and running.

Healthy Age Friendly Homes

The programme has gone from strength-to-strength in Wicklow since its inception. The 2024 projected targets for the programme in Wicklow have been exceeded, which demonstrates the

success of the programme, and is a testament to the concerted collaborative efforts of the Local Coordinator and Local Authority Staff.

Total Number Home Visits Conducted (January 2025):

Total Initial Visits	24
Total Additional Visits	16
Total Visits Overall	40
Total No. Participants Awaiting a Visit	55

Healthy Wicklow

Period Poverty

Approval has been granted by the Department of Health for the allocation of €15,000 additional funding to continue the roll out of the period poverty initiative across County Wicklow. Following on from the success of 2024 programme sports clubs, youth organisations, women's refuges, child and family organisations and school Home Liaison Officers will continue to be supported.

Food Poverty

The second 'Food for Thought' think tank event took place in The Little Flower Hall, Bray on the 5th February. This event continues to build partnerships with organisations who support individual and families facing food insecurity. Key topics addressed included: the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on food poverty, overcoming the stigma associated with accessing food support services, enhancing coordination and communication among organisations and improving the quality and suitability of emergency food provision.

Sláintecare Healthy Communities

Pre and Post Evaluation

Sláintecare Bray has successfully appointed Mary Immaculate College to conduct a comprehensive 12-month pre and post evaluation of the Children's Wellbeing Hub at the Bray Family Resource Development Project. The evaluation will focus on key areas including trauma, poverty, play therapy, and early years interventions. This research will provide critical insights into the impact and effectiveness of the hub's services, guiding future developments and ensuring the project meets the needs of vulnerable children and families in Bray.

Children's Wellbeing Hub – Bray

The Bray Family Resource Development Project has recently appointed a Play Therapist who will begin her role in the coming weeks. Additionally, a Family Engagement Worker has been hired and will be joining the team to work alongside the play therapist, ensuring comprehensive support for children and their families.

Genio Trust- Bray Travellers Project

In November, under the Sláintecare Healthy Communities (SHC) Wicklow County Council (WCC) initiative, we submitted a proposal to the Genio Trust for funding to support Traveller health and wellbeing in Bray. We were awarded €134,000 to fund a part-time Housing Accommodation Officer over a two-year period for the Bray Travellers Project. This role will focus on advocating for improved housing conditions, supporting Traveller families in accessing appropriate accommodation, and working closely with local authorities and service providers to address housing inequalities. To oversee the effective implementation of this project, a steering committee will be established, led by The Bray Travellers Project and the SHC Local

Development Officer, with input from key stakeholders to ensure a coordinated and community-driven approach to addressing Traveller housing needs in Bray.

Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP):

SICAP Annual Plans 2025: SICAP workplans for the coming year are currently being finalised in conjunction with the LCDC and SICAP Sub-group. Each Programme Implementer, namely Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership will present their Plans for approval to the full LCDC at next meeting.

Annual Performance Review of 2024 SICAP Programme: The local development companies met the mid-January deadline for submission of all work from 2024 onto the online IRIS system. This is currently being reviewed and assessed by Pobal and the LCDC. Date for final approval of the end of year reports is February 28th.

Once SICAP Annual Plans 2025 and End of Year Reports 2024 are fully approved, the next instalment of SICAP funding can begin.

Item 6 Any other business

There was no other business

Item 6 Date for next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 16th April.

Signed:



Cllr. Melanie Corrigan
Cathaoirleach

Date:

