

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 24TH MAY 2023 at 12.30pm in Arklow Bay Hotel, Arklow.

Present: Jason Mulhall, Frank Quaid, Carina Holmes, Brian Carty, Stephen Fitzgerald, Aisling Heffernan Cllr. Pat Kennedy (Chair), Cllr. Peir Leonard, Cllr. Melanie Corrigan and Cllr. Dermot O'Brien (by phone).

Apologies: Peter Brennan, Amanda Mooney, Pat Ó'Suilleabháin, Lorraine Hennessy, Patrick Mboci, Jim Ruttle, Emer O'Gorman, Vibeke Delahunt and Eileen Cullen.

In Attendance: Michael Nicholson (CO), Patricia Carmody (WCC), Patricia Reilly (WCC), Deirdre Whitfield (WCC), Dr. Kathy Walsh (consultant for the LECP) and Barbara Mason (WCC).

Item 1 Welcome & Apologies

Cllr. Pat Kennedy welcomed everybody to the meeting and the apologies.

Adoption of the Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the LCDC meeting of 29th March 2023 were adopted with no matters arising.

Proposed by Stephen Fitzgerald

Seconded by Carina Holmes

Item 2 LECP Framework, final draft

Deirdre Whitfield thanked the committee for their feedback which helped with the writing of the LECP framework. She introduced Dr. Kathy Walsh who gave a presentation on this final draft of the framework and explained that this needs to be approved for sign off by the committee. There followed a discussion with some questions being answered by Kathy and Deirdre. The document was approved by the members.

Proposed by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Seconded by Carina Holmes

PK thanked Kathy and Deirdre for all their work done on the framework and ongoing work to come.

Item 3 SICAP report

(i) New SICAP contracts:

As the current SICAP programme ends on December 31st a new tendering process will be undertaken this year. On April 25th the Department of Rural & Community Development issued a PIN notice i.e. a Prior Information Notice. This states that the new procurement process will commence in July 2023 for the new programme 2024-2028 on the basis of separate competitions across the country for circa 51 individual contracts across the 31 local authority areas/33 LCDCs. Two of these contracts will relate to Co. Wicklow. The LCDC SICAP sub-group will be responsible for managing the process.

(ii) Mid-Year Review 2023:

Guidance will issue shortly from Pobal in relation to this year's SICAP mid-year review process. The period under review is January 1st to May 30th. Evaluation of the mid-year review will be carried out by the SICAP sub-group and by Pobal and the outcomes and recommendations in relation to approval will be brought to the LCDC before end July.

Item 4 To consider and approve the provisional list of awards granted under the Community Enhancement Programme 2022 prior to submission to the DRCD for final consideration and approval.

Michael Nicholson introduced Máire Halvey from CCSD who has worked on the applications for this funding.

Máire circulated copies of the list of grantees. She explained that she is seeking approval of the list of grantees before the list can be sent to the Department for final approval. She advised of the importance of not disclosing the names on the list as until the Department approve the list, it is not finalised.

MN explained that everybody who applied was allotted some funding and that some of the applicants, seeking larger amounts, were allotted a small amount and advised of the various funding programmes, e.g. LEADER, which they could apply to for larger amounts to complete their projects. He explained that particular attention had been paid to upcoming important projects

There was a discussion among the members.

MH explained that the approval of the list of grantees is at the discretion of the department and that once this has been decided, they will issue a press release and then CCSD will issue offer letters to the grantees.

PK thanked Máire and the CCSD staff who had worked on this funding application.

The committee approved the list
Proposed by Stephen Fitzgerald
Seconded by Cllr. Melanie Corrigan

Item 5 – Any other business

Aisling Heffernan, HSE, spoke about the National Traveller Health Action Plan and the work the eastern unit are doing around this.

Stephen Fitzgerald told the meeting that there will be a Job Fair being held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 31st May, which will be attended by recruiting employers.

Michael Nicholson spoke of the Community Recognition Fund for the provision of projects for all refugees in the county, with €1.6m to be divided across the five Municipal Districts.

Item 6 Date of next meeting.

PK thanked everybody for attending and that a date for the next meeting has yet to be confirmed. He closed the meeting.

Signed: _____
Frank Quaid
Leas Cathaoirleach

Date: _____