

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe
a tionóladh ar 21ú Feabhra 2023, ag 2pm**

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee
held on 21st February 2023, at 2 p.m. (Centrepoint Boardroom)

Present:

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, LA Member	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Sean O'Coisdealbha, Udaras na Gaeltachta	Public
Peter Gohery, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Máire Ui Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Mairin Ni Chonghaile, PPN Community	Community
Jen Fisher, PPN Environment	Community
Anne Mitchell, IFA	Community
Gerard Costello, PPN Community	Community

Apologies:

Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Jim Cullen, Chief Executive	Public
Cllr. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection	Public
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community
Kevin Gavin, PPN Social Inclusion	Community

Also in Attendance:

A Farrell Chief Officer, M McGann, R Tansey, Galway County Council
Anne Cassidy, GRD

N. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh ar
an 24ú Eanáir 2023**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 24th January 2023

N. Thomas asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting and none were declared.

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. Dolan, **SECONDED** by G. Cronnelly, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th January 2023, were **APPROVED**.

2. SICAP – Céadú: Athbhreithnié Deireadh Bliana 2022

SICAP – Approval: End of Year Review 2022

SICAP – Ceadú: Plean Bliantúil 2023

SICAP – Approval: Annual Plan 2023

A Cassidy gave a combined presentation on the SICAP End of Year Review 2022 and the Annual Plan 2023.

Under the End of year review plan for 2022, A Cassidy went through the main activities and progress made under each goal and action, including:

- 157 Local Community Groups registered with SICAP in 2022, and €39,291.83 was provided in grants to Local Community Groups to support a range of training, and equipment, which focused primarily on the emerging needs group of Older People. One-to-one support and mentoring were also provided to facilitate the establishment of new Local Community Groups, particularly aimed at Older People, to meet basic needs and provide social contacts for this target group. The long-term loan equipment scheme also continued to support people at local level to access social and leisure activities and attain vital equipment for local area maintenance. Supports were also provided for a range of Health and Wellbeing Events throughout the County, and grants for Social Enterprises to support training and equipment needs.
- 992 Individuals received one-to-one support in 2022, and €27,863 was allocated in grants to individuals for identified training and lifelong learning opportunities. A range of targeted programmes were delivered such as Personal Development courses, Woodlands for Health, and Seen but not Herd pilot programme aimed at addressing mental health issues in the farming community. In addition, a range of lifelong learning courses were provided in collaboration with other service providers such as GRETB, Tusla and Irish Rural Link. Supports were also provided to disadvantaged children and young people through Homework Clubs, ParentChild+ programme, and to People with Disabilities through one-to-one supports to access training, community education courses, and employment. 5 Start Your Own Business courses were organised, and 30 SICAP clients who were long-term unemployed progressed into self-employment during the year.
- A range of supports were also provided under the ring-fenced allocation for Ukrainian Nationals. SICAP linked in with Accommodation Centres, local community groups and service providers at local level to identify needs and provide funding with a particular focus on community integration and English language supports. Individual supports were also provided towards training, transport, community education and supports to access employment. Anne Cassidy advised the LCDC Members that an Integration Officer had been appointed to support Ukrainian Nationals and other new communities.

Under the SICAP Annual Plan for 2023, A. Cassidy outlined the proposed actions to target Local Community Groups and Individuals across all the SICAP target groups, in addition to the ring-fenced allocation to support Ukrainian Nationals.

In relation to a query from P. Gohery regarding the allocation of €13,360 under Action 10 for People with Disabilities, Anne Cassidy clarified that a Disability Officer has been appointed under the SICAP programme, and the focus on People with Disabilities is not just under Action 10, but across all actions targeted at lifelong learning, education and training, supports for employment, social and leisure activities, etc. A. Cassidy said that she would welcome any suggestions and is available at any time if P. Gohery would like to meet. N. Thomas stated that he felt that the area of disability was well covered under the Annual Plan and S. Dolan added that they would like to do more work in each target group area, however, they are restricted by the funding allocation.

J. Fisher asked how many staff are in the organization and A. Cassidy confirmed there were 18 officers placed across all of County Galway.

M. McGann stated that the members of the SICAP sub-committee met to discuss the End of Year Review 2022 and Annual Plan 2023 in detail and had approved both plans which have subsequently been approved by Pobal. She advised that both KPI1 and KPI2 had been met, and the Sub-Committee had highlighted the high level of collaboration, which aligns with the purpose of the LCDC to make the best use of all public funding by adding value to existing programmes and identifying gaps in funding and services which need to be addressed. M. McGann advised that under the SICAP process, the LCDC have until the end of February to formally approve both the 2022 Review and 2023 Plan.

N. Thomas thanked A Cassidy for her presentation and complemented all involved in the SICAP programme on all the hard work.

On the **PROPOSAL** of T. Keenan, **SECONDED** by A. Mitchell, the SICAP end of year review 2022 plan was **APPROVED**

On the **PROPOSAL** of G. Cronnelly, **SECONDED** by M. Keady, the SICAP 2023 Annual Plan was **APPROVED**

3. Ciste Aitheantais Pobail 2023-2024

Community Recognition Fund 2023-2024

A Farrell informed the members that Galway County Council was allocated funding of €1.3m under this fund. 60% of the funding will have to be spent before 6th October 2023 and the remaining 40% the following year. He stated that these funds were of a capital nature, in communities where a higher number of refugees have arrived, and that these areas will be prioritised for the funding, in accordance with the requirements set out in the Funding Guidelines. He stated that Expressions of Interest from relevant communities must be submitted by Friday, 3rd March and the Council in turn must collate a submission to the Department of Rural and Community Development by 16th March, 2023. He added that assessment of applications within the short timeframe has placed added pressure on staff resources within the section and Administrative Officers have been allocated to various Municipal Districts to manage the application and assessment process. A Farrell said that all projects must be eligible and deliverable within the timeframes of the Fund.

The LCDC Members agreed that A. Farrell should write to the Department to inform them that it was unsatisfactory to manage this fund allocation within the given timeframe. S. O'Coisdealbha added that the issue of land acquisition/development plans needs to be noted when dealing with applications under this funding.

4. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile

Date for next meeting

The date for the next meeting was provisionally agreed for Wednesday, 12th April, at 10.30am.

5 Aon ghnó eile

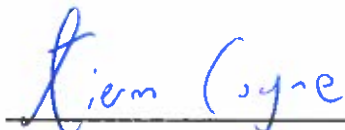
Any other business

A Farrell suggested holding joint consultation events with the local development companies for the county's LECP and the LEADER local development strategies if timings permit. It was noted that the LECP must be completed by year-end with no consultations confirmed as of yet. S. Dolan advised that Galway Rural Development were happy to link-in on the LECP and share data from the LDS and added that GRD are beginning their consultations imminently as South-Mayo and Monaghan are well underway. T. Keenan advised that Forum have not scheduled anything as they are going to wait for further specifics from Pobal.

The meeting then concluded.



Cllr. N. Thomas, Chairperson



K. Coyne, Chief Officer

Date: 14/06/2023

Date: 14/06/2023