

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe
a tionóladh ar 24ú Eanáir 2023, ag 9.30 am**

**Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee Meeting
held on 24th January 2023, at 9.30 a.m.**

Present:

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, LA Member	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Mairín Ní Chonghaile, PPN Community	Community
Kevin Gavin, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Jen Fisher, PPN Environment	Community
Anne Mitchell, IFA	Community

Apologies:

Jim Cullen, Chief Executive	Public
Sean O'Coisdealbha, Udaras na Gaeltachta	Public
Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection	Public
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Peter Gohery, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Gerard Costello, PPN Community	Community
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community

Also in Attendance:

A Farrell Chief Officer, M McGann, A McBride, R Tansey, Galway County Council
Yvonne Hoary, GRD

N. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished everyone a happy new year.

**1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh ar
an 22ú Samhain 2022**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 22nd November
2022

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

On the **PROPOSAL** of G. Cronnelly, **SECONDED** by P. Mac An Iomaire, the Minutes of the
Meeting held on 22nd November, 2022, were **APPROVED**.

N. Thomas congratulated the Pride of Place award winners namely Lawrencetown Community Development Association: National Winners in the 300-1000 Population Category and Woodford Parish Development: National Runner-Up in the Creative Place Category. He acknowledged all the work of the groups and the support the groups received from the local authority.

N. Thomas informed the member that B Fox was retiring and thanked her for her positive input over the years and noted that, like himself, she had been a member of the LCDC committee since its inception. He expressed his appreciation for her work, support, and advice over the years.

B. Fox thanked N. Thomas for his kind words and thanked all the LCDC Members for their support, and the excellent work that was being done through the Committee.

2 Cur i Láthair ar an gclár Pobail a Chumasú Presentation on the Empowering community Programme

Yvonne Hoary, Community Engagement Worker, Galway Rural Development, gave a presentation to the members on the work-to-date under the Empowering Communities programme and outlined the work to date by Galway Rural Development in the 3 housing estates under SICAP, TÚS, ParentChild+ programme, and a statistical analysis of the issues in these small areas which are classified as extremely disadvantaged under the Pobal HP Deprivation Index. Ms Hoary stated that the main aim of the Empowering Communities Programme was to empower local communities to craft their own response to area-based poverty and social exclusion and since her role started in November 2022, her main aim has been to engage in meaningful and effective engagement with the local community and local services which are engaging in the area, and this was an ongoing process.

N. Thomas and the LCDC Members thanked Yvonne for her presentation and N. Thomas queried the funding available for general interventions under the programme, and Y. Hoary confirmed the overall breakdown of the budget. M. McGann added that this programme was at the early stages, and there would be leveraging of other relevant funding sources such as the Healthy Ireland Fund. However, it was not yet possible to present an Action Plan to the LCDC as the most important element of this programme was to consult with the local community and all statutory agencies and stakeholders in the area, to determine the priority actions and associated funding sources, and this process would be ongoing for some time. M. McGann confirmed that an Action Plan and Budget Outline would be presented to the LCDC in due course. A Farrell complimented Ms Hoary on the presentation and said it was encouraging to see her approach. He advised that the Council looked forward to working with her to support the success of the programme and said he was confident that wider LCDC will engage in the process as necessary.

3 Éire Fholláin - Round 4 Healthy Ireland – Round 4

Andrew McBride, Healthy Ireland Coordinator, gave a presentation to the members on the Healthy Ireland Fund Local Strategy which had been circulated to the Members, and formed the basis for the proposed project under Round 4 of Healthy Ireland Funding. At the outset,

Andrew McBride presented a summary of the primary health risks emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and outlined the feedback from consultations with a range of stakeholders and target groups. The primary issue being fed back through consultations with a range of target groups and communities was the lack of non-sporting / non-competitive activities at local level, in addition to physical difficulties accessing community amenities, particularly, for People with Disabilities. In addition to this, there was also a lack of knowledge among target groups of health and wellbeing programmes and services, indicating a need to signpost to the relevant websites, services and programmes. A McBride also outlined the feedback from statutory agencies and committees which was the need to empower individuals and communities to maintain their own health and wellbeing by adopting a whole-of-community approach to identifying needs, and to focus on a long-term approach by enabling communities to leverage other funding sources.

A McBride outlined the potential priority outcome areas for the Healthy Ireland Round 4 project, namely Socio-Economic Factors, Environmental Factors, Mortality & Morbidity Factors, Lifestyle & Behaviour Risks, and Wellbeing Factors. Based on the feedback, he proposed that the Outcome Area be Wellbeing Factors, with the project to focus on increasing the percentage of people engaging in one or more social or leisure activities at least once a week. In this way, the project would act on feedback received by communities by mapping existing social and leisure activities in community facilities such as community centres and enabling them to identify best practice and extend the range of activities for various age groups. This process would also be undertaken for community recreation areas by mapping the groups using a variety of green & blue spaces and collating best practice into a compilation entitled "Hidden Gems". There would also be a focus on creating guides to the provision and development of Men's and Women's Sheds as there was a demand for this across many communities, and continuing this process with other facilities for youth, older people, and people with disabilities. In conjunction with assisting communities to map existing activities, and identify further activities, Community Health Events would be held to disseminate information on health & wellbeing programmes and signpost to services.

G. Cronnelly suggested that we may be able to leverage further funding in the area of disability under the Healthy Ireland project. J. Fisher suggested that in addition to auditing access at individual communities under this programme, a common template should be provided for all communities which could feed into a database of issues to be addressed under Active Travel funding. M. Uí Mhaoláin asked if there was any link made for the Islands adding that she was aware that it is more expensive to deliver these programmes to the Islands and A. McBride replied that he is arranging a Health & Wellbeing programme on the islands and is also engaging with Galway Sports Partnership on this initiative. He added that the object of the programme, especially in these areas, is to empower action within the communities themselves and that this was a more sustainable model.

N. Thomas said that he felt that the older people are still very hesitant about engaging with society after Covid and suggested that a programme be put in place to encourage them to again re-engage with society. A. McBride agreed and stated that this was clear from the feedback he had received and that it was very important to get the message out there that it was again safe for the older people to get out. He stressed the importance of social outlets in order to promote engagement and the associated health benefits for older people.

On the **PROPOSAL** of M. Ni Chonghaile, **SECONDED** by S. Dolan, the Healthy Ireland Round 4 Plan was **APPROVED**

4 **Dáta don chéad chruinniú eil**
Date of next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 21st February at 4.00pm.

5 **Aon ghnó eile**
Any other business

B. Fox informed the members that Ms. Valerie Kelly will be replacing her in an acting capacity until the permanent role is filled.

A Farrell informed the members that following on from the launch of "A Resource Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision-Making" by the Department of Rural and Community Development, training workshops to support LCDC Member Organisations in inclusive community engagement will be arranged in the coming months. In particular, this training is aimed at LCDC Members such as the Chief Officer and relevant local authority staff, local development companies, PPN Workers, and Education & Training Board Members, who engage in consultation processes for the LECP or other local strategies and policies. A Farrell confirmed that we will contact relevant agencies once dates for this training are arranged.

Following a query from N. Thomas, A Farrell confirmed that the LECP Socio-Economic Statement is ongoing with a lot of groundwork done but due to staff shortages external assistance will be required to progress the LECP process.

The meeting then concluded.


Cllr. N. Thomas, Chairperson


A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 21/02/2023

Date: 21st February 2023