

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar 23ú Mi na Samhna 2021, ag 9.30 a.m.**

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021, at 9.30 a.m.

**Present:**

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Jim Cullen, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Venetia McEllin, PPN Environment	Community
Mairin Ni Chonghaile, PPN Community	Community
Kevin Gavin, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Peter Gohery, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Gerard Costello, PPN Community	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community

**Apologies:**

Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Regina Higgins, Dept. Social Protection	Public
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community
Tom Turley, IFA	Community

**Also in Attendance:**

A Farrell, M. McGann, A. McBride, R. Tansey, Galway County Council

**1. Fáilte a daoine a chur i lathair**

Welcome & Introductions

N. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh ar an 29ú Mean Fómhair 2021**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021

N. Thomas asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting and none were declared. On the **PROPOSAL** of J. Cullen, **SECONDED** by M. Keady, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September were **APPROVED**

### **3. Fiontar Sóisialta – Scéim Deontas Caipitil – Céadú** **Social Enterprises - Capital Grants Scheme 2021 – Approvals**

M. McGann informed the members that the Funding Evaluation Sub-Committee met to go through the applications for this Scheme in detail, and a submission was made to the Department of Rural and Community Development by the closing date of 12<sup>th</sup> November. It was noted that the Department were responsible for final approvals in accordance with the criteria for the Dormant Account Fund.

### **4. An Clár um Fheabhsú Pobail 2021** **Community Enhancement Programme 2021 / The Community Activities Fund**

M. McGann outlined details of the once-off Community Activities Fund and confirmed:

- An allocation of €286,802 to Galway County LCDC
- Primary purpose to provide small grants for community groups impacted by the pandemic
- Funding for 2 elements: a) non-pay operating/running costs and b) equipment or the upgrade of facilities with the requirement to fund these 2 elements on a 60%/40% ratio respectively
- The Departmental

Following a discussion, it was agreed:

- That the key priority area of the LECP that applications would be assessed against would be “Social Inclusion and Community Wellbeing”
- That the maximum grant would be set at €10,000
- That the application forms & guidelines would be circulated to LCDC Members for onward circulation to all networks in accordance with the Departmental requirement to endeavour to inform all grassroots clubs of the scheme
- That Galway County Council would be best placed to determine the most suitable closing date for the scheme vis-à-vis other administrative considerations

### **5. Tionscnamh Éire Fholláin – Eolas Nuashonraithe** **Healthy Ireland Plan – Update**

M. McGann gave a presentation on the National Framework for Healthy Ireland and current statistical analysis across the 6 thematic areas for a local Healthy Ireland Plan and invited the Members to identify priorities for health and wellbeing arising from the pandemic which could be incorporated into the draft Plan.

Cllr N. Thomas stated he was shocked at the statistics under the Nutrition Theme especially regarding the rates of obesity related to older people. A McBride stated that the statistics were not very positive but there are a lot of targeted programmes in place to counteract these trends – he noted that one of the issues may be that these programmes are not highlighted enough. M. McGann added that our focus in recent Healthy Ireland actions has been to build up capacity at local level by focusing on community-led programmes such as Healthy Food Made Easy, which trained Leaders who could deliver courses within communities and the impact was sustained by providing kitchen and cooking equipment in community centres and other relevant facilities.

Cllr. K. McHugh stated that the Healthy Eating programme in Schools in Tuam were a great benefit but there was a need for it to be followed up at home, through engagement with parents. P. Gohery reiterated the importance of schools in furthering knowledge and education on nutrition and recommended that cookery classes be provided in schools. M. Ni Chonghaile advised that after-school services in their area were provided with healthy dinners, and this option could be further considered in schools. K. Gavin stressed the importance of promoting sustainable and local food sources as healthy eating choices. Cllr. P. Mac An Iomaire raised the issue of easy access to convenience foods for school-going children and the problem of underage drinking and the associated issues it creates at local level. In response to the proposals regarding schools, M. McGann reminded the Members that the LCDC is prohibited from developing new health and wellbeing programmes or resources in schools under the Healthy Ireland Programme of Works as this is the remit of the Department of Education and Skills.

In relation to youth, Cllr. N. Thomas stressed the importance of creating community spaces for young people. P. Gohery stated that the majority of Youth Clubs were run by volunteers and more support was needed as there was an issue of burn-out due to the same people sustaining the services over a long period of time. V. McEllin added that collaboration among groups at local level is also very important as they can support each other in their individual and collective efforts for their communities. G. Costello stated that there was a need for an individual to support groups in a particular area, similar to a one-stop shop for advice and information. A. McBride stressed the importance of the Public Participation Network in this regard and its role in building capacity of groups at local level.

G. Costello raised the issue of digital skills for older people and the health and wellbeing impact on older people due to delays in re-opening local community facilities and in this regard, stressed the importance of identifying issues at community level and tailoring solutions and activities to be delivered at local level.

D. Walsh stated that a lot of agencies are working together on all of the topics raised and stressed the importance of collaborating on issues, rather than duplicating roles.

A Farrell informed the members that it is intended to draft the Healthy Ireland Plan with a view to integrating it into the LECP in due course, and it was very useful that this discussion on emerging issues from statistics and the effects of the pandemic be incorporated into the draft.

## **5. Dáta don Clár chéad chruinniú eile** Date for next meeting

The date of the next meeting was agreed for Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at 4.30pm.

**6. Aon ghnó eile**  
Any other business

A Farrell informed the members that the Department have released new guidelines for the development of Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP) by end 2022, and confirmed that the next iteration of the LECP's would be strategic in nature with high-level goals and objectives to be implemented through a series of 2 year Implementation Plans. He confirmed that the Department of Rural and Community Development were organising a briefing on the LECP Guidelines on 9<sup>th</sup> December and would encourage any members that are interested to attend.

M. McGann informed the members that the SICAP Sub-Committee will meet to discuss the SICAP plan to be brought to the next LCDC meeting in December and confirmed the revised timelines for the adoption of the SICAP Annual Plan which had just been notified by Pobal. In relation to a query from M. Ni Chonghaile regarding the revised timelines, M. McGann advised that it was not a normal occurrence for timelines to be revised, however, it had arisen as a result of a budget increase for SICAP which had to be confirmed in order for plans to be developed.

The meeting then concluded.

Nool Thomas  
Cllr. N. Thomas, Chairperson

A. Farrell  
A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 15/2/22

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