

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar 29ú Mean Fómhair 2021, ag 9.15 a.m.**

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021, at 9.15 a.m.

**Present:**

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Jim Cullen, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Regina Higgins, Dept. Social Protection	Public
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Máire Ui 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
Tom Turley, IFA	Community

**Apologies:**

Cllr. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Public

**Also in Attendance:**

A Farrell, Mary McGann, Linda Potter, Andrew McBride, Rita Tansey, Galway County Council.  
 Aoibheann McCann, GRD

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

Welcome & Introductions

N. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies received from those unable to attend. N. Thomas extended a warm welcome to the 5 new PPN members joining the LCDC committee. Each member of the LCDC committee then gave a brief introduction.

**2 Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh ar an 27ú Aibreán 2021**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 27<sup>th</sup> April 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 D. Walsh, **SECONDED** by T. Keenan, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> April were **APPROVED**.

**3 An Clár um Fheabhsú Pobail 2021 – Céadú**  
Community Enhancement Programme 2021 – Approvals

M. McGann presented a summary of the applications and allocation of monies under the Community Enhancement Programme 2021. In total, 72 applications were funded, 12 applications were ineligible and 8 were unsuccessful. In accordance with the Departmental guidance, approximately 30% of the total fund of €143,401 was allocated to small grants less than €1,000 to enable grassroots projects to go ahead and small items of equipment to be purchased. In addition, the focus of the scheme was on ensuring the sustainability of Groups through assistance with running costs, and there was still an ongoing demand in this regard. All applications were looked at in detail with the sub-committee and each group had been notified of the outcome. M. McGann informed the members that there is an issue with some groups completing works due to Covid-19 restrictions and we were awaiting confirmation from the Department on whether there would be an extension of time for drawdown of funding.

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. Dolan, **SECONDED** by K. Gavin, the Community Enhancement Programme grant awards for 2021 were approved.

**4 Fiontar Sóisialta – Scéim Deontas Caipitil**  
Social Enterprises - Capital Grants Scheme 2021

M. McGann informed the members that under the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland the Department have rolled-out the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme for 2021 under Dormant Accounts Funding. M. McGann confirmed that €30,533.17 has been allocated to Galway County Council under this scheme and outlined the process for grant approvals which required formal approvals to be made by the Department of Rural and Community Development in accordance with Dormant Account Funding requirements. As the timeframe for the approvals process required recommendations to be made to the Department within a 2-week window, it was agreed that assessments would be completed at Sub-Committee level.

N. Thomas and G. Costello stated that it was not clear for groups if they could qualify under the definition of a “social enterprise” for this grant. S. Dolan agreed that a lot of the applicants would find this issue difficult, and A. Farrell suggested that the Council work closely with Galway Rural Development to check that all applicants were Social Enterprises. K. Gavin suggested that it would be beneficial going forward if a network for Social Enterprises was formed, which could also be used to ensure that Groups who have equipment/furniture etc available that they no longer use, could donate to other groups and vice versa.

**5. Athbriethnu Lártearma SICAP & Cuairt Fioraithe ag Pobal**  
SICAP Mid-Term Review & Pobal Verification Visit

Mid-Year Review for 2021

M. McGann informed the members that the mid-year review would usually be formally approved at the July LCDC meeting, but this meeting was not held as the PPN elections were in progress at the time. M. McGann confirmed that the SICAP Sub-Committee had met to discuss progress against targets which had been submitted to Pobal and she outlined the feedback received. The feedback had confirmed that progress against KPI 1 and KPI 2 targets and the % clients from disadvantaged areas were already achieved or on target, and all financial elements of the programme were in compliance with requirements. In

relation to reporting, Pobal had advised that further detail was required at mid and end year reviews to demonstrate progress against various elements of actions, and it had been agreed at Sub-Committee level that Pobal would revert with advice on how the Annual Plan could be restructured with targeted actions per Goal rather than being structured under Thematic Areas as at present.

On the **PROPOSAL** of T. Turley, **SECONDED** by D. Walsh, the mid-year review plan was approved.

#### Mid-Programme Review of SICAP & Planning for 2022:

M. McGann informed the members that because the SICAP programme was extended for a further year, the LCDC was required to conduct a mid-programme review. This review would focus on the 5 areas identified as acute needs at national level, in addition to identifying any further local issues. The discussions on these areas would lead to agreement on a maximum of 3 priority areas to be used as the basis for identifying priority actions in Annual Plans for the remaining years of the Programme.

M. McGann presented an overview of the 5 national priority areas, identifying the rationale and recommended focus areas under each national priority, in addition to the progress to date reported by the Programme Implementer. M. McGann confirmed that following discussion on the 5 areas at the SICAP Sub-Committee Meeting with Pobal, including identification of any local analysis and research across the 5 areas, the following 3 priorities were being recommended for approval:

- Mental Health (across all target groups)
- Older People and Isolation
- New Communities

N. Thomas asked the members if there were other priority areas that should be discussed/included. He stated that during the pandemic there was a lot of groups/individuals getting involved and helping in the community and they might have feedback on where the help is most urgent and suggested contacting these groups by email. A. Farrell stated that there would be no issue with contacting the Voluntary and Community Groups and Organisations who had delivered practical supports, but it may not be possible within this timeframe and the LCDC may need to focus on the guidance on priority areas issued by Pobal. M. McGann confirmed that the recommended areas were the priorities highlighted by the Covid-19 Community Response Forum which was responsible for co-ordinating supports throughout the lockdowns. N. Thomas also suggested that the area of "People with Disabilities" might be included for discussion and A. McCann stated that there is a lot of work in existence in this area at present and any area which was not included as a specific priority area under this review would continue as heretofore.

M. McGann confirmed the timeframe for preparation and approval of Annual Plans for 2022, which were required to be examined in detail by the LCDC before 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021. In order for Galway Rural Development CLC to advance this process, the LCDC was required to agree an Emerging Needs Group and Targets for 2022. In relation to the latter, M. McGann advised that the Department and Pobal have decided that 2022 KPI targets should remain the same as in 2021 and this was noted. In relation to the Emerging Needs Group, A. McCann outlined that Older People were first selected as the Emerging Needs Group in 2021 and it would take time to develop initiatives which were identified in the Annual Plan for 2021 as these required a collaborative approach and advance planning, and therefore, it was their recommendation that Older People be retained as the Emerging Needs Group for 2022.

On the **PROPOSAL** of M. Ni Chonghaile, **SECONDED** by M. Keady, the Mid-Programme Review and KPI's & Emerging Needs for 2022 were approved as recommended.

A McCann informed the meeting that this was her last LCDC meeting and thanked all the members and staff for their assistance and help over the years. A. Farrell and N Thomas thanked A McCann for her contribution and expertise over the years.

**6. Tionscnamh Éire Fholláin – Eolas Nuashonraithe**  
Healthy Ireland – Update

A McBride gave a presentation on Healthy Ireland outlining the national strategy and the structures which were in place at local level to manage the funding programme. He outlined that the LCDC were required to adopt a local Healthy Ireland Plan by year-end outlining the priorities under the national thematic areas and it was intended to commence consultations with a view to bringing the draft plan to the LCDC at its December meeting. In relation to the Round 3 Programme of Works, he sought approval to replace the DUMP Campaign, which did not progress, with alternative Community Mental Health Projects, i.e., Nature for Health and Baby Bonding Courses.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. N. Thomas, **SECONDED** by G. Costello, the amendments to the Round 3 Programme of Works were approved and N. Thomas thanked A. McBride for his interesting and informative presentation.

**7. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**  
Date for next meeting

Date of next meeting was agreed for **Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 at 9.30 a.m.**

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

T. Keenan asked if a “thank you” letter could be circulated to the outgoing members of the PPN for their time and work over the last few years. N. Thomas and M. McGann confirmed that letters were already forwarded to the outgoing members after the last meeting in April.

Níol Thomas  
Cllr. N. Thomas, Chairperson

A. Farrell  
A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 23/11/21

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