

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar 14ú Iúil 2020, ag 6.30 p.m.**

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020, at 6.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Dan Dowling, PPN Community (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd	Community
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Enda Conneely, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Martin Ward, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Seán Ó Coistealbha, PPN Community	Community
Margaret Sheehan, PPN Environment	Community
Antoinette Ryan, Dept. Social Protection	Public
Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Public
Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public

**Apologies:**

Tom Turley, IFA (Chairperson)	Community
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public

**Also in Attendance:**

Kieran Coyne, Mary McGann, Rita Tansey, Galway County Council.

In the absence of T. Turley, Chairperson, the meeting was chaired by D. Dowling, Vice-Chairperson. At the outset, D. Dowling welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended a special welcome to new member Kenny Deery who was attending his first LCDC meeting.

**1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 22ú Eanáir 2020**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020.

D. Dowling asked if there were any items arising from the Minutes. S. O'Coistealbha raised a query regarding membership and status of the Connemara Disability Network which was referenced at the January Meeting and M. McGann advised she will check and revert to him in this regard.

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Walsh, **SECONDED** by K Kelly, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January were **APPROVED**.

## **2. Chlár um Fheabhsú on Phobail 2020** Community Enhancement Programme 2020

M. McGann commenced by presenting an outline of the rural funding schemes which were currently advertised and the changes to the schemes to respond to challenges arising from COVID-19, and the types of works which could be accommodated under these schemes such as Town & Village Accelerated Measure and Clár to enable social distancing in public places. M. McGann also referenced the allocations to date under the Covid-19 Emergency Fund which had been circulated to Members in addition to the allocations made by Pobal to Groups in County Galway under the Covid-19 Stability Fund. The Members queried the variance in the amounts allocated under the Covid-19 Stability Fund, and M. McGann stated that these awards were once-off allocations for operational costs and loss of trading or fund-raising income and there was a large variation in allocations at national level, and she would forward the full list to Members.

M. McGann confirmed that Galway County LCDC had been awarded an allocation of €63,249 for the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 which was a substantial reduction on the 2019 allocation, and there was €30,189 remaining in the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, and it was important that any discussions regarding grant limits and priorities focused on maximising the impact of both funding schemes, especially in terms of re-opening costs for community facilities which was a major issue at the moment.

K. Kelly stated that the Community Response Forum had previously agreed it was vital that recognition be given to the volunteer efforts of Groups registered for the Community Call and this priority should be retained within the Covid-19 Emergency Fund. In relation to the Community Enhancement Programme, and considering the reduced allocation, he proposed it would be prudent to allocate grants in the region of €1,000 or less and this proposal was supported by B. Fox.

T. Keenan stated there was huge pressure on community organisations to pay operational expenses this year such as insurance, electricity, heating etc. and asked if the LCDC could make a case to the Department of Rural and Community Development to allow funding for these costs. M. McGann clarified that the Covid-19 stability fund was aimed at covering the operational costs of community groups and non-profit organisation on a once-off basis whereas the Community Enhancement Programme was strictly for capital expenditure only, and there was no discretion in this regard. K. Coyne stated that Community Groups and Sports Clubs should check with their Insurer regarding any potential discount for non-activity and non-use of facilities due to COVID-19. S. Dolan agreed with T. Keenan that come of the community organisations were not reopening due to pressures associated with operational costs and PPE equipment and we should try to support these groups as much as possible. Cllrs N. Thomas and P. Mac An Iomaire raised the issue of funding pressures on GAA Clubs in order to re-open and M. Ward agreed with this point and added that it was important to prioritise facilities which were required to re-open and are most in need of funding assistance.

S. Ó Coistealbha stated that it should be put on record that it was unsatisfactory that the Community Enhancement Programme funding has been halved, as this is to the detriment of local communities and community groups.

On the **PROPOSAL** of M. Ward, **SECONDED** by Cllr. N. Thomas, the following proposed was **AGREED**:  
 The Covid-19 Emergency Fund be announced to support groups involved in the community call to re-open safely, in addition to recognising efforts of volunteer groups at local level. The Community Enhancement Programme be announced to support all other groups with re-opening costs in addition to enhancement projects. The grants under both schemes to generally be small-scale in nature to enable the limited monies available to support as many groups and projects as possible.

M. McGann outlined the funding schemes which were available under the Healthy Ireland Fund to the Members. Under the Healthy Food Made Easy / Nutrition Action, funding for kitchen equipment in community-owned facilities was available to enable cooking and nutrition classes at local level, however, this could also contribute to community wellbeing by enabling social participation events such as Lunch Clubs to reduce social isolation and loneliness which were themes emerging from the Covid-19 lockdown. In addition, there was a fund of €30,000 for Community Mental Health Grants of €2,000 to €5,000 each, and this was aimed at activities with clear mental health benefits and contributions to community wellbeing.

S. Ó Coistealbha stated it was the right time to advertise the funding for this type of imitative and the LCDC should ensure a geographical spread of projects, in addition to achieving a linguistic balance in the application of the process. Kathleen Aspel Mortimer and Martin Ward raised the issue of social isolation, especially for older people, and felt it was important to adapt the places and spaces where they meet to support them re-integrating confidently, and these themes should come across in the successful projects.

**3. Tionsnamh Éire Fholláin Babhta 3 – An t-eolas is déanaí**  
 Healthy Ireland Round 3 – Update

M. McGann outlined the changes to the approved Programme of Work for Healthy Ireland Round 3 which were mainly to cater for public health requirements and to allocate the salary of the Healthy Ireland Coordinator across sections in which he would be directly involved and ensure all costs were fully covered in the programme. The changes were noted by the Members and no issues arose regarding the revised Programme of Works.

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

S. Ó Coistealbha complemented the staff members involved in the Community Response helpline and wellbeing indicatives to date on all their efforts to assist groups and individuals across the County.

**5. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**  
 Date of next meeting

M McGann confirmed that the date of next meeting for LCDC would be Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August, at 10.30 a.m. which would relate to the mid-term review of SICAP.

  
 D. Dowling, A/Chairperson

Date: 5/8/20

  
 A. Farrell, Chief Officer

Date: 5/8/2020