

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar 5ú Lúnasa 2020, ag 10.30 a.m.**

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020, at 10.30 a.m.

**Present:**

Tom Turley, IFA (Chairperson)	Community
Dan Dowling, PPN Community (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd	Community
Enda Conneely, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Martin Ward, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Seán Ó Coistealbha, PPN Community	Community
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community
Antoinette Ryan, Dept. Social Protection	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public

**Apologies:**

Margaret Sheehan, PPN Environment	Community
Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public

**Also in Attendance:**

Kieran Coyne, Mary McGann, Rita Tansey, Galway County Council.  
Aoibheann McCann, SICAP Team Leader, Galway Rural Development.

**1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 14ú Iúil 2020**  
Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

T. Turley asked if there were any items arising from the Minutes and none were raised.

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. O'Coistealbha, **SECONDED** by D. Dowling, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July were **APPROVED**.

## **2. Athbhreithniú Lártéarma SICAP 2020**

### **Mid-Term Review of SICAP 2020**

M. McGann commenced by outlining the reduced approach set down by Pobal for the mid-year review of SICAP in 2020, in light of the COVID-19 restrictions, namely a desk-based check on financial aspects which had been completed by LCDC Support Staff, and the completion of an Update Report by the Programme Implementer with the formal approval of the LCDC an optional requirement. M. McGann stated that we were presenting the financial and non-financial reports to the LCDC to maintain proper operational oversight and monitoring of the Programme. In response to a query from S. O'Coistealbha, M. McGann confirmed that the SICAP Sub-Committee was still in place, however, a meeting was not required under the reduced approach for the mid-term review this year.

#### **Mid-Year Update Report:**

M. McGann referenced the Financial Report and the Non-Financial Update Report which had been circulated to Members, and advised that A. McCann, Galway Rural Development would go through both reports, and further advised that Pobal have extended the deadline for finalisation of 2020 KPI's to end September to enable LCDC's to make decisions based on the circumstances pertaining at that time. A. McCann outlined the spend to date on each Goal and the recommended revised annual budget per Goal to account for re-allocated costs associated with remote working, revised costings for classroom training versus online training, and re-allocation of funding towards grants to support Local Community Groups. She noted that the re-allocation of funding resulted in an overall budget breakdown between goals of 34.35% on Goal 1 and 65.65% on Goal 2 which was in line with Pobal recommendations. In relation to the attainment of KPI's, A. McCann noted that KPI 1 was already exceeded, and KPI 2 was almost 50% of the year-end target, however, the attainment of this target by year-end could be affected by any further restrictions. In relation to the proportion of KPI 2 which was targeted at individuals in disadvantaged areas, this was currently 10.75% with an annual target of 27%, and she outlined that there were particular barriers caused by access to broadband and IT devices in disadvantaged areas, which may affect the attainment of this target by year-end. Overall, the primary barriers to attainment of KPI's were the lack of classroom-based activities and difficulties in online delivery due to digital poverty. The primary concerns requiring LCDC support were a reduction in targets if further difficulties or restrictions were imposed, as well as the suspension of any financial penalties for non-attainment of targets in 2020.

T. Turley thanked A. McCann for the presentation and stated that the overall situation on SICAP was as good as could be expected in the current circumstances. He referred to the expenditure on Outreach Offices and stated that it was important to sustain local facilities by continuing such rental arrangements throughout the lockdown period and this was generally agreed by the Members. Cllr. N. Thomas also congratulated Galway Rural Development on their achievements to date in difficult circumstances and stated that there should be no financial penalties this year for non-attainment of KPI's. On the proposal of T. Keenan, seconded by Cllr. N. Thomas, it was agreed that the LCDC recommend to Pobal that no financial penalties be imposed on Programme Implementers for non-attainment of KPI's in 2020.

S. O'Coistealbha stressed the importance of dissemination of information on SICAP activities to increase take-up, and highlighted the barriers represented by travel requirements and digital poverty. In terms of planning towards KPI's and Emerging Needs Groups for 2020 and beyond, A. McCann stated that longer interventions would be required with individuals under KPI 2 and recommended that any setting of targets moving forward bear this in mind. A. McCann also stated that the LCDC could reconsider the Emerging

Needs group, and T. Turley concurred stating it was vital to target services to those who needed them most and these issues would be borne in mind as the remainder of the year’s programme progressed.

In relation to the issue of Digital Poverty, K. Deery stated there may be opportunities for corporate input into training programmes or work placement opportunities, and A. McCann welcomed this stating that while leveraging of training venues & courses occurs with GRETB, there were gaps in opportunities to fund individuals to get IT devices, and to avail of subsequent work experience opportunities. M. McGann also stressed the importance of BCP’s (Broadband Connection Points) to target digital poverty, and combine training opportunities with targeted provision of high-speed broadband in suitable community venues. D. Dowling also stressed the importance of co-location of community services such as childcare and associated services within community facilities.

**SICAP Case Study:**

M. McGann referred to the SICAP Case Study for 2019, which had been a Photo Story on Tuam Homework Club under the theme of ‘collaboration’. Pobal Feedback on the case study had recognised the interagency approach and the benefits of the project, but had highlighted that further detail would have been beneficial regarding the delivery of the programme, challenges involved, lessons learned and future plans. In terms of selecting a Case Study for 2020 which must be submitted to Pobal by 4<sup>th</sup> October, M. McGann stated it was necessary to be mindful of existing and potential restrictions regarding site visits, and also to have regard to the prioritisation of grants for LCG’s (Local Community Groups) in this year’s programme. To that end, M. McGann recommended the following for the Case Study 2020 to examine emerging needs arising from COVID-19, and to implement sufficient detail based on the Pobal Feedback for 2019:

- Theme: Engagement Strategies with Target Groups and Communities
- Focus: Application of LCG Grants to deliver a flexible response to COVID-19
- Description: Outline of emerging need identified due to COVID-19 emergency
  - Approach taken to meet identified needs in targeted manner
  - Role of SICAP staff and extent of funding input
  - Involvement of other stakeholders to maximise added value
  - Quantitative and qualitative analysis of outputs and outcomes
  - Analysis of challenges and issues to provide insight into programme priorities, emerging needs and decision-making moving forward

T. Turley stated that the proposal seemed the best fit for the programme in the current circumstances, and the proposal was agreed.

**Schemes for long-term unemployed:**

A discussion took place on the importance of community employment schemes to communities and the difficulties incurred due to restrictions regarding length of time on schemes, and age requirements, and in response, A. Ryan stated that there were mechanisms in place to enable 10% of individuals over 62 years of age to stay on the scheme, and the time spent on schemes was dependent on the inclusion of training programmes, however, requirements may be implemented differently across regions. It was generally agreed by the LCDC Members that those over 60 years of age should be allowed to be retained on schemes until retirement, and the LCDC would write to local representatives in this regard, inviting them to a Zoom Meeting on this topic to further the views of the Committee.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place according to the Schedule of Meetings for 2020, on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

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

No issues were raised.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
T. Turley, Chairperson

Date: 9 - Sept 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
K. Coyne, Chief Officer

Date: 9/09/2020