

Miontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 24th May 2024 @ 10.41 a.m.

Held by phone conference/in person. Attendance was verified by roll call.

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee Farming Section Sector

Present:

Mr Barry Lynch (BL)	Director of Services, Meath County Council
Cllr Yemi Adenuga (YA)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Johann McKeever (JMCK)	Health Service Executive
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Mr Sean O’Coisdealbha (SO’C)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Ms Geraldine Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Mr Garret O’Brien (GO’B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ms Aileen Brady (AB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Guest:

Sinead Smith (SS)	Meath Womens Refuge
Nicky McDonnell (NMCD)	Meath PPN
Monica Nelson (MN)	Meath Partnership

Officials:

Ms Fiona Fallon (FF)	Chief Officer, A/Director of Services, Community Dept, MCC
Mr Brian Hora (BH)	Senior Executive Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Alison Lynch (AL)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Cllr Elaine McGinty (EMcG)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Mike Bray (MB)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community Sector
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Vacant	Environment Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd March 2024</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 10.41 a.m. and SMcG welcomed all to the meeting and apologized for the delay in starting. He noted the importance of Committee members attending meetings so that a quorum can be reached so that the meetings can take place.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of GO'B and seconded by YA.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>FF advised that there were no matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>FF confirmed that there was one item of correspondence received from CYPSC that had been circulated relating to a pilot programme that will establish Local Area Child Poverty Plans. She will give a further update in relation to this at the next meeting in June.</p>
4.	<p>Election of a Vice Chairperson for the LCDC</p> <p>FF opened the floor to request nominations for a new LCDC Vice Chairperson.</p> <p>NM was nominated by BL and seconded by GO'B.</p> <p>FF asked if there were any other nominations and there were none.</p> <p>SMcG declared NM the new LCDC Vice Chairperson.</p>
5.	<p>To receive a presentation from Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services on "Zero Tolerance Meath".</p> <p>Sinead Smith, CEO, Meath Womens Refuge & Support Services gave a detailed presentation on the Zero Tolerance Meath Pilot Project and advised that the Meath Women's Refuge and Support Services have been awarded funding over the next 3 years to deliver a national pilot project on community development responses to gender-based violence. She advised that active engagement of communities in understanding and analysing the problem of Domestic, Sexual, and Gender Based Violence, developing and delivering responses to it and evaluating the impact of responses is vital and that the goal of this pilot project is to make Meath the safest place in Ireland. The Project is funded by CUAN and will be evaluated by the Department of Applied</p>

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	<p>Social Studies in Maynooth University and it is the intention that the pilot will support a community development model that has the potential for replication in other parts of the country. SS advised that the project is also included in Meath County Councils Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2029 and gave details of the progress to date, project roll out and outline of the project goals.</p> <p>SMcG thanked SS for her presentation and opened to the floor for questions and comments. There were questions and comments from YA, JMck and BL, in relation to - <i>plans to promote the project outside of social media promotion / stakeholder representation from the HSE and An Garda Síochána in relation to the test sites / how the project will be measured in terms of success.</i></p> <p>SS responded by saying that there will be engagement with as many stakeholders as possible by various means to ensure that there will be great awareness about the project and that the team will be on the ground promoting the project and will have various workshops and plans to meet various stakeholders including An Garda Síochána, various HSE Staff such as Public Health Nurses and Frontline Workers. SS advised that in order to measure the success of the project, surveys will be carried out and evaluated prior to commencement of the project, during the project and when the project is completed.</p> <p>SS welcomed the LCDC members to contact her with any further questions regarding the project.</p>
6.	<p>To receive a presentation on the Public Participation Network (PPN) by Nicky McDonnell, PPN Coordinator:</p> <p>NMcD introduced himself and advised that he is now 2 years in this role. He gave a presentation advising of the 3 pillars of the PPN. The largest Pillar is under Community and Voluntary with 581 groups registered, the second is under Social Inclusion with 84 Groups registered and third is the environment pillar with 14 Groups registered. He noted that groups registering under the Environment Pillar must have their applications validated by the National Environmental Pillar before being accepted and this can be a barrier to them applying. He advised that the structure of the PPN includes the Plenary who meeting twice yearly and who are the decision making body, the Secretariat which is made up of 12 Steering Group Members who oversee the operation of the PPN and work between the Plenaries, and the linkage groups who share common interests and goals across pillars and across the County on themes around the Strategic Policy Committees and Forums. He noted that various representatives from the PPN sit on decision making bodies within the Local Authority such as the SPC's, LCDC's and Joint Policing Committees. He stated that there has been a 51.9% increase in membership of the PPN since June 2022, rising from 447 groups registered in 2022 to 680 groups currently registered and he gave a breakdown of membership within the 6 Municipal Districts of County Meath. He listed the achievements of the PPN over the past 2 years, including the agreement of a constitution and 13 policies and procedures, the holding of 18 workshops, 3 Plenary Meetings, MRPPN meeting and a National Staff convention was held in Trim in May 2024. He advised that future plans for the Meath PPN team include Linkage Group Development, the growth of the Environment Pillar, Connected</p>

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	<p>Communities and the possible organising and hosting of the National Conference for PPNs in October 2025 in Meath.</p> <p>SMcG thanked NMcD for his presentation and commended him and his coworker for their impressive work in growing Meath PPN and for their achievements over the past 2 years, and opened to the floor for questions or comments.</p> <p>There were questions and comments from CB and YA in relation to – <i>how the PPN can be advertised more widely so that everyone knows about it and what is available to them.</i></p> <p>NMcD advised that PPN updates are sent out monthly in the form of a newsletter and that Community Hubs are being set up as language can be a barrier.</p> <p>GO'B stated that the PPN website is very informative and holds a lot of information and noted the the PPN is an ever evolving process and any suggestions from todays discussions will be brought back to the Secretariat for discussion. He suggested that the LCDC members have a look at the website and to get back to him if they have any questions.</p> <p>JMcK requested to be added to the PPN newsletter mailing list.</p> <p>GH joined the meeting at 11 a.m.</p>
7.	<p>To receive details of the Community Recognition Fund 2024</p> <p>BH informed the Committee that Meath have been allocated the sum of €1,188,066 in respect of the Community Recognition fund 2024 and advised that the purpose of this grant is to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities for the entire community in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.</p> <p>He stated that only areas which have high levels of new arrivals will be deemed eligible for this scheme and listed the possible types of projects that can be funded under the scheme and the criteria under which projects will be assessed:</p> <p>He advised that funding proposals can be submitted to the Department across 3 application windows (bulleted below) and that the minimum project value is €50,000 and maximum project value is €500,000. He noted that 35 Expressions of Interest have been received to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application window 1 Up to 31st May 2024 • Application window 2 1 st August to 30th September 2024 • Application window 3 (minimum 20% of allocation ring-fenced) 1 st January 2025 to 31st January 2025

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	<p>He named the Projects to be submitted under Application Window 1 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athboy Community Centre Upgrade • Gormanstown Village Footpath • Culture Migrant Centre vehicle purchase • Duleek Development Association • Coláiste na hInse upgrade of sports facilities <p>FF advised that the above list of projects will be sent to the Department of Rural and Community Development and we must await their decision.</p> <p>CL noted that the new LEADER programme is currently up and running and advised that unsuccessful applicants under the Community Recognition Fund could perhaps apply for LEADER funding.</p> <p>YA noted that this would be her last meeting of the LCDC before the local elections and wished the LCDC well for the future. She left the meeting at 11.24 a.m.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>To agree LECP Independent Monitoring Group Terms of Reference.</p> <p>BH advised that the terms of reference for the LECP Independent Monitoring Group had been circulated in advance of the meeting to the Committee. He noted that once the Terms of reference were agreed, the next step will be to set up the Committee.</p> <p>The LECP Independent Monitoring Group Terms of Reference were agreed on the proposal of GO'B and seconded by NM.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>SICAP Annual Plan 2024</p> <p>Monica Nelson from Meath Partnership gave a presentation on the SICAP Annual Plan 2024 and noted that the figures are for the a period of 9 months from 1st April 2024 to 31st December 2024. She stated that Meath Partnership were delighted to be awarded the SICAP Contract 2024-2028. She noted that under the 2024 – 2028 programme, there would be 3 specific Local Priority Target Groups 1) People living in disadvantaged communities 2) People impacted by educational disadvantage 3) People living in jobless households or households where the primary income source is low-paid or precarious.</p> <p>SO'C left the meeting at 11.30 a.m.</p>

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She advised that under Goal 1, there are 36 KPI's and the focus will be to contribute to building more sustainable, inclusive and empowered communities including groups of individuals, local community groups, networks and social enterprises to address collective community needs.

She listed Goal 1 Target Groups and Actions as follows and gave a detailed summary for each action

- Pobail Lé Cheile – KPI 1 – 15
- Teach Mná – KPI 1 – 4
- Legacy4Meath BESC – KPI 1 – 2
- Connecting Cultures – KPI 1 – 6
- Meath Befriending Network – KPI 1 – 3 Networks of Volunteers, servicing 36 individuals
- Resilient Roots – KPI 1 – 3
- IP Connect – KPI – 3

SWMcD left the meeting at 11.35 a.m.

She advised that under Goal 2, the annual KPI is 218. This Goal is aimed at empowering disadvantaged people to improve the quality of their lives by supporting individuals, children and families to progress their formal education and participate in lifelong learning and to progress into employment/self – employment, and to improve their soft skills and wellbeing.

She listed Goal 2 Target Groups and Actions as follows and gave a detailed summary for each action:

- Youth Progression Initiative – KPI 2 – 35
- Folláine – KPI 2 – 40
- Cultivating Careers – KPI 2 – 83
- Cultural Crossroads – KPI 2 – 26
- IPA Response Initiative – KPI 2 – 34

CB suggested that more employers are made aware of the various supports to individuals that are available under the SICAP Programme.

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	The approval of the SICAP Annual Plan 2024 was proposed by GO'B and seconded by NM .
10.	Agency Updates BH advised that due to time restraints today, this item will be address at the June LCDC Meeting.
11.	A.O.B. FF advised that the next LCDC Meeting will be held on Friday 28th June 2024 . SMcG thanked all for their attendance and wished YA and all the candidates well in their election campaigns. The meeting concluded at 11.53 a.m.

Signed: Seamus McGee
Chairperson

Date: 28th June 2024