

Minontuairiscí / Meeting Minutes

Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 27th September 2024 @ 10.05 a.m.

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

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG) Farming Section Sector

Present:

Mr Kieran Kehoe (KK)	Chief Executive, Meath County Council
Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Ms Johann McKeever (JMCK)	Health Service Executive
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)	Meath PPN
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce
Ms Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Aileen Brady (AB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Officials:

Mr Barry Lynch (BL)	Director of Services, MCC
Mr Brian Hora (BH)	Chief Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Valerie McHugh (VMcH)	Administrative Officer, Community Dept, MCC
Ms Angie Mitchell (AM)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Cllr Pdraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Sean O Coisdealbha(SOC)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWmcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Mr Garret O'Brien (GO'B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th June 2024</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 10.05 a.m.</p> <p>BH thanked all for their attendance and advised that today's meeting did not take place in person in Athboy Community Centre as planned due to lack of members available to attend in person. He thanked Nicky Bowman for booking the Centre for the meeting.</p> <p>He welcomed BL back to the Community Section.</p> <p>BL stated that due to a recent change within the Directorates of Meath County Council, he was reassigned from the Housing Department to the Community Department where he has worked previously and looks forward to working with the LCDC/LAG again. He thanked Ciara Burke for her hospitality at the Carranstown Awards Night held the night previously and thanked Nicky Bowman for agreeing to host this meeting in the Athboy Community Centre. He stated that unfortunately, due to the possibility of there being no quorum for today's meeting, that a decision was made to bring the venue for this meeting back to Buvinda House. He advised that it is hoped that future meetings of the LCDC will be held off site and that awareness will be raised in relation to the LCDC and their role for the Communities of County Meath.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of MM and seconded by JE.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>BH provided an update on some items of correspondence, all of which had been circulated to the LCDC as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) LCDC Survey on DRCD review of revised guidelines for the operation of LCDC's – the LCDC submitted a response and the closing date for receipt of replies was Friday 20th September, however he advised that submissions are still being accepted. 2) Dormant Account Fund – Call for applications from LGBTQIA+ Groups – The Application must be made by the Chief Officer of the LCDC to identify organisations in the area in need of this funding. The closing date is 4th October and applications will be reviewed by the Department and notification of decision will issue no later than 31st October. Details were circulated to the LCDC and via the PPN. This will be approved at the next LCDC meeting.

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	<p>3) CYPSC – Survey issued for the new Meath Children and Young Peoples Plan 2025-2027.</p> <p>4) He advised that an application made by CYPSC for the Local Area Child Poverty Action Plans was unsuccessful.</p>
4.	<p>To nominate an Elected Member to the Meath LCDC Health & Wellbeing subgroup</p> <p>Cllr Pdraig Coffey was nominated to the LCDC Health & Wellbeing subgroup on the proposal of EF and seconded by MM.</p>
5	<p>To nominate an Elected Member to the Meath LCDC SICAP subgroup</p> <p>Cllr Edward Fennessy was nominated to the LCDC SICAP subgroup on the proposal of MM and seconded by CL.</p>
6.	<p>To nominate an LCDC nominee to the Meath LCDC SICAP subgroup</p> <p>Cllr Maria Murphy was nominated to the LCDC SICAP subgroup on the proposal of EF and seconded by SMcG.</p>
7.	<p>To agree LECP Annual Implementation Plan 2023-2024</p> <p>BH advised that this item was on the agenda for discussion at the June meeting which didn't take place due to lack of a quorum and stated that the draft implementation plan had been circulated ahead of this meeting and the June meeting. He noted that the LECP went out to tender for a package for the implementation of the plan and he will give a further update in this regard at the October meeting. He welcomed any questions from the Committee.</p> <p>The LECP annual implementation Plan 2023-2023 was agreed on the proposal of MM and seconded by CL.</p>
8.	<p>To approve updated SICAP Annual Plan</p> <p>BH advised that the SICAP Annual Plan had been updated to reflect the additional funding that had been awarded for New Arrivals in July for the sum of €28,031 and asked CL for a brief update.</p> <p>CL advised that the sum of €8,031 had been added to Goal 1.7 Connect Groups and the sum of €20,000 had been allocated to Goal 2.5 IPA Response Initiative.</p> <p>SMcG stated that not all LCDC members are familiar with the various acronyms or programmes that fall under the LCDC, especially the recently appointed members and suggested that basic information and updates in this regard are sent out to the Committee for their information or given at each LCDC meetings.</p> <p>BH stated that he will start to send some information around to the Committee.</p> <p>The updated SICAP annual plan was agreed on the proposal of EF and seconded by CB.</p>

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<p>9.</p>	<p>To receive SICAP 2023 Audit Report</p> <p>BH advised that the SICAP 2023 audit report had been completed by Meath County Councils internal audit unit and had been circulated in advance of the meeting and he gave a brief overview of what the report focused on. He noted that in relation to the 7 remaining recommendations from the last 2 audits that were outstanding, they have all been actioned and advised that overall, the result was satisfactory.</p> <p>CL stated that Meath Partnership were very happy overall with the result of the audit and he was satisfied that corporate governance practices are being observed with the Partnership in its delivery of the SICAP Programme.</p> <p>The SICAP 2023 Audit Report was agreed on the proposal of EF and seconded by MM.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>BH gave an update on the PPN as follows:</p> <p>Workshops were held supporting groups applying for Community Centre Investment Fund.</p> <p>The first GAA clubs took part in the Louie & Frankie book project along with a summer camp in Youth Work Ireland Meath which saw over 250 young people involved. Twelve other GAA clubs have expressed an interest and the PPN are working with them to find suitable dates for a visit.</p> <p>As a follow on, The Journal was launched on August 27th. Journaling is recognised by the HSE as a creative method to help regulate difficult emotions. With support from HSE Louth/Meath Mental Health Officer the PPN staff are hoping to roll out a series of workshops to children identified as needing support.</p> <p>Journaling can be a mainstream, preventative measure on the Hardiker Model which outlines the four levels of intervention for children with additional mental health needs.</p> <p>25 people were brought to Dunsany Nature Reserve for a tour of the site with owner Randal Plunkett.</p> <p>Secretariat members from 4 counties went on an intercounty PPN heritage/culture tour on 21st September.</p> <p>Staff attended the Ploughing in Ratheniska, Laois on behalf of the national PPN network in the DRCD tent.</p> <p>The next round of Linkage groups take place in late September/early October to start the selection of community representatives for the new SPCs.</p> <p>703 groups are registered with Meath PPN.</p>

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	<p>SMcG questioned if there was any scope for further funding under the LEADER programme considering the large amounts allocated under the recent sports capital grant.</p> <p>CL stated that Meath Partnership are continuously looking for more funding under the LEADER Programme but the DRCD have not indicated that there is any extra funding forthcoming. However, the DRCD did state that there may be extra funding for allocation towards the end of the programme as happened in the past programme for those counties who don't avail of all funding allocated to them.</p>
11.	<p>Agency Updates</p> <p>BH invited agencies present to give an update if available but there were no updates for today's meeting.</p>
12.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>BH informed the LCDC members that there is an LCDC networking conference taking place on Wednesday 9th October which will include updates from the Department of Rural and Community Development, Department of Children, Equality, Disability Integration and Youth and the Director Designate of the National Office of Community Safety. He will forward details of same to the committee after this meeting and will be looking for members to attend.</p> <p>BH advised that the next meeting will take place on Friday 25th October with a 10 a.m. start.</p> <p>EF stated that he will be out of the country on 25th October.</p> <p>BH noted that calendar invites that had issued for the remainder of the year for the months of October, November and December will be cancelled and re-issued in the coming week.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 10.30 a.m.</p>

Signed: *Seamus Mc Gee*
Chairperson

Date: **22nd November, 2024**