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Local Community Development Committee

Meeting – 22nd November 2024 @ 10.26 a.m.

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

Presiding:

Mr Seamus McGee (SMcG) Farming Section Sector

Present:

Cllr Edward Fennessy (EF)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Maria Murphy (MM)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Cllr Pdraig Coffey (PC)	Councillor, Meath County Council
Mr Joe English (JE)	Local Enterprise Office
Mr Sean O Coisdealbha(SOC)	Udaras na Gaeltachta
Ms Sadie Ward McDermott (SWMcD)	Louth Meath Education Training Board
Ms Johann McKeever (JMck)	Health Service Executive
Mr Colin Ludlow (CL)	Meath Partnership
Mr Noel Maguire (NM)	Trade Union Sector
Mr Garret O’Brien (GO’B)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ms Shola Yahya (SY)	Social Inclusion Sector
Ms Nicky Bowman (NB)	Community & Voluntary Sector
Ms Ger Hogarty (GH)	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Ms Aileen Brady (AB)	Social Inclusion Sector

Guests:

Mr Angel Marroquin (AnM)	Community Worker, Cultúr Migrants Centre
Ms Tinu Achioya (TA)	Programme Manager, Cultúr Migrants Centre

Officials:

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
Ms Anne O’Brien (AO’B)	Senior Staff Officer, Community Dept, MCC

Apologies/Absent

Mr Kieran Kehoe (KK)	Chief Executive, Meath County Council
Ms Sharon Curran (SC)	Department of Social Protection
Ms Ciara Burke (CB)	Chamber of Commerce

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Item	Discussion / Action
1.	<p>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th September 2024</p> <p>The meeting commenced at 10.26 a.m.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2024 were confirmed on the proposal of MM and seconded by EF.</p>
2.	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>No matters arising.</p>
3.	<p>Presentation by Cultúr Migrants Centre on the Community Development Programme</p> <p>BH welcomed both Angel Marroquin and Tinu Achioya to the meeting to give a presentation on the Community Development Programme:</p> <p>AnM gave a detailed presentation on the Joint Migrant Network Community Development Project between Louth and Meath. He stated that the initiative seeks to challenge social exclusion, discrimination, and inequality experienced by ethnic minorities by promoting empowerment, participation, and organization, working closely with local stakeholders and communities.</p> <p>He gave details of the work that has been carried out under this initiative throughout Louth and Meath in 2024 such as: Events, workshops, interventions, consultations with migrant leaders, capacity building training, new volunteer recruitment, partnership campaigns with national organisations, establishment of migrant networks, funding applications submitted, collaboration with Meath PPN, drop in supports, action meetings with civil society groups to support public campaigns, identification of new ethnic groups and supports provided, training and mentoring programme's delivered, outreach information meetings, meetings with women's groups, national submissions issued, production of leaflets in 8 languages, creation of action groups, migrant participation in English classes, engagement with Christian churches, mosques, schools and libraries, media coverage and publicity pieces.</p> <p>He advised that the purpose of the programme is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower migrant leaders • Build bridges between communities • Support schools to address challenges on diversity • Raise awareness on issues affecting communities • Raise awareness about racism affecting migrants and refugees • Promote worker's rights

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- Promote registration of migrants to vote in local elections
- Support volunteers
- Amplify the voices of migrants and refugees
- Organise interagency meetings in Meath & Louth

TA gave a brief presentation and advised how Cultúr are making the 4 actions assigned to them under the Local Economic & Community Plan a reality explaining how those actions are being implemented. She explained how the continued help of the LCDC will be required to implement the actions of the LECP and she particularly asked the LCDC for help in:

- Sourcing a dedicated space for a one stop shop for migrants to meet and deliver activities to help their integration into the community
- Encouraging the involvement of migrants with the Chamber of Commerce to enhance opportunities for entrepreneurship
- Leading on identifying funding streams dedicated to promoting integration and community work

She thanked the LCDC for their support to date and thanked Meath Partnership for their support and collaboration to date.

SMcG thanked Angel and Tinu for their presentations and praised them both on their impressive work to date and assured them of the support of the LCDC.

MM advised TA to link in with the Local Enterprise Officer to seek advice on starting a business.

JMcK informed TA that she is a member of the LMETB's Adult Literacy for Life Policy Group, and she noted that the group would welcome more diverse inclusion and offered to send details of same to TA if she was interested. TA welcomed this suggestion.

GH stated that the LCDC and other agencies would support Cultúr on their quest to find a dedicated community space in the County.

JE advised that he would add TA's contact details to the LEO's distribution list. TA thanked JE and asked to meet with the LEO Team and seek advice.

BH thanked the Cultúr team for the presentation and commended them on the work they have carried out to date. He advised that the DRCD had approved the extension to the Community Development Pilot Programme to 2026 and that the funding had been sanctioned.

TA & AnM left the meeting at 10.48 a.m.

SMcG asked BH if the LCDC would receive feedback on the implementation of the LECP.

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	<p>BH advised that a successful tenderer had been identified in respect of the recent tender process for the implementation and monitoring system for the LECF, and this would be an online cloud-based solution. He noted that each action would be assigned to an action lead and that agency would be required to provide updates and feed back into that system which could be in the format of a document, presentation, video etc. He stated that the new system would gather an abundance of information.</p>
4.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>BH advised that there were no items of correspondence received.</p>
5	<p>To note the reports of:</p> <p>BH gave a brief overview of the details discussed at the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Health Meath Subgroup meeting held on 15th October 2024. <p>BH noted that 6 groups had received funding under the microfund grant scheme where each project must have a minimum spend of €500 and maximum spend of €2,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. SICAP subgroup meeting held on 16th October 2024. <p>BH will discuss this further under item 6 below. He noted that the KPI's for 2025 will increase to 48 (KPI1) and 290 (KP12). The KP1s for 2024 were lower and this was because the programme commenced in April 2024, rather than January 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Dept of Rural and Community Development LCDC event held on 19th October 2024 <p>BH noted that this event focused on the role of the Local Community Development Committee and the role of the Community Safety Partnerships. He advised that Meath County Council are awaiting the official guidelines in relation to the implementation of the Community Safety Partnership which he hopes will be received early in the New Year.</p>
6.	<p>Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To approve SICAP Case Study 2024 <p>BH advised that the video link to this case study had been circulated prior to this meeting.</p> <p>The SICAP Case study 2024 was approved on the proposal of NM and seconded by PC.</p>

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	<p>b. To approve the SICAP Mid-Year Review</p> <p>BH advised that the relevant documents in relation to the SICAP Mid-Year Review had been circulated prior to this meeting.</p> <p>The SICAP Mid-Year Review was approved on the proposal of EF and seconded by NM.</p> <p>c. To approve the updated list of SICAP Subcontractors</p> <p>BH advised that the updated list of SICAP Subcontractors had been circulated prior to this meeting.</p> <p>The updated list of SICAP Subcontractors was approved on the proposal of SOC and seconded by MM.</p> <p>d. Preparation of the SICAP Annual Plan 2025</p> <p>BH advised that the KP1s agreed for the annual plan 2025 were 48 (KP11) and 290 (KP12) which he had explained above.</p> <p>The proposed KP1's for the 2025 Annual Plan were approved on the proposal of EF and seconded by MM.</p> <p>CL noted that the SICAP Programme for 2024 had started later, in April 2024, and that all targets had been achieved, hence the reason for the increase to the KP1's for the 2025 Annual Plan. He added the the Annual Plan for 2025 would be submitted to Pobal by 13th December 2024 and approved by the LCDC at their February meeting in 2024.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>To receive an update on the Public Participation Network (PPN)</p> <p>BH gave an update on the PPN for the months of October and November as follows:</p> <p><u>October</u></p> <p>PPN staff attended the Meath Cares About Older People event in Ashbourne on 1st October. Opportunities for older people to get involved in PPN through local groups and training events were discussed, with active retirement groups in Oldcastle, Drumree, Summerhill and Clonalvy requesting visits.</p> <p>Final round of linkage groups took place, which began the nomination process to select PPN representatives for the 6 Strategic Policy Committees. Nominations closed on 24th October.</p> <p>PPN staff attended the Midlands Region PPN meeting in Mullingar on 9th October and the National Conference in Limerick on 17th & 18th October.</p>

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Meath PPN will host the next regional meeting and will make an expression of interest to host the National Conference in 2025.

PPN staff delivered a presentation to TY students from across the county on the PPN and how youth participation can be facilitated at local level.

PPN staff attended the Comhairle na nÓg AGM and facilitated one of the round table discussion forums.

709 groups are registered with Meath PPN.

November

Meath PPN welcomed news of 12 successful applicants to the Community Centre Investment Fund and particularly delighted to see 5 of the 6 groups it supported in completing the application receive funding, with the last group deciding not to apply.

Following a call for community representatives to sit on SPCs, 12 of 13 vacancies have now been filled. Meath PPN will continue to seek a nominee to fill a vacant seat on the Housing & Integration SPC.

Training is being provided in the first instance by IEN community representatives webinar and an in-person training will be organised early in the new year.

The next Plenary will take place in Skryne GFC on Tuesday 26th November, with presentations on the ongoing Wellbeing book project and Healthy Meath's CommUnity Connects project.

A round table discussion on the linkage groups and how they can be further developed will form the main part of the evening and there will be time allocated for networking and information gathering included also.

An Expression of Interest was submitted by Meath PPN to host the National Annual Conference in 2025. DRCD will revert back in due course.

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8.	<p>Agency Updates</p> <p>BH invited agencies present to give progress reports/updates, if any, in relation to LECP actions.</p> <p>There were no updates for today's meeting.</p>
9.	<p>A.O.B.</p> <p>BH informed the Committee of the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DRCD had recently announced the extension of the Community Development Pilot Programmes across the country for a further period of 2 years which included Cultúr Migrants Community Development Programme and funding for same has been sanctioned. • The Local Enhancement Programme for 2025 had been announced by the DRCD with the total funding allocation for Meath at €222,536 comprising of €190,745 for capital funding and €31,791 for current funding. This will be advertised early in the new year. • Meath LCDC had secured funding in the sum of €10,000 under the Dormant Accounts Fund for 1 LGBTIQ+ project that was successful following the recent call for applications. The funding will be used to organize a health & wellbeing campaign for LGBTIQ+ member and their families. He noted that only 1 application had been submitted to Meath LCDC in this regard. <p>BH advised that the Healthy Meath & Healthy Louth Co-Ordinators, under a joint initiative, had produced “The 5 Ways to Wellbeing” pack under the CommUnity Connect project. He circulated a hard copy of the pack to those members present in person at today's meeting and commended both Co-Ordinator's on this project. He advised that he plans to launch this initiative to coincide with the LCDC meeting in January. This would involve sourcing a suitable venue in the county that would facilitate the holding of the LCDC meeting, followed by the launch of the initiative with the LCDC Members. The Healthy Meath Co-Ordinator also has plans to engage a guest speaker who will talk about wellness, and she also plans to hold wellbeing workshops following the launch which the LCDC members can participate in.</p> <p>BH encouraged all LCDC members to contribute to and attend this event in person and will advise all members of the date and venue as soon as both have been confirmed.</p> <p>SMcG welcomed this idea and encouraged all LCDC members to attend in person.</p> <p>GO'B advised that he had viewed the pack at the last PPN Secretariat meeting and praised the Healthy Meath Co-Ordinator's on this initiative.</p> <p>CL suggested that the meeting is held in a facility that has been funded under the LEADER programme and will liaise with BH in relation to a suitable venue.</p> <p>NB suggested that the Athboy Community Centre is considered as a possible venue.</p>

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<p>BH reiterated that the January meeting will be an in-person meeting.</p> <p>PC looked for an update in relation to the Community Centre in Enfield.</p> <p>BH will contact the relevant section and revert to PC on this matter.</p> <p>SMcG thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>The meeting concluded at 11.15 a.m.</p>

Signed: *Seamus mc Gee* Date: 13th December 2024
Chairperson