** **

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee**

**Held by web conference 11am on 16th December 2020**

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| **Members** | Clr Niamh Kennedy (Chair), Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Anne McHugh, Michael Tunney Shauna McClenaghan, Padraic Fingleton, , Kathleen Bonner, James O Donnell, Liam McElhinney and Seamus Bonner |
| **Apologies** | Paul Hannigan, , Charlene Logue Aengus Kennedy & Joe Boland |
| **Chief Officer** | Paddy Doherty  |
| **Attending** | Liam Ward, Seamus Canning, Adrienne Kelly, Eileen Burgess and Kathleen Browne |

**Welcome**

Clr Niamh Kennedy, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for participating in the meeting.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 17th November 2020 were considered with no matters arising.

On the proposal of Padraic Fingleton, seconded by James O Donnell, the minutes were adopted.

1. **SICAP Annual Plans 2021 - Lot 33-1**

Patricia Lee, Inishowen Development Partnership, joined the meeting and made a presentation to members on the SICAP Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen Annual Plan for 2021 setting out the detail of each Action under Goal 1 and 2 in the Plan.

Clr Niamh Kennedy thanked Patricia for her informative presentation

1. **SICAP Annual Plans 2021 - Lot 33-2**

Margaret Larkin, Donegal Local Development CLG, joined the meeting. Margaret gave a presentation to members on the content of the Goal 1 element of the SICAP Lot 33-2 Annual Plan for 2021. Padraic Fingleton gave a presentation to members on the Goal 2 element of the 2021 Plan. The Actions under both Goals were detailed to members.

1. **SICAP Annual Plans 2021 - Lot 33-3**

Margaret Larkin, gave a presentation to members on the content of the Goal 1 element of the SICAP Lot 33-3 Annual Plan for 2021. Padraic Fingleton gave a presentation to members on the Goal 2 element of the Lot 33-3 Annual Plan 2021. The Actions under both Goals were detailed to members.

Clr Niamh Kennedy, on behalf of the members, thanked Margaret and Padraic for their informative presentations.

Seamus Bonner queried whether the Islands could be included as a specific target group in future SICAP Annual Plans. Paddy Doherty advised that geographical location was not a criteria for selection of a target group for the SICAP Programme. Margaret Larkin, DLDC, advised that the selection of Target Groups took place at National level. Shauna McCleanaghan confirmed that the disadvantaged communities target group and the programmes for it included the islands.

On the proposal of Seamus Bonner, seconded by Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, it was agreed to raise the request for an Islands target group nationally.

1. **Approval in Principle of SICAP Annual Plans 2021**

**Lot 33-1 – Annual Plan 2021**

Members considered Lot 33-1 Annual Plan 2020, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and report from SICAP Sub Committee which was in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised members that the Annual Plan 2021 for Lot 33-1 (Donegal Inishowen), was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 14th December 2020.

**Budget**

Seamus advised that the annual budget for 2021 is €615,095. He confirmed that the Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to budgetary checks. IDP have indicated that they estimate underspend of less than 5.74% in 2020 and have detailed where this carryover will be spend in 2021 in the Annual Plan.

**Targets**

Members were informed that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (36) and Goal 2 (299). The target of 37% KPI2 in disadvantaged areas is in line with the agreed target for the Lot.

**Actions**

Seamus advised members as follows:-

**Goal 1**

* There are 5 actions under Goal 1, with one new Action for 2021 (Action 2) and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
* The proposed actions are targeting the community and voluntary sector in Inishowen and are seeking to empower the groups and sustain the community. They sufficiently target groups in the Lot and prioritise the work of SICAP.
* The target groups identified offer a wide geographic and sectoral spread throughout Inishowen with Actions listing target as People Living in Disadvantaged Communities targeted thought the peninsula and selected based on the Pobal Deprivation Index.
* IDP have indicated that a portion of the underspend will be spent in Actions 2, 3, 4 and 5
* The Emerging Needs Target Group (Rural Isolation – transport & connectivity) is the primary target for 3 Goal 1 actions in the plan (Actions 3, 4 and 5) and these actions will assist to connect and strengthen communities and meet the emerging target need.
* The KPI Targets assigned for the 5 actions will meet the total Target and the proposed activity will support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes
* IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with the partners listed in their Annual Plan.
* Each action has at least one staff member assigned to it.
* All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 4 actions. The plan is assisting in implementing the LECP
* All proposed actions are to be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

**Goal 2**

* There are 7 actions under Goal 2 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
* The actions included in the 2021 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year’s Actions.
* The Goal 2 are aimed at individuals and the actions to be delivered across the Inishowen Peninsula are eligible and appropriate and are targeting issues such as employment, wellbeing and progression.
* Actions listing target as People Living in Disadvantaged Communities targeted thought the peninsula and selected based on the Pobal Deprivation Index
* The Emerging Needs Target group – Rural Isolation – Transport & Connectivity, whilst not directly included as a core action is included as an underlying theme in all actions.
* The KPI Targets assigned for the 7 actions will meet the total Target and the proposed activity will support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes.
* IDP will deliver all the actions in the Plan in collaboration with a wide range of appropriate and relevant the partners who are identified in their Annual Plan.
* Each action has at least one staff member assigned to it.
* All actions have been linked to the relevant LECP objectives and action cost details have been uploaded against all 7 actions and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP
* All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration. Whilst Goal 2 is aimed at individuals it should be noted that equality and networking are important elements of the actions.

Seamus confirmed to members that the Pobal Review of the plan had been completed and all issues arising had been addressed.

Seamus informed members that the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee was satisfied to recommend approval in principle of the 2021 Annual Plan for Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen.

On the proposal of Seamus Bonner, seconded by Kathleen Bonner, members approved in principle the 2021 Annual Plan for Lot 33-1 and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €102,515.83 for the period 1st January to 28th February 2021 be released to Inishowen Development Partnership.

**Lot 33-2 - Annual Plan 2021**

Members considered the Annual Plan 2021 for Lot 33-2 (Donegal Gaeltacht), which had been circulated with the Agenda and the report from the SICAP Sub Committee which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised that Members the Annual Plan 2021 for Lot 33-2 was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee considered at their meeting on 14th December 2020.

**Budget**

Seamus advised that the Annual Budget is €363,582. He confirmed that the Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to budgetary checks. DLDC have indicated that they estimate underspend of 3.3% in 2020 and have detailed where this carryover will be spend in 2021 in the Annual Plan.

**Targets**

Seamus advised that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (28) and Goal 2 (159). The target of 44% KPI2 in disadvantaged areas is in line with the agreed target for the Lot.

**Actions**

Seamus advised members as follows:-

**Goal 1**

* There are 5 actions under Goal 1 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
* The actions included in the 2021 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year’s actions
* All actions are eligible and relevant. It is proposed to deliver the actions through a large number of community organisations and actions are based on expressed community needs. The actions prioritise the work of SICAP across the Lot. The actions target identified SICAP objectives
* Actions which have ‘People living in disadvantaged communities’ named as the primary target group clearly name a designated disadvantaged area or indicate that the selection of the location will be priorities based on the Pobal Deprivation Index Maps.
* DLDC have indicated that a portion of the carryover from 2020 will be spent on Actions 1.1 and 1.5
* DLDC will deliver the actions with relevant stakeholders to add value to SICAP interventions
* The Emerging Needs Target Group (Rural Isolation – transport & connectivity) is the secondary target for two Goal 1 actions in the plan (Actions 1.2 and 1.3) and these actions seek to connect and empower community organisations and meet the emerging target need.
* The KPI Targets assigned for the 5 actions will meet the total Target and the proposed activity will support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes. The actions selected support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes
* Each action has at least one staff member assigned to it.
* All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in implementing the LECP.
* All proposed actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration and will be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with community development principles.

**Goal 2**

* There are 7 Actions under Goal 2 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
* The actions included in the 2021 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year’s Actions.
* The Goal 2 actions are based on identified needs, including carers, lifelong learning, disadvantaged young people and progression. There will be a wide range of impacts from the delivery of the Actions and the actions target identified SICAP objectives
* Actions which have ‘People living in disadvantaged communities’ named as the primary target group clearly name a designated disadvantaged area or indicate that the selection of the location will be prioritised based on the Pobal Deprivation Index Maps.
* The emerging need target group is the secondary target for Action 2.7 and transport is a requirement for the ambitions of the plan, therefore the needs of the Emerging Need Target Group are addressed.
* DLDC have indicated that a portion of the carryover from 2020 will be spent on Actions 2.4 and 2.5
* DLDC will deliver the actions with a wide range of relevant and appropriate partners.
* Each action has at least one staff member assigned to it.
* All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP.
* Although Goal 2 actions are aimed at individuals equality and networking are important elements of the actions and all actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

Seamus confirmed to members that the Pobal Review of the plan had been completed and all issues arising had been addressed.

Seamus informed members that the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee is satisfied to recommend approval in principle of the 2021 Annual Plan for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

On the proposal of Seamus Bonner, seconded by Kathleen Bonner, members approved in principle the 2021 Annual Plan for Lot 33-2 and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €60,597.00 for the period 1st January to 28th February 2021 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG.

**Lot 33-3 - Annual Plan 2021**

Members considered the Annual Plan 2021 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal), which had been circulated with the Agenda and the report from the SICAP Sub Committee which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Seamus Canning advised that Members the Annual Plan 2021 for Lot 33-3 was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee considered at their meeting on 14th December 2020.

**Budget**

Seamus advised members that the Annual Budget is €1,090,507. He confirmed that the Plan meets all the criteria set down in relation to budgetary checks. DLDC have indicated that they estimate underspend of 5.41% in 2020 and have detailed where this carryover will be spend in 2021 in the Annual Plan.

**Targets**

Seamus advised that the KPI Targets set by the LCDC are aligned with the targets set for Goal 1 (46) and Goal 2 (477). The target of 28% KPI2 in disadvantaged areas is in line with the agreed target for the Lot.

**Actions**

Seamus advised members as follows:-

**Goal 1**

* There are 5 Actions under Goal 1 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SICAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
* The actions included in the 2021 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year’s actions
* All actions are eligible and relevant. They are to be delivered in partnership with the Community & Voluntary section and all will include a large number of community organisations and are in response to expressed community needs. The actions target identified SICAP objectives
* Actions which have ‘People living in disadvantaged communities’ named as the primary target group clearly name a designated disadvantaged area or indicate that the selection of the location will be priorities based on the Pobal Deprivation Index Maps.
* The actions seek to connect and empower community organisations thus addressing the needs of the emerging need target group – Rural Isolation Transport & Connectivity
* DLDC have indicated that the underspend carried over from 2020 will be spent under Action 1.1 and 1.5
* DLDC will deliver the actions with relevant stakeholders to add value to SICAP interventions
* Each action has at least one staff member assigned to it.
* The outlined actions support the achievement of the desired thematic outcomes.
* DLDC will deliver the actions with a wide range of relevant and appropriate partners
* All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP sustainable , inclusive and healthy communities and will assist in implementing the LECP
* All proposed actions are to be implemented in conjunction with community groups in a way that is consistent with the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration.

**Goal 2**

* There are 7 actions under Goal 2 and the rationale and descriptions provided for the actions indicate that they are SIAP appropriate, well structured and realistic.
* The actions included in the 2021 plan are a continuation or expansion of last year’s Actions.
* All the Goal 2 actions are eligible and appropriate and the targeted actions are based on identified needs including, carers, lifelong learning, disadvantaged young people and progression.
* The actions target the SICAP objectives and there will be a wide range of impact from the delivery of the actions. They sufficiently target groups in the lot and prioritise SICAP work in the right areas.
* Where ‘People living in Disadvantaged Communities” is named as the primary target group, a designated disadvantaged area is clearly identified.
* Connectivity is an underlying theme of the Goal 2 actions and Transport is a requirement for the ambition of the plan, therefore the needs of the Emerging Need Target Group are addressed
* Each action has at least one staff member assigned to it.
* DLDC will deliver the actions in the Plan with the relevant stakeholders
* All actions are consistent with the objectives of Goal 4 of the LECP – sustainable, inclusive and healthy communities and the plan will assist in the implementation of the LECP
* Although Goal 2 actions are aimed at individuals equality and networking are important elements of the actions and all actions take account of the horizontal themes of community development, equality and collaboration..

Seamus confirmed that the Pobal Review of the plan had been completed and all issues arising had been addressed.

Seamus informed members that the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee was satisfied to recommend approval in principle of the 2021 Annual Plan for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

On the proposal of Seamus Bonner, seconded by Kathleen Bonner, members approved the 2021 Annual Plan for Lot 33-3 in principle and further recommended that Programme Funding in the amount of €181,751.16 for the period 1st January to 28th February 2021 be released to Donegal Local Development CLG

1. **Community Forum Update**

Liam ward advised members that the Donegal Community Forum met on 11th November and the meeting had been well attended with good input from State Agencies and Local Development Companies. He confirmed that there had been no increase in calls or demands for support, which was similar to other counties. Liam confirmed that the helpline remains available and that arrangements had been made to ensure the service would be available over the Christmas period. He confirmed that the daily statistics would continue to be input daily over the Christmas period also.

Liam acknowledged the great work which continued to be carried out by local Community Groups and the input and co-operation of all members of the Community Forum.

On behalf of the LCDC, Clr Niamh Kennedy expressed their thanks to the Community Forum for their work and acknowledged the contribution and work of Community Groups.

1. **Community Resilience - Keep Well Campaign**

Seamus Canning advised members that the Government Plan for Living with COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 highlights the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19. The first phase of the Campaign was launched on Thursday 29th October 2020 by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin T.D.

The campaign is an invitation to individuals, communities, voluntary groups, sporting organisations, those involved in creativity and the arts, local heritage and history, businesses, as well as local and national government to find ways to support everyone to discover new activities and routines that will do us good.

Seamus confirmed that Donegal LCDC and Donegal CYPSC received allocations of €67,225 and €18,519 to undertake a series of actions under the campaign. Guildelines for the operation for the Fund were received from Pobal on 27th November which set out the three themes of the campaign and how the LCDC element of the funding should be distributed.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Theme | Activity | Min allocation | Maxallocation |
| Your County | Local actions to be delivered with Age Friendly Co-ordinators and delivery of actions under the Keep Well Campaign. | 28% | 38% |
| Switching off & being creative | Creative initiatives with assistance from Creative Ireland | 25% | 45% |
| Staying Connected (Community Call) | Continue the Community Call service and deliver actions under the national befriending initiative. | 20% | 30% |

Seamus advised that the Healthy Ireland Sub-Committee of Donegal LCDC met by video conference on Friday 4th December to consider actions to be included for LCDC programme, and to set the allocations across the themes. Proposals were received from the local development companies, and from the Council’s Cultural Services Section, Community Division, Age Friendly Services and the PPN. He advised members that the following actions and allocations were agreed and submitted to Pobal for approval.

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| --- |
| **Community Resilience Fund**  |
| Theme | Budget |
|   | € | % |
| Your County | €23,528 | 35 |
| Switching Off and Being Creative | €30,252 | 45 |
| Staying Connected | €13,445 | 20 |
|   |   |   |
| Total | €67,225 | 100 |
|  |  |  |
| **Theme** | **Your County** |  |
|   | **Age Friendly**  | €21,228 |
|   | Development of Network of older people for common interests |   |
|   | Conversation in a Portrait |   |
|   | Music Lessons |   |
|   | Cookery Classes |   |
|   | Winter Relevant Sessions (Safety in home and supports) |   |
|   | Physical Activity Sessions |   |
|   | Age Friendly Packs |   |
|   |  |   |
|   | **IDP** | €1,555 |
|   | Cookery Lessons |   |
|   |  |   |
|   | **Healthy Donegal** | €745 |
|   | Promotion/Marketing |   |
| **Total Theme Budget** |   | €23,528 |
|   |  |   |
| **Theme** | **Switching Off and Being Creative** |
|   | **Cultural Services** | €25,252 |
|   | Music in Donegal Care Homes  |   |
|   | Nature is good for you |   |
|   | Facilitated Creative Writing Programme |   |
|   | Uncover & Rediscover your locality |   |
|   | Facilitated Art Workshops - Home & Place |   |
|   | Here and Now Multi Disciplinary Arts for Older People |   |
|   |  |   |
|   | **Community Development** | €5,000 |
|   | Keep Well Community Christmas Concert |   |
| **Total Theme Budget** |   | €30,252 |
|   |  |   |
| **Theme** | **Staying Connected** |  |
|   | **Donegal PPN** | €5,000 |
|   | Mindfulness |   |
|   | Community Garda Service |   |
|   | Mental Health Service |   |
|   | Community Zoom Training |   |
|   | Chair Yoga |   |
|   | Nutrition Programme |   |
|   |  |   |
|   | **IDP**  | €3,445 |
|   | Reminiscence Project |   |
|   | Intergenerational Knitting Project |   |
|   |  |   |
|   | **DLDC** | €5,000 |
|   | Time Out For Tea |   |
| **Total Theme Budget** |   | €13,445 |
|   |  |   |
| **Overall Budget** |   | **€67,225** |

**Donegal Children and Young People’s Services Committee CYPSC**

Seamus confirmed that separate Guidelines were issued to Donegal CYPSC to prepare a series of actions under the CRF for their allocation of €18,519. Five Actions have been agreed with partner organisations under Approach no. 3:

*To augment programme capacity of existing local services to engage children and young people safely in positive mood enhancing activities out of school hours. (8-15 yrs).*

He advised members that the actions under the Community Resilience Fund will begin immediately and run until 31st March 2021.

Seamus advised members that the first project from the Community Resilence Fund of the Keep Well Campaign to take place was The Keep Well Community Concert. The concert would be broadcast directly after the news at 7pm on Sunday, 20th December on both Highland Radio and Ocean fm. This project, by Community Development Section, Donegal County Council, in partnership with the Balor Arts Centre, would allow people throughout the county and beyond to arrange to listen together, whilst apart, to the concert. Radio na Gaeltacht would broadcast excerpts from the concert on their lunchtime magazine programme thoughout the week and it would also be available to view on the Healthy Donegal You Tube channel.

Liam Ward advised that he had participated in a meeting of Community Forum Co-ordinators yesterday and the Programme from Donegal was equal to those from other counties. He acknowledged the work of the Seamus Canning, Margaret Fitzgerald and the Healthy Ireland Sub Committee in bringing the programme together in such a short timescale.

Clr Niamh Kennedy, on behalf of the LCDC, added their acknowledgement of the work done on this programme.

1. **COVID 19 Emergency Fund**

Kathleen Browne advised members that Minister Heather Humphreys, Department of Rural and Community Development, has announced additional funding of €1.7m nationally under the COVID 19 Emergency Fund to support community and voluntary groups to deal with COVID 19. Donegal LCDC have been allocated €68,130 for award to Community and Voluntary groups. This would bring the total allocated to Donegal under the scheme to €149,880.

Members were advised that it was recommended that these awards should be directed as follows:-

(1) To assist groups to adapt their services and operations to fit the new COVID-19 reality. Examples of measures supported could be adapting premises to allow for social distancing; offering on-line activities; providing social supports and friendly calls by phone etc.

(2) To help animate community groups to enable them to become more involved in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign. It will seek to assist their participation in the campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood.

Kathleen confirmed that the Department request that a closing date of no later than 28th February 2021 should be set for applications for funding and all awards must be drawn down by 31st July 2021. She advised members that application forms and guidelines for the fund will be circulated at the January LCDC meeting and members will be requested to:

1. To Note the Scheme & agree any necessary Amendments to the Regulations
2. Agree a Closing date
3. Decide on how the funds should be expended

Kathleen Bonner proposed that some of the monies allocated to Donegal LCDC should be ring fenced for the Men’s Shed Network to allow them to develop and co-ordinate programmes to support the 22 sheds in the county. Clr Niamh Kennedy supported this proposal. Padraic Fingleton also supported this proposal and confirmed that DLDC had a included a number of programmes for Mens Sheds in the SICAP Annual Plan. He confirmed they would work with the Men’s Shed Network to develop a co-oridinated approached.

1. **Water Charges on small Community Centres**

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher raised the issue of water charges applied to small Community Centres by Irish Water. She advised that these centres had been closed for most of the year and had no income throughout the year. It was agreed that a letter would issue from Donegal LCDC to Irish Water requesting them to review the charges applied to small community centres in the County in 2020.

1. **LEADER Programme**

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher queried whether it would be possible for the Leader Implementing Partners to prepare a short synopsis of their work and funding awarded for the duration of the Leader Programme, to include a heat map of where funding was awarded, which could be circulated to non LCDC members to explain and set out the work they carry out.

Clr Gallagher also called for engagement with the ETB and secondary school principals in the county in advance of the interim LEADER Project to get their input into the development of a policy to tackle the lack of facilities for young people in the County. This proposal was supported by Clr Niamh Kennedy.

1. **Next Meeting**

Clr Niamh Kennedy thanked members for attending the meeting and for their work throughout the year.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC would be held at 11 am on 20th January 2021.

This concluded the business of the meeting.