

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
Held by web conference 10.45 am on 6th January 2022**

Members	Clr Niamh Kennedy (Chair), John McLaughlin, Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, Clr Martin McDermott, Aengus Kennedy, Anne McAteer, Anne McHugh, Michael Tunney, Paul Hannigan, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Siobhan McLaughlin Andrew Ward, Padraic Fingleton, Joe Boland, Charlene Logue, Kathleen Bonner and Seamus Bonner
Apologies	James O Donnell
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Seamus Canning, Adrienne Kelly, Margaret Fitzgerald and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

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

1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 16th November 2021

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting were considered with no matters arising. On the proposal of Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Joe Boland, the minutes of LCDC Meeting of 16th November were adopted.

2. SICAP Budget and Annual Plans 2022

Seamus Canning advised members that the SICAP Annual Plans for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 were due to be submitted by LDCs on 12th November 2021. However, following receipt of communication from the Department of Rural & Community Development of impending budget increases for the SICAP programme this date was suspended.

He confirmed that correspondence was received on 1st December advising that the Department had achieved an increase of €4 million (10%) for the 2022 SICAP Programme nationally. They advise that SICAP funding was allocated on the basis of two key considerations:-

- Historic Funding Patterns
- The HP Pobal Deprivation Index – SICAP Resource Allocation Model (RAM)

Members were advised that the Department decided that that each SICAP Lot area will receive a minimum of 5% increase on their 2021 allocation. A further 36 Lots who are

proportionally underfunded in respect of the RAM will receive additional funding taken from the remaining 5% which will have the effect of beginning to move Lot areas towards an allocation more reflective of the deprivation levels in their areas. Members noted the SICAP Budget increases for the 3 Donegal Lots for 2022 as follows:-

	Budget 2021	Budget 2022	€ Increase	% Increase
Lot 33-1	€ 615,095.00	€ 682,756.00	€ 67,661.00	11%
Lot 33-2	€ 363,582.00	€ 439,034.00	€ 75,452.00	20.75%
Lot 33-3	€ 1,090,507.00	€ 1,145,033.00	€ 54,526.00	5%

Seamus confirmed that in light of the budget increases, Pobal have given the LCDCs two options for revised submission dates for SICAP Annual Plans – 10th December 2021 or 14th January 2022.

Following consultation with the LDCs and in light of the significant budget increases for Lots 33-1 and 33-2, it was proposed to select the later submission date of 14th January to allow LDCs to revisit their draft Annual Plans for 2022 and to allocate budget increases. The LCDC will then review the Annual Plans and provide feedback to Pobal will then conduct a high level review and report to the LCDC by 1st February with the final approval of the Annual Plans by the LCDC taking place no later than 28th February. This will result in the End of Year Review and Annual Plans being approved at the February LCDC Meeting.

As the December LCDC meeting was postponed, on the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC retrospectively agreed 14th January 2022 as the date for revised deadline for submission of the SICAP Annual Plans for 2022.

3. Healthy Ireland Update

Margaret Fitzgerald, Healthy Donegal Co-Ordinator, made presentation to members which reviewing the progress of the Healthy Ireland Programme nationally to date and updated members on the progress on the Healthy Donegal actions and projects previously approved by members as follows:-

- Foroige Fit Fest (Action 1)
- Early Movers, Healthy Lifestyles Programme (Action 5)
- Woodlands for Wellbeing (Community Mental Health)
- Donegal Dragons (Small Grants Scheme)
- Donegal Joint Policing Committee Cyber Awareness Week
- Mind Your Melon (Community Engagement)
- Tobacco Free Campus

Margaret also updated members on the growth of the Healthy Donegal social media platforms and other initiatives.

Members thanked Margaret for her comprehensive update and congratulated her on all of the work carried out under the Healthy Donegal programme.

Anne McAteer advised that the success of this programme was dependent on partnership and collaboration and thanked Margaret and Donegal County Council for the work being done. Liam Ward acknowledged that this was a new area of work for Donegal County Council and paid tribute to the staff who were taking on this work in a progressive and productive manner.

4. Slaintecare Update

Seamus Canning advised members that the Healthy Communities Initiative was an interagency plan to improve the health and wellbeing of some of the most disadvantaged areas of society. The aim of the Initiative is to identify specific areas in which high risk factors to the health and wellbeing of the population are particularly prevalent due to deprivation, with a view to implementing targeted initiatives to tackle these challenges from within these communities. This will be achieved through partnership with a range of stakeholders and through the provision of dedicated services to build sustainable improvements in the health and wellbeing of those of all ages living in these communities. He confirmed that implementation of the services will follow a set of guiding principles:

- Target areas with greatest level of disadvantage combined with highest proportion of young families and aligned to existing SICAP areas.
- Ensuring interventions are evidence informed and aligned with national and international best practice programmes and government policies.
- Coordinate planning and delivery of the interventions with Local Authorities and local Community Development Organisations.
- Leverage existing cross sector community-based assets (leadership, people, structures, infrastructure) and strengthen cross sectoral partnerships.
- Align to the HSE clinical and operational governance structure and local SICAP areas.

Slaintecare Community Development Officers

Seamus confirmed that two Slaintecare Healthy Communities Development Officers will be recruited for the duration of the programme, one for each of the areas chosen for the programme. The recruitment process is progressing. The closing date for applications was 29/11/2021. It is expected that the positions will be filled in early 2022.

Seed Funding and Promotion

Members were advised that a once off sum of €150,000 “**the Seed Money**” is being made available to support the delivery of the Programme for the two Donegal areas. The Local Development Officer must engage with the communities within the Programme Area and, where appropriate, engage with local NGO’s and other groups who are active within the communities in working to address the wider determinants of health, to identify how the Seed Money may best be used in relation to the delivery of the Programme.

He confirmed that the Seed Money may be used for initiatives, projects or research in the Program Area that the Local Development Officer and the Council identify from the community engagement. Where appropriate, initiatives and projects must include some form of evaluation to measure their effectiveness.

A sum of €10,000 is being made available to promote the programme in the two areas with details of the programmes set out below.

Donegal LCDC Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Enhancement Funding Application – Donegal Gaeltacht

The focus of the Scheme is to support projects that would positively impact on the health and wellbeing of those who live within the Programme Area

Programme Area	Description of Action	Project Lead	Partner	Target Group	Budget	Timeline
SICAP Lot 33-2 area , Gaeltacht. Dungloe ED	Dungloe Foreshore Playground Project Upgrade of the Dungloe community playground. The playground is situated close to the car park in the town which allows for parents with young children and people with mobility issues to use the local amenities. The upgrade to the facility will enhance the recreational offering in the area.	Donegal LCDC	Dungloe Community Network.	Communities including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged communities • Disadvantaged families, including one parent families • Children and young people • People with disabilities, including people mental health issues • Older people 	€79,442.06	December 2022.
SICAP Lot 33-2 area , Gaeltacht Creeslough ED	Muckish Railway Greenway Provision of carpark to serve the Muckish Greenway on the former Donegal railway line. The works will provide access to the greenway for more members of the community and allow for use by people with special mobility requirements. The plan will allow for access to 7km of walking and cycling trails.	Donegal LCDC	Muckish Development Group	Communities including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged communities • Disadvantaged families, including one parent families • Children and young people • People with disabilities, including people mental health issues • Older people 	€73,638.23	December 2022.
SICAP Lot 33-2 area , Gaeltacht Rosguill ED	Rosguill Walking & Cycling Trail Construction of section of cycleway and walkway on the Rosguill peninsula. The project will benefit locals and tourists alike allowing safe access to local amenities and will provide an off road link between local villages. The project has been developed in conjunction with several local development agencies and associations.	Donegal LCDC	Local Development Associations	Communities including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged communities • Disadvantaged families, including one parent families • Children and young people • People with disabilities, including people mental health issues • Older people • Disadvantaged men and women • People with chronic health conditions 	€95,834.29	December 2022.

Donegal LCDC Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme Enhancement Funding Application Inishowen

The focus of the Scheme is to support projects that would positively impact on the health and wellbeing of those who live within the Programme Area

Programme Area	Description of Action	Project Lead	Partner	Target Group	Budget	Timeline
SICAP Lot 33-1 area , Inishowen. Miantiaughs & Desertegney	Tip O Neill Walking Trail Extension and resurfacing of the Tip O Neill Hiking Trail in Buncrana environs. The proposal includes the procurement of a special lightweight wheelchair so that the trail can be enjoyed by people with mobility issues. The wheelchair will be located at the Sliabh Sneacht Centre in Drumfries. The Sliabh Sneacht Centre is a community facility which serves as base for people using the walking and hiking routes in the area. The project is being developed in conjunction with a local community groups, the Crannagh Ramblers, Northwest Community Development Association and the Sliabh Sneacht Centre.	Donegal LCDC	The Crannagh Ramblers, Northwest Community Development Association and the Sliabh Sneacht Centre.	Communities including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged communities • Disadvantaged families, including one parent families • Children and young people • People with disabilities, including people mental health issues • Older people 	€44,667.93	December 2022.
SICAP Lot 33-1 area , Inishowen. Moville.	Moville Playpark Upgrade and improvement of Playpark on Moville Shoregreen. The shoregreen area of Moville is a very popular recreational space for locals and visitors and is the starting point for the 5km costal walk which extends along the shore to Greencastle.	Donegal LCDC	Moville Tidy Towns Committee	Communities including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged communities • Disadvantaged families, including one parent families • Children and young people • People with disabilities, including people mental health issues • Older people 	€81,027.08	December 2022.
SICAP Lot 33-1 area , Inishowen. Carndonagh	Barrack Hill Town Park Re-imagining of Barrack Hill Town Park. Upgrade of existing facility to include equipment for children with mobility issues, development of 5k park walk/run/cycle lane, development of a Multi Use Games Area or Synthetic Turf Pitch and installation of an accessible Covered Outdoor Space to inspire and enable people of all ages to be physically active and to provide an invaluable community asset and innovative approach that advocates to remove barriers to participation and is proportionate and appropriate to user needs.	Donegal LCDC	Barrack Hill Town Park Steering Committee	Communities including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disadvantaged communities • Disadvantaged families, including one parent families • Children and young people • People with disabilities, including people mental health issues • Older people • Disadvantaged men and women • People with chronic health conditions 	€124,204.19	December 2022.

5. Social Enterprise Grants Scheme

Seamus Canning advised members that the Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme provided small grants designed to assist with the cost of capital projects such as refurbishments, repairs or the purchase of new equipment.

He confirmed that Donegal Local Community Development Committee were administering the scheme on behalf of the Department and had been granted a fund of €46,272.04 for this Scheme.

At the meeting on 19th October, the LCDC approved the recommendation of the ranking of Social Enterprise Grant Applications and Grant Award Recommendation which was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Affairs for approval.

The Department were due to issue final decision on grant awards to LCDC's by 12th November. However due to operational difficulties in the Department notification of the awards was not received until 6th December.

Members were advised that the Awards approved by the Department for Donegal were as follows:-

No	Ref No.	Applicant Organisation / Group	Award Amount
1	SEC21/D/1	Liquid Therapy	€5,272.00
2	SEC21/G/8	Donegal Famine Heritage Centre LTD (Operating as the Workhouse, Dunfanaghy)	€5,250.00
3	SEC21/D/7	Pobail Páirtíocht Iar Dheisceart Dhún na nGall CTR	€4,000.00
4	SEC21/G/2	Playmatters (Donegal Playmatters CLG)	€4,000.00
5	SEC21/I/3	Carrowmenagh Community Centre Ltd	€4,330.00
6	SEC21/L/3	Churchill Community Childcare CLG	€9,250.00
7	SEC21/S/6	Ballybofey and Stranorlar Integrated Community Company CLG (BASICC)	€5,250.00
8	SEC21/I/5	Colgan Community & Resource Centre Ltd	€4,920.00
9	SEC21/S/8	Butt Drama Circle CLG	€4,000.00
10	SEC21/G/5	Lárionad Acmhainní Nádurtha Cuideachta faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta (LAN CTR)	€4,562.00

Members noted that Department have awarded a grant in the sum of €4,562 to LAN CTR which is in addition to the original funding of €46,272.04 allocated.

Seamus confirmed that due to the late notification of grant awards applicants will be given additional time to drawdown the grant. The original drawdown date was 8th April 2022 and this has been extended to 17th June 2022.

6. Letterkenny Town Social Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

Paddy Doherty advised members that it was necessary to defer this item until the February meeting following receipt of notification from the Funders of the Scheme which must be discussed by the members of Letterkenny/Milford at their next Municipal District Meeting.

Charlene Logue sought clarification as to whether the funders would permit the reopening of the application process for the scheme and Liam Ward confirmed that this would not be possible.

Members raised a number of queries on the matter and Liam Ward assured members that a full update on the matter would be brought to members as soon as possible.

7. Community Activity Fund

Seamus Canning advised members that the Department of Rural and Community Affairs have launched the Community Activities Fund for Community Groups with a national allocation of €9 million.

The Community Activities Fund will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas as follows:

- With their non-pay running costs such as utility bills (electricity costs, refuse charges, heating charges) or other non-pay operating costs for e.g. rental/lease costs, insurance bills.
- Groups will also be able to use the funding to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment for e.g. such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

Donegal Local Community Development Committee were a fund of €318,923 or this programme. This total amount comprises:

- €194,897 Current funding (Non-Pay) for use towards running/operating costs
- €124,026 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.

Seamus confirmed that further details of the scheme had now been received from the Department as follows:-

- The LCDC are the decision makers on the successful applications for funding.
- 30% of the funding should be directed towards small scale capital costs and grants towards re-opening costs of €1,500 or less.
- The closing date for receipt of applications must be set at no later than 28th February 2022 and all monies must be expended by 22nd August 2022.
- Operating/Running Costs from 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022 are eligible for funding under this scheme.

Members were advised that for Revenue purposes Donegal County Council require groups to supply a Tax Registration/ PPS Number before they can receive payment where this is not stated in Regulations issued by the Department it is necessary to amend them to adhere to Donegal County Council's financial requirements.

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Niamh Kennedy members agreed that the LCDC amend the guidelines where necessary to adhere to the payment guidelines set down by Donegal County Council and that only groups based in Co Donegal are eligible to apply for funding from the Community Activities Fund.

Members considered the Department's notification that the Closing date for Community Activities Fund can be set by the LCDC with a date no later than 28th February 2022.

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Niamh Kennedy members agreed that the LCDC agree to set the deadline for receipt of applications to the Community Activities Fund for 3pm, on Thursday, 24th February 2022.

Members were informed that the Department recommend that 30% of the monies allocated for award as funding be reserved for small scale grants. They also recommend the following breakdown of award:

- €194,897 Current funding (Non-Pay) for use towards running/operating costs (61%)
- €124,026 Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc. (39%)

They were informed that for previous similar funding streams available funds were divided equally between each MD. This would result in €63,784.60 being available for each MD.

Two different levels of grant to be available for award –

- Small Grants in the sum of €500-€1,500
- Large grants in the sum of €5,000 to €10,000

Michael Tunney raised the issue of increasing insurance costs and suggested that grant awards should focus almost entirely on Revenue Costs. Seamus Canning reminded members that the Department had recommended that 39% of the funding be awarded as Capital Grants. Following a discussion on the matter, members agreed that a letter outlining the concerns of the LCDC regarding insurance costs issue to the Department of the Taoiseach.

Cllr Niamh Kennedy requested that when applications were being evaluated priority be given to groups who had not previously received funding.

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Cllr Niamh Kennedy, members agreed that the LCDC agree that monies be divided between equally between each of the 5 MDs with €38,980 per MD ring fenced for award as small grants for operating/running costs of between €500 and €1,500 with the balance of €24,804.60 being awarded as large Capital grants ranging from €5,000 to €10,000 and to restrict the small grant applications to

applications for Operating/Running Costs only and large grant applications to Capital spend only, resulting in the following breakdown per MD being available for award:-

Small Grants for operating/running costs €38,980 per MD
Large Capital Grants €24,804.60 per MD

8. Schedule of Meetings 2022

Members agreed the following Schedule of Meetings for LCDC/LAG for 2022

Date	Day	Time
06/01/2022	Thursday	10am
15/02/2022	Tuesday	10am
15/03/2022	Tuesday	10am
06/04/2022	Wednesday	10am
17/05/2022	Tuesday	10am
21/06/2022	Tuesday	10am
19/07/2022	Tuesday	10am
12/09/2022	Monday	10am
18/10/2022	Tuesday	10am
15/11/2022	Tuesday	10am
14/12/2022	Wednesday	10am

9. Local Economic & Community Plan Review

Clr Niamh Kennedy queried if there were any updates on the update of the LECP. Paddy Doherty confirmed that a meeting would be arranged with Economic Development Directorate in the coming weeks with a view to setting up the LECP Steering Group. He confirmed that the LCDC would be updated on all actions and progress in the coming months.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher requested the needs of young people of secondary school age be priorities when the drawing up the LECP.

This concluded the business of the meeting.