

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
Held by web conference 10.45 am on 15th March 2022**

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

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 15th February 2022

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting were considered with no matters arising. On the proposal of Joe Boland, seconded by Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, the minutes of LCDC Meeting of 15th February 2022 were adopted with no matters arising.

2. Community Forum – Covid Commemoration & Volunteer Acknowledgement Event

Liam Ward advised members that there would be a national remembrance and reflection event held over St Patrick's Weekend to remember those who lost their lives during the pandemic. Local Authorities had been requested to host local services and he confirmed that the Donegal Community Forum would meet on 16th March to formulate an event for County Donegal which would remember those who lost their lives and the role played by volunteers during the pandemic. He advised that members would be advised of details of the event after the meeting.

Members spoke in support of this proposal. Siobhan McLaughlin requested that people whose lives were significantly affected by continued health problems should be included also.

Liam Ward assured members that the event would reflect on all the impacts of the pandemic and acknowledge the role of volunteers.

3. Peace Plus Update

Paddy Doherty advised members that the delivery of Peace IV Action Plan was nearing completion. He confirmed that the Children and Young People and Building Positive Relations elements of the plan had been completed. The Shared Spaces element, which included playgrounds at Killea, Bruckless and Rossnowlagh and works to Orange Halls in the County, was being finalised. The Planning Application for the 4G Pitch at Stranorlar has been submitted and works are to be completed by the end of 2023.

Paddy outlined details of the PEACE Plus programme 2021-2027 to members. He advised that it contained 6 key Thematic areas with an overall budget of €1.1 billion available with breakdown as follows:-

Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities	€250m
Delivering Economic Regeneration & Transformation	€170m
Empowering and Investing in our Young People	€123m
Healthy & Inclusive Communities	€172m
Supporting a Sustainable & Better Connected Future	€303m
Building & Embedding Partnership & Co-Operation	€52m

He confirmed that it was anticipated that there would be an increase on the €5.5million budget, available under Donegal under Peace IV programme, for the Peace Plus Programme.

Members were advised that there was a requirement to establish a PEACE PLUS Partnership in each Local Authority Area. In Donegal, it is proposed again to establish the Partnership as a sub-structure of the Local Community Development Committee, as was the position under Peace IV. The PEACE PLUS Partnership would oversee the design and implementation of a co-designed process in the County which would be used to inform the development of an overarching PEACE PLUS Action Plan under Theme 1.1 that would meet the peace building needs of the County over the programme period. The budget available to the 17 local authority areas is €110m, individual allocations are not yet known. The Partnership will provide regular updates to the LCDC meetings.

Paddy set out the framework of the co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan to member and confirmed that the formation of Partnerships was the next step required.

He outlined the four membership pillars for inclusion on the new Peace Plus Partnerships as recommended by the Consultants appointed by the SEUPB.

Pillar 1 – Elected Members

Pillar 2 – Relevant Statutory Bodies

Pillar 3 – Social Partners: Geographical Community Representatives/Civic Society

Pillar 4 – Social Partners: PEACEPLUS Target Groups; Equality/under-represented groups.

Paddy requested members to consider the establishment of a Peace Plus Partnership from the four sectors. He confirmed that the membership of the Peace Plus Partnership would represent equality of geographical location, gender and political affiliation. It was confirmed that the Social Partner Membership would be filled by seeking nominations from the PPN structure. Where nominations were not forthcoming from the PPN Structure, specific arrangements would be put in place to ensure the necessary representation was achieved.

Following a discussion on the representation within each pillar, on the proposal of Padraic Fingleton, seconded by Siobhan McLaughlin, members agreed the following membership of the Peace Plus Partnership:

<p>Elected Members (Pillar 1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 elected Members (1 from each Municipal District) • Chief Executive or his nominee 	<p>Statutory Bodies (Pillar 2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Údarás na Gaeltachta • Health Service Executive • An Garda Síochána • Tusla • Donegal Education & Training Board
<p>Social Partners (Pillar 3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inishowen Development Partnership • Donegal Local Development CLG • Irish Business & Employers Confederation • Farming Community • Islands • Trade Unions • Environment • LCDC 	<p>Social Partners (Pillar 4)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minority Ethnic • Ex combatants • Older People • Youth • Travellers • LGBTI • Women • Minority Faith (2)

4. MICA

Clr Niamh Kennedy referred to an issue on this matter raised previously by Andrew Ward. She suggested that the LCDC should host a meeting of all agencies involved in providing supports to people effected by the MICA issue to investigate what actions the LCDC can take to support them.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher agreed with this proposal and advised that it would be good for all organisations to meet to provide an update on what they were doing and to ensure that there was no duplication of effort.

Andrew Ward acknowledged all of the work being done by various agencies but felt that the LCDC could co-ordinate a meeting of agencies to see if there were any gaps or anything extra that could be done to support families affected by MICA.

Liam Ward suggested that the LCDC Administration could make contact with the various agencies seeking an update on what actions/programme they are doing for people effected by MICA. This information can then be collated and presented to the LCDC at a future meeting.

5. Ukraine Refugees

Padraic Fingleton advised that the ILDN had been invited to attend a meeting with the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien, in relation to the Ukrainian Refugees. He confirmed that the Volunteer Centres had also been contacted in relation to this matter. Liam Ward confirmed that Donegal County Council had been contacted in relation to Immediate Housing Needs of Refugees, which was being co-ordinated through the Red Cross, the impact on emergency accommodation and the possible need to implement the authorisation of the Temporary Accommodation under Section 181 of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

Members agreed that this matter should be placed on the Agenda for the next LCDC Meeting when more clarity may be available on any actions required.

6. Declaration of Interests & Code of Conduct

Paddy Doherty reminded members who had not already done so to complete and return their Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct declarations.

This concluded the business of the meeting.