

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee
 County House, Lifford, 2pm on 21st March 2017**

Members	Seamus Neely (Chair), Martin McBride, Jim Slevin, James O Donnell, Susan McLoughlin, Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, Cllr Martin McDermott, Anne McHugh, Peter Walker, Nóirín Uí Mhaoldomhnaigh, Michael Tunney
Apologies	Mr Jan Feenstra, Micheal MacGiolla Easbuig Susan McCauley, Paul Hannigan
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Eimear McDermott, Adrienne Kelly, Kathleen Browne, Eamon Boyle, Loretta McNicholas, Shauna McClenaghan, Inishowen Development Partnership and Padraic Fingleton, Donegal Local Development Company.

Welcome

Seamus Neely chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for attending the rescheduled meeting.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Draft minutes of the LCD C meeting of 7th February 2017 were considered. The minutes were proposed by Jim Slevin and seconded by Cllr Niamh Kennedy.

2. SICAP – Presentation by Inishowen Development Partnership

Ms Shauna McClenaghan, Inishowen Development Partnership joined the meeting. Ms McClenaghan made a detailed presentation to the members present setting out the achievements of IDP in Lot 33-1 Inishowen of the SICAP Programme in 2016 and their priorities for 2017 under Goal 1, 2 and 3. Shauna also highlighted the various issues facing IDP in implementing the SICAP Programme in 2017:-

- High level of need for family support
- Need for support for part time education and employment
- Need for local access to apprenticeships
- Access routes for young people to further and higher education
- Skills audit for future planning
- Support for immigrants
- Community Leader Support
- Governance issues
- Small grant aid opportunities for groups
- Opportunities for networking and critical thinking
- Professional Development Opportunities for staff
- New Programme 2018

Susan McLaughlin supported Ms McClenaghan's call for small grants for community groups.

James O Donnell raised the issue of the difficulties faced by returning emigrants in relation to access and qualifying for services and supports, insurance costs and opening bank accounts. He called for these issues to be addressed through the correct channels. Mr O Donnell agreed with the proposed Skills Audit and stated that it would identify what skills people have in each area.

Seamus Neely agreed that there was a need to get an exemption for returning emigrants in relation to the following, which were creating a barrier for them.

- Insurance
- Access to Services
- Bank Accounts
- Driving Licences

The members thanked Shauna for her attendance at the meeting

3. SICAP – Presentation by Donegal Local Development Company

Mr Padraic Fingleton, Donegal Local Development Company, joined the meeting. Mr Fingleton made a presentation to members present setting out the achievements of DLDC in Lots 33-2 Gaeltacht and Lot 33-3 Donegal of the SICAP Programme in 2016 and their priorities for 2017 under Goal 1, 2 and 3. He also circulated a report on SICAP Goal 3 Employment Supports in the Gaeltacht and a booklet outlining the work of DLDC under the SICAP Programme in Donegal Lot 33-3 area to members.

Mr Fingleton's presentation updated the members on achievements and issues arising under the following headings:-

- Community Groups and Challenges
- Priority Target Groups
- Supports for Social Enterprise
- Employment Supports in the Gaeltacht Areas

Mr Fingleton set out DLDC's plan of action to address the issues arising. He also expressed the hope that the SICAP Programme for 2018-2020 would address the need for funding for small community groups and provision of support for individual target groups. He advised the members that DLDC had compiled a book for community groups which contained details of funds which they could apply for. Susan McLaughlin requested that a copy of this publication be circulated to the PPNs.

Members discussed the issue of Training and Skills at length and particularly the engagement with Careers Guidance Teachers in the secondary school system. Anne McHugh confirmed that the ETB meet with all guidance teachers annually to make them aware of the courses on offer. Mr Fingleton stated that resources were the problem as there were not enough Guidance Teachers available to young people.

Mr Peter Walker raised the issue of young people in their 20s who have no employment history. He called for further research into their needs and provision of courses to develop their social skills to allow them to take up and stay in employment. Mr Fingleton confirmed that it was the role of DLDC to provide these courses. Mr Seamus Neely indicated that it was important to link the training being provided to the sectors where job opportunities were arising. He advised that currently whilst we have high unemployment, jobs were becoming available in the County that cannot be filled.

Clr Martin McDermott raised the issue of the burden that governance and adherence to strict regulations were placing on Community Groups. He felt that this needed to be addressed as it was discouraging people from becoming involved in voluntary organisations. Mr Fingleton advised that DLDC were hoping to get Mentors to meet with Community Groups to ensure that they were trained and set up properly. Mr Peter Walker stated that the point of social inclusion was to empower communities and agreed that financial management and vetting etc had led to a reduction in the number of people willing to volunteer. He felt that the path should be eased for Community Groups. Mr Seamus Neely advised that there were different levels of community schemes and agreed that it was important that work be carried out to ensure that a large proportion of these schemes did not require an onerous level of regulation. Mr James O Donnell agreed with the points raised on this issue. He expressed his concern at the lack of young people who were willing to join committees. He also raised concerns in relation to the necessity for Community Groups to employ an accountant to submit returns to Revenue. He requested that the matter be examined to find an alternative means of operating these schemes.

Mr Michael Tunney raised the issue of the difficulty in getting engagement from businesses and employers in the area of apprenticeships and training. He suggested that a pilot scheme be started in this area. He expressed his concern at the difficulty in getting people to move from Social Welfare to full time employment. Mr Martin McDermott stated that Solas apprenticeships were not viable for any company in this County due to the monies they were being asked to pay to apprentices. He felt that this should be fed into the skills audit which would be carried out by Inishowen Development Partnership and advised that potential in the local economy is not being realised because of the lack of qualified or trained employees.

Mr Martin McBride stated that all of these aims should be covered under the SICAP Programme and Goals and queried the budget level awarded to Lot 33-2 Gaeltacht. Mr Paddy Doherty confirmed that this budget was set by the Department.

Items 4, 5, 6 & 7 redacted as they relate to decisions/discussions of the LAG re LEADER which are not made publicly available.

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8. Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Committee

Members considered the report circulated with the Agenda providing an update on the Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Committee which was established at the LCDC Meeting in February.

Ms Anne McHugh, a member of the Sub Committee, updated the members in relation to the first meeting of the group which was held on 9th March 2017. Ms Mc Hugh advised that the the Research and Policy Manager provided an overview of the proposed implementation structures, IT System and draft policy for the effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the LECP at that meeting. She confirmed that they would formalise an approach to:

- Link economic and community activity on the ground to the overarching vision of the LECP;
- Capture key outputs for each project activated through the LECP;
- Define 14 key impact indicators and associated targets that will clearly demonstrate the combined economic and community impact of all project outputs coordinated through the LECP;
- Develop systems to embed community participation and different forms of proofing at the heart of the plan;
- Outline how the LCDC|LEDC process can be evaluated.

The members were informed that the Sub Committee were currently reviewing the key implementation structures to ensure that it provides the most appropriate framework to effectively monitor, evaluate and implement all of the 7 Goals of the LECP. In addition, they are seeking to develop 14 key overarching impact indicators that will be used to evaluate the combined impact that all projects activated and coordinated thought the work of the LCDC and its key implementation structures. The SC will examine key targets as set by the various Departments to see how these will translate at local level.

The subcommittee highlighted that once the framework has been agreed a number of presentations and one-to-one meetings will be required with each of the coordinators of the implementation structures to ensure their ongoing participation and linkage to the LCDC/LEDC.

It was confirmed that Research and Policy unit would meet with Mr Charles Sweeney and Ms Mary Clyde on the 23rd March, to consider how community participation can continue to be embedded into the work of the LCDC. In addition, members were advised that, the unit would liaise closely with the Enterprise & Skills Sub Committee and Social Inclusion Measures Subgroup.

In terms of developing the online *Project Management & Monitoring and Evaluation System* a meeting had been held with the Council's Information Systems Service on the 22nd February, 2017. It would agreed that the team would review whether the CRM could potentially be used as the system for the monitoring and evaluation of the LECP.

Members were advised that the next meeting of the subgroup will take place on the 3rd April, 2016.

Members were also updated on progress at a National level and were advised that the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government had indicated that an Advisory Group had been established to assist in the development of the *Guidelines on the Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Plans*.

Members were informed that the first meeting would take place before the end of March. It was confirmed that the Department have no confirmed targets or time frames, to help guide the development of Donegal's LCDC/LEDC proposed approach to the *Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation* of the LECP.

Ms Loretta McNicholas sought the LCDCs approval for the Sub Committee to submit inputs or observations that Donegal's LCDC/LEDC Monitoring & Evaluation Subcommittee may have to the Department's Advisory Group in relation to the development of the national guidelines. It was envisaged that the national Guidelines will be developed around Quarter 3 of 2017 and circulated in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Ms McNicholas confirmed that a more formal presentation in relation to this matter would be made at the next LCDC Meeting.

Mr Martin McBride, on behalf of the LCDC, expressed his thanks to Ms Mary Clyde, Donegal County Council, for her work as PPN Resource worker.

9. Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016

Mr Eamon Boyle provided a verbal update to members present on the progress in relation to the agreed works under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2016. He confirmed progress in relation to the five projects approved in November 2016:-

- Ramelton
- Ballybofey/Stranorlar
- Dungloe
- Ballyshannon
- Carndonagh

Mr Boyle confirmed that it was intended to put the works out to tender in the second quarter of 2017 and that the Capital Works would be carried out and completed in the third quarter of the year. He also confirmed to the members that the following towns had been approved as Tier 3 and Tier 4 projects by the Council in late 2016.

MD Area	Tier 3	Tier 4
Inishowen	Newtowncunningham	Ballyliffen
Glenties	Falcarragh	Burtonport
Stranorlar	Convoy	St Johnston
Donegal	Mountcharles	Dunkineely
Letterkenny	Churchill	Kilmacrennan

Mr Boyle updated the members on the Rural Economic Development Zone 2016 project. He advised members that the Scheme had outlined that the maximum grant for Small Scale Projects to each County was €100,000 and confirmed that two small scale projects had been identified for this funding, namely:-

- Ballyshannon – The Gables
- Dunree Fort – Military Museum

He confirmed that a Medium Scale Project, maximum grant of €200,000 to each County, had also been approved for funding – Glenties Enterprise Centre.

Mr Michael Tunney confirmed that quotations for all required services for this project had been obtained and it was planned to have the work completed and all monies drawn down by the end of September 2017.

Mr Peter Walker sought assurances that the various disability groups had been contacted in relation to all of these proposed works. Mr Seamus Neely confirmed that the Age Friendly Committee had been involved in these works.

Mr Martin McBride queried whether Fanad Lighthouse would qualify for funding under the REDZ Scheme and was advised that the scale of works there were beyond the scope of the REDZ Scheme. Mr Seamus Neely confirmed that the next phase of works at Fanad Lighthouse were being funded through Fáilte Ireland.

Mr Liam Ward advised the members that Donegal County Council had been requested to provide feedback to the Department on the Town and Village Renewal Scheme in order to assist them in devising the next scheme. Mr Ward confirmed that the issues which arose in relation to the timing and advance notice of the last scheme would be fed back to the Department.

10. PEACE IV Partnership

Members noted the report circulated with the Agenda in relation to the Peace IV Partnership. Mr Paddy Doherty confirmed that following the update presented to the LCDC Meeting in February, the Peace Partnership had met on 28th February to discuss the options for the reallocation of €1.5 m. The Partnership Committee agreed that the following be put forward for consideration by the SEUPB. :-

	Children & Young People	Approved	Revised Budget	Original No's	Revised No's
A1	Youth Training	52,000	52,000	90	100
A2	Marginalized Youth (Citizenship & Wellbeing)	Unapproved	189,222	105	180
A4	Youth Work	24,700	70,000	60	120
A5	Every Story Matters	24,700	75,000	48	144
A6	Empathy Prog	100,000	100,000	120	130
A7	Minority sports	100,000	140,000	170	300
A8	Donegal Digital Media				

		80,000	80,000	90	100
A9	Divisionary Youth	87,950	189,222	150	200
A10	Reading Rooms	120,000	120,000	250	250
		589,350	1,015,444	1,083	1,524

	Building Positive Relations	Approved	Revised Budget	Original No's	Revised No's
C2a	Cross Border Heritage	160,000	150,000	200	
C2b	Mid-Ulster		60,000	100	
C3	Leadership Initiative	Unapproved	230,000	140	
C5a	BME Engagement	200,000	210,000	500	
C5b	Living in Donegal		50,000	20	(20 families)
C7	Restorative Practice	99,819	200,000	1,500	30 Cross Community and 500 people engaged
C8a	North West Stories	50,000	80,000	24	40
C8b	Intergen Project	92,000	150,000	400	500
C9	Commemoration Prog.	90,050	145,000	125	
C10	Small Grants	390,664	575,856	Min 4 Projects	
C11a	FMBS	150,000	60,000	20	
C11b	Former Combatants	150,000	190,000	40	

1,382,533	2,100,856
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	Shared Spaces	Approved	Rebid	Original No's	Revised No's
B1a	Multi Use Facility	939906	Approved		
*	Rebid Consutancy Fees	-	26136		
B1b	Inclusion Through Sport	200000	Approved		
B2	Cross Community Garden Allotments	50000	Approved		
B3	Reimagining Perceived Single Identity Spaces	200000	Approved		
B4	Outdoor Play Areas	300000	Approved		

1689906

	Management Support Costs				
	Specialist Consultantancy	22000	Approved		
	Communication and Publicity	10000	Approved		
	Travel	10000	Approved		
	Equipment	5000	Approved		

47000

4,879,342

Staff		585,521
Office & Admin		87,828
Total		5,552,691

Members were advised that on 6th March 2017, a letter of officer in the amount of €4,047,626.00 million under the European Union's Peace IV programme was received.

Theme	Budget
Children and Young People	€696,161.16
Shared Spaces & Services	€1,927,001.19
Building Positive Relations	€1,424,463.65

Members of the LCDC noted the resubmission of applications for projects set out by the Partnership Committee for the balance of available funds in the sum of €1.5 million.

Ms Susan McLaughlin queried whether any feedback had been received in relation to the resubmitted application and was advised that there had been none.

11. Donegal LCDC Annual Report

Members considered the draft Donegal LCDC Annual Report 2016, which was circulated with the agenda. The report sets out the background, key responsibilities and composition of the Donegal LCDC. It also detailed the key achievements of the Donegal LCDC in 2016 as follows:-

- Prepared and agreed the community element of 6 year local economic and community plan (LECP), which was approved by the Council at its meeting on 25th January 2016.
- Donegal LCDC continued in it's role as the Local Action Group for the implementation of the LEADER / RDP Local Development for 2014-2020. Donegal has been allocated a total of €12.9m under this programme which is being administered by the LCDC in conjunction with 4 local implementing bodies – Donegal

Local Community Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership, Údarás na Gaeltachta and Comhar na nOileán. The LCDC developed a Local Development Strategy, agreed the structure of three geographical Evaluation Committees.

- Donegal LCDC established a PEACE IV Partnership as a sub structure of the LCDC which lead to the development and implementation of the Peace Action Plan for the County.
- Donegal LCDC continues to manage and oversee the implementation of the Social Inclusion, Community Activation Programme (SICAP). This programme is being delivered at local level by Donegal Local Community Development Company and Inishowen Development Partnership.
- Donegal LCDC continued in its consultative role in relation to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme allocation of €380,000 supporting the selection and successful application for funding of five projects, one from each of the Municipal District, submitted.

Mr Paddy Doherty advised the members that the LCDC were obliged to submit a report to the Members of Donegal County Council annually and sought the authority from the LCDC to submit the report, as circulated, to the March meeting of Donegal County Council for noting. Members agreed to submit the Annual Report as presented.

12. Community Facilities Scheme

Members noted the launch of the Community Facilities Scheme by the Department and details of same, which were circulated with the agenda. Mr Paddy Doherty advised the members that this Scheme allocated €64,500 to Donegal for the awarding of Capital Grants, up to a maximum of €1000, to Community Groups. He confirmed that the application process would open on 1st April and close on 30th June. He advised members that the Donegal LCDC would then evaluate the applications and make a recommendation to a meeting of each Municipal District whose members would sign off on the grant award. It was agreed that the monies would, initially, be divided equally between each of the five Municipal Districts. Paddy Doherty confirmed to members that details of the Community Facilities Scheme would be circulated to Members of Donegal County Council in the coming week and would be advertised in the local media and on the Donegal County Council Social Media Platforms in weekending 1st April.

13. Any Other Business

(a) Alcohol Forum

Mr Seamus Neely advised members that himself and Mr Liam Ward had met with the Alcohol Forum a number of weeks ago. Ms Paula Leonard had submitted an update to members advising that in 2016, the Alcohol Forum, selected clinical services and the Public Health Department, HSE NW and HSE W, collaborated on an exercise to scope the availability of data to describe alcohol-related harm in Ireland. The intention was to identify quality assured databases that provided data at county level to allow the development of a County Alcohol Harm profile for each county in Ireland. The purpose of the profile was to provide a baseline from which trends could be measured, and to inform local actions on alcohol, particularly within the new LCDC structures and LECs, and to inform service planning. By the end of Qtr 1., County Alcohol Profiles will be completed for the nine counties in HSE W and HSE NW; which includes, Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan, Galway, Roscommon and Mayo. The profiles provide an important tool for a range of organisations and structures operating

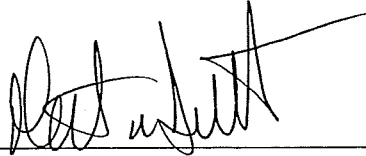
(b) National Planning Framework

Mr Seamus Neely advised members that the Department of Housing, Planning and Community had issued a scoping exercise re the National Planning Framework. Mr Neely provided members present with a background and information on the National Planning Framework and confirmed that it will be the successor to the Spatial Strategy. Donegal County Council will make a submission before the closing date on 31st March. Mr Neely also confirmed that Donegal County Council are commencing a review of the County Development Plan.

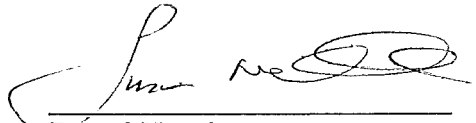
(c) Vote of Sympathy

On the proposal of Mr Martin McBride, seconded by Mr James O Donnell, members passed a vote of sympathy on the death of Mr Martin McGuinness.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



Chairperson



Board Member

Date: 18/7/17.