

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee  
 County House, Lifford, 3pm on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

<b>Members</b>	Clr Martin McDermott (Chair), Seamus Neely, Martin McBride, Cllr Niamh Kennedy, Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, Susan McCauley, Jim Slevin, James O'Donnell, Michael Tunney, Micheal Mac Giolla Easbuig and Fionan Bradley
<b>Apologies</b>	Paul Hannigan, Peter Walker, Anne McHugh, Susan McLaughlin, Máire Uí Mhaoláin and Aengus Kennedy
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Paddy Doherty
<b>Attending</b>	Eimear McDermott, Kathleen Browne, Adrienne Kelly, Loretta McNicholas, Maureen Kerr

**Welcome**

Clr Martin McDermott, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for attending the meeting.

**1. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Draft minutes of the LCDDC meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were considered. The minutes were proposed by Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher and seconded by Niamh Kennedy.

Martin McBride thanked Mr Seamus Neely for his work as Chairperson and his contribution to the development of the structure for the LCDDC

**2. SICAP – Tender Evaluation Committee**

Members who had expressed a Conflict of Interest were requested to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion on this matter. Mr Jim Slevin queried whether those members with a conflict of interest in this matter could remain for the discussion and leave for the vote. It was agreed to seek clarification from the Department on this matter. Mr Jim Slevin, Martin McBride, Susan McCauley and Fionan Bradley left the meeting.

Members considered the report circulated with the agenda on the selection of a Tender Evaluation Committee for SICAP 2018-2021.

On the proposal of Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, seconded by Mr Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig, members agreed to form a SICAP Tender Evaluation Sub Committee with a membership of three LCDDC Members and Mr Paddy Doherty, Chief Executive as a non voting member.

On the proposal of Cllr Marie Therese Gallagher, seconded by Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig, Cllr Niamh Kennedy and Paul Hannigan were agreed as members of the SICAP Tender Evaluation Sub Committee.

On the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Mr Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig, Michael Tunney was selected as a member of the SICAP Tender Evaluation Sub Committee.

Members were advised that the Letter Awarding Tender must issue by 17<sup>th</sup> November, however the next two LCDC Meetings are scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> October and 21<sup>st</sup> November.

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by James O Donnell, Members agreed that the LCDC would comply with the decision of the Tender Evaluation Sub Committee in relation to the Award of the SICAP Programme (2018-2021) Tender for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3.

### **3. Community Facilities Grant Scheme**

Members considered a report circulated with the Agenda setting out the decisions of the LCDC Community Facilities Grant Scheme Sub Committee in relation to the award of Grants. The Grant Fund of €64,500 was divided equally between each Municipal District with total of €12,900 being awarded to groups in each MD. Members were informed that the Sub Committee agreed a scoring scheme for applications and assessed each application based on this scheme

Need	50
Community Impact	50
Target Groups	50
Sustainability	50
Alignment to LECP	50

The maximum grant awarded was €1,000 and the minimum €500. The number of groups awarded a grant were:-

Letterkenny MD	15 Groups
Inishowen MD	17 Groups
Glenties MD	22 Groups
Stranorlar MD	15 Groups
Donegal MD	20 Groups

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Martin McBride members approved the award of the Community Facilities Grant to the various groups.

Members were informed that their decision would be brought to each of the Municipal District Meeting for approval by Members.

### **4. Healthy Ireland Fund 2017**

Mr Paddy Doherty briefed members on application to the Healthy Ireland Fund 2017. He advised that the closing date for receipt of applications was 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and that all monies received through this fund had to be expended by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. He confirmed that a Joint Application for €138,000 from the Donegal LCDC and CYPSC had been submitted prior to the closing date of. Paddy confirmed that the LCDC would be the lead partner in this application. A copy of the Application Forms had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

Paddy provided the members with a synopsis of the 14 Actions applied for at the meeting. He confirmed that all the actions were linked to the LECP.

On the proposal of Martin McBride, seconded by Clr Marie Therese Gallagher, members retrospectively approved the Donegal LCDC's joint application with CYPSC to the Health Ireland Fund.

## **5. Right to Read Presentation**

Ms Maureen Kerr, County Librarian, made a presentation to members on the Right to Read Campaign.

Martin McBride thanked Ms Kerr for the presentation and stated that this presentation should be made to the various PPN Groups also.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher welcomed the presentation but advised the meeting that people needed to be aware that not everyone could avail of the programme due to issues with literacy. She called on the services to work with groups similar to Rosses Community Dyslexia Group to avail of their expertise to assist as many people as possible. Maureen Kerr agreed that making the connection with these groups was of great importance and confirmed that the Library service would like to develop these.

Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig enquired if there were any statistics in relation to literacy levels available. Maureen advised that the CYPSC Action Plan has asked for access to results of school testing to compile these statistics.

## **6. Update on progress made by Monitoring and Evaluation Sub Committee**

Loretta McNicholas updated members on the background to the Sub Committee and advised that a number of meetings had taken place with conveners of sectoral working groups. The purpose of these meetings was to outline the proposed approach and methodology, scope out key projects that are currently taking place under the umbrella of the LECP and to capture information on these projects via the Project Management and Monitoring & Evaluation System. Loretta confirmed that updates had also been provided to the Enterprise and Skills Sub Committee and Social Inclusion Measures Group.

Loretta advised that a meeting had taken place with IS to review the first draft screens and layouts of the LECP Monitoring and Evaluation System. The Research and Policy Team have now progressed to the 'closed testing phase' of the system. It is expected that this work will be completed by mid October. It is hoped that the 'first draft report' will be presented at the December LCDC Meeting.

## **7. LEADER**

Michael Mac Giolla Easbuig advised the Údarás na Gaeltachta and the other Implementing Partners had applied to have their budgets reprofiled across sub themes. They are anxious to get a response as soon as possible to expedite project spend. Paddy Doherty confirmed that all required detail had been submitted to the Dept for approval and a formal response is expected shortly.

Clr Martin McDermott advised that a number of groups had contacted him about the delay in LCDC approval of their LEADER Funding Applications. Members again discussed the difficulty for smaller or less experienced groups to submit applications for funding from the LEADER programme. Michael Tunney stated that as all groups currently had to go through the same application process any change to the application process would have to be made nationally.

Paddy Doherty stated that there were two LAG Meetings held in July to ensure that all applications awaiting approval were dealt with before the holiday period. He confirmed he would discuss this matter with the Implementing Partners. Jim Slevin raised the issue of the difficulty in obtaining the required quorum and it was acknowledged that this has been an issue. Currently there are two vacant positions on the LCDC/LAG, though every effort is being made to have these filled.

Seamus Neely acknowledged the constraints of the Leader Application Process and confirmed that it was important to ensure equity of opportunity for all potential applicants. Martin McBride suggested that Capacity Building for groups should be delivered through the SICAP Programme.

## **8. Sub Committees**

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher raised the issue of the number of Sub Committees of the LCDC being set up and queried how sustainable this was. Paddy Doherty acknowledged her concerns. He advised that the sub Committees were integral to the effective and efficient running of the LCDC as they conduct the analysis and carry out a lot of the ground work on behalf of the LCDC before matters come before them for decision.

## **9. Date of next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the LCDC would be held at 2pm on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017.