



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee Meeting in County House,
Lifford and online via Teams at 2pm on 19th March 2025**

Members in attendance	In person: , Charlene Logue – PPN and Aengus Kennedy – PPN Online via Teams: Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, Cllr. Brian Carr - DCC, Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Maire Uí Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean, Anne McAteer – HSE, Anne McHugh - ETB, and Padraig Fingleton - DLDC and Andrew Ward –IDP,
Apologies	John McLaughlin – DCC, Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, James O'Donnell - ICMSA , EveAnne McCarron - ATU, Brenda Hegarty – LEO and Joe Boland – PPN
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Adrienne Kelly, Charlene Gillespie and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

Cllr. Martin McDermott welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 19th February 2025

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered by the LCDC.

On the proposal of Cllr Brian Carr, seconded by Siobhan McLaughlin, the minutes of the LCDC Meeting of 19th February 2025 were adopted with no matters arising.

2. Local Enhancement Programme 2025

Ciaran Martin acknowledged the work of the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee and the team in the administration of the Local Enhancement Programme 2025. He provided members with the background to the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 as follows:

The Local Enhancement Programme 2025, with a national fund of €7m provides for capital supports essential for many small community groups and organisations and €1m to aid with energy and running costs. The fund is aimed particularly at those who serve disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas.

The scheme is designed to ensure local priorities are identified and met, so as to improve and enhance community facilities for all.

The Local Enhancement Programme 2025 will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to:

- focus on small capital works/repairs/improvements, and the purchase of equipment for community use such as improved access for persons with a disability, enhancing community participation for disadvantaged and marginalised groups and improving energy efficiency of community facilities to reduce ongoing costs.
- support Current Funding for Community groups to assist with their energy and running costs.

All funding will be available to a diverse range of community groups including but not limited to Men's and Women's sheds/groups, community centres, parish halls and local voluntary groups.

Donegal LCDC were allocated €303,465 for award under the Programme. This total amount comprises of:

- €260,113 capital funding for the Local Enhancement Programme to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €43,352 current funding. The funding is for day to day running costs such as energy, insurance, heating costs etc.
- €10,140.00 Administrative costs.

He confirmed to members that at their meeting on 18th January 2025, the LCDC agreed that the Capital Funding of €260,113 be divided equally between each MD with €50,000 being proposed for award in each MD as follows:

- Small Grants up to a maximum of €1,000. €20,000 allocated per MD
- Large grants in the sum of €5,000 to €10,000 €30,000 allocated per MD

In relation to Current Funding, the LCDC agreed that the €43,352 available for award be evaluated in totality at a countywide level and awarded as grants of up to €500 for day to day running costs for the period 1st June 2024 - 30th May 2025.

The Application portal for applications for the Local Enhancement Programme 2025 opened on 13th January 2025 and the deadline for receipt of applications was 25th February 2025. Ciaran reminded Members that this was the first time applications were submitted through the online portal and support was made available to all applicants to complete this process.

Members were advised that the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee met on 12th March 2025 to review and Evaluate all applications as follows:

LEP Current Funding Grant

Members were advised that the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee recommended that €1,649.19, which was a portion of the underspend from Local Enhancement Programme 2024, be added to the monies available for award as Current Funding Grant. This results in a total of €45001.19 available for award.

118 valid Applications were received. Four of which are duplicates. It is proposed to award one current capital grant to each group who submitted a valid application. This results in 114 groups being awarded the amount applied for or a grant of €398.11/12, for current funding as follows:

Group Name	Amount
Ballintra Active Group	€ 398.12
Ballyshannon Mens Shed	€ 398.12
CLG Naomh Columba	€ 398.12
CLG Naomh Naille GAA & LGFA	€ 398.12
Coiste Forbartha Ceantair Mhín an Aoire	€ 398.12
Cully Hall Committee	€ 398.12
Donegal Bay Sub Aqua Club Search & Recovery	€ 398.12
Doorin Flute Band	€ 398.12
Drumhome Heritage Society	€ 398.12
Dunkineely Celtic	€ 398.12
G.R.A.S.P (Greater Responsibility and Awareness in Suicide Prevention	€ 398.12
Killaghtee Active Retirement Association	€ 360.00
Killaghtee Loyal Orange Lodge No 1319	€ 398.12
Killybegs Mens Shed	€ 398.12
Killymard Church of Ireland, The Mustard Seed	€ 398.12
Killymard LOL 1013	€ 398.12
Moyne Pipe Band	€ 398.12
Moyne Ulster-Scots Association (Youth Club)	€ 398.12
Muileann Coirce Leitir CTR	€ 398.12
Trustees of Ballintra Orange Hall	€ 398.12
18th Donegal Moville Sea Scouts	€ 398.12
Artlink	€ 398.12
Carndonagh FC	€ 398.12
Carndonagh Tidy Towns Association	€ 398.12
Ceolan School of Music Community Group	€ 398.12
Clonmany Parochial	€ 398.12
Colgan Community & Resource Centre Ltd.	€ 398.12
Drumfries Youth club	€ 398.12
Glengad Football Club	€ 398.12
Greencastle Community Development CLG	€ 398.12

Inishowen Rugby Club	€ 398.12
Inishowen Traditional Music Project	€ 398.12
Manorcunningham Orange Hall Management Committee	€ 398.12
Moville Men's Shed	€ 398.12
Muff Community Development Co-op Society Ltd	€ 398.12
Quigley's Point Community Centre	€ 398.12
Swilly Gardening Club	€ 398.12
ABC Childcare Centre	€ 398.12
Ballybofey & Stranorlar Men's Shed	€ 398.12
Ballybofey, Stranorlar & District Historical Society	€ 240.00
Ballylennon Hall	€ 398.12
Balor DCA Group CLG	€ 398.12
Castlefin Celtic	€ 398.12
Castlefinn Men's Shed	€ 398.12
Castlefinn Tidy Towns	€ 398.12
CLG Ghleann Fhinne	€ 398.12
CPI Community Childcare	€ 398.12
Cumann Forbartha an Choimín	€ 398.12
Doneyloop Youth Club & Community Hub	€ 398.12
Finn Valley Community Health Forum	€ 398.12
Finn Valley FM Community Radio	€ 398.12
Finn Valley Guild ICA	€ 398.12
Finn Valley Men's Choir	€ 398.12
Finn Valley Rugby Club	€ 398.12
Lifford Celtic FC	€ 398.12
Lifford Clonleigh Community Centre	€ 398.12
Longvale Community Fishery	€ 398.12
Navenney Street Reunion/Celebration	€ 398.12
Planet Youth	€ 398.12
Raphoe Cathedral Hall Management Committee clg	€ 398.12
Raphoe Community In Action	€ 398.12
Raphoe Men's Shed	€ 210.00
St. Johnston Orange Lodge	€ 398.12
Twin Towns ABC	€ 398.12
Twin Towns Lost and Found Dogs	€ 398.12
Twin Towns Together	€ 398.12
Church Hill Community Development Group	€ 398.12
Coole Cranford Community Centre CLG	€ 398.12
County Donegal Historical Society	€ 398.12
Cranford Football Club	€ 398.12
Cranford Women's Group	€ 398.12

Donegal Youth Service	€ 398.12
Fanad Development Association	€ 398.12
Fanad Gaels	€ 398.12
Fanad United Football Club	€ 398.12
Glen Rovers FC	€ 398.12
Kilmacrennan Community Hall Ltd	€ 398.12
Kilmacrennan Men's Shed	€ 398.12
Kilmacrennan young at heart group	€ 398.12
Letterkenny Tidy Towns Committee	€ 398.12
LYFS- Local Youth & Family service	€ 398.12
Manorcunningham Pipe Band	€ 398.12
Mevagh Development Association	€ 398.12
Mevagh Mens Shed	€ 398.12
Old School Community Centre Kerrykeel	€ 398.12
Ramelton Community Playgroup	€ 398.12
Ramelton Grow Together Community Garden	€ 398.12
Raymochy Historical Society	€ 398.12
Swilly Sisters' Shed	€ 398.12
Whitestrans United Football Club	€ 398.12
An Machaire Le Cheile	€ 398.12
Ards Mens Shed, Creeslough	€ 398.12
Arranmore Welfare Committee/Care of the Aged	€ 398.12
CLG Ghaoth Dobhair	€ 398.12
Cloughaneely Mens Shed	€ 398.12
Coiste Cultúrtha Loch an Iúir	€ 398.12
Coiste Forbartha An Fhal Carraigh	€ 398.12
Coiste Forbartha Dhobhair Teo	€ 398.12
Coiste Forbartha Éadan Fhionn Fraoich	€ 398.12
Coiste Forbartha Mín Ná Leice	€ 398.12
Coiste Seanscoil Thraigh Éanach	€ 398.12
Coiste Sheáin Bháin	€ 398.11
Creeslough Arts & Crafts Group	€ 398.11
Derryveagh Boxing Club	€ 398.11
Donegal GAP Heritage and History Group	€ 398.11
Dunfanaghy Mens Shed	€ 398.11
Ionad Pobail Cholmcille CTR	€ 398.11
Maghery Bowling Club	€ 398.11
Pobail Le Cheile CDP	€ 398.11
Rosses Men Shed	€ 398.11
Rosses Snorkelling Club	€ 398.11
Rosses Visually Impaired Group	€ 398.11

Sciobal na mBan Gweedore Upstylers	€ 398.11
Sciobol na bhFear, Men's Shed Gaoth Dobhair	€ 398.11
	€ 45,001.19

LEP Small Capital Grant

Members were advised that 93 valid applications were received for the LEP Small Capital Grant. As agreed by LCDC €20,000 is available for award in each MD. The breakdown is as follows:

- Donegal MD – 18
- Glenties MD – 17
- Inishowen MD – 14
- Letterkenny MD – 16
- Stranorlar MD – 28

The LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee proposed to award a small capital grant to all valid applications from groups who are not awarded a large grant as follows:

Donegal MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Killahee Temp LOL1319	€1,000.00	To purchase 40 stacking chairs for the Hall.
Drumhome Living Rivers Conservation Group	€1,000.00	New Safety compliant equipment and tools
Donegal Town Mens Shed	€1,000.00	Purchase a Double Bag Dust Extractor & a bandsaw
Rockfield Community Co-Op Ltd	€1,000.00	Purchase of storage unit for bowling club equipment
Pobail Pairtiocht Iar Dhesiceart Dhun na nGall	€1,000.00	Replacement of flooring
Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Summer School	€818.94	Purchase IT Equipment
CLG Naomh Columba	€899.00	Purchase of 75" Large Screen TV
Coiste Ionad Pobail Theilinn	€645.00	Purchase of lawnmower
Dunkineely Community CLG	€982.00	Purchase of gazebo and 2 foldable tables
County Donegal railway restoration CLG	€1,000.00	Purchase equipment and replacement blinds
Killaghtee Active Retirement Association	€1,000.00	To purchase printer/scanner & IT Equipment
Drimarone Development CLG	€845.00	To purchase a generator.
Donegal Bay Sub Aqua Club Search & Recovery	€1,000.00	Equipment Costs.
Trustees of Ballintra Orange Hall	€1,000.00	To upgrade storage facilities
Barnesmore Community Dev Ass Ltd	€1,000.00	To upgrade our CCTV cameras
Coiste Forbartha Ceantair Mhín an Aoire	€895.00	Purchase of essential maintenance equipment

Dun Cionnaola Music & Cultural Project	€500.00	Uniform Jackets
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Glenties MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Rosses Mens Shed	€ 502.00	Purchase of laser cutter and engraving machine
Cumann na Forbairtha na Duchoraidh	€1,000.00	CCTV and hedge cutting equipment
Ein Na Aoibhinn	€1,000.00	Hedging and replacement storage shed
Glenties Community playgroup ltd	€1,000.00	IT equipment
Derryveagh Boxing Club	€1,000.00	Replacing equipment & repairs to toilet
An Machaire Le Cheile	€1,000.00	To purchase paint for the exterior of the community centre.
Comharchumann Forbartha & Fostaíocht Arainn Mhór	€1,000.00	Purchase chairs
Sciobal na mBan - Gweedore Upstylers	€1,000.00	Purchase of a laptop and Circuit Machine
Coiste Cairde Bun an Inbhir	€506.96	To carry out improvements both internally and externally.
Cumann Iascairi Bhaile na Finne	€1,000.00	Development of Car Park
CLG Ghaoth Dobhair	€1,000.00	Purchase of gym equipment
Glenties Cardiac First Responders	€1,000.00	Purchase of Equipment
Creelough CFR	€1,000.00	Purchase of Equipment

Inishowen MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Carndonagh Christmas Tree Committee	€1,000.00	Purchase of Christmas lights
Inishowen Traditional Singers' Circle	€695.00	Purchase of audio recording equipment
Clonmany Parochial	€1,000.00	Kitchen equipment.
Clonmany first responders	€975.00	Purchase of Equipment
Moville Men's Shed	€1,000.00	Upgrade of tools
Go Visit Inishowen	€990.00	Purchase of laptop
Buncrana Tidy Towns Initiative	€1,000.00	Purchase a new hedge trimmer, a protective headguard and ear and eye protection.
Foyle Beekeepers Association	€680.00	Extra Beekeeping equipment
Desertegney Foroige Youth Club	€1,000.00	Purchase of sports equipment
Carrowmenagh Community Centre	€974.00	Purchase of 2 new microphones, electric oven and washing machine for the Centre

Quigley's Point Community Centre CLG	€1,000.00	Purchase of Laptops
Serenity House Learning Centre	€1,000.00	Installation of new carpet on our three-floor hall, stairs, and landing.
Cockhill Celtic Youth Club	€500.00	Purchase of laptop, tables, new office chairs
Killea Community Park & Hub	€500.00	CCTV and outside lighting

Letterkenny MD

Group Name	Amount	Purpose of Grant
Letterkenny Women's Shed	€1,000.00	Purchase equipment and storage
Old School Community Centre Kerrykeel	€891.68	Purchase folding tables
Carrigart Development Association	€1,000.00	Equipment to support the maintenance & upkeep of the village. .
All In Group	€758.00	Purchase of outdoor storage container
Fanad United Football Club	1,000.00	To replace a wall surrounding the main pitch
Raymochy Historical Society	€950.00	Purchase & design of display boards
County Donegal Historical Society	€1,000.00	Purchase of a computer, printer and a roll-up banner
Whitestrans United Football Club	€1,000.00	Installation of electrical for floodlighting
Glen Rovers FC	€1,000.00	Purchase of equipment
Letterkenny Community Centre CLG	€1,000.00	Storage shed
HUGG	€999.00	Purchase of a new laptop with accessories
Ramelton Community Playgroup	€1,000.00	Outdoor play equipment for the children of the playgroup
Mevagh Community Garden C/O Meitheal Mhíobhaigh CTR Mevagh Family Resource Centre	€1,000.00	To repair, replace and upgrade our Polytunnel
Kilmacrennan Men's Shed	€1,000.00	Purchase of Laser Cutter/Engraver & upgrade lighting
Fanad Development Association	€1,000.00	Installation of extra radiators & upgrade current PA system
Circular Dress Collaborative	€1,000.00	Installation small seating area in Hub.

Stranorlar MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
ABC Centre (Community - Lifford)	€754.08	Purchase of educational and play development equipment
Balor DCA Group CLG	€754.08	To purchase a projector

Doneyloop Residents Association	€754.08	To develop a small play area for children, new flowerbeds etc & plant trees and purchase of steel Christmas tree
Lifford Clonleigh Parish Community Centre	€754.08	Improve the facilities in the hall
Ballylennon Hall	€754.08	Purchase of Catering Equipment, Strimmer,
Planet Youth	€754.08	Purchase of Playstation 5 Disc Console & Polo Shirts.
Raphoe Seniors Friday Club	€754.09	Purchase of laptop computer
Raphoe Tidy Towns C.E Project	€754.09	Upgrade of community Crib
Raphoe Tidy Towns	€754.09	Purchase new office equipment, a combined printer and scanner
Ballybofey, Stranorlar & District Historical Society	€754.09	Purchase a Bluetooth Portable Speaker with wireless microphones and Projector
Lifford Association Tourism Commerce Heritage CLG (LATCH CLG)	€754.09	Purchase of 2 new projectors and First Aid equipment,
Lifford Association Tourism Commerce Heritage CLG (LATCH CLG) on behalf of Lifford Covid Community Response Group	€672.81	Purchase heating elements for delivery drivers & new pans for meal preparation
Longvale Community Fishery	€754.09	Re-stock of more fish & improvement to the paths, upgrade safety equipment and purchase of new fishing rods.
Cappry Residents Group	€754.09	Purchase of Lawnmower
Lifford and Foyle Finn Strabane ARA	€754.09	Purchase of sporting equipment (Kurling set)
Lifford Community Gardens	€754.09	Purchase of extension for Polytunnels, repair of raised beds and construction of new raised beds
Lifford Celtic Youths	€754.09	Purchase of Training and first aid Equipment
Convoy Community Playgroup & Afterschool Club	€754.09	The purpose of this grant is to provide essential indoor and outdoor resources for children
Finn Valley Guild ICA	€754.09	To Purchase of Defibrillator Equipment
Ard Baithin Residents Group	€754.09	Replacement of hedgerow
Raphoe Community In Action CLG	€754.09	Purchase of Christmas lights
Cumann Forbartha an Choimín	€754.09	Purchase of sound equipment
CPI Community Childcare	€754.09	Purchase of new Laptops
Raphoe Family Resource Centre Clg.	€754.09	Replace the flooring in one of main activity rooms
Stepping Stones playgroup (St Johnston)	€754.09	IT equipment - tablets and a laptop.

Finn Valley Rugby Club	€754.09	Purchase of Training & Safety Equipment
Convoy and surrounding areas Community First Responders	€500.00	Purchase of AEDs (automated electric defibrillators).

LEP Large Capital Grants

Members were advised that 133 valid applications were received for the LEP Large Capital Grants. As agreed by LCDC €30,000 is available for award in each MD. There was an underspend of the funding allocated for small grants in 4 of the 5 MDs resulting in additional monies being available to award as large grant in these MDs as follows:

MD	No of App	Amount c/f from small grants	Total available for award
Donegal	24	€6,415.93	€36,415.93
Glenties	30	€7,991.04	€37,991.04
Inishowen	23	€7,686.00	€36,686.00
Letterkenny	33	€4,492.00*	€35,000.00
Stranorlar	23	0	€30,000.00

The LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee recommended that €508 from LEP 2024 underspend to be allocated to Letterkenny to make total amount available for award €35,000.00

Members noted the Scoring Scheme for applications to Local Enhancement Programme 2025 Large Capital Grants agreed by the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee as follows:

Large Capital Grants to be scored out of a possible 200 marks with following breakdown:

- Need – 25
- Community Impact – 50
- Additionality – 50
- Sustainability – 50
- Alignment to LECP – 25

Members were advised that the score for Need was linked to the Pobal Small Area Deprivation Index as follows:

Minus 21-25	25
Minus 16 - 20	20
Minus 11 - 15	15
Minus 6 - 10	10
Minus - 5 to +	5

It was confirmed that scoring for alignment to LECP was awarded as follows, where it was evidenced by the applicant and deemed relevant to the Groups Application:

1 – 3 Goal(s) no explanation	5
4+ Goals no explanation	10
1-3Goals with explanation	15
4-5 Goals with explanation	20
5+ Goals with explanation	25

Following evaluation of all applications submitted the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee propose the following Grant Awards:

Donegal MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Ballintra Laghey Foroige youth Club	€5,000.00	Installation of a lift/ramp & Stage Den area and storage in Community Centre.
CLG Naomh Naille GAA and LGFA	€5,000.00	Essential repair and the associated ground works of the playing pitch
Halla Paroiste Chill Chartha	€ 5,707.96	Renovation of toilets including the retiling, replumbing and roof repair
Townawilly Community Centre CLG	€5,000.00	Purchase energy-efficient mobile heating systems and storage shed
Frosses Hall Committee	€5,000.00	Installation of solar PV system
Killybegs Information Centre CLG	€5,000.00	IT equipment to run this office for new tourist office.
ADoPT	€5,707.96	Replace of double back doors of Complex & Laptop

Glenties MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Coiste Forbartha Éadan Fhionn Fraoich	€6,495.52	Provision of toilet with disabled access in Edeninagh Hall.
Loch Chonaill Railway Walk	€5,000.00	Drainage of stretch of the railway which is prone to flooding and the provision of a shelter
Cill Ula	€6,495.52	Upgrade two polytunnels damaged in storm
Sciobol na bhFear , Men's Shed Gaoth Dobhair	€5,000.00	Installation of two walking machines and two recumbent cycling machines
Dunfanaghy Youths Football Club	€5,000.00	Installation of 'ball-stops' around our pitch.
Ards Mens Shed	€5,000.00	Purchase of Equipment
Awake Tourism	€5,000.00	To upgrade existing equipment and machinery in the Parish

Inishowen MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
St Brigid's Youth & Community Co Operative Society Ltd	€ 5,000.00	Purchase of a pallet truck and a walk-in freezer room
Spraoi agus Spórt	€ 5,940.50	Sensory Soft Play Equipment
Inishowen Rivers Trust	€ 5,805.00	To purchase equipment and materials.
Aileach Youth & Community Centre	€ 5,000.00	Purchase of Computer and IT Equipment
Redcastle Community Development	€ 5,000.00	Installation of concrete bases and associated works for floodlights
Glengad Community Association.	€ 5,940.50	To remove old fascia, soffit, gutter and downpipes, erect scaffolding and install new Fascia, Soffit, gutter & downpipes.
Newtowncunningham Community Playgroup	€ 5,000.00	To upgrade our outdoor learning environment- new outdoor equipment

Letterkenny MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Illistrin FC	€5,000.00	Purchase a Lawn Mower
Church Hill Community Development Group CLG	€5,000.00	To purchase and install a small, insulated shipping container and new Christmas lights for the village
Kerrykeel park development	€5,000.00	To develop the parking area and install lights around the pitch
Milford JuJitsu Club	€5,000.00	To purchase 68 no. 2m X1M 40mm judo mat and other training equipment
Mevagh Day Centre	€5,000.00	Purchase of equipment for Kitchen and new office furniture and record storage
Bonagee Utd	€5,000.00	Purchase of Paint for community hall and replace blinds in main hall.
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Craobh Fhánada	€5,000.00	To build an instrument library for the members of Comhaltas Fhánada.

Stranorlar MD

Group Name	Proposed Award	Purpose of Grant
Lifford Clonleigh Resource Centre CLG	€5,000.00	Installation of an emergency exit and disabled access ramp
Crossroads and Killygordon Enterprise CLG	€5,000.00	To purchase an Upright Tower Platform and an insulated storage container.
Gleann Fhinne Cuideachta Faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta	€5,000.00	To purchase an Events Marquee

Raphoe Community Sports Ltd	€5,000.00	Installation of floodlights
Kildrum Tigers FC	€5,000.00	Upgrade the changing rooms and toilets at the Clubhouse.
Twin Towns Lost & Found Dogs	€5,000.00	Upgrade of current premises – plastering building

Clr Brian Carr advised members that on foot of a motion brought to a meeting of Donegal County Council, a letter had issued to the Department of Rural and Community Development seeking ringfencing of funding for Men's and Women's Sheds under the LEP or other funding stream following the removal of the annual €3,000 per annum grant to Men's Sheds. He confirmed that this request was refused and raised his concerns for the future of Men's Sheds without core funding expressing the hope that the annual funding would be reinstated next year.

Anne McAteer agreed with Clr Carr and reiterated the importance of Men & Womens Sheds, particularly in rural locations, to combat social isolation and loneliness for vulnerable people.

On the proposal of Clr Martin McDermott, the LCDC agreed that a letter should issue to the Department advising that Donegal LCDC had agreed that ringfenced annual funding should be made available to Men's and Women's Sheds.

Members considered proposals and proposed awards. On the proposal of Clr Brian Carr, seconded by Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, the LCDC approve the award of Current, Small Capital and Large Capital Grants as set out above.

3. Community Development Pilot Programme End of Year Review 2024

Ciaran Martin advised members that at the last meeting they had reviewed and approved the Annual Plan 2025 for Community Development Programme whereby Donegal LCDC work with the Donegal Intercultural Platform to tackle racism and promote inter-culturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion across County Donegal.

It was also necessary to conduct an End of Year Review for the Programme for 2024. Ciaran confirmed that the administrative and financial review was complete. A copy of the same had been circulated with the Agenda.

Members noted that the monitoring and financial report fully complete, with updates on agreed vs actual targets and comments on the progress to date and that the report provided a comprehensive picture of the work undertaken in 2024.

It was confirmed that the report demonstrated progress against the agreed CDP objectives as set out below:

1. To develop community development responses to a range of social, economic, and environmental concerns.

2. To facilitate an empowering collaborative approach to building relationships and undertake cooperative initiatives between marginalised groups, mainstream services and decision-making bodies
3. To showcase and profile the benefits of an autonomous approach to community development in relation to existing, new and emerging issues.

Members noted that the budget was fully expended, with costs appearing reasonable and no issues arising.

Based on the outcome of the review of the LCDC acknowledged the continued work being planned and delivered at local level in the county by the staff and volunteers of the Donegal Intercultural Platform. With the recent rise in International Protection Applicant (IPA residents) across the country and Donegal specifically, over recent years, we can see this affecting the DIP project on the ground, with approximately 4000 visits to the groups base in Letterkenny, representing 1,219 unique individuals. This is a great testament to the services being offered by the group and the word-of-mouth referrals that must be driving this. As IPAS centres rose to 29 across the county, it is also critical that the outreach work of the DIP was to the fore, resulting in 69 centre visits and 213 people engaged in the Pathways to Inclusion supports provided to those new to the country. The focus on supporting new communities in both the West and South of the county is also acknowledged.

The huge drive to support new communities with accessing English lessons is also a key component in terms of supporting individuals assimilation into local communities.

The push to further BME involvement in local structures of engagement is also acknowledged, with a focus on the CYPSC wellbeing committee, the Housing and Community/Culture SPCs within the Local Authority and the Safer Letterkenny committee.

The LCDC thanked the DIP for their engagement in the development the LECP, it is critical that members voices are heard and reflected in these strategic documents and members of the DIP were very active during this process.

On the proposal of Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Anne McAteer, the LCDC approved the Community Development Pilot Programme End of Year Review 2024.

Siobhan McLaughlin advised members that Friday, 21st March was National Anti Racism day and that events were organised throughout the County to mark this day. She acknowledged the importance of work of Donegal Intercultural Platform and Donegal County Council and the Local Development Companies to reduce and eradicate racism across the county.

Liam Ward confirmed that Donegal County Council, particularly the new Local Authority Integration Team, were continuing to work with and for new communities. He confirmed that people were encouraged to wear red on Anti Racism Day on Friday to support the 'Give Racism the Red Card' Campaign.

4. Declaration of Interest – Local Authority Committees and LEADER

Members were reminded of their obligation to complete and return Declarations of Interest, which had been circulated to them, as soon as possible.

5. AOB

On the proposal of Cllr Martin McDermott the LCDC agreed to hold LCDC Meetings in each Municipal District following which members of the LCDC could visit various projects funded through the LCDC/LEADER funds.

Anne McAteer requested that a presentation be made to update the LCDC on Healthy Communities Programme.

6. Next Meeting

Cllr. McDermott confirmed that the next meeting of the LCDC was scheduled for 9th April 2025 at 10am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.