



**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 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

<b>Members in attendance</b>	<p><b>In person:</b> Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Anne McAteer – HSE, James O'Donnell -ICMSA, Charlene Logue – PPN, Joe Boland – PPN, Andrew Ward –IDP and Maire UiComhaill - PPN</p> <p><b>Online via Teams:</b> Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, Cllr. Brian Carr - DCC, Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN, Maire Ui Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean, and Anne McHugh - ETB.</p>
<b>Apologies</b>	John McLaughlin – DCC, EveAnne McCarron - ATU, Brenda Hegarty – LEO, Padraig Fingleton – DLDC, Aengus Kennedy – PPN and Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás.
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Paddy Doherty
<b>Attending</b>	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. On behalf of the LCDC, Cllr. McDermott also welcomed Maire UiComhanill to the Committee.

**1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

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

On the proposal of Siobhan McLaughlin, seconded by Charlene Logue, the minutes of the LCDC Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were adopted with no matters arising.

**2. Local Enhancement Programme 2025 – Members update**

Kathleen Browne advised members that a miscalculation was discovered when completing the return to the Department of Rural and Community Development in the small grants awarded in Donegal MD. The details of the small grants for Donegal MD, as agreed at the LCDC on 13<sup>th</sup> March, remained the same but the error results in less money being available for award as large grants.

Members were advised that it was necessary to reduce the grant award to Halla Paroiste Chill Chartha and Adopt Pettigo from €5,707.96 to €5,000.

The Large Grant Awards for Donegal MD are now as follows:

<b>Group Name</b>	<b>Proposed Award</b>	<b>Purpose of Grant</b>
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	€5,000.00	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	€5,000.00	Replace of double back doors of Complex & Laptop.

Kathleen confirmed that it was also to reduce the Administration Cost amount of €10,140, as previously agreed, to €8,497.39.

Kathleen confirmed that the LEP return was submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development in advance of their deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> March.

On the proposal of Cllr. Brian Carr, seconded by Cllr. Niamh Kennedy, members retrospectively approved the amendments to the LEP Awards and Administration Costs as set out above.

### **3. Healthy Ireland - Update**

Ciaran Martin made a presentation to Members updating them on the Healthy Ireland initiative.

Ciaran provided background to the programme, key focus areas, desired outcomes and Target groups.

Ciaran updated members on the progress on the various programmes and activities under outcome indicator 1

- Civic Dollars
- Foroige Active Play Project
- Active Play Donegal Programme in collaboration with Donegal Sports Partnership and
- Planting Seeds of Support among Rural Farmers in collaboration with Donegal Volunteer Centre
- Athletics for Autism in collaboration with Donegal Sports Partnership

Ciaran also provided an update on the Period Dignity initiative rolled out across all Council buildings in 2025.

Ciaran advised members that the Healthy Donegal Civic Dollars project was shortlisted under the 'Best Mental Health Initiative' at the LAMA Awards 2025.

Ciaran advised members that Margaret Fitzgerald, Healthy Ireland Officer, had moved on to a new role and acknowledged her huge contribution to developing the programme. Tributes were paid to Margaret for all the work she had done to establish the Healthy Donegal programme – maximising the budget to deliver the many successful projects. Ann McAteer also acknowledged the work Margaret had done in this important role for both Donegal County Council and the HSE. Members of the LCDC passed on their thanks and best wishes to Margaret.

James O'Donnell expressed his concern on the issue of the increasing social isolation problem for people living in rural Ireland. Cllr. Martin McDermott advised that Donegal County Council were trying to address the declining rural population through the Rural Housing Policy and the Development Plan.

Liam Ward confirmed that the issue of planning permission along the N56 had been addressed with the Minister for Housing during his visit to the County this week and confirmed that Members of Donegal County Council were planning to meet with TD's to progress amendments to the County Development Plan with Department and Office of Planning Regulations which would allow for planning permission to be granted along N56.

Liam also confirmed that the Vacant/Derelict Property Grants acted as an incentive for people to refurbish vacant or derelict houses in rural areas.

#### **4. SICAP Sub Committee - Vacancy**

Kathleen Browne advised members that a vacancy had existed on the SICAP Sub Committee since the resignation of Andrew McNulty, PPN Representative, in January 2024. Ms Máire UíChomhaill was nominated and confirmed as PPN Representative on Donegal LCDC at plenary Council Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by Cllr. Niamh Kennedy, it was approved that Máire UíChomhaill be appointed to fill the vacancy on the SICAP Sub Committee.

### **AOB**

#### Condolences

Siobhan McLaughlin, on behalf of the Members of Donegal LCDC expressed their condolences to the families and friends of Emmanuel Familola and Matt Sibanda on their tragic deaths following the drowning tragedy in Buncrana. They also passed on their best wishes for a full recovery to the other young man involved in the incident.

#### Thanks and Good wishes

Siobhan McLaughlin, on behalf of the Members of Donegal LCDC, expressed thanks to John Curran as he leaves his role in the Donegal Volunteer Centre and passed on their best wishes for success in his new role.

#### Bealtaine Festival

Anne McAteer, on behalf of the members of Donegal LCDC, expressed their congratulations to Cultural Services Division, Donegal County Council, on their excellent programme for the Bealtaine Festival for Older People 2025.

#### Men's Mental Health Week

Anne McAteer called on the LCDC to promote and support the events for Men's Mental Health Week 2025 – Shoulder to Shoulder - Standing together for Health.

### **5. Next Meeting**

Cllr. McDermott confirmed that the next meeting of the LCDC was scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 10am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.