



**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 11th June 2025**

Members in attendance	<p>In person: Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, James O'Donnell -ICMSA, Charlene Logue – PPN, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás and Maire UiComhaill - PPN</p> <p>Online via Teams: Cllr. Brian Carr - DCC, Anne McAteer – HSE, Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN, Maire Ui Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean ,EveAnne McCarron - ATU, Andrew Ward –IDP and Padraig Fingleton – DLDC,</p>
Apologies	John McLaughlin – DCC, Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Anne McHugh – ETB, Brenda Hegarty – LEO, Joe Boland – PPN and Aengus Kennedy – PPN.
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	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 14th May 2025

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

On the proposal of Charlene Logue, seconded by James O Donnell, the minutes of the LCDC Meeting of 14th May 2025 were adopted with no matters arising.

2. Slaintecare HCP Seed Funding Report 2025

Ciaran Martin provided a background to the Slaintecare programme to members and advised that there was annual Seed funding of €75,000 available for both the Northwest Gaeltacht and the Inishowen Areas.

He informed members that project proposals for 2025 have been developed through partnership with a range of stakeholders and through engagement with providers of dedicated services to attempt to build sustainable improvements in the health and wellbeing of those of all ages living in these communities. This engagement included the HSE, Donegal Sports Partnership, IDP, DLDC, Healthy Ireland, DCC Access Officer, Meitheal, IFAN and numerous Community and Voluntary Groups.

In order to facilitate the initiative a Healthy Ireland Local Implementation Team was established, as a sub-committee of the LCDC.

Ciaran advised that the Local Implementation Team for Healthy Ireland and Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme, met on 27th May 2025 and agreed to recommend the award of grants for each area as below.

Proposed Seed Funding Awards for Inishowen

Partner	Project	Project	Amount
Inishowen Development Partnership	A 'Pop Up/Mobile cinema'	Expand the successful 'Moves and Tea' initiative at St Mary's Cinema, Buncrana by way of a 'Pop Up/Mobile' cinema to other Towns and Villages within Inishowen. The Seed funding will be used to purchase projector and screen equipment and associated programme costs. The events will be coordinated and facilitated by the current teams within IDP	€10,000
White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre	Indoor Gym	To purchase activity equipment to create a Gym within the centre. The gym will be actively supported within the White Oaks Rehabilitation Therapy Programme and structured programme of daily activities. There is a well-established link between regular physical exercise and mental health in encouraging the clients to care for themselves in a holistic manner and to develop healthy habits as a countermeasure to substance using behaviour.	€13,500
Sliabh Sneacht Centre Ltd	Accessible electric bicycles for all users	Purchase and pilot one Wheelchair/Accessible and one electric bicycle to facilitate and encourage individuals and families to use the 60km of developed and ongoing development of walks and trails in close proximity to the Sliabh Sneacht Centre in the heart of Inishowen.	€10,000
Donegal Sports Partnership	An Inclusive Sports Programme	'An Inclusive Sports Programme' covering the whole of Inishowen, to empower individuals with disabilities by creating a safe, supportive environment tailored to diverse needs whilst also creating a lasting legacy and sustainable initiatives	€15,000

		such as their successful 'Soccer for All' initiative. The needs will be addressed through the delivery of an Inclusive Sports Programme consisting of multi-sport initiatives over a 10-month period.	
LAIT Donegal (DCC)	Bespoke Health and Wellbeing programme	Develop a bespoke health (including mental health) and wellbeing programme for IPAS members and New communities that will facilitate discussions on cultural perceptions of health and develop awareness and understanding of supportive organisations and initiatives in the NW Gaeltacht and Inishowen areas based on Collaboration, empowering individuals to live independently in the community, GP Surveys, Cultural understanding and a needs Audit.	€8,500
Spraoi agus Spórt	Cantal Ciúin – Quiet Connection, a 'Mobile Sensory Outreach Van project'	Cantal Ciúin – Quiet Connection, a 'Mobile Sensory Outreach Van project' that brings high-quality, portable sensory equipment into schools, community settings, and public venues across Inishowen. Many families face long travel distances to reach therapeutic services, and schools and community venues often lack dedicated spaces for regulation or sensory support.	€18,000
		Total	€75,000

Proposed Seed Funding Awards for North West Gaeltacht

Partner	Project	Project	Amount
Creelough Community Association	Community Wellness Hub	Provide free wellbeing, stress management and mental health workshops, a children's community garden and utilise 4 locally newly trained Trauma informed practitioners to train locals about trauma and its impact.	€12,500
Donegal Sports Partnership	Balanceability 'Learn to Cycle' Programme	Enhance the physical activity patterns of children aged 3-6yrs through a dedicated learn to cycle programme in community-based pre-schools. Targeting 6 pre-schools and 3 regional tutor training days with 66 kids and 18 pre-school staff.	€15,000
Ionad Naomh Pádraig	Wellness Supports	Physiotherapist led chair aerobics, a Dementia Café, AAC (Augmentative and	€13,000

		Alternative Communications) workshops, a bi-weekly drop-in session with a Mental Health Nurse/Counsellor for Young people to support mental health needs and play therapy for younger children.	
LAIT Donegal (DCC)	Bespoke Health and Wellbeing programme	Develop a bespoke health (including mental health) and wellbeing programme for IPAS members and New communities that will facilitate discussions on cultural perceptions of health and develop awareness and understanding of supportive organisations and initiatives in the NW Gaeltacht and Inishowen areas based on Collaboration, empowering individuals to live independently in the community, GP Surveys, Cultural understanding and a needs Audit.	€8,500
Seirhisí Áitiúil Teaghlaigh & Óige (LYFS)	Next Stage' Programme	A mental health and wellbeing programme for 16-25yrs, building on the work and learning in 2024, combining group work, physical activity and intensive 1-1 sessions over a 16-week period with follow ups. The programme focuses on health and wellbeing scores, better emotional regulation, improved relationships, re-engagement in education and training, reduced stress, improved coping skills, positive lifestyle choices, better nutritional intake, improved strength and cardiovascular capacity, and improved overall wellbeing.	€13,000
Mevagh Family Resource Centre	"Healthy Me" programme and 'Play Therapy' sessions	Deliver the "Healthy Me" programme and 'Play Therapy' sessions for children in 6 local schools. "Healthy Me" programmes will cover topics such as taking care of physical, mental, social and emotional health using games, worksheets and conversations to help illustrate and give tools on coping with issues relating to their mental health in an age-appropriate way. "Play Therapy" sessions at Mevagh Family Resource Centre will see 6 participants avail of 13 (1hr) sessions each – to include initial consultation.	€13,000
		Total	€75,000

The LCDC reviewed the proposed awards and on the proposal of Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, seconded by Maire Uí Mhaolain, Donegal LCDC approve the award of Slaintecare Seeding Funding 2025 for the geographic areas of Inishowen and North West Gaeltacht as set out above

3. Donegal Sports Partnership

Declan Boyle, CEO, and Therese Lavery, Sports Inclusion Disability Officer, along with Jessica Gallagher, Donegal Domestic Violence, joined the meeting and gave a presentation to members outlining Donegal Sport's Partnerships Sport 4 Empowerment Project. Members were provided with the background to the Programme, its principles and measures of success. Therese and Jessica made a detailed presentation on the very successful collaborative initiative between Donegal Sports Partnership and Domestic Violence Service (DDVS) which is designed to assist women and children who have experienced domestic violence and are currently receiving support through DDVS. Members were shown a video outlining the background, actions and outcomes of this programme.

Members were also informed of the expansion plan for this programme and the next phases of the project and the other target groups they will target – Ethnic minorities, Youth at Risk, Persons with disabilities and persons from disadvantaged areas.

Clr Martin McDermott, on behalf of Donegal LCDC, congratulated Donegal Sports Partnership and Donegal Domestic Violence, on a brilliant programme and offer any support they required from the LCDC in the delivery of the Sport 4 Empowerment Project. He queried if this programme was available in Inishowen. Jessica Gallagher confirmed that they were examining a pathway to expand the programme into Inishowen in the future.

Michael MacGiolla Easbuig welcomed the expansion of the project into the Gaeltacht area and offer the support of Udaras na Gaeltachta to the groups.

Siobhan McLaughlin expressed her support for the inclusion of Ethnic Minorities in the Sport 4 Empowerment project and looked forward to working with Donegal Sports Partnership.

Eve Anne McCarron and Andrew Ward expressed their support for the work the group are carrying out.

4. Donegal Intercultural Platform

Paul Kernan and Balume Dube, Donegal Intercultural Platform, joined the meeting and made a presentation to members on the organisation and their actions and programmes to promote intercultural understanding and combat discriminatory practices.

They provided members with detailed information on the Creative Minorities PEACEPlus Project which had recently launched and will commence in September of 2025.

Clr Martin McDermott, on behalf of the LCDC, thanked Donegal Intercultural Platform for their presentation and welcomed the PEACEPlus project which is vitally important in the current climate.

Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Siobhan McLaughlin, Andrew Ward and Eve Anne McCarron expressed their support for the work of the group and the project.

5. A.O.B.

LCDC SICAP Support Workshop

Ciaran Martin reminded members that Pobal were holding a SICAP Support Workshop to provide ongoing and introductory training for LCDC support staff and Board members overseeing SICAP to improve programme understanding and the role of LCDCs, DRCD and Pobal in programme and contract management on 24th June 2025 in Sligo. He confirmed that members must register for the Worksop before Monday, 16th June.

Community Recognition Fund 2024 – Window 3

Ciaran confirmed to members that the Department of Rural, Community Development & Gaeltacht had confirmed that the 17 Projects, recommended by Donegal LCDC for funding under the Scheme, were awarded grant aid under Window 3 of the Community Recognition Fund 2024.

Mens Shed Funding

Following on from representation from Donegal LCDC to Department in support of continued funding for day to day running costs for men's shed, Ciaran Martin advised members that the Department had announced a Grant Scheme for Mens Sheds, which will allow Sheds to apply for grants to a maximum of €3,000 for running costs for each shed. This Scheme is being administered directly by the Irish Men's Shed Association.

Clr Carr thanked the LCDC for their support in this matter.

6. Next Meeting

Clr McDermott confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for 9th July 2025

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Next Meeting

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

This concluded the business of the meeting.