

Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar Dé Céadaoin, 3ú Feabhra 2021 ag 9.30 a.m.

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on Wednesday, 3rd February, 2021, at 9.30 a.m.

Present:

Cllr. Noel Thomas LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Regina Higgins, Dept of Social Protection	Public
Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Pdraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileain	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Tom Turley, IFA	Community
Dan Dowling, PPN Community	Community
Martin Ward, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Margaret Sheehan, PPN Environment	Community

Apologies:

Seán Ó Coistealbha, PPN Community	Community
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community

Also in Attendance:

Kieran Coyne Chief Officer, Mary McGann, Linda Potter, Rita Tansey, Galway County Council
Aoibheann McCann, Galway Rural Development

1 Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDDC) a tionóladh an 9ú Nollaig 2020

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDDC) held on 9th December, 2020

Cllr N. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting and none were raised.

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. Dolan, **SECONDED** by Cllr. K McHugh Farag, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th December, 2020, were **APPROVED**.

Cllr N. Thomas referred to the issue raised under AOB at the previous LCDC meeting regarding concerns that Local Employment Services (LES) were being rolled out with Galway County omitted. M. McGann informed the members that the letter to the Department was not forwarded as S. Dolan stated that that progress was being made on the matter. Concerns were raised in Galway and Cork, An Taoiseach was alerted, and the tender was now deferred. It is hoped Galway County will now be included in tandem, or closely behind, other counties.

Cllr N. Thomas congratulated T. Keenan on his election to the Governing Council of the European LEADER Association for Rural Development and wished him every success in his new role.

2 SICAP: Céadú Athbhreithniú Deireadh Bliana 2020

SICAP: Approval of End of Year Review 2020

A McCann outlined the work done in SICAP which was detailed in the SICAP Annual Progress Report for 2020 already circulated to Members. A. McCann explained that the Report focused on how COVID-19 affected the implementation of SICAP, the approaches taken to respond to identified needs and the challenges which were encountered. In that regard, A. McCann advised that the basic needs of clients became the priority; food needs, needs of families that were now full-time at home, digital poverty, support networks, applications for support, etc.

A McCann explained that the courses had to be run online, training, safepass, personal development etc. She stated that as the lockdown continued people engaged more with the online courses. A McCann confirmed that there was only a surplus of 3% funding at the end of the year which was an achievement considering the circumstances.

Cllr N. Thomas informed the members that a sub-committee meeting had been held on SICAP progress and that the programme highlighted the impact of Covid. He was impressed that there was only a 3% surplus at the end of the year. He had one concern which related to the area needs analysis that was originally intended to be done for Eyrecourt, Rosmuc and Glenamaddy but understood this could not be achieved during lockdown. Cllr N. Thomas informed the members that he had discussed the issue with A McCann and S. Dolan at the Sub-Committee meeting and the situation will be monitored and revisited.

L. Potter presented a video on the disbursement of SICAP grants which outlined all the work achieved throughout the pandemic under SICAP.

Cllr N. Thomas thanked L. Potter for the video presented and stated that it was important to see all the services provided highlighted and the great work done. Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag said that seeing the video illustrates more clearly the wonderful services provided, and commended all involved.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, **SECONDED** by T. Turley, the report was approved.

3 Ciste Éigeandála COVID-19 Babhta 2 COVID-19 Emergency Fund Round 2

M. McGann informed the members that the Covid-19 Emergency Fund Round 2 came out in early January with a total allocation of €53,203. She stated that while Round 1 of this funding was restricted to members of the Community Call, this funding gave the opportunity for any non-profit or voluntary Groups to apply and one of the areas covered was upcoming running costs of community buildings to ensure the resilience and sustainability of these facilities during the pandemic. The other areas covered under the Fund were frontline services and some elements of the Keep Well Campaign. M. Mc Gann outlined the 5 themes of the Keep Well Campaign and confirmed that the local authority would be implementing a digital supports project for older people. D. Walsh confirmed that he would liaise with M. McGann if groups requested any training in relation to digital devices.

M. McGann informed the members that she has received a lot of queries on the Covid-19 applications and expects a large volume of applications will be submitted and proposed that in order to ensure a quick turnaround, assessment be completed at Sub-Committee level, and this was agreed.

Cllr N. Thomas thanked M. McGann for her detailed report and asked if there was discretion in relation to the allocation of the funding, and M. McGann confirmed that we are required to adhere to the guidelines set down by the Department. K. Kelly acknowledged the good work being done under the LCDC Funding as displayed by the video on SICAP grants and suggested the LCDC should try to fund as many groups as possible through Round 2 of the COVID-19 Emergency Fund.

4 Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile

Date for next meeting

Date of next meeting was arranged for Tuesday, 30th March, at 5.30pm.

5 Aon ghnó eile

Any other business

Cllr N. Thomas informed the members that a new Chairperson had to be elected for the SICAP sub-committee to replace him. T. Turley agreed to take up the position and M. McGann confirmed that his appointment will be formally agreed at the next SICAP sub-committee.

K. Coyne informed the members that the LECP will be up for review this year. POBAL had been in contact with him by email to advise that they will be implementing a training needs assessment process in the context of the LECP review, and would advise the Members further once this was received.

The meeting then concluded.

Noel Thomas
N. Thomas, Chairperson

Date: 17/3/2021

Kiem Coyne
K. Coyne, Chief Officer

Date: 17/3/2021