

**Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar  
 22ú Eanáir 2020, ag 10.30 a.m.**

**Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on  
 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020, at 10.30 a.m.**

**Present:**

Tom Turley, IFA (Chairperson)	Community
Dan Dowling, PPN Community (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd	Community
Enda Conneely, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Delia Colahan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Margaret Sheehan, PPN Environment	Community
Seán Ó Coistealbha, PPN Community	Community
Antoinette Ryan, Dept. Social Protection	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public

**Apologies:**

Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Martin Ward, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public

**Also in Attendance:**

Alan Farrell Chief Officer.  
 Kieran Coyne, Mary McGann, Rita Tansey, Galway County Council.

**1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 12ú Samhain 2019**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019

T. Turley welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies received from those unable to attend. He asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting and none were declared.

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Coholan, **SECONDED** by M. Keady, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November were **APPROVED**.

## 2. SICAP

**Céadú: Athbhreithniú Deireadh Bliana 2019 / Approval of End of Year Review 2019**

**Céadú: Plean Bliantúil 2020 / Approval of Annual Plan 2020**

M. McGann outlined the process for approval of the Annual Performance Review 2019 and the Annual Plan 2020, and stated that as the timelines were similar, it was agreed with the SICAP Sub-Committee to examine both processes together, so that new initiatives and added value could be examined year-on-year. M. McGann confirmed that the Sub-Committee Meeting had taken place on 8<sup>th</sup> January at which both Plans were reviewed in detail, and the KPI's and Emerging Needs Group for 2020 had already been confirmed following the Pobal Verification Visit in September. Since that time, Pobal had also confirmed approval to carryover a maximum of 5% underspend to 2020 and confirmed a 3% increase in the 2020 budget. M. McGann advised the Members that the completed Checklists would be returned to Pobal who would then complete their high-level review, and any issues arising from this would be brought to the attention of the Programme Implementer for action prior to full and formal approval of the Plans.

Aoibheann McCann, Galway Rural Development, attended the meeting to make a presentation on the SICAP achievements for 2019, and the proposed actions for 2020. She outlined that the KPI 1 target of 92 Groups was exceeded by 123% with an actual output of 113 Groups supported, with 45% of these Groups being new registrations. She outlined that the emphasis in the additional allocation for 2020 was on additional capacity building training for Groups in accordance with the expressed wishes of the SICAP Sub-Committee. In relation to KPI 2, Ms. McCann confirmed that the target was 1,200 individuals to be supported, whereas the actual number of individuals supported under the Programme in 2019 was 1,340 – this represented 112% of the target, with 78% of these individuals being new registrations. As agreed at the Pobal Verification Visit, the emphasis in the additional funding would be on additional intensive supports for individuals with multiple barriers.

D. Walsh spoke on behalf of the SICAP Sub-Committee and stated that the outcomes were very positive and congratulated the staff on the work achieved and their approach to the Programme. He welcomed the 3% budget increase and its focus on capacity building in community groups and individuals, and referenced the need to build confidence and life skills for individuals who may be hard to reach or disengaged from the labour market on a long-term basis. D. Walsh stressed the importance of collaboration and identification of good practice, especially in actions which were to be put forward as Case Studies, and the added value for LCDC Members to engage in site visits to these projects

T. Turley thanked A. McCann for the presentation to Members and acknowledged the big programme of work included in SICAP. M. Sheehan welcomed the work with new communities and stressed the importance of communication as part of integrating new communities. A discussion took place regarding the formation of new LCG's (Local Community Groups) and the optimum structure for Groups in communities. T. Keenan stated that there may be too many smaller Groups and it would be more beneficial to have all community groups in an area under one umbrella Group, rather than splintering into separate groups. D. Colohan stated that some Groups are by necessity smaller for capacity-building reasons, or because they may be dealing with more personal issues for disadvantaged groups or new communities, who may not be ready to join a larger Group. T. Turley stated that as society has evolved, the challenge for the LCDC was to bring all these diverse groups together within communities. A. Farrell stated that there was merit in both approaches, however, it was important that all Groups in an area fed into community plans, and there was communication between the various funding agencies to ensure best use of resources across all programmes.

B. Fox commended the SICAP team on their work but stressed the importance of a clear referral system to the Local Enterprise Office and its services regarding the crossover from SYOB (Start Your Own Business) courses to self-employment. She stressed the importance of further collaboration with the Programme Implementer in this area, and of the need for targeted training interventions to support new initiatives such as the Bia-Innovator Food Hub. A. Farrell reiterated the importance of collaboration between the LCDC Members in order to avoid duplication of resources.

D. Dowling stated that the funding in community employment schemes had been reduced over the years and A. Ryan confirmed that cutbacks to training allowances could be reviewed on request.

S. Ó Coistealbha informed the members that he was part of the SICAP Sub-Committee and was appreciative that their feedback had been taken on board in areas such as Site Visits, emphasis for additional funding, and provision of mentoring to grant applicants. He stressed the importance site visits to highlight collaboration, and the increased efficiencies and avoidance of duplication which resulted from Groups working in co-operation. In this regard, he queried if Muintearas Teoranta were members of the Connemara Disability Network and the SICAP Programme Implementer is to revert to him in this regard.

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Walsh, **SECONDED** by S. Ó Coistealbha, the SICAP Annual Performance Review for 2019 and the Annual Plan for 2020 were **APPROVED**.

A McCann, Galway Rural Development, left the meeting at this point.

### **3 Tionscnamh Éire Fholláin / Healthy Ireland** **Babhta 1 - Iniúchadh / Round 1 – Audit** **Babhta 3 – An t-eolas is déanaí / Round 3 – Update**

M. McGann circulated the issues which had arisen in the Pobal Verification Visit and Audit of the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 1. She outlined that Round 1 covered 11 projects with a total value of €100,000 and was initially run for a period of 3 months, which was extended nationally by Pobal in the third month as the projects could not be achieved in that timescale. She confirmed that approval for the Programme of Work for Round 3 was received in January 2020 for the programme year running from July 2019 to June 2020, and this timescale now presented time pressures for completing the wide range of projects included in this round of funding. In light of the detailed financial reporting requirements, M. McGann requested the approval of Members to implement quarterly staged payments to Grantees based on actual expenditure.

A Farrell stated that it was important to learn from the lessons of Round 1 and recommended quarterly reporting to avoid any further issues. S. O'Coistealbha highlighted the importance of ensuring that all Grantees had appropriate Governance policies at the outset of the Programme, and M. Sheahan highlighted the general problem of funding schemes not covering insurance costs which was a major issue for many Grantees. M. Keady added that the issues raised by M. McGann were flagged across the country and in this regard, T. Keenan suggested that the LCDC write to POBAL and state the Committees concerns especially regarding timelines involved and agreed with M. McGann on the quarterly payments suggestion. This was agreed by all members.

#### **4 Céadú: Athdháileadh don Chlár um Fheabhsú an Phobail 2019**

##### **Approval of Re-allocations for Community Enhancement Programme 2019**

M. McGann circulated details of underspends on the Community Enhancement Programme 2019 and advised that while a back-up list had already been approved for Medium-Scale Grants, there was no back-up listing in place for the Small-Scale Grants and a proposal was now in place to re-allocate a small amount of unused funding.

T. Keenan declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting for this Agenda Item.

The Members agreed to re-allocate the amount of under-spend in accordance with the proposal put forward by M. McGann.

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Walsh, **SECONDED** by S. Ó Coistealbha, the SICAP Annual Performance Review for 2019 and the Annual Plan for 2020 were **APPROVED**.

#### **5 Leiriú – Oifig an Údaráis Áitiúil um Uisce agus Pobail**

##### **Presentation – Local Authority Waters Programme**

Ms. C. Seale, Waters and Communities Office, joined the meeting and made a presentation on the Local Authority Waters Programme and informed the Members about the Community Water Development Fund and the potential for leveraging with other funding sources. D. Colohan informed the Members that GRD are involved with this programme and T. Keenan stated there was likely to be a major emphasis on environmental projects in the new LEADER Programme. In this regard, M. Sheahan highlighted the problem of many Groups avoiding applying for LEADER funding due to the level of paperwork and requirements and C. Seale stated that groups need more support when applying for small-scale or large-scale funding.

A guide to Community Groups working with water and biodiversity was also circulated to the members. S. Ó Coistealbha pointed out that the guide should also be available in Irish and needs to be available to community groups and young people.

#### **3. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**

##### **Date of next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020, at 6.30 p.m.

#### **4. Aon ghnó eile**

##### **Any other business**

M. Sheehan raised the possibility of the Members getting training on Sustainable Development Goals. T. Keenan reminded Members that Category 2 applications for RRDF are pending. T. Turley asked Members to consider any priority areas for Community Enhancement Programme funding in advance of the next meeting. It was agreed that an update on Sub-Committee Membership would be given at the next meeting.

T. Turley took the opportunity to thank Delia Colohan for her dedication and contribution to the LCDC, and A. Farrell joined him in thanking Delia for her great work over the years and how she had made a significant contribution to community development within the County. Delia thanked the Members for their good wishes and acknowledged the great team she had within Galway Rural Development, and welcomed the new CEO, Steve Dolan, to the LCDC as her replacement.

  
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**T. Turley, Chairperson**

Date: 5/8/20

  
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**A. Farrell, Chief Officer**

Date: 5/8/2020