

**Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar De Céadaoin 9ú Meán Fómhair 2020 ag 10.30 a.m.**

**Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 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
Seán Ó Coistealbha, PPN Community	Community
Martin Ward, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public

**Apologies:**

Margaret Sheehan, PPN Environment	Community
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Antoinette Ryan, Dept Social Protection	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public

**Also in Attendance:**

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

**1. Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 5ú Lúanasa 2020**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020

T. Turley 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 S. O'Coistealbha, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> August were **APPROVED**.

## **2. Léiriú – BCP’S**

### **Presentation - BCP’s (Broadband connection Points)**

Noel Madden, Broadband Officer, Galway County Council, outlined the Government’s National Broadband Plan which aims to rollout high speed broadband to areas where commercial broadband operators will not commit to deliver the service in Ireland, which in Galway affects 38,338 premises accounting for 7% of total connections. He advised that this is being facilitated through Broadband Connection Points (BCP’s) at a limited number of locations per year. He outlined the characteristics of BCP’s, i.e. being provided at locations with the intention it be made available to the public via external public wi-fi or internal free wi-fi for minimum periods of time, installation and management service covered by the Department in addition to co-funding the monthly subscription cost of the broadband connection for a maximum period of 3 years, with the remaining co-funding provided by the Council. He advised that the first round of BCP’s were in place at the following 7 locations;

- Leitrim Community Centre, Kylebrack
- Old Secondary School, Kilkerrin Road, Glenamaddy
- Cortoon Community Centre, Browns Grove, Tuam
- Lettermullen Community Centre, Lettermullen
- Comhar na nOileán, Inis Oirr
- Inishboffin Community Centre, Inishboffin
- Kilronan Library, Kilronan, Inishmore

He confirmed that a further call for applications was recently announced through Galway County PPN (Public Participation Network) and a further 11 locations around the County were currently under consideration by the Department for provision of BCP’s. He stated that BCP’s offer the potential for rural populations to enjoy the same benefits that fast speed reliable broadband offers in urban areas and utilise the broadband service free of charge for daily uses such as remote working, education & training, and general uses or social connectivity uses such as keeping in touch with family and friends abroad. He stressed that connectivity is a tool and it is a matter for the BCP operators to work with their community to decide how best they can use and develop it to the benefit of all in their community, by utilising other funding sources to develop infrastructure, IT Equipment, Training Initiatives, Enterprise Hubs, local markets or facilities for local businesses and services to sell their products and services.

T. Turley thanked N. Madden for the report and requested that the presentation be circulated to all members. Cllr K. McHugh stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the library capacities in schools/colleges is greatly reduced and it would be very useful to have connections in buildings that are being adapted for “study halls” etc. N. Madden confirmed that the application for BCPs are already gone to the Department and stressed that the application criteria is strict and did not think this was possible but would enquire about same.

N. Madden then left the meeting.

## **3. Ceadú – Ciste Éigeandála Covid-19 R2 & An Clár um Fheabhsú Phobail R1**

### **Approvals – COVID-19 Emergency Fund R2 & Community Enhancement Programme R1**

M. McGann referred to the recommendations for funding under the COVID-19 Emergency Fund Round 2 and the Community Enhancement Programme Round 1 which had been circulated to all Members prior

to the Meeting. She also confirmed that these recommendations were based on a detailed assessment by the LCDC Sub-Committee for co-ordination of funding schemes.

In relation to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, M. McGann commenced by restating the priorities under Round 2 which were to enable Community & Voluntary Groups / Organisations in the Community Call to re-open facilities and restart activities, and to enable some mechanism to recoup volunteer expenses to Groups involved in the Community Call. In this regard, she confirmed that contact had been made with the Department of Rural and Community Development to devise a format for volunteers to outline expenses which would satisfy audit criteria in due course. She confirmed that the majority of expenditure related to PPE Equipment and adaptations for social distancing, in addition to equipment and supports to enable services to be delivered online or in accordance with public health requirements. The LCDC Sub-Committee assessment had ensured that allocations for similar cost items were distributed evenly and fairly, and also resulted in a small amount of the total fund being retained in case of requirements to bulk purchase PPE or provide supports in case of any outbreak of COVID-19.

In relation to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund, M. McGann commenced by restating the priorities under Round 1 which were to enable all Community & Voluntary Groups/Organisations to re-open facilities and restart activities – in this regard, she confirmed that in order to target funding effectively, all applicants to this Fund who were members of the Community Call, were moved to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund and were awarded funding via that source. The total allocation received by the LCDC was €63,249 and in the meantime, the Department of Rural and Community Development had advised of a second round of funding totalling €159,940 which was aimed at maintenance, improvement and development of Community Centres, other Community Buildings and Facilities. Therefore, any applications for these types of works had been moved to Round 2 for assessment at a future date. M. McGann noted that the LCDC Members had expressed concerns at their last meeting regarding the ability of Community Groups to meet their operational and overhead costs at this time and advised that contact had been made with the Department of Rural and Community Development in order to ascertain if there was any flexibility in the Funding Programme to cover current costs – she confirmed that the Department had advised that only capital expenditure items could be funded. M. McGann confirmed that the majority of expenditure had again targeted PPE Equipment and other small-scale works to enable facilities to re-open safely and the full allocation of €63,249 was allocated among eligible applicants. The LCDC Sub-Committee had again ensured that allocations were distributed fairly and equally across Groups for similar expenditure types. T. Keenan stressed this point and stated that it was important that Groups/Organisations did not purchase PPE equipment in bulk if it was not being used, as this would result in it being stored away while there is high demand in other areas for it.

M. McGann also referenced previous queries regarding the LCDC Members regarding supports for the Sports Sector and confirmed that a €15m Sports Resilience Fund had been set up in addition to a Restart and Renewal Fund for the main sporting governing bodies, and information on this would be circulated to the Members.

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. O'Coistealbha, **SECONDED** by T. Keenan, the allocations under COVID-19 Emergency Fund Round 2 and Community Enhancement Programme Round 1 were **APPROVED**.

A. Farrell thanked M. McGann for all her work and stated that the Sub-Committee worked very well and in an efficient way in discussing the allocation of funds. Due to the fact that the next meeting of the LCDC was not scheduled until November, and to allow a detailed and timely assessment of applications

in the meantime, he confirmed that the LCDC Sub-Committee on Funding also assess and approve recommendations for the Community Enhancement Programme Round 2.

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Dowlilng, **SECONDED** by R. O Neill, it was agreed that sub-committee will evaluate the next round of funding and agree final allocations.

#### **4. Straitéis um chomhtháthú imirceach – comhairliúchán** Migrant Integration Strategy – consultation

Mary McGann confirmed that under the National Migrant Strategy, there is a requirement to prepare and implement local integration strategies, outlining supports to migrant populations such as language and housing supports, promotion of diversity, participation and representation on various consultative committees. Unfortunately, the strategy for County Galway had expired since 2017 and we were now taking the initial steps towards consultation for a new strategy in partnership with the SICAP Programme Implementer. Buheri Consult, a migrant-founded consulting firm, will consult with a wide range of representatives under the instruction of the LCDC, PPN and Galway Rural Development CLG with a view to getting feedback from Migrants / New Communities in relation to their experience of services since the Galway County Integration & Diversity Strategy 2013-2017 was developed, and identifying their needs moving forward to the next strategy. The findings will feed into the consultation process for the preparation of the new Strategy and establishment of a Steering Group to implement it. This would be particularly important in terms of targeting areas such as Gort, where 26% of the total population were Non-Irish nationalities.

T. Turley and A. Farrell both thanked Mary for her work on this report and A. Farrell said that the PPN and SICAP would have an important role to play in the development of this Strategy.

#### **5. SICAP – data chun cuairt ar an láithreán ó Pobal** SICAP – Date for Pobal Verification Visit

M. McGann advised that notification had been received from Pobal of their intention to carry out their Annual Verification Visit, which reviews the current Action Plan for SICAP and enables discussion on determining the targets and emerging needs group for the following year. M. McGann reminded the Members that this was particularly important this year due to the difficulties in meeting 2020 targets outlined at the SICAP Mid-Year Review Meeting, and the decision by the LCDC to request Pobal to remove penalties for non-compliance in light of the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. M. McGann confirmed that the LCDC Support Staff would be in contact the LCDC SICAP Sub-Committee Members to arrange the meeting with Pobal.

#### **6. Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile** Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10.30am

**7. Aon ghnó eile**  
Any other business

T. Turley noted that this was A Farrell's last meeting as Chief Officer due to other work commitments and welcomed K. Coyne, Acting Senior Executive Officer, to the position. He stated that K. Coyne was directly involved in the rural and community development function and he was assured that he was the right person for the role. T. Turley thanked Alan for his time and work as Chief Officer with the LCDC committee over the last few years and welcomed Kieran Coyne to the role.


T. Turley informed the members that E. Conneely, Comhar na nOileán Teo and A. Ryan, Dept of Social Protection were no longer members of the LCDC committee and replacement nominees are being sought from both Organisations.

T. Turley informed the members that his 3-year term as Chairperson of the LCDC has come to an end and the election of a new Chairperson will be the first item on the agenda for the next LCDC meeting.

T. Turley referenced the draft letter from the LCDC to the Department of Employment and Social Protection regarding terms & conditions of Tús/RSS participants which was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and asked if all Members were in agreement with the letter. D. Dowling wished to include in the letter the entitlements to the Community Employment Schemes and after a discussion on same the letter was adjusted to include this scheme.

The meeting then concluded.

  
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T. Turley, Chairperson

  
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K. Coyne, Chief Officer

Date: 10-11-20

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