



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



LCDC
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
Dhún na nGall
Donegal Local Community Development
Committee

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee Meeting
County House, Lifford & online via Teams at 10am on 13th December 2023**

Members in attendance	John McLaughlin – DCC, Charlene Logue – PPN and James O’Donnell - ICMSA
Members in attendance via Teams	Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Cllr. Martin McDermott – DCC, Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Shauna McClenaghan – IDP, Cllr. Marie Therese Gallagher – DCC, Paul Hannigan – ATU, Maria Ferguson – HSE, Maire Uí Mhaoláin - Comhar Padraic Fingleton – DLDC and Aengus Kennedy – PPN.
Apologies	Anne McHugh – ETB, Liam McElhinney – ICTU, Brenda Hegarty – LEO, Joe Boland – PPN and Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN.
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Ciaran Martin, Adrienne Kelly and Charlene Gillespie

Welcome

Cllr. Niamh Kennedy welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

1. Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 15th November 2023

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

On the proposal of James O’Donnell, seconded by Charlene Logue, the minutes of LCDC Meeting of 15th November 2023 were adopted with no matters arising.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Empowering Communities Programme

Ciaran Martin welcomed Margaret Larkin, Head of Operations with DLDC to the meeting and advised that as proposed at our October meeting, Margaret will present an update on the Empowering Communities Programme.

The programme is currently being delivered by DLDC on behalf of the Donegal LCDC and is focused on Arranmore Island around the theme of Active Arranmore, with funding totaling up to €120,000 to cover staff costs, a programme of activities, equipment and other costs.

Margaret presented on the Active Arranmore programme, highlighting the large number of activities delivered over the course of the year, the numbers of people engaged across the various groupings and the plans for the initiative for 2024.

The Key Programme goals included:

- Boost the physical and mental health and wellbeing of people living on Arranmore Island
- Provide a weekly programme of indoor and outdoor activities that are fully inclusive – with a particular focus on young people, over 65s and Ukrainian Refugees
- Community Engagement & Participation
- Practical assistance and guidance for people seeking employment.

The Weekly Programme of Physical Activities included:

- Zumba Dance Classes, Chair Aerobics – Day Care Centre, Waltzing Class, Adult & Underage Tennis, Adult & Underage Badminton, Circuit Training Ping Pong League, Early Morning Swim & Coffee, Bums and Tums, Chess Classes / Tournament, Volleyball, Walking Football and Yoga.

Cllr. Kennedy thanked Margaret for the very informative presentation.

4. Dormant Accounts - Action 6.3 National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy

Ciaran Martin informed the members that Donegal County Council on behalf of the Donegal LCDC had submitted an application for funding for the 2023 Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) on October 27th, working with the Donegal Youth Service (DYS) managed Breakout project to develop an application. The Donegal County Council had applied under Applied Under Action 6.3 - Take measures to ensure that existing community infrastructure is inclusive and welcoming to LGBTI+ people and consider the provision of pop-up LGBTI+ services. The Local Authority were notified at the end of November that €13,366.70 has been allocated to the project. This funding will allow an outreach arm of BreakOuT in new areas of Donegal. DYS will hold Community Information Sessions, prepare material content, information leaflets and will engage with communities in schools, Family Resource Centres, Colleges & FE Institutions etc. An agreed work plan between Donegal County Council and the DYS will now be established in the form of a Service Level Agreement prior to commencement of the project.

5. Community Development Programme - Confirmation of Funding for 2024

Ciaran Martin informed members that at the end of November, Donegal County Council also received confirmation from the DRCD of funding of €125,000 for year 4 of the Community Development Programme in Donegal. The programme is being delivered at local level by the Donegal Intercultural Platform and focuses on the theme of Migrants to tackle racism and promote inter-culturalism, human rights, equality and inclusion across Co. Donegal. Ciaran also advised that DCC propose to bring the Donegal Intercultural Platform in to present to the members in 2024.

6. Local Development Strategy update

Ciaran Martin stated that Donegal County Council were currently working with the Implementing Partners to close out the contracts to deliver the 2023 – 2027 LEADER programme. These contracts must be signed and returned to the DRCD by December 19th. Donegal County Council will also be in contact with the IPs with regards finalising additional information sought from the DRCD, which will be submitted along with the approved Local Development Strategy within one month of the signing of the agreement.

7. PEACEPLUS update

Paddy Doherty informed the members that a document outlining the Projects & Programme details for PEACEPLUS approved by the Donegal PEACEPLUS Partnership had been circulated for information. The approved Projects and Programmes were now included in the Donegal PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan under the following Themes:

- Theme 1 – Local Community Regeneration & Transformation
- Theme 2 – Thriving & Peaceful Communities
- Theme 3 – Building Respect for all Cultural Identities:

8. AOB

SICAP 2018-2022

Ciaran Martin informed members that DRCD have notified the Council on the key dates for the End of Year review for 2023 SICAP program. These dates had been forwarded to the LDCs also and were noted as:

- LDC uploads their Financial & Monitoring report on IRIS by **Tuesday 16th January 2024.**
- LCDC reviews the report and provide feedback to Pobal by **Wednesday 31st January 2024.**
- Pobal provide feedback to the LCDCs by **Friday 2nd February 2024.**
- Annual Progress Report to be formally approved by **Thursday 29th February 2024.**

Ciaran advised that the DCC would seek a date for the SICAP Sub-committee to meet in advance of Wednesday 31st January and that this may be Tuesday 30th January. The date and time will be confirmed separately with the SICAP Sub-committee members.

SICAP 2024-2028 Evaluation update

Ciaran Martin stated that at the November LCDC members approved the appointments of IDP and DLDC to deliver SICAP lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 respectively. Subsequently, the DRCD on 8th December 2023 issued draft contract documents for the new SICAP 2024-2028 programme. DCC are currently working with both IDP and DLDC to get these contracts signed and to notify Pobal when this process is completed at the end of the week.

Ciaran also informed the members that 2024 Budgets for each Lot has also been forwarded by the DRCD to include both SICAP and New Arrivals funds for each lot. The funds were allocated as below:

Lot Name and Number	SICAP 2024 Annual Plan Budget	New Arrivals 2024 Allocation
33-1 - Inishowen	€750,672	€89,498
33-2 - Gaeltacht	€482,706	€147,505
33-3 - Donegal	€1,258,933	€403,893

The DCC were seeking approval from the LCDC to administer the SICAP and New Arrivals budget allocations in four equal instalments across 2024, as in other years.

On the proposal of James O'Donnell, seconded by Charlene Logue, this payment allocation proposal was approved.

Local Enhancement Scheme

Ciaran Martin informed members that on December 8th DCC were notified that funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development for the Local Enhancement Programme 2024 had been confirmed.

A Letter of Undertaking signed by the CE was returned to the Department on Monday, 11th December, with Total Funding of €258,776.86 confirmed. The funding was split as below:

- €215,647.39 capital funding to use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to community facilities, energy efficiency type projects, purchase of equipment etc.
- €43,129.48 capital funding ring-fenced for Women's Groups (womens networks, womens sheds etc).

Date of the next meeting

The Date for next LCDC Meeting was agreed by members for 10am on Tuesday 23rd January 2024. The members would also be presented with a schedule of proposed dates for further meeting across the year.

This concluded the business of the meeting.