



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



LCD C
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Aitiúil
Dhún na nGall
Donegal Local Community Development
Committee

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee Meeting
County House, Lifford & online via Teams at 10 am on 24th July 2024**

Members in attendance	Cllr. Niamh Kennedy – DCC, Cllr Brian Carr, Padraic Fingleton – DLDC, Siobhan McLaughlin – PPN and James O’Donnell – ICMSA.
Members in attendance via Teams	Micheal Mac Giolla Easpaig – Údarás, Maire Uí Mhaolain - Comhar na nOilean, Joe Boland - PPN, Cllr Martin McDermott, Maria Ferguson - HSE and Anne McHugh – ETB
Apologies	John McLaughlin – DCC, Andrew Ward – IDP, Paul Hannigan – ATU, Liam McElhinney - Trade Union, Charlene Logue – PPN and Aengus Kenney – PPN.
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Charlene Gillespie, Margaret Fitzgerald, Charlene Gillespie and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

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

1. Draft minutes of the LCDDC meeting of 15th May 2024

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

On the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Padraic Fingleton, the minutes of the LCDDC Meeting of 15th April 2024 were adopted with no matters arising.

2. Election of Chairperson of LCDDC

Paddy Doherty, Chief Officer, advised members of the guidelines regarding the tenure of the Chairperson of Donegal LCDDC. He confirmed that the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson could hold the post for a maximum of three years. As Cllr Kennedy had held the position for the maximum period it was now necessary to elect a new Chairperson.

Paddy paid tribute to Cllr Kennedy for her work as Chairperson of the LCDDC during her time in the position.

Cllr Kennedy proposed Cllr Martin McDermott as Chairperson of the LCDDC. This proposal was seconded by James O Donnell. No other nominees were proposed. Cllr McDermott was deemed elected to position of Chairperson of Donegal LCDDC.

3. Election of Vice Chairperson of Donegal LCDC

Further to update provided, Paddy Doherty advised that the position of Vice Chairperson of the LCDC must also be filled. Cllr Niamh Kennedy was proposed by Cllr Martin McDermott and seconded by Cllr Brian Carr. No other nominees were proposed. Cllr Kennedy was deemed to be elected to the position of Vice Chairperson of Donegal LCDC.

Cllr McDermott advised that he had to leave the meeting and Cllr Kennedy deputised as Chair of the meeting.

4. Launch of Community eZine

Liam Ward presented the Community eZine to members and sought their endorsement of the newsletter in advance of its publication on Donegal County Council's website. The newsletter contains information on the various programmes, initiatives, events and funding programmes co-ordinated, managed and overseen by the Community Development Section and Donegal LCDC.

Liam confirmed to members that the newsletter would initially be published bi-annually.

Cllr Niamh Kennedy welcomed the newsletter. She praised the initiative shown to develop the publication and queried whether a hard copy of the newsletter would be published. Liam confirmed that a copy would be available in each Public Service Centre. He advised that the newsletter would be shared with partner agencies and organisations.

Liam thanked Paddy Doherty, Margaret Fitzgerald and the staff in Community Development for their work in publishing the newsletter.

5. Creeslough Together Initiative

Paddy Doherty advised members that in April 2023, Donegal LCDC undertook to administer funding of €497,000 allocated to the 'Creeslough Together Initiative' by the Department of Community and Rural Development.

This funding would be allocated over three years, in three annual payments as follows:-

Year 1 - €173,000, Year 2 – €162,000, Year 3 - €162,000

Payment of Year 1 funding was broken down into two payments.

An initial payment of €85,000 was paid in August 2023 with second payment of €88,000 issued in April 2024 following a Mid Year Review of the progress of the Initiative.

He advised members that the Department had requested the submission of an Annual Progress Report, Impact Case Study for Year 1 and Annual Plan for Year 2 to be submitted to progress funding for Year 2 – copies of these reports were circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Majella McFadden Community Links Manager, Creeslough Community Association, then joined the meeting online and made a presentation to members on the work of the Creeslough Together Initiative in Year 1.

Majella also presented a business case to members seeking their approval to use underspend from Year 1 to finance the appointment of a part-time Financial Support Officer for Creeslough Community Links Hub for Year 2 and Year 3 of the initiative. She confirmed that this proposal had been approved by the Board of the Creeslough Together Initiative.

Members agreed that a copy of the presentation and video be circulated to all members of the LCDC.

Members acknowledged the volume and breath of work being carried out by the group. Liam Ward acknowledged the role of DLDC in supporting the group in getting established and delivering the Year 1 plan.

Majella thanked the LCDC and DLDC for their support for the project.

On the proposal of Pdraic Fingleton, seconded by Siobhan McLaughlin, Donegal LCDC approved the use of the Year 1 underspend in the sum of €33,681.31 to fund appointment of part-time Financial Support Officer for Creeslough Community Links Hub for Year 2 and Year 3 of the initiative for Year 2 and 3.

On the proposal of Pdraic Fingleton, seconded by Siobhan McLaughlin, Donegal LCDC approved the following for submissions to Department of Rural and Community Development:-

- Annual Progress Report – Year 1
- Impact Case Study – Year 1
- Annual Plan – Year 2

6. SICAP Mid Year Review 2024

Kathleen Browne advised members that the SICAP Mid-Year Reviews for Lots 33-1, 33-2 and 33-3 for 2024 were to be considered for approval. All relevant reports and documentation had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting.

Members considered the reports circulated as follows:

Lot 33-1 – Donegal Inishowen

Kathleen advised that the Mid Year Report 2024 for Lot 33-1 (Inishowen) was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 22nd July 2024 and that representatives of IDP had attended the meeting to provide members with details of the progress to date on delivery of the SICAP Annual Plan for Lot 33-1.

She advised that the Members had considered Mid Year Review reports extracted from IRIS as follows:-

Document Check

All required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

Targets

The overall progress for Lot 33-1 in 2024 was very good with 102% of overall KPI 1 target achieved and 52% of overall KPI2 target achieved. 18.69% of 40% target for % in Priority Target Group – People living in Disadvantaged Areas was achieved at mid year.

IDP provided a satisfactory rationale in relation to any variances in target achievement and the Action Progress Report for Lot 33-1, which provided a comprehensive and detailed outline of all actions to mid-year, confirmed this. IDP confirmed that they foresaw no issues in achieving annual targets for all Actions by year end

Financial Requirements

The Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Inishowen Development Partnership was in line with programme guidelines. The administrative, Goal 1 and Goal 2 spend at Mid Year was on track with agreed percentages. IDP provided a rationale for any underspend on particular actions and gave assurances that there would be no issue with expenditure of the budget.

4 Social Enterprise Grants, ranging from €312.52 to €650 and 18 Grants Local Community Group/Network Grants, ranging from €259.99 to €650 have been awarded which were within the permitted thresholds. All payments are up to date and recorded on the IRIS System with the exception of a VAT payment for June-Dec 2023 which will be paid in the coming weeks.

Lot Level Performance

The Sub Committee examined the Lot Summary Report, for Lot 33-1 and confirmed that the LCG Supports and interventions, Individual Supports and interventions and the type of support to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Sub Committee also reviewed the Lot Action Progress Report, Monitoring Report & Individual Caseload by Target Group Report for Lot 33-1 and confirmed that they clearly outlined the numerous supports being provided to New Arrivals and the high level of engagement with the Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Areas) and the Priority Target Location (Carndonagh and surrounding areas).

Data Checks

It was confirmed that any issues raised in relation to Data Gaps on IRIS system had been address by IDP.

SICAP EU Communications & Visibility Guidelines

It was confirmed that there is a process in place to ensure that all publicity material of the PI meets the Communications and Publicity Requirements of the SICAP Programme

Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review confirmed that there were no financial or operational issues at mid-year and recommended that the Mid Year Report be approved. The Sub Committee

confirmed that Communication and Publicity issues with the LDC Website and Social Media publications, which were raised in the review, had been addressed.

Pobal flagged that the majority of the Community Organisations supported to date were from the People living in Disadvantaged Communities target group. IDP confirmed that whilst People Living in Disadvantaged Communities was the dominant description of the target groups being worked with, these groups also fall into other SICAP Target Groups e.g. lone parents, new communities, the unemployed etc.

The SICAP Sub Committee agreed that the LCDC should continue to monitor and review individual target achievement and spend.

On the proposal of James O'Donnell, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the Mid-Year Review 2024 for Lot 33-1 Donegal Inishowen.

The LCDC requested that IDP attend the October 15th LCDC meeting to present a comprehensive update on the delivery of the SICAP Programme with a focus on Target achievement and Budget expenditure.

Lot 33-2 – Donegal Gaeltacht

Kathleen advised members that the Mid-Year Report 2024 for Lot 33-2 (Gaeltacht) was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 22nd July 2024, with DLDC in attendance to provide members with details of the progress to date on delivery of the SICAP Annual Plan for Lot 33-2.

Members considered Mid Year Review reports extracted from IRIS as follows: -

Document Check

All required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

Targets

The overall progress for Lot 33-2 in 2024 was good with 58% of overall KPI 1 target achieved and 51% of overall KPI2 target achieved. 45.54% of 50% target for % in Priority Target Group (People living in Disadvantaged Areas) was achieved at mid-year.

DLDC provided a satisfactory rationale in relation to any variances in target achievement and the Action Progress Report for Lot 33-2, which provided a comprehensive and detailed outline of all actions to mid-year, confirmed this. DLDC confirmed that they foresaw no issues in achieving annual targets for all Actions by year end.

Financial Requirements

The Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development CLG was in line with programme guidelines. The administrative, Goal 1 and Goal 2 spend at Mid-Year were slightly below the recommended rate of 40%. However, DLDC provided a rationale for underspends and gave assurances that there would be no issue with expenditure of the budget.

No Grants were awarded at Mid-Year.

All payments are up to date and recorded on the IRIS System with the exception of VAT payment for June-Dec 2023 which will be paid in the coming weeks.

Lot Level Performance

The Sub Committee examined the Lot Summary Report, for Lot 33-2 and confirmed that the LCG Supports and interventions, Individual Supports and interventions and the type of support to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Sub Committee also reviewed the Lot Action Progress Report, Monitoring Report & Individual Caseload by Target Group Report for Lot 33-2 and confirmed that they clearly outlined the numerous supports being provided to New Arrivals and the Islands. The high level of engagement with the Priority Target Group and the Priority Target Location (The Islands) is also evidenced in these reports.

Data Checks

It was confirmed that any issues raised in relation to Data Gaps on IRIS system had been addressed by DLDC.

SICAP EU Communications & Visibility Guidelines

It was confirmed that there is a process in place to ensure that all publicity material of the PI meets the Communications and Publicity Requirements of the SICAP Programme.

Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review confirmed that there were no financial or operational issues at mid-year and recommended that the Mid Year Report be approved. The Sub Committee confirmed that Communication and Publicity issues with the LDC Website and Social Media publications, which were raised in the review, had been addressed.

The SICAP Sub Committee agreed that the LCDC should continue to monitor and review individual target achievement and spend.

On the proposal of James O'Donnell, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the Mid-Year Review 2024 for Lot 33-2 Donegal Gaeltacht.

The LCDC requested that DLDC attend the October 15th LCDC meeting to present a comprehensive update on the delivery of the SICAP Programme with a focus on Target achievement and Budget expenditure.

Lot 33-3 – Donegal

Kathleen advised that the Mid Year Report 2024 for Lot 33-3 (Donegal) was brought before the LCDC SICAP Sub Committee for consideration on 22nd July 2024, with DLDC in attendance to provide members with details of the progress to date on delivery of the SICAP Annual Plan for Lot 33-3.

Members considered Mid Year Review reports extracted from IRIS as follows:-

Document Check

All required documentation has been uploaded onto IRIS.

Targets

The overall progress for Lot 33-3 in 2024 was good with 62% of overall KPI 1 target achieved and 59% of overall KPI2 target achieved. The % in Priority Target Group (People Living in Disadvantaged Areas) Annual Target of 30% was exceeded at Mid Year with 37.14% achieved.

DLDC provided a satisfactory rationale in relation to any variances in target achievement and the Action Progress Report for Lot 33-3, which provided a comprehensive and detailed outline of all actions to mid-year, confirmed this. DLDC confirmed that they foresaw no issues in achieving annual targets for all Actions by year end.

Financial Requirements

The Sub Committee examined the Financial Reports submitted and confirmed that budget management by Donegal Local Development CLG was in line with programme guidelines. The administrative, Goal 1 and Goal 2 spend at Mid Year were slightly below the recommended rate of 40%. However, DLDC provided a rationale for underspends and gave assurances that there would be no issue with expenditure of the budget.

Two Local Community Group or Network Grants were awarded to a group at Mid Year (€70 and €250). All payments are up to date and recorded on the IRIS System with the exception of VAT payment for June-Dec 2023 which will be paid in the coming weeks.

Lot Level Performance

The Sub Committee examined the Lot Summary Report, for Lot 33-3 and confirmed that the LCG Supports and interventions, Individual Supports and interventions and the type of support to Children and Families were in line with local needs.

The Sub Committee also reviewed the Lot Action Progress Report, Monitoring Report & Individual Caseload by Target Group Report for Lot 33-3. They confirmed that Action Progress Report clearly outlined the numerous supports being provided to New Arrivals. The high level of engagement with the Priority Target Group (People Living in Disadvantaged Areas and the Priority Target Locations (Lifford/Ballindrait & Raphoe/Convoy) is evidenced in the Lot Action Progress Report, Monitoring Report & Individual Caseload by Target Group Report for Lot 33-3.

Data Checks

It was confirmed that any issues raised in relation to Data Gaps on IRIS system had been addressed by DLDC.

SICAP EU Communications & Visibility Guidelines

It was confirmed that there is a process in place to ensure that all publicity material of the PI meets the Communications and Publicity Requirements of the SICAP Programme.

Pobal Parallel Review

The Pobal parallel review confirmed that there were no financial or operational issues at mid-year and recommended that the Mid Year Report be approved. The Sub Committee confirmed that Communication and Publicity issues with the LDC Website and Social Media publications, which were raised in the review, had been addressed.

The SICAP Sub Committee agreed that the LCDC should continue to monitor and review individual target achievement and spend.

On the proposal of James O'Donnell, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the Mid-Year Review 2024 for Lot 33-3 Donegal.

The LCDC requested that DLDC attend the October 15th LCDC meeting to present a comprehensive update on the delivery of the SICAP Programme with a focus on Target achievement and Budget expenditure.

Padraic Fingleton acknowledged the work of the Community Development Staff and LCDC in supporting DLDC staff deliver the SICAP Programme.

7. SICAP Case Study 2024

Kathleen Browne advised members that the Local Development Companies are required to submit the 2024 Case Studies by 25th October 2024.

The SICAP case study must have a primary focus as per the themes below. The themes have been selected to align with SICAP 2024-2028.

- 1) Target Group focus, that is, the case study must be primarily focussed on a project aimed at a named SICAP target group. As an example, this could include a focus on a Local Priority Target Group (LPTG) with an emphasis on strengthening and deepening engagement with one of the named LPTGs. Where appropriate, it should include information on the use of My Journey (where used) to deepen engagement with a target group.
- 2) Thematic focus areas, that is, the case study focusses on work carried out around one of the eight SICAP thematic focus areas under Goal 1.
- 3) Core area of work, that is, the case study focusses on LDC activities in one of the six SICAP core areas of work. Where appropriate, this could also include experience and use of My Journey to deepen engagement to support a core area of work.

Members were advised that Pobal recommend that the LCDC and LDC should mutually agree one theme for each Lot for the annual Case Study. A copy of the Case Study Guidelines have been circulated with the agenda.

Kathleen confirmed that at their meeting on 22nd July 2024, the SICAP Sub Committee received presentations from IDP and DLDC setting out their proposed Case Studies for 2024 as follows:

Lot 33-1 Case Study

SICAP Theme: Target Group Focus: New Communities

Title: An Inishowen response for our new communities – Together Connected

The SICAP Case Study being proposed is to showcase examples of initiatives by Inishowen Development Partnership, local community groups and social enterprises in welcoming and helping with the integration of International Protection Applicants, Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTPs – Ukrainians) and wider Migrant supports in recent years.

IDP will highlight what has worked well from tackling misinformation and anti-immigrant sentiment, addressing social, cultural and employment needs, to supporting an inclusive engagement through a rights based approach. While this work commenced in 2022 and 2023 the emphasis will be on the continuation into 2024 and the emphasis on engagement, connection and empowerment.

“Diversity is a fact; Inclusion is an act” is a quote by Zabeen Hirji. So IDP are building this case study on the premise that diversity is a fact, equity is a choice, inclusion is an action and belonging is an outcome. When we celebrate diversity and inclusion we unlock the potential for integration and innovation.

In selecting the Case Study topic, several IDP initiatives and projects were considered, and the conclusion was to emphasise and showcase the work done in promoting integration for newcomers in our community.

IDP propose to deliver this Case Study using both video and narrative reporting.

Lot 33-2 Case Study

SICAP Theme: Thematic Focus Areas: Collaborative Responses to Identified Needs

Title: Collaboration with Donegal Domestic Violence Services

A group of women from Donegal Domestic Violence Services are taking part in the Sport4Empowerment ESF+ program, facilitated by Donegal Sports Partnership in Letterkenny. The initiative aims to boost the skills, confidence and understanding of the participants through sports and physical activities. This collaboration will provide participants with an opportunity to engage in ongoing training and provides an excellent referral route to access SICAP supports.

Several programme participants are single parents, long-term unemployed, and living in unstable conditions with diverse support needs. In consideration of their lived experiences, prioritising soft skills and well-being support is crucial to boost their confidence, empowering them to pursue employment opportunities and achieve financial independence in the future. Most workshops of this nature are available to individuals in Central Donegal, however, transportation continues to be a challenge for many women residing in the Gaeltacht, preventing them from attending.

Through discussion with Jessica Gallagher (DDVS) and Therese Lafferty (Donegal Sports Partnership), DLDC felt that SICAP supports will complement the current Sports4empowerment programme, providing additional training opportunities in a supportive environment with the offer of one-to-one support to those who feel that they are ready to engage.

DLDC have agreed with Donegal Domestic Violence services to offer workshops to their clients across the Gaeltacht. This will make it easier for clients to access supports therefore increasing participation. Workshops will be in a closed group environment and SICAP staff will be in attendance in order to build relationships with the women.

DLDC propose to deliver this Case Study using both video and narrative reporting.

Lot 33-3 Case Study

SICAP Theme: Thematic Focus Areas: Collaborative Responses to Identified Needs
 Title: Social Enterprise Incubator Hub

The SICAP Social Enterprise team, as a key support agency for social enterprise within Donegal, identified the need for the collaborative response from relevant stakeholders to support the increase in pre-start social enterprises and social entrepreneurs. This involved devising an “incubator hub” initiative and engaging in consultation with relevant stakeholders to become collaboration partners – ATU Letterkenny, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI) – to foster new and emerging social enterprises. This included individual and group developmental supports including mentoring, training, access to information and guidance and use of office based resources to kickstart the concept ideas.

The SICAP Goal 1 team launched the Incubator Hub in December 2023 and promoted a call for participants. The first group workshop was held in-person in January 2024 where 7 pre-start social enterprises and social entrepreneurs attended an information session on social enterprise legal structures and good governance. A further two group workshops on Marketing/Research/Community Survey/Forecasting/Cashflow and on Sourcing Social Finance with Clann Credo, LEADER, Western Development Commission, Community Finance Oireland were held in February and March of 2024. Ongoing one-to-one mentoring and training is given to each individual social entrepreneur. The case study records the journey of key participants on the highlights and challenges of developing a social enterprise in Donegal with the support of the SICAP social enterprise team and collaborative partners. The team are currently providing bespoke guidance and mentoring along with additional supports available as part of DLDC’s wraparound service such as use of hot desk and office based resources.

DLDC propose to deliver this Case Study using both video and narrative reporting.

Members of the SICAP Sub Committee recommend that the LCDC approve the proposals for SICAP Case Studies for 2024.

On the proposal of Siobhan McLaughlin, seconded by James O Donnell, the SICAP Case Studies for 2024 were approved as follows:

Lot	Case Study Title	SICAP Theme
Lot 33-1	An Inishowen response for our new communities – Together Connected	Target Group Focus
Lot 33-2	Collaboration with Donegal Domestic Violence Services	Thematic Focus Areas
Lot 33-3	Social Enterprise Incubator Hub	Thematic Focus Areas

8. Slaintecare – Healthy Communities Programme Seed Funding

Ciaran Martin advised members that the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme is funded by the Department of Health and administered by Donegal County Council on behalf of the LCDC. He confirmed that the overarching aims of the programme was to reduce health inequalities by addressing the wider social determinants of health in communities experiencing high levels of deprivation.

Members were advised that Slaintecare currently has two target areas for delivery in Donegal: Inishowen and Gaeltacht Northwest. Under this programme there is annual Seed funding of €75,000 available for both the Gaeltacht Northwest and the Inishowen Areas.

Ciaran advised members that the Project proposals for 2024 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 communities in both areas.

This engagement included the HSE, Donegal Sports Partnership, IDP, DLDC, Healthy Ireland officer, DCC Access Officer, TUSLA, NW Child & Family Support Network Meeting, and numerous Community and Voluntary Groups.

He advised that they had looked to support and fund those groups and individuals who are working daily to improve the lives of communities who may not access mainstream services.

He confirmed that the the process was guided by regular meetings with Department officials to ensure potential projects aligned with funding criteria.

Ciaran confirmed to members that the Local Implementation Team for Healthy Ireland and Slaintecare Healthy Communities Programme, a sub-committee of the LCDC met on Wednesday 10th July to discuss projects and agreed to recommend the award of grants for each area as contained in the report circulated in advance of the meeting.

Members considered the report and on the proposal of Siobhan McLaughlin, seconded by Padraic Fingleton, the LCDC approved the award of Slaintecare Seeding Funding 2024 for the geographic areas of Inishowen and Gaeltacht North West as set out in the report circulated.

AOB

PeacePlus Partnership Structure.

Paddy Doherty advised members that at their meeting on 15th March 2022, the LCDC had agreed the membership formation of the Peace Plus Partnership Structure with 28 members. Paddy advised the LCDC that difficulty had arisen in relation to recruitment of membership to the Partnership to the LCDC. On the proposal of Siobhan McLaughlin, seconded by Cllr Niamh Kennedy, the LCDC agreed to reduce the membership of the PeacePlus Partnership to 25 members.

Roma Documentary Launch

Siobhan McLaughlin advised members that the launch of a documentary on Roma Community, produced in collaboration with Donegal Arts Service and Donegal Travellers Project, would take place at 12pm, July 25th in the Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny, and all LCDC members were invited to attend.

Covid 19 - Commemorative Paving Stones

Kathleen Browne advised members that as part of the National Day of Reflection, Donegal Community Forum commissioned 6 Commemorative Paving stones to be placed in the footpaths/walkways of the Towns with the highest population in each Municipal District:

- Donegal MD – Donegal Town – The Diamond
- Glenties MD – Dungloe – Older Persons Bus Stop, Lower Main Street
- Inishowen MD – Buncrana – Market Yard
- Letterkenny MD – Letterkenny – An Grianan Theatre
- Milford MD – Milford – Library, Milford PSC
- Stranorlar MD – Ballybofey – Butt Hall Centre

These paving stones, which were manufactured by Mc Gee Memorials, Dungloe, are now installed. They have been integrated into the infrastructure of the town to reflect the qualities which form the infrastructure of our Communities - kindness, generosity and goodness - all of which the people of Donegal showed to each other throughout the Covid pandemic.

Members were advised that the Design of the Commemorative Stones is made up of the Donegal County Badge which was granted to Donegal County Council as part of the Grant of Arms which forms the Council Crest.

The Badge consists of the O'Donnell Cross infilled by an lunula. The original lunula, which was found at Treantagh, is in the National Museum and dates from 2,000 to 1,500 BC. The Donegal County Badge has been used by Donegal County Council exclusively for the Freedom of the County Award to date so it is fitting that it should also be used as part of the Commemorative Paving Stones, which are located in the Municipal Districts throughout the county, to honour the work of the volunteers who live there.

The County Motto - "Mutuam habeatis caritatem" is also included in the design. This motto is devised from the last words of St Colmcille – "Maintain among you mutual love" as it was evident that the people of the County, through their efforts for the people in their locality, fulfilled this final wish of St. Colmcille throughout the Covid Pandemic.

This concluded the business of the meeting.