** **

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee**

**Held by web conference 10.00 am on 21st July 2020**

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| **Members** | Clr Martin McDermott (Chair), Clr Niamh Kennedy, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Michael Tunney, Anne McHugh, Shauna McClenaghan, Padraic Fingleton, Kathleen Bonner, Joe Boland, James O Donnell, Aengus Kennedy and Seamus Bonner |
| **Apologies** | Seamus Neely, Paul Hannigan, Anne McAteer, Liam McElhinney, Charlene Logue & Clr Maire Therese Gallagher |
| **Chief Officer** | Paddy Doherty |
| **Attending** | Liam Ward, Seamus Canning, Adrienne Kelly and Kathleen Browne |

**Welcome**

Clr Martin McDermott, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for participating in the meeting.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Draft minutes of the LCDC meeting of 16th June 2020 were considered with no matters arising.

On the proposal of Padraic Fingleton, seconded by Michael Tunney, the amended minutes were adopted with no matters arising

1. **Audit of Community Programmes funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development 2018.**

Seamus Canning advised members that an Audit of Donegal LCDC’s implementation of SICAP and the Community Enhancement Programme 2018 were undertaken by the Local Government Audit Service on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development in January 2020.

They also conducted an Audit of Donegal Local Development CLG’s SICAP Work.

Copies of the Audit Reports had been circulated to Members with the Agenda for the meeting. Seamus confirmed that all issues raised in the report in relation to Donegal LCDC’s implementation of SICAP and the Community Enhancement Programme have been addressed. He further advised that DLDC had confirmed that all actions required to address the issues raised in relation to the delivery of the SICAP Programme have been implemented.

Members noted the Local Government Audit Services Audit Reports for Donegal LCDC’s implementation of SICAP and the Community Enhancement Programme 2018 and Donegal Local Development CLG’s deliver of the SICAP Programme in 2018.

1. **Community Enhancement Programme 2020**

Kathleen Browne advised members that the 2020 Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) had been launched with funding of €2 million. €74,812 has been granted to Donegal LCDC for this Programme in 2020. €2,419.72 is also on hand from unclaimed grant monies awarded under the Community Enhancement Programme 2018. The total monies available to award for Donegal LCDC is €77,231.72.

She advised members that details of the scheme had been received from the Department as follows:-

* Similar to last year, the LCDC are the decision makers on the successful applications for funding. If they so wish they can consult with the Municipal Districts.
* Funding under this Programme will be aimed at addressing disadvantage as identified in the LECP. However, LCDC’s are permitted discretion to direct funding to groups for COVID 19 related expenditure by Community Groups.
* 30% of the funding should be directed towards small scale capital grants of €1,000 or less.
* The closing date for receipt of applications must be set at no later than 30th September 2020 and all monies must be expended by 31st December 2020.

A copy of the draft Application Form and Guidelines had been circulated to member with the Agenda.

The LCDC noted the Community Enhancement Programme 2020. On the proposal of Clr James O Donnell, seconded by Padraic Fingleton members agreed to amend the guidelines to adhere to the payment guidelines set down by Donegal County Council and to allow relevant expenditure from the launch of the scheme nationally, 22nd June 2020, to be deemed eligible for Grant drawdown claims for Community Enhancement Programme 2020 to facilitate Community Groups who had to expend monies due to COVID 19. Padraic Fingleton spoke in support of amendment of spend date and the benefit this would have for community groups.

Members noted that theguidelines state that the Closing date for Community Enhancement Programme 2020 can be set by the LCDC with a date no later than 30th September 2020 and on the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Padraic Fingleton members agreed to set the deadline for receipt of applications to the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 for 3pm on Friday, 14th August 2020.

Members noted that the guidelines for the Community Enhancement Programme 2020 allowed LCDC’s the flexibility to award some or all of the CEP money to Community Groups for COVID 19 related expenditure and on the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Padraic Fingleton, members agreed to prioritise the award of funding to groups applying for grants for COVID related capital expenditure.

On the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Padraic Fingleton, members further agreed that grants would be broken down into small grants of between €500-€1,000 and large grants of €5000 with 30% of these monies should be reserved for small scale capital grants.. Members agreed to divide the monies equally between each MD resulting in €15,446.34 being available for each MD, broken down into €10,446.34 to be awarded as small grants and one large grant of €5,000 being awarded in each Municipal District.

1. **Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3 Update**

Seamus Canning advised members that Round 3 of the Healthy Ireland Fund (HIF) had been approved by the Department of Health. The aim of this funding was to support local and national organisations to deliver actions that will improve health and wellbeing in line with Healthy Ireland, A Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025. The grant period for Round 3 will run from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2021.

He confirmed that Pobal and the Department of Health are currently reviewing all the approved programmes of work under Round 3 of the scheme as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.  Information was being sought from all groups responsible for actions under the programme on their ability to carry out their planned programmes and an opportunity will be provided to all groups to amend or to re-profile their approved programmes and budgets to enable them deliver their services to the target groups in the context of the COVID-19 restrictions.

1. **Healthy Ireland – Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme**

Seamus Canning advised members that Applications for the Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme were invited in February 2020 with an initial closing date of 27th March 2020. Under the terms of the scheme, small grants of between €2,000 and €5,000 were to be allocated to local community, voluntary and sporting organisations to deliver actions or projects which are in line with the Mental Health Theme of Healthy Ireland Round 3. As a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, the closing date for receipt of applications was extended to 1st May 2020.

Members were advised that 23 grant applications were received and were assessed by the Healthy Ireland Sub-committee at a video conference meeting on Thursday 4th June. Ten applications were deemed to be invalid as they were not in compliance with the scheme requirements. The remaining 13 applications were all recommended for funding by the sub-committee.

On the proposal of Kathleen Bonner, seconded by Clr Niamh Kennedy, members approved the recommendation of the Healthy Ireland Sub Committee to the LCDC to award grants under the Community Mental Health Small Grants Scheme as follows:-

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| **Group name** | **Project** | **Amount** |
| NCCWN Donegal Women’s Network | The Art of Wellness Women’s Project | €2,000.00 |
| Letterkenny Youth & Family Services & Donegal Travellers Project | It’s my chance | €5,000.00 |
| Donegal Youth Service | Young Adult Wellness Group | €3,100.00 |
| Autism Awareness North West | Autism Awareness North West | €2,000..00 |
| CDP na Rossan | Support through Social Events & Yoga | €2,000.00 |
| Inishowen Children’s Autism Related Education Ltd | Moves for All, Healthy Eating 4 All | €2,000.00 |
| Pollan Bowling Club | Pollan Bowling Club | €2,000.00 |
| Wesley Hall | One Mine Day | €5,000.00 |
| Spraoi agus Sport | Developing Resilience Together | €2,000.00 |
| Greencastle Community Development CLG | Runamuck – Children’s Weekend Forest School | €2,000.00 |
| Culdaff Football Club | Culdaff FC Fun Activity Camps | €2,000.00 |
| Sliabh Liag Cycling Club | Sliabh Liag Cycling Club | €2,000.00 |
| Donegal Dragons | Donegal Dragons and other sea lovers | €2,000.00 |

1. **Tribute to Seamus Neely, Chief Executive**

Clr Martin McDermott, on behalf of the LCDC, paid tribute to Seamus Neely, Chief Executive, on his departure from the post. Members acknowledged his role in the establishment of the LCDC and his work with and for Community Groups. Liam Ward advised that Seamus Neely had requested him to pass on his thanks to the members of the LCDC for their commitment to their role and his delight at the LCDC being able to administer the various schemes which benefitted all parts of the County.

1. **Insurance Costs for Community Groups**

Clr Niamh Kennedy advised that a motion had been passed at the July Council meeting to investigate for formation of an umbrella group for Community Groups to acquire more reasonable Insurance. It had been agreed that a survey of all Community Groups would be undertaken through the PPN to seek to collate information in relation to their rate of insurance and who they were insured with.

Clr McDermott congratulated Clr Kennedy for bringing the motion forward. Padraic Fingleton advised that DLDC would assist in any way they could with this project.

1. **COVID 19 – Community Forum Update**

Clr Martin McDermott advised members that correspondence had been received from Finn Valley Community Health Forum seeking a formal acknowledgement of the work of the various Voluntary Groups in the County during COVID 19 Pandemic. Clr McDermott, on behalf of the LCDC, acknowledged all of the volunteers and community groups who had stepped up during the crisis and provided an invaluable service to their locality.

Liam Ward confirmed that the LCDC along with Donegal County Council and the Community Forum would be working to establish a public platform to acknowledge the work of volunteers and groups.

Liam advised that the Community Forum had held their 9th meeting last week. He confirmed that the numbers of people accessing the helpline had reduced significantly. As a result the service would run from 9am – 5pm Monday-Friday from next week.

1. **Outdoor Recreation and Migrant Integration Strategy**

On the proposal of Clr Kennedy, seconded by Michael Tunney, members agreed to progress the Outdoor Recreation Strategy and Migrant Integration Strategy to be taken forward as LCDC projects for consideration for LEADER Funding.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**

Clr Martin McDermott advised members that the next meeting was scheduled for 15th September 2020 at 10.00 am.

This concluded the business of the meeting.