

**Minutes of Donegal Local Community Development Committee by web
conference 10.00 am on 15th March 2023**

Members	Clr Niamh Kennedy (Chair), Paul Hannigan, Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, Clr Martin McDermott, Michael MacGiolla Easbuig, Maria Ferguson, James O Donnell, Aengus Kennedy, Joe Boland Shauna McClenaghan, Padraic Fingleton, and Andrew McNulty
Apologies	John McLaughlin, Charlene Logue, Anne McHugh, Liam McElhinney, Brenda Hegarty, Siobhan McLaughlin and Maire Ui Mhaolain
Chief Officer	Paddy Doherty
Attending	Liam Ward, Ciaran Martin, Claire McCallan, Adrienne Kelly and Kathleen Browne

Welcome

Clr Niamh Kennedy welcomed everyone and thanked the members present for participating in the meeting. Clr Kennedy welcomed Maria Ferguson, new HSE Representative, to the LCDC.

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

The minutes of the previous LCDC Meeting, as circulated with the agenda, were considered. On the proposal of Padraic Fingleton, seconded by Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, the minutes of LCDC Meeting of 15th February 2023 were adopted with no issues arising.

2. LECP Update

Claire McCallan provided members with an update on the progress informing the delivery of the LECP and particularly the following:

- 1. The Advisory Steering Group (ASG)
- 2. Community Engagement and the Workshop in Sligo next week
- 3. Divisional Meeting re SEP

Claire reminded members of the updates and actions to date and confirmed the appointment of members to the LECP Advisory Steering Group was now completed. She advised that the Advisory Steering Group would formally meeting on 20th March where the role of the ASG would be outlined and a discussion on the communications framework and preliminary timeline in relation to collaboration with communities and wider stakeholder groups would take place.

Claire confirmed that the LECP would provide an enabling framework that supports collaborative working with Communities, In this regard Claire advised that A Guide for Inclusive

Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making which was co-produced by the Department of Rural and Community Development with Pobal, Community Work Ireland (CWI), and the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) had recently been published. The purpose of the guide is to enhance the capacity of Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) to engage marginalised groups in Local Economic and Community Planning (LECP) processes.

Members were advised that People & Places, who are the appointed Consultants working with Donegal County Council informing the SEP, will present some of the initial data informing the profile e.g. building occupancy/vacancy, age demographic, travel patterns etc to an online workshop tomorrow morning with colleagues at Divisional level across the directorates to scope out how this work can inform the work done across the local authority.

Claire confirmed that she would provide members with a further update at the next meeting.

3. Community Recognition Fund

Paddy Doherty advised members that the Department of Rural and Community Development launched the Community Recognition Fund which aims to support the development of community infrastructure and facilities in recognition of the contribution being made by communities across the country in welcoming and hosting significant numbers of arrivals from Ukraine and other countries.

The funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages that are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants.

The Fund aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community. It is separate in its objectives and scope to any other public funding streams which aim to support the development of public service needs arising from the significant number of arrivals from Ukraine.

€50 million is available nationally under the Fund and this is allocated between each local authority based on the number of new arrivals located there. On this basis, the allocation to County Donegal is €3,014,395.

He reminded members that at the LCDC Meeting in January members noted that the following:-

- The LCDC are the decision makers on the successful applications for funding.
- The deadline for receipt of completed EOI applications was set as 3pm on Monday, 6th March 2023.

Members were advised that the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee Met on 13th March 2023 to Evaluate all grant applications.

Members were informed that the Sub Committee were presented with the most the recent data on numbers of New Communities in settlements throughout the County, the percent of the total number of new arrivals they make up and the percent increase in population in these areas as a result of their arrival for evaluation in devising and agreeing the Scoring Scheme for evaluation of the Expressions of Interest submitted under the scheme.

Paddy confirmed that Members of the Sub Committee agreed that they would not evaluate applications received from settlements who are not hosting any Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants. Members agreed that no late applications would be considered for award.

He advised that 192 applications were received as follows:-

Late – 2

Invalid – 47 applications were deemed invalid as they had not submitted essential supporting documentation as outlined on the Expression of Interest Form:-

- Quotation/Estimate
- Proof of Interest in land/property (Lease/Deeds etc)
- Detail of Planning Permission where required

Withdrawn – 8 Applications

Not Evaluated as no BTOP/IPAS in settlement – 18

Members were advised that following the Evaluation of the Grants members of the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee recommend the grant awards for the approval of the LCDC to proceed to the next stage of approval with the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Andrew McNulty queried whether anything could be set in place to support Community Groups to be ready to apply for a similar scheme in future should it become available. Paddy Doherty confirmed that discussions had taken place with Members at the Rural Programme Funding Workshops in relation to utilising the DFI as a funding source to develop projects.

Clr Maire Therese Gallagher requested that the LCDC highlight the need for funding to be made available for outdoor recreation facilities for schools. Issues in relation to insurance for community use and planning permission impacted on Schools applying to the Community Recognition Fund for support for outdoor recreation facilities. Clr Martin McDermott agreed with Clr Gallagher's comments and acknowledged that the DFI funding should be used more strategically. He queried how smaller and new groups could be supported to successfully submit funding applications. Padraic Fingleton confirmed that the SICAP Programme could provide this support.

Liam Ward confirmed the Community Forum acknowledged the pressures on schools, health sector and transportation as a result of the arrival of BTOP and International Protection applicants. He confirmed that initiatives to address some of the transportation issues were underway.

Liam Ward acknowledged the work of Paddy Doherty, the Community Development Team and the members of the LCDC Grant Evaluation Sub Committee in the administration of the fund in a very short time period.

On the proposal of Cllr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Joe Boland, the LCDC approved the recommendation of awards to be submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Community Recognition Fund as set out below:-

Ref	Group Name	Amt Awarded
CRF23/D/04	Donegal Co Co Playground Bundoran	€225,000.00
CRF23/S/11	Ballybofey and Stranorlar Integrated Community Company CLG (BASICC)	€200,000.00
CRF23/G/22	Coiste Forbartha Chnoc Fola	€165,000.00
CRF23/D/01	Donegal Town Community Chamber CLG	€150,000.00
CRF23/G/25	Gweedore Celtic	€125,000.00
CRF23/S/10	Castlefin Partnership Initiative (CPI) Castlefin	€100,000.00
CRF23/L/11	IRD Milford Ltd (Milford Park Development)	€80,400.00
CRF23/G/01	AWAKE Tourism	€80,000.00
CRF23/I/43	Bunrana Tidy Towns	€80,000.00
CRF23/L/02	Letterkenny Rovers FC	€80,000.00
CRF23/D/12	Coiste Forbartha na Carraige	€75,000.00
CRF23/D/32	Killybegs Community Council	€75,000.00
CRF23/S/17	Butt Drama Circle CLG t/a Balor Arts Centre	€72,816.00
CRF23/L/22	Donegal Local Development CLG (DLDC)	€72,640.00
CRF23/G/16	Ionad Cois Locha CLG	€70,000.00
CRF23/I/27	Glengad FC	€60,000.00
CRF23/D/14	Bluestack Central & Hostel/Drimarone Development CLG	€57,767.00
CRF23/G/28	Glenties Community Dev Group & Naomh Conaill GAA	€55,000.00
CRF23/I/53	Rashenny Football Club	€52,035.00
CRF23/I/32	Spraoi agus Sport	€51,312.00
CRF22/D/22	Bundoran Community Development CLG	€50,000.00
CRF23/G/30	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór	€50,000.00
CRF23/I/34	Carndonagh GAA Club	€50,000.00
CRF23/L/07	Letterkenny Youth & Family Service (LYSF)	€45,000.00
CRF23/L/39	CLG Tearmainn	€50,000.00
CRF23/S/14	Meenreagh Social Centre and Hostel Ltd	€50,000.00
CRF23/I/48	Quigleys Point Community Centre	€49,660.00
CRF23/G/18	CDP na Rosann CTR	€49,116.00
CRF23/L/31	Regional Cultural Centre, Letterkenny	€46,406.00
CRF23/S/08	Sessighoneill National School	€45,053.00
CRF23/G/27	Comhlact an Halla Mhóir CTR	€35,180.00
CRF23/I/36	Moville GAA	€30,000.00
CRF23/G/10	CLG Ard an Ratha- Ardara GAA	€33,482.00

CRF23/L/41	Donegal Youth Service Ltd	€32,710.00
CRF23/L/36	CLG Ghaeil Leitir Ceanainn/Letterkenny Gaels	€32,438.00
CRF23/D/31	Lár Chomhairle Paroiste Ghleann Cholm Cille	€31,990.00
CRF23/L/38	An Grianán Theatre CLG	€31,945.00
CRF23/I/45	CLG Malainn	€31,876.00
CRF23/D/29	Donegal County Library, Bundoran	€30,000.00
CRF23/L/01	We Care LK Foodbank	€28,500.00
CRF23/I/41	Newtowncunningham Community First Responders	€27,242.00
CRF23/D/25	CLG Naomh Columba	€26,945.00
CRF23/S/22	Séan MacCumhails GAA Club	€26,882.00
CRF23/L/34	Letterkenny Athletic Club	€26,300.00
CRF23/L/10	Fanad Gaels	€26,000.00
CRF23/D/24	CLG Chill Chartha	€25,700.00
CRF23/D/28	Aislann Chill Chartha CLG	€25,000.00
CRF23/G/08	SULT Féile Cuideachta faoi Theorainn Ráthaíochta	€25,000.00
CRF23/I/05	Malin Head Community Association Ltd.	€25,000.00
CRF23/I/22	Malin Parochial Hall Committee	€25,000.00
CRF23/L/09	Letterkenny C.D.P	€25,000.00

4. Letterkenny Social Enterprise Grants – Extension request

Adrienne Kelly advised members that a request had been received from Letterkenny Community Centre for an extension of time for project completion and drawdown of Social Enterprise Grant due to delays with design and construction to April 2024.

On the proposal of James O Donnell, seconded by Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, members approved the extension request.

5. LCDC Sub Committee Membership

Membership of the LCDC Sub Committees were reviewed and all current members confirmed their willingness to remain on the respective Sub Committees.

Paddy Doherty confirmed that there were vacancies on the SICAP Sub Committee and SICAP Grant Evaluation Sub Committee due to the resignation of Anne McAteer as HSE Representative.

On the proposal of Clr Maire Therese Gallagher, seconded by Andrew McNulty, members agreed to appoint Michael McGiolla Easbuig to the SICAP Sub Committee.

It was agreed to defer filling the vacancy on the SICAP Grant Evaluation Sub Committee to the next LCDC Meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr Niamh Kennedy, seconded by Joe Boland, Andrew McNulty was appointed as the PPN Community and Voluntary Representative on the Slainte Care Healthy Communities Programme Implementation Team.

6. LCDC Workshop on Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Planning and Decision Making – 22nd March 2023

Paddy Doherty requested that any member wishing to attend the above workshop submit a request to do so in the coming days.

7. Fourth Open Government National Action Plan 2023-2025

Liam Ward advised members that a copy of correspondence received by Chief Executive in relation to the above matter had been circulated to all LCDC Members for their information.

8. LEADER

Cllr Martin McDermott queried when the application to the next LEADER Process was likely to open. Padraic Fingleton confirmed that DLDC were already providing support to groups who are intending to apply to the new LEADER programme. Paddy Doherty confirmed that application process was likely to open in Quarter 4 2023 or Quarter 1 2024.

Cllr McDermott queried whether any discussions had taken place regarding amending the 25% Community Contribution. Paddy Doherty confirmed that this matter could be raised at meetings on the new LEADER Programme. Padraic Fingleton confirmed that the ILDN would be lobbying for this amendment to be included in the new Programme.

This concluded the business of the meeting