

**Miontuairiscí Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Chontae na Gaillimhe a
tionóladh ar an 22 Feabhra 2024 ag 4.00pm**
Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held
on 22nd February 2024 at 4.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Gabe Cronnelly, LA Member	Public
Cllr. Pádraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Donal Walsh, GRET	Public
Laurence Gaughan, HSE West	Public
Liam Conneally, Chief Executive	Public
Sean O'Coisdealbha, Udaras na Gaeltachta	Public
Valerie Kelly, Local Enterprise Office	Public
Anne Mitchell, IFA	Community
Gerard Costello, PPN Community	Community
Jen Fisher, PPN Environment	Community
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Mairín Ní Chonghaile, PPN Community	Community
Peter Gohery, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Kevin Gavin, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community

Apologies:

Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Community
Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection	Public

Also in Attendance:

Anne Cassidy, Galway Rural Development
Kieran Coyne Chief Officer, Mary McGann, Helen Melia, Galway County Council

N. Thomas welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) a tionóladh an 10ú Éanáir 2024**
Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 10th January 2024

On the **PROPOSAL** of S. Dolan, **SECONDED** by P. Gohery, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th January 2024 were **APPROVED**.

2. **SICAP: Athbhreithniú Feidhmíochta Bliantúil 2023 - ceadú**

SICAP: Annual Performance Review 2023 – approval

A Cassidy, GRD gave a presentation outlining key actions from the Annual Performance Review 2023 and after the presentation also showed the SICAP video case-study for 2023.

D. Walsh, Chair of the SICAP Sub-Committee thanked A. Cassidy for her detailed presentation and case-study and gave an update of the SICAP Sub-Committee assessment, confirming that both KPI's were exceeded, and the Sub-Committee were satisfied with the targeting achieved. D. Walsh confirmed that the budgetary split between Goals 1 and 2 is 38.95% to 61.05%, which is slightly off the recommended 40/60 split, however, the Sub-Committee is satisfied to recommend approval of same.

K. Gavin commended GRD on a job very well done and the presentation and video case study is very good.

P. Gohery queried Make Way Day in Portumna which was brought to the Workhouse as this location is not very accessible for wheelchairs, and also queried how invitations were managed in particular regarding members of the PPN's Galway Disability Forum, and Anne Cassidy agreed to revert to P. Gohery with full details following the meeting.

N. Thomas thanked A. Cassidy for the presentation and video case study and also thanked D. Walsh for his update as Chair of the SICAP Sub-Committee and also thanked M. McGann and D. Walsh in the past

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Walsh, **SECONDED** by A. Mitchell, the SICAP: Annual Performance Review 2023– was **APPROVED**.

3. **Clár chun Pobail a Chumhachtú: Plean Bliantúil 2024 - ceadú**

Empowering Communities Programme: Annual Plan 2024 – approval

M. McGann gave a brief overview of the Empowering Communities Programme, indicating that it was Year 2 of the Programme which was being implemented across 15 of the most deprived areas in the country – the small area for County Galway was Ballinasloe Urban comprising St. Grellan's, St. Theresa's and St. Anne's. The purpose of the programme was to address social exclusion and the impacts of poverty and disadvantage in these areas through a community development approach, by developing and facilitating relationships between community stakeholders, community groups, statutory agencies, and existing structures. M. McGann reminded the LCDC Members that their role involved agreement of an Annual Programme of Works & Budget, reviewing outputs and progress on a 6 monthly basis, and supporting the Programme Implementer to explore additional funding opportunities and networking opportunities with statutory agencies. It was important for the LCDC to review updated Pobal

Deprivation Index data per Census 2022, particularly the areas which had fared less well from 2016 to 2022 census data, so that the underlying causes could be explored under the programme. The following changes in deprivation ratings were outlined:

Small Area	2016 Census	2022 Census	Rating
Curragh Park (51 houses)	-28.75	-56.14	Extremely Disadvantaged
St. Grellan's, St. Theresa's, St. Anne's (67 houses)	-30.93	-34.80	Extremely Disadvantaged
Hymany Park (113 houses)	-23.13	-27.02	Very Disadvantaged
St. Joseph's Place (66 houses)	-22.33	-23.84	Very Disadvantaged

S. Dolan referenced the report circulated to LCDC Members, and outlined the 10 proposed areas of focus for Year 2 of the programme, and a discussion took place on the following 5 new areas:

Expansion into 3 neighbouring estates:

S. Dolan stated that Galway Rural Development proposed expansion of the programme into 3 further estates over the course of the year which would expand the area of focus from 67 – 297 houses, with a core focus on the St. Grellan's, St. Theresa's and St. Anne's Estates. N. Thomas raised a concern regarding this approach, on the basis that Year 2 actions would be more focused if they were based on the needs analysis and door-to-door survey undertaken in the core programme area in Year 1, whereas this would involve reverting to needs analysis with less defined outcomes. M. McGann also expressed concern that this may dilute the programme, referencing the acute need identified by the deprivation rating of Curragh Park increasing to 'extremely disadvantaged', and suggesting that any expansion be restricted to areas with a deprivation rating of 'extremely disadvantaged' only. S. Dolan confirmed that it wasn't intended to expand into all estates at once, and the programme would expand into 1 estate initially for the first 6 months of 2024 (Curragh Park). Any further expansion into Hymany Park and St. Joseph's Place would be in Quarter 4 and dependent upon bringing recruitment for the programme up to date.

Social Integration:

S. Dolan confirmed that this would relate to the new communities in these estates and improving social cohesion in the area. P. Gohery queried if this involved support for the proposed Accommodation Centre in Ballinasloe and S. Dolan confirmed that this was under the remit of SICAP rather than the Empowering Communities Programme.

Sport:

S. Dolan referenced the range of sporting facilities in the Ballinasloe Urban area, and the successful collaboration with Galway Sports Partnership to engage clients in afterschool sporting activities and remove barriers to engagement. K. Coyne welcomed the focus on increased use of the excellent sporting facilities available in the area.

Childcare:

S. Dolan advised that Galway Rural Development would liaise with the Empowering Communities Programme in Westmeath to gain learnings from their experience, with a view to developing community childcare facilities, which are a major barrier to lone parents and other groups engaging in education and employment. J. Fisher referenced the need to align these facilities with afterschool activities in the area.

Disability:

S. Dolan referenced the high rate of disability in census data, and the need to leverage other programmes to enable people with disabilities to access employment opportunities, by engaging with existing employment support services, and exploring potential for local employment.

On the **PROPOSAL** of P. Gohery, **SECONDED** by A. Mitchell, Empowering Communities Programme: Annual Plan 2024 was **APPROVED**.

4. LCDC Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023 - ceadú
LCDC Annual Report 2023 - approval

M. McGann referred to the requirement for the LCDC to present an Annual Report of activities and programmes to the Plenary Meeting of the Local Authority by the end of March each year. In this regard, M. McGann had circulated a draft report which provided a progress report on:

- Membership of the LCDC at end 2023
- Administration of Meetings and Business during 2023
- Progress on the development of the Local Economic and Community Plan
- Activities, initiatives, and projects delivered under SICAP 2023
- Update on procurement process for SICAP 2024-2028
- Grant Awards under the Community Support Fund 2023
- Empowering Communities Pilot Project 2023
- Healthy Galway Initiatives 2023
- 'Healthy Islands' National Age Friendly Active & Healthy Ageing Award Winning project

N. Thomas thanked M. McGann for going through the Annual Report 2023. K. Gavin thanked M. McGann and noted that the Annual Report was a very useful document for new members of the LCDC to familiarise themselves with activities. J. Fisher also acknowledged the benefits of the report for new committee members and suggested a master list of abbreviations be used as there are so many for various programmes and initiatives of the LCDC.

On the **PROPOSAL** of P. Mac An Iomaire, **SECONDED** by K. Gavin, the LCDC Annual Report 2023 was **APPROVED**.

5. **Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile**
Date of next Meeting

M. McGann stated that the next meeting will be regarding the development of the LECP and that she will notify the LCDC of the date as soon as possible.

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

Kieran Coyne gave a brief overview of the procurement process for SICAP 2024-2028 outlining that the formal process is progressing and that it is getting nearer to completion. It is hoped to have the new programme in place for 1st April 2024.

Steve Dolan noted that notification had been received from the DRCD in relation to the use of public funding regarding the upcoming referenda, and brought it to the attention of the LCDC Members:

The Department has received a number of queries following the recent notice with regard to the use of public funds during a referendum campaign.

For the avoidance of doubt, the purpose of the notice was to remind bodies in receipt of funds from the Department, and agencies under the aegis of the Department, that those public funds may not be used to advocate for a particular outcome in a referendum. The notice was not intended to have any wider effect.

Jen Fisher asked for any new members if a listing of abbreviations would be sent out to all the LCDC members as it would be very beneficial.

The Meeting then concluded.

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Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil
na Gaillimhe
Galway County Local Community
Development Committee

Cllr. Noel Thomas,
Chairperson

Kieran Coyne,
Chief Officer

Date: 3/7/24

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