

**Miontuairiscí Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Chontae na Gaillimhe a
tionóladh 4 Samhain 2025 @10.30 am**

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee meeting
held on 4th November 2025 Via Teams

Cllr. Michael Connolly, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Michael Owens, DOS, Galway County Council	Public
Gerard Costello, PPN	Community
Cllr. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire, LA Member (Vice-Chair)	Public
Cllr. James Charity, LA Member	Public
Karen Mannion, FORUM Connemara Ltd	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Anne Mitchell, IFA	Community
Vincent Lyons, PPN	Community
Kevin Gavin, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Regina Higgins, Department of Social Protection	Public
Caroline McDonagh, Local Enterprise Office	Public
Peter Gohery, PPN	Community
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Sean O'Coisdealbha, Udaras Na Gaeltachta	Public

Apologies:

Aoibheann O'Brien, PPN	Community
Eveanna Ryan, Galway Chamber	Community

Also in Attendance: Lorna Baek, Theresa Donohue, Marie Nicholson, Helen Melia, Aoife Severs, Galway County Council.
Anne Cassidy, GRD

Cllr. M Connolly, Chair of the LCDC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies received.

- 1 Miontuairiscí an Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC)
a tionóladh an 30 Meán Fomhair 2025 (cóipeanna i gceangal)**
Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on
30th September 2025.

The Minutes of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on
30th September were proposed by Steve Dolan and seconded by Padraig Mac an
Iomaire. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

- 2 Cur i láthair ó Staidéar Cáis SICAP Gaillimh Thoir**

SICAP Case Study Galway East.

The Chair welcomed Anne Cassidy from Galway Rural Development to present the SICAP case study for Galway East. Theresa Donohue reminded committee members that a case study has to be prepared and submitted each year by the Local Development Company. The case study provides an opportunity for LDCs to showcase their SICAP work at local, national and European levels. The deadline for submission of case studies to Pobal was 24th October 2025.

Anne Cassidy outlined the focus on community animation among marginalised groups, specifically the Ballinasloe Traveller Women's Group. She explained how the group progressed from formation to self-directed activities, including mental health initiatives and cultural events. She also highlighted challenges such as sustaining engagement and avoiding over-reliance on the group as a community voice.

During the discussion, members praised the initiative for improving confidence and wellbeing. Questions were raised about links with Gardaí on anti-social behaviour and sustainability of funding. A. Cassidy confirmed ongoing engagement with local services and emphasised the positive impact on community integration.

3 **Fiontar Áitiúil – Nuashonrú** Local Enterprise Office – Update

The Chair introduced Caroline McDonagh from the Local Enterprise Office in Galway County Council to provide an update. Caroline gave an update on the range of services that the LEO office offer including financial assistance packages, de-carbonisation, digitalisation, first time exporters and management development programmes. She also advised that the Local Craft Fair was going to be extended to 6 days this year, from 27th November to the 2nd December.

Kevin Gavin asked whether service-based businesses qualify for support. Caroline advised that the business must be in manufacturing and cannot give financial support to Construction, Gambling, Marine or Professional services.

Anne Mitchell asked if financial support was available for areas such as hedge cutting. Caroline explained that the business has to be innovative and can't displace another business. (These are criteria laid down by Enterprise Ireland). There must be an element of innovation and export potential.

Karen Mannion queried timelines for grant approvals, and Caroline assured members that efforts are ongoing to reduce delays.

4. **Comhpháirtíocht Sábháilteachta Pobail Áitiúil – Nuashonrú**
Local Community Safety Partnership – Update

The Chair invited Marie Nicholson, Local Community Safety Partnership Co-ordinator to give an update on the Local Community Safety Partnership. Marie explained the policy context and objectives of the new structure, which aims to enhance community safety and broaden engagement.

Members asked about integration with existing task forces and the dissolution of the Joint Policing Committee. Marie confirmed that the new structure is designed to provide a more inclusive approach to community safety. Marie advised that the first meeting will take place in December.

5. **Aon ghnó eile**
Any Other Business

Theresa Donohue provided updates on the following:

- **LCDC National and Local Communications Campaign**

Theresa advised that an email had been previously circulated outlining training schedule for LCDC communications campaign. The email contains an email address to register for the training.

- **Empowering Communities Programme**

Additional funding of €5,735 has been approved by the Department under a one off targeted call for specific projects to support existing Empowering communities pilot programme.

- **2024 Audit of the SICAP and LEP Programme**

Galway County Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) has been selected for an audit for the Local Enhancement Programme and the SICAP 2024-2028 Programme. The objective of the audits is to review the implementation of the programmes by the LCDC and to undertake financial verification checks on behalf of the department. The audits of the two programmes will cover the 2024 financial year.

In relation to SICAP, the PIs selected for audit is GRD for contract 1 and 3 and Forum Connemara for Contract 2. The Local Government Audit Service will be calling to all offices next week.

- **Healthy Ireland Galway Co-ordinator**

GCC has received sanction for the permanent post of Healthy Galway Co-ordinator from the Department. This post will be advertised shortly.

- **Pride of Place Competition**

The Pride of Place competition is taking place this Friday, 7th November in the Strand Hotel.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 9th December at 10.30 a.m. online.

The Meeting then concluded.

Lorna Baek
LORNA BAEK
CHIEF OFFICER

CLLr Michael Connolly
CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY

