

**Miontuairiscí Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil Chontae na Gaillimhe a tionóladh 9<sup>th</sup> Mí na Nollaig 2025 ag 10.30 am trí MS Teams**

Minutes of the Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 @ 10.30 am 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
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
Aoibheann O'Brien, PPN	Community
Eveanna Ryan, Galway Chamber	Community

**Apologies:**

Laurence Gaughan, HSE West Public

**Also in Attendance:** Lorna Baek, Theresa Donohue, Helen Melia, Aoife Severs, Jennie Swannock, Galway County Council, Dáithí Ó Briain, Comhar Na nOilean

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

**1 Miontuairiscí an Choiste Forbartha Pobail Áitiúil (LCDC) 4 Samhain 2025 (cóipeanna i gceangal)**

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Cllr James Charity, **SECONDED** by Steve Dolan, the Minutes of the Local Community Development Committee Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2025 were **APPROVED**.

**2 Foireann Chun Comhtháthú Chontae na Gaillimhe – Forbhreathnú 2025 le Jennie Swannock, Comhordaitheoir Tacaíochta Comhtháthaithe**  
Galway County Integration Team – 2025 overview by Jennie Swannock, Integration Support Coordinator.

Jennie Swannock provided an overview of the Galway County Council Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT), which was established in 2024 as part of a



National rollout. The guiding principle is "Integration from day one," aimed at supporting new community members to live independently. Ms. Swannock outlined who the target groups are and what the Ukraine response has been to date which includes the *Offer a Home Programme* in partnership with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The integration team have delivered 269 information clinics and 48 community events in collaboration with local and national partners. Initiatives such as *One Million Stars Project*, *Diversity on Our Doorstep*, Culture Night events and multicultural workshops have been delivered. Ms. Swannock advised on national policy updates which includes:

- Family Reunification will be granted only in cases where the applicant has sufficient resources to support family members.
- IPA residents in accommodation centres who are in employment will be asked to make a financial contribution.
- People granted International Protection will need to be resident for 5 years in Ireland before they can apply for citizenship. Currently this is 3 years.
- Applicants for citizenship must be self-sufficient and not in receipt of certain protection payments within the previous 2 years of the citizenship application.

Cllr. Michael Connolly thanked Jennie for her presentation and said that the modular homes built in Ballinasloe for Ukrainians has been a successful project and that the Ukrainians are integrating well into the community.

### **3 Staidéar Cás SICAP – Gaillimh Siar** SICAP Case Study – Galway West

#### **SICAP Case Study – Social Opportunities for Older People**

Ms. Karen Mannion, Forum Connemara presented her case study on Social Opportunities for Older People. The case study highlighted the need to support older and more vulnerable people living in coastal areas of Connemara. Out of three areas identified, Roundstone was chosen as the area most in need of services. The aim is to build social opportunities for these groups to reduce isolation and promote community engagement. Previously, the only social outlet in Roundstone was the annual Christmas party. Forum Connemara improved the local hall by painting and cleaning the space and a Social Enterprise grant was secured to update the kitchen. A pilot social event was held in July and feedback was positive. Participants requested the event to continue and suggested renaming it "The Tuesday Club" instead of "Senior Social Club" to make it more inclusive for people with disabilities and carers. The social club was promoted through sign up sheets with the public Health Nurse, Meals on Wheels, Connemara Care and other health visitors, mass leaflets and social media. The social club continues to operate and meetings have been taking place since September. It is hoped to expand the service to twice a month and to expand transport provision. In response to question raised, Karen



responded that if the quality of the events and transport support are maintained, numbers will remain strong.

#### **4 Staidéar Cás SICAP – Oileáin na Gaillimhe** SICAP Case Study – Galway Islands

Mr. Dáithí Ó Briain, Comhar na nOileán presented a case study on the Inishbofin Community Shop, developed under the Inishbofin Community Services Programme (CSP) as a social enterprise supporting sustainable island living. He explained that after the closure of the privately operated shop in October 2023, the community shop reopened in March 2024 to meet essential needs, especially for vulnerable residents. The shop operates under the Community Services Programme with volunteer support, financial assistance, and strategic backing from the Development Company, providing year-round retail services. Comhar na nOileán provided targeted assistance under SICAP, including:

- Funding for property inspection and engineering assessments.
- Financial support for initial set-up and fit-out costs.
- Ongoing mentoring and guidance for accessing further funding (e.g., LEADER).

The shop promotes sustainability and conservation, aiming to reduce environmental impact and foster greener practices. This case study demonstrates how social enterprises sustain island communities by restoring vital services and creating employment opportunities. Cllr. Michael Connolly said that the closure of local shops in rural areas was a common problem and that local tax payers should be looked after. He said that street traders were doing good business but were not complying with their trading licence and that this needs to be addressed.

#### **5 Clár Feabhsúcháin Áitiúil 2025 - ath-leithdháiltí** Local Enhancement Programme 2025 – Re-Allocations

Ms. Helen Melia, Community Section, Galway County Council, provided an update on Local Enhancement Programme 2025 allocations and underspends.

- **Allocations:** Current funding of €30,514 drawn down by community groups; Capital funding of €183,086 with actual spend of €173,824.11.

Underspend: six groups did not draw down funds totalling €5,840 and sixteen groups with underspends totalling €3,421.89, resulting in €9,261.89 available for reallocation.

- **Reallocation:**
  - Four groups identified for additional funding.



1. Kilcoona Development Association received €875.60 due to an increase in an original quote.
  - o Three applications for defibrillators received
2. Club Mara Chonamara Lair – €2,000
3. Oranmore Community First Responders Group €2,000
4. Kiltullagh Killimordayly CFR – €831.39

Remaining balance of €3,555 allocated for administration fees.

Ms. Melia sought the approval for these reallocations, following a prior review by the LCDC subcommittee.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Pdraig Mac Iomaire, **SECONDED** by Kevin Gavin, the reallocation of Local Enhancement Programme 2025 funding was **APPROVED**.

## 6 Clár Feabhsúcháin Áitiúil 2026 Local Enhancement Programme 2026

Ms. Theresa Donohue, Community Section provided an update on the new Local Enhancement Programme for 2026.

- There is only one strand available this year;- Capital Funding with a total allocation of €213,600.85.
- Theresa confirmed that the Guidelines and Information note had been circulated to all committee members earlier in the week. She outlined the projects that are eligible and ineligible under the scheme.
- It was also highlighted that some groups purchase equipment before a grant is approved and Helen emphasized the need to clearly communicate that grants must be approved before spending.
- The LCDC Subcommittee will meet to decide the funding priorities for 2026; last year's focus was on isolated and vulnerable people.
- Consideration to increase the grant limit from €5,000 to €8,000 due to rising costs.
- The final LEP grant approvals will be discussed and signed off at a special March LCDC meeting;

### Discussion:

- Gerard asked if funding could cover community CCTV systems. Theresa noted that this is under review and may not be feasible due to data protection.
- Michael Owens highlighted GDPR and the Recording Devices Act, stating that a code of practice must be developed first before proceeding.



- Padraig queried the timeline for approvals; Theresa confirmed that the LCDC recommendations go to the Department at the end of March and then the Minister issues a press release in May/June. She reiterated that groups should wait for official LCDC confirmation before they commence works or purchase equipment.

**7 Dátaí Cruinnithe an LCDC do 2026 a mholtar**  
Schedule of LCDC Meeting Dates for 2026

The suggested meeting dates for the LCDC in 2026 were agreed as follows:

**Meeting 1:** Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 via MS Teams @10.30am

**Special Meeting:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 via MS Teams 10.30 a.m.

**Meeting 2:** Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026 IN PERSON @10.30am

**Meeting 3:** Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 via MS Teams @10.30am

**Meeting 4:** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 via MS Teams @10.30am

**Meeting 5:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2026 via MS Teams @10.30am

**Meeting 6:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2026 via MS Teams @10.30am

**8 Aon ghnó eile**  
Any other business

- **Community Support Centres – Severe Weather Preparedness**

Ms. Lorna Baek, Chief Officer informed the committee that Galway County Council will shortly open Expressions of Interest for facilities willing to serve as Community Support Centres during severe weather events. These centres will provide safe, accessible spaces for residents affected by adverse conditions.

**Key Points:**

County Galway is receiving three mobile generators through government procurement: 2 × 100 kW units & 1 × 35 kW unit


- Three community support centres will be selected for installing carry over switches so that a generator can be connected in the event of a power outage and ensuring reliable power during emergencies.
- Facilities interested in becoming a Community Support Centre are encouraged to prepare and submit an Expression of Interest when the process goes live, to help form a comprehensive and formal network across the county for emergency response.
- **Pride of Place Recognition**



Theresa informed the committee that Clarinbridge Tidy Towns won the Pride of Place award in the population category 300-1,000. Michael Connolly proposed that formal congratulations be sent to the group to acknowledge this achievement.

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 10.30 a.m. online.

The Meeting concluded.

  
LORNA BAEK  
CHIEF OFFICER.



CLLR MICHAEL CONNOLLY

