

Miontuairiscí ó Chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil na Gaillimhe a tionóladh ar 10 Samhain 2020, ag 10.30 a.m.

Minutes of Galway County Local Community Development Committee held on 10th November, 2020, at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Cllr. Noel Thomas, LA Member (Chairperson)	Public
Cllr. Padraig Mac An Iomaire, LA Member	Public
Regina Higgins, Dept. Social Protection	Public
Kenny Deery, Galway Chamber	Public
Breda Fox, Head of Local Enterprise	Public
Ruairi O'Neill, Údarás na Gaeltachta	Public
Donal Walsh, GRETB	Public
Terry Keenan, FORUM Connemara Ltd (Vice-Chairperson)	Community
Margaret Sheehan, PPN Environment	Community
Tom Turley, IFA	Community
Dan Dowling, PPN Community	Community
Kathleen Aspel Mortimer, PPN Social Inclusion	Community
Máire Uí Mhaoláin, Comhar na nOileán Teo	Community
Steve Dolan, Galway Rural Development	Community
Martin Ward, PPN Social Inclusion	Community

Apologies:

Seán Ó Coistealbha, PPN Community	Community
Kevin Kelly, Interim Chief Executive	Public
Michael Keady, HSE West	Public
Cllr. Karey McHugh Farag, LA Member	Public

Also in Attendance:

Kieran Coyne, Mary McGann, Rita Tansey, Galway County Council.

T. Turley welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies received from those unable to attend. He asked if there were any matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting and none were declared.

1 Miontuairiscí ó chruinniú an Choiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil a tionóladh ar an 9 Meán Fómhair 2020

Minutes of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) held on 9th September 2020

On the **PROPOSAL** of D. Dowling, **SECONDED** by Cllr. N Thomas, the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th September were **APPROVED**.

2 Cathaoirleach agus Leas-Chathaoirleach a thoghadh **Election of Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson**

T. Turley and D. Dowling thanked all the members for their support during their terms as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively. K. Coyne thanked T. Turley and D. Dowling for all their work and contributions to the LCDC over the last 3 years.

K. Coyne outlined the procedure involved in election of a Chairperson. T. Keenan raised the issue in relation to the Statutory Instrument within the LCDC, which is the primary legislative basis where both the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson may serve a maximum 3-year term – only in the Operating Guidelines does it state that the Vice-Chairperson may serve additional 3 year terms. K. Coyne stated that he would seek clarification on this point with the Department. On whether this would delay the election process, M. McGann advised the members that unless D. Dowling was seeking re-election to the post of Vice-Chairperson that this did not affect the Agenda Item and proposed that the committee proceed to nominations. At that point D. Dowling confirmed that he was not seeking re-election to the post of Vice-Chairperson.

M. Sheehan referenced the e-mail she had circulated to all Members prior to the Meeting, urging female members of the LCDC to seek nomination to the role of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. She queried whether gender balance was a priority in the selection of nominees and membership, and in response, M. McGann clarified that following the review of membership in 2020, each nominating body was requested to bear geographical and gender balance when making nominations to the LCDC. However, in relation to the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson roles, each member of the LCDC had an equal right to nomination for these roles.

T. Turley asked the members to declare their nominations.

T. Keenan proposed Cllr. N. Thomas as Chairperson and this was seconded by T. Turley. No other nominations were made and T. Turley proposed that Cllr. N. Thomas be elected as Chairperson of the LCDC and it was agreed. Cllr. N. Thomas accepted the position of Chairperson of LCDC. He thanked his proposer and seconder.

Cllr. P. Mac An Iomaire proposed T. Keenan as Vice-chairperson and this was seconded by S. Dolan. T. Keenan accepted the nomination and it was agreed by the Members.

T. Turley wished the new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson well with their new positions. Cllr. N. Thomas thanked both T. Turley and D. Dowling for all their work and congratulated T. Keenan on his position as Vice-Chairperson.

3 Faomhadh de Bhabhta 2 CEP

CEP Round 2 Approvals

M. McGann presented the summary list of CEP Round 2 applications which was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. M. McGann stated that the applications were examined in detail by the sub-committee of the LCDC. There were 114 applications received, 11 did not qualify and the remainder were assessed under the priorities outlined by the Department, i.e. Community Centres and community-owned spaces. She confirmed that 65 of the applications were approved under the total allocation of €159,940.00.

M. McGann highlighted an issue which may need to be addressed in detail by the Committee at a future meeting, i.e. the lack of funding on hand by smaller Groups to enable them to carry out a project in full prior to drawdown, and advised that the Committee may need to assess whether a higher proportion of smaller grants could be payable upfront to enable projects in disadvantaged areas to proceed.

T. Keenan complemented M. McGann on her work with the grants and suggested that groups should be aware of the agency called “Clann Credo” which provides funding at a low finance rate. Cllr. N. Thomas said that the fact that the groups have to have the money upfront in order to get the funding is a huge issue and agreed with T. Keenan that “Clann Credo” is a good option for Organisations.

Cllr.P. Mac An Iomaire informed the members that applicants had complaints in relation to the application form and the paperwork involved. K. Mortimer added to this and stated that most of the people involved in submission of these applications are volunteers doing it on their own time and find the application process frustrating and time consuming. M. McGann stated that the application form has been simplified as much as possible, and the compulsory documentation has been minimized to items required for audit and public procurement compliance. M. McGann also outlined that assistance in making funding applications was a training priority under both SICAP and the PPN’s Work Plans and we also put in place webinars and information sessions on how to apply to our grant schemes.

On the **PROPOSAL** of K. Mortimer, **SECONDED** by T. Turley the CEP funding allocations were agreed.

4 Riachtanais an Phlean Teachta Aniar agus Téarnaimh 2020-2021

Resilience & Recovery Plan 2020-2021 Requirements

M. McGann outlined the requirements of the Resilience & Recovery Plan 2020-2021 which had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It is the Governments Plan for living with Covid-19 and is set out over 7 areas. M. McGann referred in particular, No.6. ‘Growing our Resilience’ which was about assisting communities to keep active, stay connected and mind their mental health and wellbeing and stated this was especially important during the winter months. M. McGann referenced 6.1.2 on the report in relation to the community call, providing social supports etc and said that this was funded through the emergency fund.

M. McGann discussed the community resilience measures, the main aims being to contact potentially isolated people and efforts to develop neighbour to neighbour relationships between volunteers and those who require assistance.

M. McGann informed the members that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Resilience “keep well” campaign is being rolled out nationally and it has to be rolled out locally as well, the main aims being to reassure people they are not on their own, acknowledge the effect the virus is having on mental health and giving people examples of positive changes to implement daily or weekly for their physical and mental wellbeing. The Council has worked with the HSE to develop a booklet targeted at older people which covers these themes which will be circulated within the coming weeks.

T. Keenan asked if the proposed “befriending service” measure will complement any similar existing services. M. McGann stated that it would better to build and learn from any existing similar services and do something sustainable and long lasting. K. Mortimer informed the members of the similar existing services available in the Connemara area. Connemara Care have set up a “befriending phone line”. They make an average of 40 calls a week to people living at home and she informed the members that it has been very successful.

Cllr. N. Thomas stated that mental health is a big worry at the moment and he is concerned that it is hard to identify and goes untreated because of this, and he stressed that living and eating healthily can help hugely with mental health and also physical health especially during Covid-19.

D. Dowling informed the meeting about successful groups in Ballinasloe especially “Care & Repair” who do a huge amount of work with the elderly, and M. McGann confirmed that this would be a very positive project to replicate around the County.

5 SICAP – Príomhtháscairí feidhmíochta (KPIanna) 2021 agus riachtanais atá ag teacht chun cinn SICAP – 2021 KPIs and Emerging Needs

Cllr. N. Thomas outlined the recent visit with POBAL Co-ordinator on 13th October 2020 to discuss the management of the SICAP programme in the County. He confirmed that Pobal were satisfied with the progress of the SICAP Programme in County Galway and confirmed that the end of year targets for 2020 were submitted as agreed at the mid-term review and there will be no penalties in relation to 100% of original targets not being achieved within the programme.

In relation to planning for 2021, Cllr. Thomas confirmed that following discussion at the Sub-Committee Meeting, it was agreed that social isolation rather than rural isolation was an issue under COVID-19, and older people in particular had been negatively affected due to their lack of IT skills and that this needed to be prioritised moving forward through the distribution of ACORN Tablets with associated training. In that regard, Donal Walsh confirmed that the GRETb would be happy to assist with training needs which arise as part of this project. Cllr. Thomas confirmed that as a result of the Sub-Committee discussions, the emerging needs group selected for 2021 was older people. He also

confirmed that the Sub-Committee amended the current breakdown between the goals which is 31% - 69% to the recommended 40% - 60% split, and increased the KPI for groups by 25% but reduced the KPI for Individuals by 25%, which allowed for more intensive supports and interventions to be provided per person.

M. McGann informed the members that the Annual Plan for 2021 will include the priorities put forward regarding the emerging needs group of older people, i.e. digital skills, care & repair programmes, Trusted Tradepersons lists, and the members should submit any further suggestions/ideas to her prior to the December meeting at which the Plan for 2021 will be approved.

6 Ballraíocht an Fhochoiste Sláinte & Folláine Health & Wellbeing Sub-committee membership

M. McGann referred to the membership list for the Health & Wellbeing Sub-committee which had been circulated to the members. M. McGann informed the members that the sub-committee had expanded to 48 members which was difficult to manage and beyond the original Sub-Committee membership approved by the LCDC. Consequently, the membership was reviewed and now included core members who will link with other groups on projects as required.

Cllr. N. Thomas voiced his concerns that there were none listed from development companies. S. Dolan confirmed that A. McCann, one the members suggested, was part of SICAP. T. Keenan suggested that an Irish speaking members should be involved and M. Ui Mhaoláin will refer to R. O'Neill on this and revert to the committee.

Cllr. N. Thomas suggested that the committee agree on the proposed membership today and a new member can be added if required.

On the **PROPOSAL** of M. Ui Mhaoláin , **SECONDED** by S. Dolan the Health & Wellbeing Sub-committee membership was agreed.

7 Cur i láthair – Ruth Gordan, Music Generation na Gaillimhe Presentation – Ruth Gordan, Music Generation Galway

R. Gordan presented the members with a slideshow highlighting the main benefits/functions of Music Generation Galway. Music Generation Galway delivers a multitude of accessible music education opportunities to children and young people across Galway County. Music Generation Galway started in 2018 and 2020 is year 3 of a three year start-up phase. R. Gordan informed the members that it is a non-profit, locally funded, and locally driven organisation.

D. Dowling enquired if they were working with Ballinasloe Town Band and R. Gordan confirmed they have been working with them and other groups around Ballinasloe. Cllr. N. Thomas asked about the details of the match funding for the €200,000. R. Gordan confirmed that monies are raised locally

through funding, fees and sponsorships and this is match-funded by Music Generation National Development Office in Dublin. Every euro raised locally is matched up to maximum of €200,000.00 per annum.

Cllr. N. Thomas congratulated Ruth Gordan on the wonderful insightful presentation. He stated that not all children are interested in sports and music is a good option for them.

8 Dáta don chéad chruinniú eile
Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting was arranged for 9th December, 2020, at 10.30am.

9 Aon ghnó eile
Any other business

No issues were raised.

Noll Thomas
Cllr. N. Thomas, Chairperson

Date: 9/12/2020

Kiern Coyne
K. Coyne, Chief Officer

Date: 9/12/2020