

**Minutes of the Wexford Local Community Development Committee  
(LCDC) meeting**

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> June at 10:00am  
In Block A Council Chamber, and via MS Teams**

**Attendance:**

**In the Chair:**

Cllr. Aidan Browne - (Public Sector)

**LCDC Members:**

Cllr. Lisa McDonald (Public Sector)  
Cllr. Leonard Kelly (Public Sector)  
Cllr. Anthony Donoghue (Public Sector)  
Ms. Patricia Delaney – Dept of Social Protection (Public Sector)  
Mr. Michael O'Brien – WWETB (Public Sector)  
Ms. Derval Howley – HSE (Public Sector)  
Mr. Brian Kehoe, Wexford Local Development  
Mr. John Carr, PPN Community & Voluntary  
Ms. Aislinn Dunne - PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar  
Mr. Jonathan King – PPN Social Inclusion  
Mr. Brian Toomey – PPN Social Inclusion  
Ms. Mary Browne – Chamber of Commerce

**Also in attendance:**

Ms. Dymphna O'Connor, Chief Officer, Wexford County Council  
Ms. Carolyne Godkin, Director of Services, Wexford County Council  
Mr. Claude Clancy - Wexford County Council  
Ms. Tara Farrell - Wexford County Council  
Ms. Alice O'Gorman - Wexford County Council  
Mr. Ronan Griffin – Wexford County Council

**Apologies:**

Mr. Tom Enright, Chief Executive (Public Sector)  
Ms. Breege Cosgrave – Wexford County Council (Public Sector)  
Ms. Sharon Kennedy – PPN Social Inclusion  
Ms. Karin Dubsky – PPN Environmental  
Mr. Jer O'Mahony – IFA

**Position Vacant:**

Trade Union Rep.

**1. Check and verification of attendance**

The Chairperson confirmed the attendance of all members present, in person and via MS Teams.

**2. Approval of Minutes of LCDC Meetings 24<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> March, 23<sup>rd</sup> May.**

Adoption of Minutes of Meeting of 24<sup>th</sup> March, 28<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023.

Proposed: John Carr                      Seconded: Lisa McDonald

Aidan Browne and Derval Howley absented themselves from this decision in order to maintain the appropriate balance of private to public members.

**3. Matters Arising**

None

**4. Correspondence**

None.

**5. Local Development Strategy / LEADER Programme 2023 – 2027**

Tom Bermingham gave a presentation on behalf of Wexford Local Developments regarding the Local Development Strategy and associated LEADER Programme to run from 2023 – 2027.

*(Cllr. Leonard Kelly left the meeting)*

Following the presentation, the committee thanked Tom for same and the Chair opened the floor for questions.

The Chairperson asked will allocations to the various themes and sub-themes be adjusted on the basis of Expressions of Interest received.

Tom Bermingham advised that everything, including budgets, needed to be put into a plan and rationalised for the Department of Rural & Community Development. As such there was very limited scope to move budgets.

Michael O'Brien noted that a lot of areas in the LEADER programme had funding streams available to them already, and that there was a need to liaise with relevant stakeholders. He noted non-formal education programmes receiving funding from the Department of Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth. He also cautioned on climate action that it should not become a box ticking

exercise, noting by way of example, that it was uneconomic to fit a heat pump to a building with a poor BER rating.

Tom advised he would take on board what Michael was saying and liaise with the WWETB and other stakeholders where relevant.

Derval Howley advocated for Theme 2 – Rural Integration & Social Inclusion to have greater funding.

Tom advised that objectives were all encompassing and projects funded under other themes would have to take account of Rural Integration and Social Inclusion.

Alice O’Gorman noted that match funding was often an issue, particularly for Community groups and Community Enterprises in more deprived communities.

Tom advised that rates of aid were not determined yet, and that they had not received either these or a set of Operating Rules yet. He noted that WLD had requested 90% - 100% funding options for some groups, but conceded that he expected rates of aid to be similar to the previous programme.

Carolyn noted the large amount of work, particularly around Planning, SACs etc. that was required for certain projects such as Blueways. She noted that in a lot of cases, the expectation of the applicant groups was not in line with planning realities, which could take years to complete, and cost far more than initially expected. As such, she advised that only a small number of such projects be taken on.

She also noted the importance of the tourism theme, and that the Fleadh Cheoil would expect some degree of LEADER funding, probably in the form of marketing and publicity.

Tom noted that he would work closely with Failte Ireland on this matter, and in terms of providing funding for the Fleadh would look for something ‘lasting’ ie. that isn’t gone once the Fleadh was done.

Brian Kehoe noted the need for collaboration around expertise for aspects like climate and planning.

## 6. SICAP

The LCDC were asked to approve the nomination of Aislinn Dunne and Jonathan King to the SICAP sub-committee.

John Carr enquired whether this represented a Conflict of Interest, for Aislinn & Jonathan to serve on both the LCDC and SICAP sub-committee.

Tara Farrell advised that SICAP sub-committee was a sub-committee of the LCDC and there was no conflict, noting that Cllr. Leonard Kelly served on both.

Proposed: Anthony Donoghue                      Seconded: Derval Howley

Aidan Browne absented himself from this decision in order to maintain the appropriate balance of private to public members.

Tara Farrell and Claude Clancy briefed the members on the deadline date for SICAP mid year reviews and advised an LCDC meeting would be required in advance, as well as one for the LECP programme approvals. Claude advised that they would seek to hold these online to minimise the inconvenience for the members.

## 7. Chief Officer's Report

Dymphna O'Connor presented the Chief Officer's Report, the contents of which were noted by the LCDC.

## 8. AOB

Derval Howley noted some initiatives funded by the HSE through their Slaintecare funding. She advised she would send around a note to the LCDC detailing same.

Carolyne Godkin noted that Healthy Home Co-Ordinators through the Age Friendly programme were to be piloted in Wexford, with the goal of improving the Housing situations of older persons and promote Social Integration.

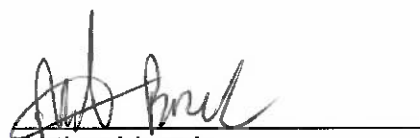
She also noted that the employment of Integration Officers to assist with the Ukrainian immigrants is expected this yet. This is yet to be signed off at Departmental level.

## 9. Date for Next Meeting

Expected early-mid July as above.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Officer

Dated on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathaoirleach