Minutes of Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Date: 19th October 2026 at 4.00pm

Location: Cooley Room, County Hall, Dundalk and via Teams

In attendance:
Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson
Cllr. Ejiro O'Hare Stratton
Cllr. Dolores Minogue (via Teams)
Mr. David Conway, C.E. of LCC
Ms. Bridie Pepper, HSE
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLD (via Teams)
Mr. Eugene Conlon, PPN (via Teams)
Ms. Jasmine Mathew, PPN (via Teams)
Mr. Hubert Murphy, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda (via Teams)
Mr. Pat McCormick, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk
Mr. Kevin Sweeney, IFA
Mr. Liam Reilly, PPN (via Teams)
Ms. Bernardine Quinn, PPN (via Teams)

Officials:
Ms. Paula Keenan, A/Senior Executive Officer LCC/Chief Officer
Ms. Sinead McVerry, Administrative Officer LCC
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer LCC
Ms. Ann Monahan, Staff Officer LCC

Apologies:
Cllr. Shane McGuinness
Ms. Nikki Campbell, LEO
Ms. Lorraine O'Malley, DSP
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB
Ms. Kayleigh Mulligan, Louth Volunteer Centre
Ms. Carol Murphy, PPN
Ms. Joanna Kelly, A/Director of Services LCC

Guests:
Ms. Mary O'Neill, LLD
Ms. Susan Deery, PEACEPLUS Programme Manager

LCDC MATTERS

LCDC Minute No. 68/2026

1. Minutes of LCDC Meeting Monday 21st September 2026:

On the proposal of Mr. David Conway, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan and unanimously agreed by the members, the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st September 2026 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 69/2026

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

Ms. Paula Keenan reminded members to declare their Conflict of Interest at the beginning of the meeting or as it appears on the agenda, if applicable.

LCDC Minute No. 70/2026

3. Matters Arising:

a. Following the presentation on Supporting Effective LCDC Membership at the September meeting, Ms. Keenan informed members that work has commenced on the development of an information pack and the review of the terms of reference. This work will be guided by the new Guidelines, which are expected to issue in Quarter 4.

b. Ms. Keenan reminded members about the LCDC Training and Information Event taking place on 22nd October in Athlone. She advised that she will be attending in her capacity as Chief Officer and that the agenda and booking details would be circulated to members following this meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 71/2026

4. LCDC Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for noting.

LCDC Minute No. 72/2026

5. PEACEPLUS:

a. PEACEPLUS Programme Update

Ms. Susan Deery, PEACEPLUS Programme Manager, delivered an update to the members on the progress of the PEACEPLUS Programme. She advised that the programme, with an allocation of €4.679 million, comprises two capital projects and thirteen community-based projects, with twelve of the community projects currently contracted and underway. Participants continue to be recruited across the various programmes, with 915 participants engaged to date.

Ms. Deery outlined the progress of projects, noting that a number of contractual milestones had been achieved and corresponding claims submitted and paid. She informed members that procurement of a Conservation Architect-Led Multidisciplinary Team for St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland capital works project had been completed and that ratification of the proposed award was required by the LCDC. She also advised that animation activities associated with the project were ongoing. In relation to the Battle of the Boyne project, she noted that the establishment of a working group remained outstanding and a Biodiversity Programme was due to be tendered.

Members were advised that no responses had been received to the re-advertisement of the Ex-Prisoners Irish Language Engagement Programme and that the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) would provide guidance on the next steps, which would then require LCDC agreement.

Ms. Deery reported that claims submitted to date totalled €866,935.49, representing approximately 18.5% of the overall programme allocation. She highlighted the importance of careful financial management and forecasting to mitigate any risk of funding decommitment by SEUPB. She completed the update by noting the key priorities for the next reporting period, namely progressing capital delivery procurement and contracting, managing delivery agent milestones in line with SEUPB forecasting and strengthening relationships with delivery agents.

The members thanked Ms. Deery for her presentation and praised the work completed to date on the PEACEPLUS Programme. A query was raised regarding how delivery agents can effectively engage with participants. It was also noted that the administrative requirements associated with the programme are substantial and present a significant challenge for many groups.

b. St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland Dundalk

The PEACEPLUS Partnership, at its meeting on 25th September 2026, ratified the procurement of Crimmins Architects for the Conservation Architect-Led Multidisciplinary Team for Detailed Design, Construction Management & Handover of Renovation and Upgrade Works to St. Nicholas' Church of Ireland, Dundalk.

Recommendation: The recommendation of the PEACEPLUS Partnership is for approval to proceed to contracting of Crimmins Architects.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue, seconded by Ms. Bernardine Quinn, the contracting of Crimmins Architects was approved.

Following the conclusion of this agenda item, Ms. Susan Deery left the meeting.

LCDC Minute No. 73/2026

6. Local Economic & Community Plan 2024 - 2029:

Ms. Sinead McVerry provided an overview of the Louth Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and outlined the development of the new two-year Implementation Plan 2026-2028. She reminded members that the LECP is a six-year framework for economic and community development in County Louth, with implementation supported through consecutive two-year action plans containing measurable targets and key performance indicators.

Ms. McVerry advised that the LECP Advisory Committee had met throughout 2026 to review progress and agree priority actions for the 2026-2028 implementation period. The new plan contains 35 priority actions aligned to the LECP's five high-level goals and 21 strategic objectives, with identified lead and support agencies responsible for delivery.

She highlighted the importance of partner organisations being aware of their roles in delivering the agreed actions and noted that progress reports would be sought from relevant agencies over the lifetime of the plan. Examples of both economic and community actions were presented to illustrate the implementation and monitoring process.

Ms. McVerry informed members that she would be available to respond to any queries arising in respect of the Louth LECP and the two-year Implementation Plan and advised that a copy of the two-year plan will be circulated following this meeting. Members acknowledged and thanked Ms. McVerry for her work to date in the development of the plan.

LCDC Minute No. 74/2026

7. Healthy Ireland / Sláintecare Update:

Ms. Paula Keenan provided members with an update on the Healthy Ireland and Sláintecare programmes. She advised that a new Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator was appointed in February 2026 and that Round 4 of the Healthy Ireland Fund has been extended to 2027. Members were informed that the National Healthy Ireland Framework is currently in development and that work is proposed to commence on a Healthy County Plan for Louth in 2027, together with the process of seeking WHO Healthy Cities Accreditation.

Ms. Keenan further advised that the two Sláintecare Local Development Officers for Dundalk and Drogheda are now in place. It was noted that they are expected to attend an LCDC meeting in early 2027 to provide members with a detailed overview of progress achieved to date.

LCDC Minute No. 75/2026

8. Next Meeting of LCDC:

Cllr. Kevin Meenan, Chairperson, informed the members that the date of the next LCDC meeting is Tuesday 17th November 2026. The meeting will be a hybrid meeting.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on: 17-11-26

Chairperson: Kevin Meenan