

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

Louth Local Action Group (LAG)

Date: 17th May, 2021 at 4.00pm

Location: Via Video Conference

In attendance:	Ms. Joan Martin Chairperson, C.E. of LCC Cllr. Liam Reilly Cllr. Kevin Meenan Cllr. Eileen Tully Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO Ms. Anne Keeley, DEASP Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN Ms. Gráinne Berrill, Louth Volunteer Centre Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN Ms. Alison Quail, PPN Ms. Elizabeth O' Reilly, PPN Mr. John Carroll, IFA Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLP Mr. Sean Farrell, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk Mr. Breannán Casey, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda
Officials:	Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Chief Officer Mr. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer Ms. Mary Deery, Administrative Officer Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer Mr. Gerard Judge, Staff Officer
Apologies	Cllr. Dolores Minogue Ms. Martina Ralph, HSE
Guests:	Ms. Mary O' Neill, LLP

LCDC MATTERS

LCDC Minute No. 26/2021

1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 19th April 2021:

On the proposal of Ms. Anne Keeley, seconded by Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th April 2021 were adopted.

LCDC Minute No. 27/2021

2. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

LCDC Minute No. 28/2021

3. Louth Volunteering Framework 2020 - 2023

Ms. Gráinne Berrill briefed members on the new Louth Volunteering Framework 2020-2023, which was distributed to all members with their meeting packs. The new Framework was developed out of a comprehensive consultation process in late 2019 and early 2020 and which included members of the LCDC.

Ms. Berrill informed members that the new Framework was originally slated for publication in 2020 but COVID19 delayed this. She explained that this timing worked in their favour as they were able to take into account the major changes that have happened in volunteering and volunteerism over the past year, whereas if they had published on their original timeframe the new Framework would have been instantly out of date.

Ms. Berrill went on to outline the new Frameworks 5 key priorities which are strongly aligned to the National Volunteering Strategy published last December. The Department of Rural and Community Development have confirmed that they will be using the National Volunteering Strategy as their reference point for all supports, resources and funding in relation to volunteering in the future.

Ms. Berrill confirmed that one of the recommendations contained within the Framework is to establish an Implementation Group to review progress towards the outcomes and bring together the various relevant stakeholders relating to volunteering and volunteerism in Louth. Pending the approval of the Louth Volunteering Framework by the LCDC the process of establishing an implementation group, as a subgroup of the LCDC, can begin this year.

Ms Berrill also reminded members that, subject to LCDC approval, Minister Joe O'Brien would be launching the Framework on Friday 21st May as his final engagement for National Volunteering Week. An invitation has been issued to all committee members.

The Chairperson, Ms. Joan Martin, together with other committee members congratulated Ms. Grainne Berrill, and her team, acknowledging their hard work on being the first County in Ireland to produce a new Framework for Volunteering and wished them well with its implementation.

Recommendation: To approve the Louth Framework for Volunteering 2020-2023 to establish an implementation group under the auspices of the LCDC.

Decision: On the proposal of Mr. Ciaran Reid, and seconded by Ms. Anne Keely the recommendation, as outlined above, was approved.

LCDC Minute No. 29/2021

6. Correspondence

- Members noted correspondence from the Peace IV programme.
- Mr. John Lawrence briefed members on a the new COVID Stability Community Fund of €10million launched by Ministers Humphrey, McGrath and O'Brien recently.
- Members were informed that Louth PPN have launched their new website: www.louthppn.ie

LCDC Minute No. 30/2021

7. AOB

Ms. Joan Martin, Chairperson, informed members the next meeting of the LCDC will take place on Monday 21st June 2021 at 4.00pm.

The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.

LAG MATTERS

LAG Minute No. 45/2021

1. Minutes of LAG meeting held on the 19th April, 2021:

On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th April, 2021 were adopted.

LAG Minute No. 46/2021

2. Matters Arising:

There were no LAG matters arising.

LAG Minute No.47/2021

3. LEADER Monthly Financial Reports:

Mr. John Lawrence advised that the two number financial reports, circulated to members detailed financial information up to 12th May, 2021.

Mr. John Lawrence referred to financial reports numbers 1 and 2, both reports were raised on the LCC accounting system detailing payments issued under the administration job code and the projects job code.

Recommendation: Approval of financial reports numbers 1 and 2

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly, seconded by Cllr. Eileen Tully financial reports 1 and 2 were approved.

LAG Minute No 48/2021

4. Administration Report:

Mr. John Lawrence referred members to financial report number 3 which provides details of the named administration costs incurred by LLP for the month of April, 2021 in the amount of €31,262.66.

Recommendation: Approval of financial report number 3 with an expenditure of €31,262.66 for the month of April, 2021.

Decision: On the proposal of Cllr. Liam Reilly, seconded by Cllr. Eileen Tully financial report number 3 with an expenditure of €31,262.66 for the month of April, 2021 was approved.

LAG Minute No 49/2021

5. LEADER Monthly Project Update Reports:

Ms. Mary O'Neill informed members present that Financial Report no. 4 is generated by Louth Leader Partnership

- a) Report 4 provides a breakdown of progress under each of the three themes of the LDS with a further breakdown per sub theme and local objective as at 12th May, 2021.

Report no. 4 is for information purposes only.

LAG Minute No. 50/2021

6. EOI's Rolling:

Members were advised of the EOI's received during the month of April, 2021. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised members that the list of EOI's were for noting only. There were no EOI's deemed ineligible, as all EOI's were considered eligible in principle.

LAG Minute No. 51/2021

7. Notes requiring LAG approval:

Ms. Mary O'Neill referred to the notes requiring LAG approval, which listed projects that required among other things proposed project extensions as per Operating Rules 8.4, project changes and de-commitment of funding, as per Operating Rules 8.3: It was noted that of the projects listed, project Ref: 111610 was included in the Notes to the LAG in April and does not require further approval.

1. Project funding de-commitments – Following completion of projects any under spend must be approved by the LAG. The following projects have under spent:

- a) Project Ref. 107429 under spend, due to promoter not proceeding with the project, in the amount of €59,430.00
- b) Project Ref. 107739 under spend, due to reduction in training offered and disruption due to COVID 19, in the amount of €8,560.80.
- c) Project Ref. 108091 under spend, due to reduction in ad space, venue hire and audio & lighting not required due to COVID 19, in the amount of €11,974.89.
- d) Project Ref. 110665 under spend, due to difference between amount quoted and amount invoiced, in the amount of €1.50.
- e) Project Ref. 111077 under spend, due to provision of some course elements on line due to COVID 19, in the amount of €792.85.

2. Project Extension of less than 6 months:

- a) Project Ref. 113227 from 01/06/2021 to 30/09/2021
- b) Project Ref. 110389 from 30/06/2021 to 31/12/2021

4. Project Changes: The following projects were listed verbally by Ms. Mary O'Neill. Louth LEADER Partnership are running a number of training programmes, listed below, under the LEADER programme and where it is not possible to hold physical training sessions, online training sessions will be held instead.

- a) Project Ref. 110690
- b) Project Ref: 110880
- c) Project Ref: 111392
- d) Project Ref: 111676
- e) Project Ref: 112417
- f) Project Ref: 112487
- g) Project Ref: 112655
- h) Project Ref: 112657
- i) Project Ref: 112977
- j) Project Ref: 113352
- k) Project Ref: 113433
- l) Project Ref: 113522
- m) Project Ref: 113535
- n) Project Ref: 113729

- o) Project Ref: 113817
- p) Project Ref: 114031
- q) Project Ref: 114108

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Alison Quail, seconded by Ms. Anne Keeley the LAG notes for these projects were approved.

LAG Minute No. 52/2021

8. RDP Sub Group Report:

Ms. Gráinne Berrill advised the members that the RDP Sub Group met on 29th April, 2021 to discuss the Draft LEADER Transitional Programme Framework document and that having considered this document a number of recommendations were made to amend the document before being circulated to the LAG for decision:

Recommendations:

- a) Funding Allocation: Funding available for the Transitional Programme will be €1,352,177**. In addition, there were de-committals valuing €175,389 from the Programme which concluded on the 31st of March 2021. These de-committals should be allocated back into the Economic, Enterprise and Job Creation sub-heading and will be allocated to Local Objectives 1, 2, & 3, as set out below:

** Includes EURI Allocation

Allocation 1st April 2021 – 31st December 2022	Allocation	%
Priority Area 1	€ 161,048.42	10.54%
Priority Area 2	€ 721,294.51	47.22%
Priority Area 3	€ 289,684.85	18.97%
Priority Area 4	€ 355,478.22	23.27%
Total	€1,527,506.00* (including de-committals)	100%

- b) Minimum & Maximum Grant Allocations: That the minimum grant aid available will be €5,000 and maximum grant aid available will be €100,000.
- c) Rates of Aid: An addendum to the existing SLA between LLP/LEO/LCC should include that the LEO and LLP will meet with a prospective client once an expression of interest has been submitted for LEADER funding and agree the optimum grant aid route for the prospective client. Within this context, the Transitional Programme will promote grant aid availability of up to a maximum 75%.

75% Grant Aid	Enterprise: note enterprises not supported by the LEO
90%	Social Inclusion: Local objective 6 & 7 Hard to reach Communities & Rural Youth
100%	Training

d) Calls for Applications:

- Calls for applications for measures relating to private enterprise shall be made by open call under the transitional programme.
- Calls for applications for measures relating to community projects shall be made by a combination of open and targeted calls which will be decided upon on a measure by measure basis by the LAG based on level of interest under a specific measure.
- There will be a targeted call in 2021 and in 2022
- There will be a targeted call for Local Objective 4 (Improving Rural Towns and Villages) in 2021

The amended Draft LEADER Transitional Framework Document, dated 30th April, 2021, was circulated to the RDP Sub-group Members, via email, on Tuesday 4th May for their consideration and recommendation. All recommendations were received by end of day on Friday, 7th May, 2021.

Having considered the amended Draft LEADER Transitional Framework Document, the following is the recommendation of the RDP Sub-group:

Recommendation: The RDP Sub-group, having considered the contents of the Draft LEADER Transitional Framework Document, dated 30th April, recommends to the LAG that this document, be adopted.

LAG Minute No. 53/2021

9. Draft Transitional LEADER Programme Framework Document 2021-2022:

Following discussion by the members on the RDP sub group report the following was the decision of the LAG.

Decision: On the proposal of Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott, seconded by Cllr. Kevin Meenan, the Transitional LEADER Programme Framework Document 2021-2022 was approved.

LAG Minute No. 54/2021

10. Next Meeting:

Ms Joan Martin, Chairperson, informed members the next meeting of the LAG will take place on Monday 21st June, 2021 following the LCDC meeting.

The business of the LAG meeting concluded

Minutes confirmed at meeting held on 21st June 2021

Chairperson Manu