



Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee Meeting held on Friday 31st January 2025, via Microsoft Teams at 10.30a.m.

In attendance: Mary Mescal, PPN (Chair)
Angela Hayes, Teac Tom
Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office
Cllr. Mick McCarthy, KCC
Cllr. Ger Frisby, KCC
Martin Rochford, PPN – Environment
Michael Walshe, PPN Community Pillar
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce
Martha Bolger, KCETB
Julieanne Power, DEASP
Olive Maher, FRC
Michael A Fitzgerald, Teagasc
Mary Harding, PPN Social Inclusion
Paul O’ Rahilly, PPN Social Inclusion
Cllr. Michael Doyle, KCC
Kevin Mahon, KLP
Derval Howley, HSE

Present: Anne Marie Shortall, Chief Officer LCDC, Katherine Peacock, Cora Nolan, Kilkenny County Council.

1. Administrative

Apologies: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Cllr. Stephanie Doheny, KCC
Cllr. Mick McCarthy, KCC
Michael Walshe

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday 6th of December 2024

Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, Seconded by Martha Bolger

Matters Arising

None

Any Conflicts of Interest

None.

2. Oversight and Implementation of the Local and Economic Community Plan Monitoring of LECP Implementation Plan 2023-2024

Preparation of New LECP Implementation Plan 2025-2026

Anne Marie updated the members with regard to the Implementation Plan and the preparation of the 2025 – 2026 plan. The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is a six-year plan, consisting of three two-year Implementation Plans that contain the actions in order to implement the higher-level goals and objectives of the LECP 2023 – 2028. The 2023-2024 Implementation Plan is currently being reviewed in order to assess the status of all the actions. The review requires input from all stakeholders and lead agencies and will also provide information for input to form the new Implementation Plan for 2025-2026. Actions that have been completed will not be included in the new plan. The draft implementation plan for 2025 – 2026 will be presented to a joint meeting of SPC 1 and LCDC members in order to provide an opportunity for consultation and input from all members to review it prior to formal adoption of the new plan.

3. Citizen Engagement and promotion of Social Inclusion

PPN Report

Martin Rochford presented the PPN Report.

4. Items for Information and Information Sharing

Local Enhancement Grant 2025

The Local Enhancement Grant is currently open for applications, with a closing date of Friday, February 14th, 2025. All recommendations will be presented at the March LCDC Meeting prior to submission to the Department for approval.

The Community Event Grant has been announced. This is a small grant fund administered by the Community & Culture Department aimed at supporting community groups that are organising small events. The closing date for this grant is likewise set for Friday, February 14th, 2025.

Additionally, the Creative Ireland Grant Scheme and the Cruinniú na Nog grants are now available for applications and information is available on Kilkenny County Council website.

Kilkenny County Council are pleased to announce the provision of 88 social housing units in Crokers Hill, which includes the development of a Community Centre. The Council have recently advertised for expressions of interest from community groups or organizations interested in providing management services for the Community Centre at Crokers Hill. An information booklet and advertisement are available on the Kilkenny County Council website. The closing date for submissions is Friday, February 28th, 2025.

5. Items for Information and Information Sharing

Healthy Ireland Activity Plan and Budget 2025

Katherine Peacock presented a brief overview of the Healthy Ireland Activity Plan and Budget for 2025. Janette Boran, the Healthy Ireland Coordinator, is seeking approval from the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) for the plan and budget for 2025.

Derval Howley highlighted the value of the health needs assessment and the small grants scheme from a Health Service Executive (HSE) perspective and suggested that these initiatives could be integrated with Health Promotion activities.

Martin Rochford raised a question regarding the underspending on traveller programs and inquired about potential improvements. Katherine noted that the challenges stem from the nature of the client group and that all programs are developed in consultation with travellers, and engagement can be difficult at times. A new manager has been appointed for the Traveller Programme and will be collaborating with groups to enhance program effectiveness. Derval expressed willingness to offer support from the HSE.

Healthy Ireland Programme was proposed by Angela Hayes, Seconded by Derval Howley.

Review and Sign off SICAP Annual Plan 2025

Katherine Peacock presented an overview of the Annual Plan for SICAP.

On January 8th, the subgroup met with the KLP SICAP staff. The subgroup provided feedback to POBAL, expressing a desire for more detailed information regarding the plan. Although the plan mentions partners and collaborations, it lacks specific names; and rational, providing this information would enhance clarity.

Pobal has requested that the Programme Implementor (KLP) provide the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) with a comprehensive rational addressing actions in the 2025 plan to prevent any delays in the approval process.

The LCDC committee requested if an extension of time could be sought in order to allow sufficient time for a review to be carried out.

It was agreed that Katherine would arrange to meet with the SICAP subgroup next week to discuss the matter and arrange a subsequent meeting of the LCDC on Teams within the next two weeks following the review in order to approve the Plan.

A request was made to send the rationale via email to all LCDC members to ensure that those who cannot attend the upcoming meeting are kept informed.

Recommendation from SICAP subgroup re End of Year 2024

Katherine Peacock conducted a review of the End of Year 2024 report for SICAP, utilising the relevant information available in the POBAL IRIS centralised system. All necessary documents were successfully uploaded to the system for the local development company's review.

The local development company has achieved significant results, exceeding expectations under both Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The end-of-year report provides substantial evidence of the extensive support and efforts made with individuals in the three primary target groups identified by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

As part of the SICAP team's annual requirement, a specific area of focus was highlighted in a case study submitted to POBAL for 2024. This year's case study centred around "Wellbeing as a Tool for Engagement and Starting Conversations," which is prominently reflected throughout the end-of-year report.

The review did not uncover any significant issues. The Subgroup recommends that the LCDC approves the end-of-year review.

Matter raised with regard to the targets being set at a low base and if targets will be reviewed again in 2025.

It was clarified that in the new programme for 2024-2028 both targets were increased by the maximum of 15% .

SICAP report was proposed by Derval Howley, Seconded by Martin Rochford

The next meeting will take place on Friday 28th March, 2025.

Chair

Date