



Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee Meeting held on Friday 24th May, 2024, via Microsoft Teams at 10.30a.m.

In attendance: Mary Mescal, PPN (Chair)
Angela Hayes -Teac Tom
Cllr. Mick McCarthy. KCC
Mary Harding, PPN Social Inclusion
Eileen Curtis, KCETB
Michael A Fitzgerald, Teagasc
Paul O' Rahilly, PPN Social Inclusion

Online: Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office
Olive Maher – FRC
Cllr. Ger Frisby, KCC
Derval Howley, HSE
Martin Rochford, PPN – Environment

Also present: Anne Marie Shortall Chief Officer, Katherine Peacock and Cora Nolan, Kilkenny County Council.

1. Administrative

Mary welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Michael Walshe, PPN Community Pillar
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce
Cllr. Joe Lyons, KCC
Julianne Power, DEASP

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday 22nd of March, 2024

Proposed by Angela Hayes, Seconded by Cllr. Mick McCarthy

Matters Arising

None.

Membership

Mary Mescal welcomed Mary Harding to the LCDC Committee representing the PPN.

Any Conflicts of Interest

None.

2. Items for discussion and decision

Presentation Martin Rafter SICAP Annual Plan 2024.

Martin gave a presentation to the committee. (see attached)

Mary thanked Martin for attending the meeting.

Michael Fitzgerald had a query on the impact of immigration and high level of publicity surrounding it.

Martin updated the members how the response to immigration in Kilkenny ensured people got involved in social and cultural activities, and explained that the arrival of Ukrainians is low compared to what they were. The ETB provided language supports and the HSE provided health supports, with significant effort from all agencies.

3. Citizen Engagement and promotion of Social Inclusion

PPN Report

Angela Hayes presented the PPN Report.

4. Items for Information and Information Sharing

Update on KTCM Management Committee

Katherine Peacock provided an update to the members on the KTCM Management Committee.

In March new members were sought to join the committee and a new board of 9 members has now been established.

The first meeting of the new board took place on the 9th of April and was externally facilitated by Workhouse Union. In the interim they have advertised for a new project manager, closing date of 13th of May, 2024. Once the new project manager is in place recruitment will follow for a development worker. Further update to be provided at next meeting.

Derval and Angela thanked Katherine for the update. Katherine advised that 3 of the previous board members remain on the board.

Community Recognition Fund

Anne Marie Shortall informed the members of the Community Recognition Fund and the consultation process involved. The fund aims to support the development of community infrastructures and facilities to recognise the contribution made by communities for welcoming significant numbers of new arrivals from Ukraine and other Countries. This year Kilkenny were allocated €868,000 with 20% of this fund being reserved for new arrivals expected later in the year. The type of projects to be funded will be capital projects and are to be delivered over the next 2 years.

The Department set out certain criteria on how the grant is to be allocated which includes the number of arrivals in each area of the county. The closing date for expressions of interest for this fund was the 10th of May, 2024. The fund applications were managed and assisted by Community Section staff. The Evaluation committee will decide the most suitable projects and follow an evaluation process. Based on the number of arrivals there was particular focus on the following areas:- Kilkenny City, Thomastown, Bennettsbridge, Knocktopher, Freshford, Ballyragget and Castlecomer. These areas were highlighted in the advertisement for the fund.

AOB

Anne Marie Shortall updated the members that the Local Enhancement Grant Scheme has been approved by Department and the list of successful grants was circulated to the committee.

Date for next meeting

Friday 26th of July, 2024