

**Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee Meeting
held on Friday 29th May 2026, held in the Council Chamber, County Hall at
10.30a.m.**

In attendance: Mary Mescal, PPN (Chair)
Paul O' Rahilly, PPN Social Inclusion
Michael A Fitzgerald, Teagasc
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce
Mary Harding, PPN Social Inclusion
Liam Kelly, PPN Community & Voluntary
David Murphy, DEASP
Martin Rochford, PPN Environment

Present: Teresa Mahon, Kelley Murphy and Cora Nolan Kilkenny
County Council.

Online: Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office
Derval Howley, HSE
Cllr. Ger Frisby, KCC
Cllr. Michael Doyle, KCC
Cllr. Mick McCarthy, KCC

1. Administrative

Apologies: Lar Power, Chief Executive
Anne Marie Shortall, Chief Officer LCDC
Angela Hayes, Teac Tom
Kevin Mahon, KLP
Martha Bolger, KCETB

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday 27th of March, 2026.

Proposed by Cllr. Mick McCarthy, Seconded by Cllr. Ger Frisby.

Matters Arising

None.

Any Conflicts of Interest

None.

Mary Mescal welcomed Liam Kelly representing the PPN to the LCDC
Committee as a replacement for Michael Walshe.

**2. Oversight and implementation of the Local and Economic Community Plan
2025-2028**

Martina Comerford, Tourism Officer, delivered a presentation on Tourism Kilkenny in relation to relative actions in the LECP 2025-2026.

Martina outlined the strategic objectives for Tourism, detailing the roles and responsibilities of the Tourism team, as well as the delivery of capital projects. She also provided the 2026 events calendar and discussed support initiatives for festival and event organisers. Additionally, Martina emphasised the promotion of Kilkenny as a world-class tourism destination, with a focus on highlighting its medieval history and heritage.

Mary conveyed her appreciation to Martina for her informative presentation. John Hurley acknowledged the exemplary efforts in Kilkenny. Derval Howley commended the positive progress and collaborative approach demonstrated across all groups. Councillor Ger Frisby praised the outstanding work in Kilkenny and congratulated the entire team on their accomplishments. Presentation was circulated to all members.

Update on Review and Monitoring of LECP Implementation Plan 2025-2026.

Kelly Murphy provided an update and stated that the implementation plan for the Local Economic and Community Plan 2023–2028 is reviewed annually. This year, a new online portal has been established through consult.ie to facilitate the monitoring and evaluation of actions aligned with the ten High-Level Goals of the Plan. This platform will enhance data collection efficiency and enable straightforward report generation. The monitoring and review process for actions scheduled for 2025 has been completed, and the status of the actions will be presented at the upcoming LCDC meeting in July. This review will provide an overview of the progress and activities undertaken in the LECP Implementation plan 2025-2026.

3. Items for Discussion and Decision

KTCM Community Development Project-Recommendation from CDP Subgroup re End of Year 2025.

Kelley Murphy provided an update on the project which was reviewed by Pobal, who confirmed that all objectives outlined for 2025 were achieved and that expenditure remained within the allocated budget. The LCDC subgroup convened on 5th May 2026 to conduct administrative reviews of this report and the 2025 budget. The total budget for 2025 was €150,000, fully allocated to salaries and community programmes. The subgroup assessed the work carried out and expressed satisfaction with the progress made. The circulated progress report highlights notable outcomes, particularly in fostering trust, enhancing participation, and reducing social isolation. The Report was Proposed by Martin Rochford, seconded by Paul O' Rahilly.

Review and approval of Annual Plan and Budget 2026 CDP

The Annual Plan and Budget for 2026 has been finalised, with a total allocation of €175,000. This represents an increase of €25,000 from the Department to accommodate rising overhead costs and salary expenses.

A review of the plan was conducted by Pobal, who confirmed their satisfaction with its content and highlighted several key strengths.

The LCDC Subgroup convened on 3rd March 2026 to review the 2026 Programme of Works and associated budget. One piece of feedback from this meeting, which was communicated to the Department, concerned the reporting format submitted by KTCM. It was requested that, moving forward, reports adhere to the original structure of the reporting system and include measurable outputs. This change aims to enhance the LCDC's capacity to perform its oversight functions effectively. This agreement has been implemented for future reports.

Proposed by Cllr. Ger Frisby, seconded by Derval Howley.

Review and approval of Procedure Manual

Following an audit of KTCM conducted last year by the internal auditor for Kilkenny County Council, it was recommended that a comprehensive procedure manual be established between the LCDC and KTCM. This manual clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of each party, outline financial guidelines, and detail the review and evaluation processes. In collaboration with the KTCM Coordinator developed the manual, and the circulated version reflects the final draft. For audit compliance, the procedure manual must be formally approved by both the LCDC and the KTCM Board of Management.

Approval of procedure manual Proposed by John Hurley, seconded by Derval Howley

4. PPN Report

Martin Rochford presented the PPN Report to the members.

5. Items for Information and Information Sharing

Public Consultation on SUMP and Variation of Kilkenny City & County Development Plan

Caitriona Corr and Caitriona Bambrick attended the meeting to introduce the topic and present a video related to the above.

Kilkenny County Council is proposing Variation 10 to the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan 2021, which pertains to the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for Kilkenny City. A copy of Proposed Variation 10, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report and the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report, is available for viewing at: consult.kilkenny.ie

The public consultation period will run for four weeks, from 15th May to 12th June 2026. Stakeholders are invited to submit their comments on the proposed Variation.

Caitriona Corr outlined the submission process to the LCDC Members and advised that any comments or submissions would be duly considered.

6. AOB

7. Date for Next Meeting

Friday 24th July, 2026.

Chair

Date