

**Minutes of Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee Meeting
held on Friday 24th September 2025, held in the Council Chamber, County
Hall at 10.30a.m.**

In attendance: Cllr. Mick McCarthy, KCC
Kevin Mahon, KLP
Michael Walshe, PPN Community Pillar
Martin Rochford, PPN – Environment
Angela Hayes, Teac Tom
Martha Bolger, KCETB
Michael A Fitzgerald, Teagasc
David Murphy, DEASP

Online: Aileen McGrath, Local Enterprise Office
John Hurley, Chamber of Commerce
Paul O’ Rahilly, PPN Social Inclusion
Cllr. Ger Frisby, KCC
Derval Howley, HSE
Mary Harding, PPN Social Inclusion

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

1. Administrative

Apologies: Lar Power, Chief Executive (Chair)
Olive Maher, FRC
Mary Mescal, PPN (Chair)
Cllr. Michael Doyle KCC

Anne Marie Shortall, Chair, welcomed David Murphy from DEASP, who is replacing Julieanne Power. Anne Marie also acknowledged Julianne for her contributions to the LCDC committee. The members then conducted a round of introductions.

Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of LCDC meeting held on Friday 26th September, 2025

Proposed by Cllr. Mick McCarthy, Seconded by Angela Hayes

Matters Arising

None.

Any Conflicts of Interest

None.

2. **Oversight and implementation of the Local and Economic Community Plan**
Angela Hayes of Teac Tom delivered a presentation on the actions for Teac Tom outlined in Goal 7 of the LECP Implementation Plan for 2025–2026. *Provide Mental Health Outreach support to rural communities, where there are identified gaps in provision and continue to expand school-based engagement to further support young people.*

Presentation attached.

Anne Marie thanked Angela for her very informative presentation.

Contributions were received from Kevin Mahon, Michael Fitzgerald, Martin Rochford and Derval Howley.

It was agreed by the members that it is very beneficial to receive presentations from the lead agencies providing updates on the actions in the LECP.

3. **Healthy Ireland Update**

Katherine Peacock provided an update on the delivery of the Healthy Ireland Programme.

The current round of the Healthy Ireland Fund 2023-2025 is extended to the end of 2026. There is an allocation of €75,000 for programme costs. There is flexibility to add two additional outputs/projects and an associated target group.

The Healthy Kilkenny Committee proposed one additional project under the High-Level Outcome of Self-Perceived Health to support older people in the community as Healthy Kilkenny are a supporting partner of actions in the Age Friendly Strategy 2025 – 2028. Healthy Kilkenny will promote 'Active and Healthy Lifestyles' and will include a wide range of programmes, activities and other supports aimed at supporting older peoples physical, mental health contributing to reducing loneliness and isolation. The Healthy Kilkenny Coordinator and the Age Friendly Team will collaborate over the coming months to put an action plan together.

The Healthy Kilkenny Committee propose to cease the Social Health and Education Project as it has come to an end. All other projects will continue as normal for 2026.

Current 2025 Programme

Healthy Kilkenny Committee Proposal on Spend for Current 2025.

- Total Expenditure for 2025 is €118,499 This is made up of €75,000 2025 allocation plus an underspend from 2024 in the amount of € 43,499

- All expenditure is committed to year end.

Proposed expenditure/activity changes:

KRSP: Volunteer appreciation and education event **€3,041**

Equipment for the multi-activity programme **€3,200**

Active Travel- €2,000 contribution to an adapted bike for the Bike Bunker in Callan.

The proposed expenditure and activity changes were proposed by Cllr. Mick McCarthy and, seconded by Martha Bolger.

4. Citizen Engagement and promotion of Social Inclusion

PPN Report

Martin Rochford presented the PPN Report.

5. KTCM – CDP Project – Mid Year Review

Katherine Peacock provided an update on the project.

The LCDC is responsible for the oversight and monitoring of the Community Development Project. As part of the review both Performance and Financial monitoring are undertaken.

Monitoring takes place under each of the 3 aims of the project

1.To develop community development responses to a range of social, economic and environmental concerns

2.To facilitate an empowering collaborative approach to building relationships and undertake Cooperative initiatives between marginalised groups, mainstream services and decision-making bodies.

3.To showcase and profile the benefits of an autonomous approach to community development in relation to existing, new and emerging issues

Pobal review the report and financials prior to the LCDC and have approved the report.

Concerns were raised over the low spend at the six-month review which stood at €52,393. LCDC support staff will review all expenditure and associated invoices and will report back to Pobal on behalf of the LCDC.

The project potentially has €114,845 remaining of the core budget. KTCM to provide a report and breakdown of how it is proposed to spend this budget allocation for 2025.

The CDP subgroup of the LCDC met with KTCM staff on the 9th September to carry out a review of the project.

The CDP was a three-year pilot project which was extended for a further year to the end of 2025, it is anticipated that the programme will be further extended. It is proposed that a full review of the project be carried out to highlight achievements and what approaches work well and the best practice recommendations.

Katherine informed the members that the LCDC that an audit of the CDP was carried out by the Internal Audit Department of Kilkenny County Council and their findings will be reported to the members once they become available.

Katherine updated the members on the comments on the review that were forwarded to Pobal on behalf of the LCDC as follows: -

The LCDC reviewed the 6 months progress report and acknowledge the good work that is being undertaken by the project; however, the LCDC would like to see actual numbers in the progress section where the output indicator specifically asks for them.

The LCDC also acknowledge receipt of the budget template and agree with the project teams' comments but are not in a position to verify the financial report as they have only recently received the financial backup for January to June. This will be commented on separately in due course to the Pobal project team.

The LCDC would like to make the Pobal project team aware that KTCM is currently being audited by the Local Authority's internal audit department. There are finding and recommendations which will be shared with Pobal once the audit is complete and approved in December.

6. AOB

Anne Marie advised that the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCDG) confirmed details of the fourth annual LCDC Networking conference will take place on Wednesday, 15th October, in the Landmark Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, N41 N9W4.

The event will be informative with high level business updates from;

- The Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht,
- The Department of Children, Disability and Equality, and;
- The Director of the National Office for Community Safety

Anne Marie indicated that six statutory LCDC meetings are scheduled annually at the beginning of each year. Of these, a maximum of two will be conducted virtually, with the remainder held in person. Anne Marie

encouraged attendance in person whenever possible to facilitate greater engagement.

Angela provided information about a complimentary talk on the 2nd October, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Set Theatre. The event will focus on issues related to drugs and violence and is organised in collaboration with An Garda Síochána and the South East Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

7. Date for Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Friday 5th of December, 2025.

Chair

Date