



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT106367
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens
Promoters Name:	Tramore Development Trust
Address:	Pond Rd, Tramore, Co. Waterford
Description:	The gardens provide a unique outdoor space for hosting events. There is no such similar facility in Tramore that can stage dramatisations, musical and cultural performances in such an ideal environment that naturally lends itself to such occasions. Providing all weather structures will facilitate and enhance the hosting of such events at the gardens and encourage more visitors and locals to attend
Theme:	Theme 1 Rural Tourism
Sub-theme:	SA1.2 Culture & Heritage Product Development
Link to LDS	Strategic action 1.2 Promotion of Culture & heritage taken from the LDS

Total Project Costs	€12,702.50		
Eligible Project Costs	€12,702.50		
Funding sought by promoter:	€6,351.25		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €6,351.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser subject to ensuring that a proper accounting system is established.		
Details of private funding:	€6,351.25		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Funding of three garden covers in the Lafcadio Hearn Gardens in Tramore for hosting outdoor events		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 50 %
	High Tensile Event Canopy	€7,027.50	€3,513.75
	High Endurance Gazebo	€2,130	€1,065
	Victorian Summerhouse	€3,545	€1,772.50
	Total Funding	€12,702.50	€6,351.25

Was an assessment completed?: Date: 12th Feb '18	Yes
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was used and the MEAT process carried out to score suppliers
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Not applicable
Innovative Element of the project:	Funding will provide the only outdoor eventing space in Tramore that is approved for weddings and other family occasions. The gardens will host outdoor cultural and musical performances events in the town centre both for the benefit of the local community and visitors to the area.
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee did not consider deadweight an issue as the promoters would not have sufficient funding to go ahead with this project without funding
Consideration of Displacement:	Funding this project will not cause displacement as it is improving on facilities already on offer to the local community
Economic justification for project:	Funding this project improves existing facilities benefiting the community by providing coverage to hold events year round.
Average Score for Project:	72/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €6,351.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser subject to ensuring that a proper accounting system is established.
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. If successful this project will be a good addition to the tourism offerings already in Tramore. 2. Funding this project will be a good use of Rural Development funds as it will provide a unique outdoor events area in Tramore. A maximum of €6,351.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser subject to ensuring that a proper accounting system is established.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
N/A	N/A	€6,351.25	€0

Confirmation that agencies / communities are supportive of the proposed project.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Failte Ireland	14th Feb '18	Hilary Creedon
Local Enterprise Office	14th Mar '18	Brid Kirby

Detail of Discussion: The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project:- - Ms Claire Connors briefly outlined the project to the Evaluation Committee noting that it is amazing what has been achieved in one year. The promoters Tramore Development Trust are seeking funding towards a Canopy,
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Gazebo and a Victorian Summer house as they wish to extend the season beyond the summer months and hold events year round. The gardens has been approved as an eventing location and the promoters are hoping to expand on that going forward including weddings, photographic location and private events.

- It was confirmed that an exemption from planning is on file.
- Ms Connors circulated photos of the area where the items will be located and confirmed that the area of the garden is 2.5 acres.
- The Evaluation Committee discussed the location of the garden noting the difficulties in access with the one way system. Ms Connors confirmed that it is well sign posted.
- Reservations were expressed at footfall claimed in 2017 of 16,837 as pro-rata it does not equate to entrance fees. Ms Connors clarified that the promoters offer free Thursdays to residents of Tramore and free days to people with special needs. It was noted that these figures should be shown separately.
- It was confirmed that the lease agreement has been updated at a special meeting of Waterford City & County Council and that a 15 year lease is now in place until 2033.
- The staffing of the gardens was discussed and it was confirmed that all staff are on a scheme. There are 10 CE staff and 3 full staff funded by POBAL a gardener and 2 support staff.
- A Committee Member stated that the business model is not very strong and that the project is fully reliant on public funding noting their reservations on funding the project. Another member noted that while dependent on public funding there is no indication that it will cease any time soon.

All Committee Members with the exception of one agreed to recommend the project for funding as they consider the project, if successful, a good addition to Tramore.

A maximum of €6,351.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser subject to ensuring that a proper accounting system is established.

Amount Recommended: €6,351.25

50% of Eligible Project Funding:

Signed: 

Signed: 

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Committee Member

Date: 9/4/2018

Date: 9/4/2018

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response

Signed: Claire Connors

Dated: 4th April '18

WLP Project Officer

Overall Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: 26th March 2018

Time: 11am to 3pm

Project Title: Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Garden

Project Reference Number: 311DRWAT106367

Assessment Criteria	Objective	Issues raised by Evaluation Committee	Weighting	Score
Compatibility with Local Development Strategy	Do the project proposals meet the criteria set out in the LAG business plan for the relevant measure?		Yes / No	
Innovation	Is the product innovative in its nature and does it displace existing enterprises? - Product / Service 9/19 <u>9</u> - Displacement 5/19 <u>5</u> - Job Creation 5/19 <u>1</u>		19	15
Promoters experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver? - Standards of Operation 6/25 <u>4</u> - Track Record 6/25 <u>4</u> - Structure of Business 6/25 <u>5</u> - Necessary skills base 7/25 <u>5</u>		25	18
Financial Viability	Are the project costs justifiable (reasonableness of costs) and / is funding available to co-fund the project? - Overall Costs 7/25 <u>5</u> - Co Funding 6/25 <u>5</u> - Financial Plan 6/25 <u>4</u>		25	18

	- Deadweight	6/25	4			
Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?				13	2
Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?				18	13
Total					100	72

N.B. Project must receive a minimum score of 65% prior to being recommended for approval.

• Has the potential level of deadweight been assessed for this project? YES / NO

• i.e. would the project proceed without LEADER funding? YES / NO

Recommendations of the Evaluation Committee: Approved

Signature: [Signature]

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: 26/3/2018