

LO 5 Social Inclusion	SA 5.1 Basic Services	Board Members Observations
Fisherman's Hall Development	€152,183.91	Agreed with recommendation of the Evaluation Committee Proposed by: Austin Flavin Seconded by: Clíona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda
LO 6 Rural Youth	SA 6.2 Rural Youth Service Delivery Model	
Carbally Youth Project	€40,178.15	Agreed with the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee Proposed by: Austin Flavin Seconded by: Clíona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda
Prior to agreeing with the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee Board Members discussed displacement in relation to both projects above. Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that both projects are about 4 miles apart and are quite different. Carbally is a small hall mainly used as a youth facility. It has quite a bit of land around it including old playing pitches that can be repaired. Fisherman's Hall is basically being upgraded and currently operates as a community hall and crèche for the village of Dunmore East. Board Members agreed that displacement is not an issue.		
Villierstown Enterprise Centre-Part Development	€178,200	Agreed with the recommendation of the Evaluation Committee but proposed and option b in the case of POBAL funding not being secured. - If the promoters are unsuccessful in obtaining POBAL capital funding then the project can proceed if they raise an additional €30,000 to €40,000 from another source but not through borrowings Proposed by: Austin Flavin Seconded by: Clíona Mhic Ghiolla Chuda
Mr Jimmy Taaffe expressed concern with one of the Evaluation Committee recommended conditions:- - that LEADER funding is conditional on the promoters successfully securing capital funding of €70,000 from POBAL for the relocation of the Montessori School into the new centre.		

The reason the conditions was inserted was to ensure guaranteed rental income to cover borrowings. For this application the promoters will have to borrow €80,000 and the Evaluation Committee did not want to see this increasing if the application to POBAL was not successful. The repayment capacity was their concern.

Mr Taaffe advised that TOMAR funding for the project is conditional on the promoters receiving LEADER funding therefore the whole project will be in jeopardy if they are unsuccessful in obtaining the capital funding of €70,000 from POBAL. There has been no capital funding from POBAL for a number of years therefore this process will be very competitive with it being more likely that areas of greater populations may be successful.

The Board discussed the timelines and if inserting this condition could impact negatively on the project. Mr Taaffe confirmed that the POBAL decision should be known in June.

It was advised that the project involves 3 stages; stage 1 the Glamping Site, Stage 2 the Enterprise Centre and stage 3 being the relocation of the school into the purpose built L shaped extension. Waterford City & County Council purchased the site and is leasing it to the promoter for €1 per year for a period of 20 years with an option to buy for the purchase price at any time during that period. The glamping pods will be in place this summer and there is no debt from stage 1. For stage 2 the promoters are going to borrow €80,000 and if this could be halved it would address the repayment concerns of the Evaluation Committee. Mr Jimmy Taaffe said that a local benefactor may be willing to donate.

A discussion ensued on the amount of funding being allocated to Villierstown and if the surrounding areas will suffer. Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that an application from Clashmore for a heritage project will be coming in for evaluation shortly. Aglish at this time has no pending applications.

This is an excellent project for West Waterford and done right could be a model for future enterprise centres offering mobile working solutions both to fixed and short term users. A lot of people from the area commute for work and remote working could be the future for rural Ireland. Ms Brid Kirby noted that if it was completed in a similar fashion to Boxworks in Waterford City offering an ultra-modern co working facility then it could be very successful. Board Members agreed saying that this type of project along with tourism projects are the way forward for rural Ireland.

Following a lengthy discussion with various options considered including reducing the build it was agreed to suggest that the LCDC Board offer the promoters a plan b rather than pulling the plug on the project altogether.

- If the promoters are unsuccessful in obtaining POBAL capital funding then the project can proceed if they raise an additional €30,000 to €40,000 from another source but not through borrowings.

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