LEADER

Annual Progress Report 2018 & Implementation Plan 2019

Please note: All questions are mandatory for completion

Local Action Group Name: Waterford LCDC

Section 1: Management and Decision Making Structures

(1)	**Have any changes been made to the LAG membership since your last Annual Progress Report? *If yes, please complete Appendix 1.***	**Yes ☒ No ☐**
(2)	**How many meetings of the LAG have taken place during this reporting period *(1st January – 31st December 2018)*?**	11 Meetings
(3)	**How many meetings of the evaluation committee(s) have taken place during this reporting period *(1st January – 31st December 2018)*?**	6 Meetings
(4)	**(a) Is the LAG decision making process working well?** **(b) What would improve this process?**	**Yes ☒ No ☐ Room for Improvement ☐**

Section 2: Progress Review and Implementation Plan

Please note that section 5 (a) of the table below has been pre-populated with data from the LDS, the 2017 annual report and the LEADER IT system.

5 (a) Progress 2018								5 (b) Projected Spend Programme			
Theme	**Sub-Theme**	**€ Original Project Budget** *(from LDS)*	**No. of Projects approved** *(Cumulative to date)*	**€ Value of Projects approved** *(Cumulative to date)*	**€ Total Project spend** *(Cumulative to date)*	**€ Estimated Project Spend (2018)** *(as estimated in the 2017 annual report)*	**€ Actual Project Spend (2018)**	**€** Estimated **Project Approval (2019)**	**€** Estimated **Project Expenditure** *(claims)* **for (2019)**	**€** Estimate d **Project Approval (2020)**	**€** Estimated **Expenditure** *(claims)* **for (2020)**
Economic Development	**Rural Tourism**	€1,741,500	16	€520,286.65	€206,362.20	€533,195.02	€206,362.20	€1,043,966.35	€821,685.85	€0.00	€528983.18
	Enterprise Development	€2,090,000	21	€1,569,643.51	€1,057,552.98	€943,992.55	€1,057,552.98	€778,798.99	€678,029.91	€0.00	€401,399.50
	Rural Towns	€403,500	2	€184,200	€0.00	€178,000.00	€0.00	€28,000	€60,320	€0.00	€146800
	Broadband	€0.00	0	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00	€0.00
Social Inclusion	**Basic Services**	€835,000	8	€759,301.95	€321,568.93	€607,118.04	€321,568.93	€543,801.38	€570,527.04	€0.00	€401,851.04
	Rural Youth	€130,000	1	€40,178.15	€0.00	€50,000.00	€0.00	€50,000	€71,178.15	€0.00	€25,000
Rural Environment	**Water Resources**	€325,346	0	€0.00	€0.00	€12,000.00	€0.00	€52,000	€6,000.00	€0.00	€46,000
	Biodiversity	€0.00	1	€10,300.00	€0.00	€12,000.00	€0.00	€61,346	€10,300.00	€0.00	€61,346.00
	Renewable Energy	€0.00	1	€200,000.00	€0.00	€200,000.00	€0.00	€0.00	€200,000.00	€0.00	€200,000
Totals		**€5,525,346**	**48**	**€3,099,710.26**	**€1,585,484.11**	**€2,536,305.61**	**€1,585,484.11**	€2,557,912.72	€2,218,040.94	€0.00	€1,811,379.71

++N.B. Please see attached Excel Sheet containing proposed reallocations

Section 3: Progress in Implementing the Plan to Date

(Reporting Period: 1st January – 31st December 2018)

(6)	**Please describe the animation that was completed in 2018**	The animation process can be divided into three specific actions: • The Call Process. • The Application Process • Community Training Targeted Call Process: The Implementing Partner, WLP Clg ran 4 Public Targeted Calls for projects in 2018. These calls involved the publication of the details of the targeted calls in the local papers, on Facebook, and on websites. The Staff of WLP in turn also contacted potential applicants who had shown interest in LEADER to highlight the fact that the Call had happened, and that the public animation and information meetings were about to occur. The Call process involved 5 Public Meetings for each Call or 20 Public Meetings in total across the County in 2018. These meetings were held in Lismore, Dungarvan, Ballymacarbry, Kilmacthomas and Tramore. 16 of the 20 meetings were quite detailed meetings on the RDP Programme and the associated Rules and the actual application process. They lasted 2 to 2.5 hours per meeting. 4 of the Meetings were specific training meetings to bring the eligible E.O.I.'s through the whole application process and again these were of a similar duration. The Application Process: The applicants who were actually applying had a minimum of 3 individual compulsory meetings with the relevant project officer prior to the closing date for applications. In fact many of the applicants had more than 3 meetings. In 2018, there would have been close to 100 one to one meetings with Project Promoters. Community Training: In 2018, there were 4 Community Training Initiatives. 1. Training entitled Fostering Local Strategy at Village Level was carried out with 6 Villages in the Blackwater Valley in relation to creating a Blueway/Economic Zone was finalised in February 2018. 8 Community Organisations participated in the training and the development of a short strategy. This group of villages have now applied under WLP and WCCC for stage 11 of the rural Regeneration Programme. 2. Training entitled developing a Social Enterprise Network was carried out in and Dungarvan (5 Groups). This was not very successful. This will be expanded upon below. 3. In Kilmacthomas, a training programme entitled Fostering a Local Enterprise Culture for 6 Groups was implemented and was very successful. 4. Biodiversity Training commenced in late 2018 for 12 Groups, 6 from the West and 6 from the East. The groups involved are Tidy Towns Groups. This training

		will lead to capital projects on bio diversity in 2019.
(7)	**What was the impact of this animation in attracting new or existing project promoters?**	The impact was positive, with €1.2 m allocated to new projects through the targeted calls, and a database of potential applicants for 2019 to respond to the targeted calls in 2019 which should facilitate the allocation of the remaining budget.
(8)	**Highlight the key achievements / successes of the programme in 2018, with reference to the LDS**	The key achievements of the programme thus far are: • The bedding in of the targeted call process which allows applicants to be more strategic in their application, and also allows for better quality applications; • The bedding down of the relationship between WLP Clg, WCCC and the LCDC; • The focused investment in practical local projects with positive outcomes in terms of jobs and quality of life in rural Waterford.
(9)	**Provide a brief overview of the issues, challenges and lessons learned during the reporting period:** **(a) Issues/Challenges experienced** **(b) How were issues/challenges overcome?** **(c) Lessons Learned**	The main issues that have arisen are around duplication, whether real or perceived. The areas of possible duplication are: (a) • New Dept. initiatives on Food, Village Renewal, Rural Recreation and Rural Regeneration. • Actions that W.A.P. are undertaking under SICAP, such as Social Economy. (b) • On duplication with the Dept. Programmes, the LCDC has engaged Ciaran Lynch to carry out a midterm review on the LDS and its operation. This review will propose a number of recommendations on consolidating some of the budget sub headings into a number of principle areas where there is need for investment, and where the new Dept. initiatives do not address the need. • On the SICAP duplication on Social Economy, LEADER will not provide training on Social Economy going forward or any other support that maybe required. This will be left to SICAP.

	(c) • An annual review of activities in a multi annual plan is important, as the State Provision and Local Provision of Services is in constant flux, and to avoid duplication it is better to review and target niche areas of value and purpose to remain relevant. Social Economy Training Dungarvan This course was not successful for 2 reasons: 1. The Trainers were using a programme which was more targeted at unemployed individuals looking at self employment; 2. Certain groups perceived that LEADER might be encroaching on their patch around Social Enterprise. While this was not the case, in the review of the LDS, Social Enterprise will be left solely to SICAP.
(10) Please outline any activity that took place in relation to cooperation projects during 2018	The LCDC through WLP Clg has persevered with the 2 Transnationals with N. Ireland on Industrial Heritage and Coastal Communities. The Groups in Waterford, in both Dunmore East and Portlaw are ready to go. On the Northern side, activity for much of 2018 has been very slow for a variety of reasons. However in December 2018, we received positive news on both projects from the North, with written confirmation late January. The combined value of the 2 southern projects will be €300,000.

Section 4: Implementation Plan 2019

(11) From the review of the LDS, please identify:	
(a) What are the priorities for 2019?	Complete the balance of the full allocation of funding, and pay out €2.2m
(b) What animation is planned to support these?	5 Targeted Calls, animation to support same and 4 Community Training Programmes, I on Social Farming and 1 for unemployed youth.

(12) Briefly identify any co-operation project applications envisaged to be submitted for approval in 2019	Estimated total overall cost of Project **€300,000** Estimated LEADER grant amount contribution of your LAG to the project €225,000 from LEADER and **€75,000 in matched finance** (The matched monies will be raised by the Communities) Proposed co-operation partners: Mid and East Antrim Council

Section 5: LEADER Evaluation Activity

(13)	**(a) Please select your proposed evaluation method:** **NOTE: this should be in line with your Local Development Strategy (LDS)**	☐ Internal / Self-Evaluation ☒ External body ☐ Combination of internal and external evaluation
	(b) Provide a brief description of any evaluation undertaken in <u>2018</u> *(outlining, where relevant, how it is in line with the evaluation plan detailed in your LDS document).*	Waterford LCDC engaged Mr. Ciaran Lynch formerly of L.I.T., and Tipperary Institute in December 2018 to undertake an independent midterm review of the Local Development Strategy, the operation of the Progamme and the implementation of the Programme by WLP Clg on behalf of the LCDC. The engagement of the independent evaluator and the terms of reference are in line with the LDS.
	(c) Provide a brief description of planned evaluation activities for <u>2019</u> *(outlining, where relevant, how they are in line with the evaluation plan detailed in your LDS document).*	The Midterm evaluation will be completed for March 2019 by Mr. C. Lynch. and presented to the LCDC by him. Following the LCDC meeting, the Chief Officer will send the evaluation to the Department of RCD.
(14)	**(a) Please confirm if any budgetary changes were made in 2018 (as outlined in the *'Budgetary Flexibility'* options detailed in circular 14/2018)**	**Yes** (budgetary flexibility options were availed of) ☐ **No** (budgetary changes were not made) ☒ If **YES,** provide details of the budgetary changes made:

(b) If you have availed of the budgetary flexibility options (circular 14/2018) please confirm the status for the two listed requirements: *(1) The total maximum amount which has been moved overall must not exceed 25% of the overall LDS budget* *AND* *(2) The budget associated with any individual subtheme must not be reduced by more than one third (33%) of the amount outlined in the LDS.*	(1) Please confirm that the **total maximum amount which has been moved overall has not exceeded 25%** of the overall LDS budget. ☐ **Yes** (the overall amount moved **has not** exceeded 25%) ☐ **No** (the overall amount moved **has** exceeded 25%) If **NO**, please confirm date LDS Amendment Request was submitted to the department: __/__/ 2018 (2) Please confirm that the budget associated with **any individual subtheme has not been reduced by more than one third (33%)** of the amount outlined in the LDS. ☐ **Yes** (the budget for any sub-theme (s) **has not** been reduced by more than 33%) ☐ **No** (the budget for any sub-theme(s) **has** been reduced by more than 33%) If **NO**, please confirm date LDS Amendment Request was submitted to the department: __/__/ 2018

Section 6: LEADER Project Case Studies

Please provide **<u>two case studies</u>** for LEADER projects that have been either completed or partially completed (i.e. at least one payment made on same) in 2018, using the template below. This is a useful opportunity to review performance of the programme/funding and to showcase the impact of the programme in communities. Case studies should be short and concise and, where possible, include visuals to enhance the case study and increase its impact (for example, any promotional videos, photographs or images).

Please note that case studies or extracts from case studies may be used for reporting/publication at national and EU level. For example, case studies could be used for evaluation purposes or for showcasing the programme at events such as the ploughing championships, or other public events and publications.

LEADER Project Case Study	
(1) General Project Information	
Project Name:	Blackwater Eco Tours
Project Reference:	31LDRWAT103938
LDS Local Objective:	Local Objective 1, Strategic Action 1.1
Theme	Economic Development
Sub-theme	Activity Tourism
Cooperation Project	Yes ☐ No ☒
Contact person for case study	Mr. Alan Boardman
(2) Project Promoter	
Promoter Name	V.E.C.P. Clg.
Promoter Type	Community Group
Description of Promoter	Villerstown Education and Culture Project Ltd was established in 2010 by a Voluntary Board of Local Directors. The Volunteers over the succeeding eight years have established a nascent social enterprise based on the provision of localised childcare in a rural community, Community Infrastructure in terms of a Community Boat Club, and now a tourism business focused on the environment and scenery of the lower Blackwater Valley.

(3) **Project Description (Maximum 1000 words)** Please provide a brief description of the project or enterprise under the following headings:	
3.1 Project Background/Context Please describe why the project was needed	The next phase of the social enterprise development has focused on the creation of Blackwater Eco Tours. The LCDC through LEADER has invested in the purchase of three self-drive boats to allow customers to explore with a guide the history and environment of the lower Blackwater Valley. This enterprise is linked to an accommodation base of 4 glamping pods located in the centre of the historic village, thus providing an integrated package for visitors interested in exploring and enjoying the beauty of the Blackwater Valley.
3.2 Aims and Objectives Brief description of the aims and objectives of the project – what did the project set out to achieve? Who were the target beneficiaries of the project?	The aim and objectives of the project was to create a Tourism Social Enterprise Business, with the focus on revenue generation from the provision of eco tours on the river Blackwater. The target audience is family visitors to the area, and the target beneficiaries are the residents of Villierstown who would benefit from both the employment and services funded by the revenues from the Tourism Enterprise
3.3 Key Activities Please describe the products, facilities or services delivered/to be delivered as part of the project	The provision of Eco Tours using a number of self-drive boats accompanied by a river guide.
3.4 Results Please outline what the project achieved (where projects are not fully completed please state what the project intends to achieve under the headings) and how the needs identified have been met under the following headings: (a) **Benefit to the Community** Please describe the impact of the activities described above on the target community or rural environment. Where possible, please indicate the number of people who have benefitted from the	The business is up and operational. The project has benefitted the economic life of the village in terms of footfall. There are currently 3 people employed on the project through a DEASP initiative called the Community Services Programme.

project. **(b) Employment (current and potential)** Please outline how many people were employed as a result of this project and, if applicable, estimate how many might be employed in the future due to the project? **(c) Other Achievements** For example, please outline any other benefits to the local community, economy or environment (e.g. increase in sales, revenue, exports etc.) or other results that the project has achieved.	3 People There has been increased footfall in the village and an accommodation business has opened in the village as a result
3.5 LEADER Cross Cutting Objectives Please describe how the project contributed to the cross cutting objectives of: • Innovation • Climate Change and/or • The Environment	Innovation: The Group are using their areas natural resources in a sustainable manner to create economic activity and employment. Climate Change/Environment: The business is actually dependent on educating the public to care for the local environment and local wildlife.
(4) Financial Information	
Project Budget (LEADER funding)	**€21,722.41**
Other sources of funding Please detail funding source and amount	€21,722.41 – Own Funds and Philanthropic donation.
(5) Lessons Learned	

Please outline any learning that should be taken into account for similar projects, for example, anything unexpected or surprising about implementing the project? Any barriers/challenges experienced and how they were overcome? What could be done better?	The development of Community operated initiatives depends very much on the recruitment and retention of high quality volunteers with the capacity to develop and govern a local voluntary organisation providing local services and infrastructure to their local area.
(6) Further Information	
Please provide any further information of interest for example: • Photographs • Quotes from beneficiaries • Website or additional information sources *Please note that you must have permission from photographers and participants in photographs before these can be submitted for use.*	

LEADER Project Case Study	
(7) General Project Information	
Project Name:	Anne Valley Walk Phase II
Project Reference:	31LDRWAT103327

LDS Local Objective:	LO1 Economic Development
Theme	Rural Tourism
Sub-theme	Activity Tourism SA1.1
Cooperation Project	Yes ☐ No ☒
Contact person for case study	Mr. William Moore
(8) Project Promoter	
Promoter Name	Anne Valley Farmers Group
Promoter Type	Voluntary Group
Description of Promoter	The Group comprises of 13 Farm Families who have come together over the last 20 years under the auspices of the DFBA to first create the Anne Valley Wetlands and laterally the Anne Valley Walk 1 and now the second phase connecting Dunhill Village to Annestown Village on the Copper Coast.
(9) Project Description (Maximum 1000 words) Please provide a brief description of the project or enterprise under the following headings:	
3.6 Project Background/Context Please describe why the project was needed	The project was conceived in Dunhill back in the late 1990's , when the group comprising of Dr. R Harrington, Dr. Senan Cooke, Donal Lehane, the Murphy's, etc., looked at the regeneration of the Anne River and the Anne Valley as an area of sustainable bio diversity with associated walks along the river. That initial vision has become the Anne Valley Wetlands, with a walk now joining the development area.
3.7 Aims and Objectives Brief description of the aims and objectives of the project – what did the project set out to achieve? Who were the target beneficiaries of the project?	The project set out to clean up the Anne River, and its surrounds, and provide a natural activity area for the residents of the DFBA area. The beneficiaries were the local environment, the farm families, local residents and the many hundreds of walking visitors from Waterford City, Tramore and further afield that use the Valley for their daily walk(With electronic counters over 6 months, we measured 1500 users per week on average(14000 divided by 4 and then divided by 2, as each walker passed the counter twice)

3.8 Key Activities Please describe the products, facilities or services delivered/to be delivered as part of the project	This phase of the project is looking to extend the Anne Valley Walk from Dunhill Castle to Annestown beach based on the success of the original LEADER funded 2.5km walk from Dunhill village to Dunhill castle. A counter placed at the entrance to the walk from the village side recorded 14,000 users over an initial four month period from 7th August to the 28th November 2013. Additional enhancements have since been provided by the group including a car park at the village entrance to the walk, signage, seating and a walkway to the castle at the castle end of the walk. Extra surfacing and maintenance has also been provided from the group's own funds. An underground safe was installed in the early stages of the walk and approximately €50/month is generated from the public using it.
3.9 Results Please outline what the project achieved (where projects are not fully completed please state what the project intends to achieve under the headings) and how the needs identified have been met under the following headings: **(d) Benefit to the Community** Please describe the impact of the activities described above on the target community or rural environment. Where possible, please indicate the number of people who have benefitted from the project. **(e) Employment (current and**	The walk passes through farm land in the Anne Valley that has been kindly donated to the project and its value included as part of the voluntary matching contribution. The National Trails Office insures the walk which was completed to their national standard. The area of land around the walk is natural bog land that stretches down to Annestown beach and is a haven for wildlife and native birds providing a tranquil space for the young and old and less mobile members of the public to enjoy. There will be spin off employment in time from ancillary services such as a proposed small walking centre with a coffee dock, toilets and changing facility.

potential) Please outline how many people were employed as a result of this project and, if applicable, estimate how many might be employed in the future due to the project? **(f) Other Achievements** For example, please outline any other benefits to the local community, economy or environment (e.g. increase in sales, revenue, exports etc.) or other results that the project has achieved.	
3.10 LEADER Cross Cutting Objectives Please describe how the project contributed to the cross cutting objectives of: • Innovation • Climate Change and/or • The Environment	Innovation: Bringing a group of farmers together to act in the best interest of their local community over a long period of time is very innovative. The Valley addresses all the boxes on the environment and climate change, from reducing nitrates, to the creation of a wildlife corridor, to the cleaning up of the Anne River, and the wetlands providing a carbon sink that has become a physical recreation area.

(10) Financial Information	
Project Budget (LEADER funding)	**€124,553.78**
Other sources of funding Please detail funding source and amount	Land Donation Value €33,568.50 €8322.23 Cash Donation

(11) Lessons Learned	
Please outline any learning that should be taken into account for similar projects, for example, anything unexpected or surprising about implementing the project? Any barriers/challenges experienced and how they were overcome? What could be done better?	The development of Community operated initiatives depends very much on the recruitment and retention of high quality volunteers with the capacity to develop and govern a local voluntary organisation providing local services and infrastructure to their local area.

(12) Further Information	
Please provide any further information of interest for example: • Photographs • Quotes from beneficiaries • Website or additional information sources	

Please note that you must have permission from photographers and participants in photographs before these can be submitted for use.	

Appendix 1: LAG Membership

If any changes have been made to the LAG membership since the last Annual Progress Report (as per Question 1), please complete the table below to reflect the updated LAG membership. Please include ALL current members and indicate if the member is a new or existing member.

Name	M/F *	Existing or New Member**	Role in LAG	Organisation Represented	Sector
1 Cllr. Declan Doocey	M	New	Chairman	WCCC	Public Sector
2 Mr. Gabriel Foley	M	Existing	Member	PPN	Non Public Sector
3 Ms. Jenny Beresford	F	Existing	Member	Chamber of Commerce	Non Public Sector
4 Ms. Catherine Quinlan	F	New	Member	ICMSA	Non Public Sector
5 Ms. Heather Kiely	F	Existing	Member	PPN	Non Public Sector
6 Ms. Maggie Flanagan	F	Existing	Member	PPN	Non Public Sector
7 Mr. Gerald Hurley	M	Existing	Member	Chamber of Commerce	Non Public Sector
8 Mr. Jimmy Taaffe	M	Existing	Member	Implementer WLP Clg	Non Public Sector
9 Cllr. Tom Cronin	M	Existing	Member	WCCC	Public Sector
10 Mr. Michael Walsh	M	Existing	Member	CEO WCCC	Public Sector
11 Ms. Derval Howley	F	Existing	Member	HSE	Public Sector
12 Mr. Liam Daly	M	Existing	Member	DEASP	Public Sector
13 Mr. Kevin Lewis	M	Existing	Member	WWETB	Public Sector
14 Cllr. Eddie Mulligan	M	New	Member	WCCC	Public Sector
15 Mr. Joe Stokes	M	Existing	Member	WAP Clg	Non Public Sector
16 Ms. Julie Somers	F	New	Member	Tusla	Public Sector
17 Mr. Niall O’Brien	M	Existing	Member	PPN	Non Public Sector

18 Mr. Richard Walsh	M	Existing	Member	WLEO	Public Sector
19 Mr. Senan Cooke	M	Existing	Member	PPN	Non Public Sector

*Please indicate whether the person named in column 1 is Male or Female.

** Please indicate if the person named in Column 1 is a New or Existing Member of the LAG

An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
investing in rural areas

Ireland's European Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union

pobal
government supporting communities