



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT110303
Project Type:	Local Objective 1, Strategic Action 1.2 Cultural Tourism which relates to cultural activities in the Great Houses of the Blackwater Valley.
Project Name:	Lismore Music Festival
Promoters Name:	Lismore Music Festival Clg
Address:	8, Main Street, Lismore, Co. Waterford
Description:	The project involves the holding of an international standard opera festival in a number of Historic Locations in the Blackwater Valley. The innovation is the use of the great houses for cultural events open to all.
Theme:	Local Objective 1 – Rural Tourism
Sub-theme:	Strategic Action 1.2 Cultural Tourism
Link to LDS	L.O. 1, S.A. 2.1

Total Project Costs	96,704.72		
Eligible Project Costs	96,704.72		
Funding sought by promoter:	72,528		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	51,478		
Details of private funding:	35,226.72 + 10,000 from WCCC & Arts Council.		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No.		
Synopsis of project:	The project involves the holding of an international standard opera festival in a number of Historic Locations in the Blackwater Valley. The innovation is the use of the great houses for cultural events open to all. LEADER will invest in the equipment rental required to provide the sound, lighting and accommodation in the various venues to ensure the smooth running of the various recitals.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 68.0433 %
	Sound	2,500	1,701.08
	First Aid	990	673.64
	Generator	1,184.45	805.94
	Piano	3,198	2,176.02
	Lighting	7,432.77	5,057.50

	Marquee Hire	21,709.50	14,771.86
	Marquee Legs	16,140	10,982.19
	Seating	7,500	5,103.27
	Venue Hire	10,000	6,804.33
	Venue Hire	5,000	3,402.17
	Singer	6,500	0.00
	Singer	4,050	0.00
	Conductor	5,500	0.00
	Director	5,000	0.00
Total Funding		96,704.72	51,478
Was an assessment completed?: Date: 16/04/2019			
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, in part. Evaluation Committee reduced a number of the costings, as they reviewed the quotations against the previous year's statements .		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	The appropriate quotations were sought.		
Innovative Element of the project:	The projects is opening up the Great Houses of the Blackwater Valley to Cultural Events.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The project would proceed on a lesser scale		
Consideration of Displacement:	The project is unique for the location, and also for the time of year. Wexford is in the Autumn.		
Economic justification for project:	The project will highlight West Waterford as a Tourism destination.		
Average Score for Project:	71/100		
% level of aid & ceiling:	68.0433% or €51,478, whichever is the lesser amount.		
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation agreed to recommend funding this project to the Waterford LCDC as with the following conditions: - - The accounts must be at a better standard and more transparent going forward. - The number of free tickets should be reviewed. Funding is being reduced to €51,478.00 or 68.0433% whichever is the lesser. - This will be the final year of funding under the Rural Development Programme. A maximum of €51,478.00 or 68.0433% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	1	Yes	No

Confirmation that agencies / communities are supportive of the proposed project.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
LEO	16/04/2019	B Kirby

Faillte Ireland		

The main points raised in the discussion of this project were: -

- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that the promoter was funded 6 years ago. WLP are not really funding festivals but this one is being considered as it is a popular niche event that brings footfall to a rural area.
- It is eligible for funding and one of the main reasons for considering it is that, it's an event that puts the spotlight on County Waterford. It is being funded under cultural tourism.
- The festival costs .5m each year to run and the amount of funding requested is very small for the investment.
- It was agreed that it is a very well-run professional event to a very high standard.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe explained that the festival is now being run by a qualified accountant Ms Breda O'Brien CEO and Michael Alan Buckley is part of the management team. Both are drawing a salary for their work
- The Evaluation Committee discussed the accounts noting that they were not very transparent.
- Another concern raised was the amount of free tickets given to sponsors nearly 1000 and if it would be best to sell some of these to generate income. It was noted that its not a donation if the sponsors are getting tickets for free in return. While it is normal for them to get some the amount seems excessive.
- There are 14 revenue events and they are losing quite a bit of income with the number of free tickets. The possibility that they are given for fringe events to fill seats was noted.
- The cost of the tickets was discussed with the most expensive being €200 and the cheaper ones costing around €44. One of the events is free for school children.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that this will be the last year of funding as going forward it is envisioned that the Arts Council will start providing funding. Presently they fund Wexford for €1.5m per year. These types of events are not expected to make money but are considered important cultural events that attract visitors to the region.
- The Evaluation Committee discussed the possibility of reducing the grant to indicate their concern at the number of free tickets given to sponsors.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that there is a good local support for this project as many volunteers act as stewards etc.
- It was noted that the venue is rented to the festival and that outside caterers also profit by attending the festival.
- The Evaluation Meeting discussed the project in detail. While the accounts are maintained and audited, for future applications to bodies such as the Art's Council they would need to be in line with the SORP Code, i.e., very detailed.
- The Committee stated that the initiative is well run and highlights the West Waterford area to a group of people who would not normally frequent the area. It also opens the big houses to the concept of tourism as an activity.
- They recommended the project at a lower rate of 68.0433% or €51,478, whichever was the lower amount.

Recommendation: A maximum of €51,478.00 or 68.0433% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser, with the following conditions: -

- The accounts must be at a better standard and more transparent going forward.
- The number of free tickets should be reviewed. Funding is being reduced to €51,478.00 or 68.0433% whichever is the lesser.
- This will be the final year of funding under the Rural Development Programme.

Amount Recommended: €51,478

68.0433% of Eligible Project Funding:

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Committee Member

Date: _____

Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response
The Accounts need to be more Transparent	Will be related in the letter of offer
Ticket Sales require attention	Will be related in the letter of offer

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

WLP Project Officer

Please insert photos below of reference purposes:

(for example a photo of the building to be renovated/machinery being purchased, etc)

Overall Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: 29th April 2019

Time: 11am to 12pm

Project Title: Lismore Music Festival

Project Reference Number: 311DRWAT110303

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>8</u> - Displacement 5/19 <u>5</u> - Job Creation 5/19 <u>4</u>		19	14
Promoters experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver? - Standards of Operation 6/25 <u>6</u> - Track Record 6/25 <u>5</u> - Structure of Business 6/25 <u>4</u> - Necessary skills base 7/25 <u>4</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>4</u> - Co Funding 6/25 <u>4</u> - Financial Plan 6/25 <u>4</u>		25	16

	- Deadweight	6/25	4.		
Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?			13	10
Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?			18	10
Total				100	71

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: £51,478 grant recommended,

Signature: 

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: 20th April, 2018,

Denise Walsh

From: pclerkin@cablesurf.com
Sent: Tuesday 30 April 2019 17:14
To: Denise Walsh
Subject: Draft minutes

Denise,

I have reviewed the draft minutes of the Evaluation Committee meeting held on Monday 29th April 2019 and I am in agreement with them.

Paul Clerkin.
Chairman
Evaluation Committee.

