



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT110671
Project Type:	Local Objective 1, Tourism and Strategic Action 1.4
Project Name:	St. Declan's Hostel
Promoters Name:	Mount Melleray Abbey, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford
Address:	Mount Melleray Abbey, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford
Description:	The development of a Tourist Hostel right beside the St. Declan's Way Pilgrim Route and located in the heart of the Comeragh Mountains right beside the Historic Mount Melleray Abbey.
Theme:	Local Objective 2 Tourism
Sub-theme:	Strategic Action 1.4 R.V. Parks, Glamping and Hostels
Link to LDS	Local Objective 1, Tourism and Strategic Action 1.4

Total Project Costs	The cost of this project is €289,768.50 and the promoter has requested funding of €144,884.25 or 50% of eligible costs whichever is the lesser.		
Eligible Project Costs	€289,768.50		
Funding sought by promoter:	€144,884.25		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€144,884.25 or 50% of the eligible costs whichever is the lesser amount.		
Details of private funding:	€144,884.25 – Philanthropic Donation		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	The development of a Tourist Hostel right beside the St. Declan's Way Pilgrim Route and located in the heart of the Comeragh Mountains right beside the Historic Mount Melleray Abbey.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ %
	Construction	€289,768.50	€144,884.25
Total Funding		€289,768.50	€144,884.25
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the project assessment was completed on the 4 th Sept 2019.		

Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the promoters followed Category 2 LEADER Specific Procurement Guidelines.
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	N/A
Innovative Element of the project:	It was agreed that the project is innovative as it will be the first hostel specifically designed for those walking St. Declan's Way in Co. Waterford
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight is not an issue as without funding this project will not proceed.
Consideration of Displacement:	It was agreed that displacement is not an issue as the proposed hostel will be the first one along the St. Declan's Way pilgrim route in Co. Waterford.
Economic justification for project:	The project fits in with the Co Waterford LCDC Plan for Rural Tourism. The hostel will be an important addition to the expanding infrastructure in West Waterford for walkers. It is estimated that between 30,000 and 40,000 people will walk the route annually. It will be essential that hostels and other accommodations will be available along the route.
Average Score for Project:	The project scored 84/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	The Evaluation agreed to recommend funding this project to the Waterford LCDC as presented. A maximum of €144,884.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. The project links to the Co Waterford Local Community Development Plan Local Objective 1 for Rural Tourism. 2. The project scored 84/100. 3. The Evaluation Committee agreed that funding this project is a good use of Rural Development funds as it will provide accommodation for travelers along the St. Declan Way route. A maximum of €144,884.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
3 FTE		€144,884.25	None

Confirmation that agencies / communities are aware of the proposed project.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
The LEO has confirmed that there is no double funding or duplication	05/09/2019	B. Kirby

Failte Ireland were contacted on the 4 th of September 2019	12/09/2019	S. Fitzpatrick
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The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project: -

- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that St. Declan's Way passes through the lands of Mount Mellerary Abbey. The monks are proposing to adapt the former novices building to provide simple hostel accommodation for those walking the route. The building, which is over 150 years old, when adapted could offer 8 bedrooms sleeping 1-4 people each and separate shower/toilet facilities.
- The building has its own entrance which will lead into the reception/welcome area and office space. There will be a chillout area with food/drink vending machines and an eating area, a kitchen and a drying room.
- Mt Melleray had no Abbot for several years and was rudderless. The new Abbot is in place now for two years and has a number of plans for the place. Currently there is about 8 monks left but they are getting interest from new members and talking about setting up a noviciate there.
- Mr Taaffe advised that the farm is leased out and that all Monasteries stand or fall on their own and are not supported.
- This project is an add on as the Monastery already has a guest house and catering facilities on site.
- The match finance is being provided by TOMAR.
- With regard to the projections, labour wise not going to need much as they already have staff for the guesthouse.
- It is hoped that St Declan's Way will obtain National Trail status shortly. This will provide much needed accommodation along the route.
- The Evaluation Committee discussed the Monastery and its other buildings including the one run by Scouting Ireland which is closed currently.
- They noted the Monasteries importance as a major attraction in Co Waterford in whatever form it is being operated.
- The facilities are open to all on a booking basis.
- It was agreed that any funding spent in the restoration is well spent as it is a significant asset to Co Waterford.
- It was agreed that the new Abbot is a very good operator with the skills to successfully implement the project.

The Evaluation agreed to recommend funding this project to the Waterford LCDC as presented

A maximum of €144,884.25 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.

Amount Recommended: €144,884.25	50% of Eligible Project Funding:
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Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee Committee Member

Date: _____ Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response
None	

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: 26th September 2019

Time: 11am – 3pm

Project Title: St. Declan's Hostel

Project Reference Number: 31LDRWAT110671

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 _____ - Displacement 5/19 _____ - Job Creation 5/19 _____		19	16
Promoters experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver? - Standards of Operation 6/25 _____ - Track Record 6/25 _____ - Structure of Business 6/25 _____ - Necessary skills base 7/25 _____		25	21
Financial Viability	Are the project costs justifiable (reasonableness of costs) and / is funding available to co-fund the project? - Overall Costs 7/25 _____ - Co Funding 6/25 _____ - Financial Plan 6/25 _____		25	22

	Deadweight	6/25			
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	15
Total				100	84

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: Paul O'Leary

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: 26.09.2018

Denise Walsh

From: pclerkin@cablesurf.com
Sent: Thursday 3 October 2019 17:23
To: Denise Walsh
Subject: Evaluation Committee Meeting on 26th September 2019

Hi Denise

I confirm that I am in agreement with the draft minutes of the above meeting.

Regards,

Paul Clerkin
Chairperson
Evaluation Committee

