

Ballysaggart Community Development Co. CLG
Reg Office: Feagarriid, Ballysaggart, Lismore, Co. Waterford. P51 VK80

Waterford LCDC,

Waterford City & County Council,

Civic Offices,

Dungarvan,

Co. Waterford



Ballysaggart Community Development Company CLG,

c/o Helen Brennan,

Cloghaun,

Ballysaggart,

Lismore,

Co. Waterford.

16th. November 2019

Attn: Mr. Don Tuohy

RE: Lag Correspondence dated October 25th. 2019, received by Registered Post on October 30th. 2019.

**LCDC Decision not to Approve the Application of Ballysaggart Community Development Company Clg
under the Leader Programme.**

Dear Mr. Tuohy,

We refer to the above correspondence, and while we are shocked and disappointed to receive such correspondence, we are not at all clear which Application your correspondence is referring to, as there is no Project Number referred to.

Ballysaggart Community Development also submitted an Application for Leader funding in 2017 under the Leader Programme for funding to re develop the Community Centre. The 2017 Application submitted by Ballysaggart GAA for Leader Funding after an extremely long process was not approved by the LCDC and finally their subsequent Appeal to the Department was also not successful. The Development Company received no Decision on this Application. However, the Development Company re submitted the same Application in August 2019.

There is content in your Letter which raises issues that are consistent with LCDC Correspondence associated with our 2017 Application, with respect to a joint Application for a Hall. Ballysaggart GAA are building a Sports Hall on their Sports Ground, which is not a Community Field by definition by Leader in this context (as Sports Halls are not funded under the RDP Programme), and we are all aware that such projects that have access to other funding streams through a National Programme, are not eligible for Leader Funding.

Directors: Michael J. Walsh – Chairman,
Helen Brennan, Tom Veale, Anne Kenneally, Mark Veale, P.J. Brennan, Billy Devine, Dave Fennessey, Gerard Walsh, Mary Fennessey, Carmel Fennessey O'Sullivan.

Reg. Company No: 493283

CHY No: 9790
Reg. Charity No: 20024581

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So how can the LCDC continue to be advocating a joint application even at this late stage of the RDP Programme, despite the fact that "Sports Halls are not/will not be funded" under the RDP Programme. The LCDC advice is contrary to that of the RDP Programme. Close on two years ago, Ballysaggart Gaa Club at one of the joint meetings of both organisations were advised to consider the translocation of their Proposed Sports Hall to the new Car Park, and this they vehemently refused.

It is still difficult to believe and understand, and contrary to what Leader and the LCDC say, that there is an obvious bias towards funding a Sports Hall facility in conjunction with a Community Element within the same building, where the building is situated in a Sports Field and under Croke Park Rules, and is not in the control of the Community.

Other reasons stated for the LCDC Decision to not approve the Development Company's Application:

- "Project Funding is very limited, and viability of the project is questionable", please explain?
- "To remove the supervision element on a project of that scale is not wise", again please explain, and how this was deduced. We removed from our Leader Application the requirement of that element of the Grant for the engagement of Professional Services and the associated 12.5% eligibility, as we were advised that such funding is already included in the max of €200K. That does not mean we have not arranged for Supervision of the Project.
- "Distance from the Village with no footpaths or lighting". This is a rural village in rural Ireland, where rural communities generally have to drive or cycle to a Community Centre. The issue of footpaths has been addressed in our Business Community Plan. The road Junction where the Community Centre is located has Public Lighting.
- "Lack of Parking". This is a perceived issue, but in reality, this is the situation in many rural towns, Villages and Rural Settlements all over the Country, and not alone in Co. Waterford. As we all know such a situation is always manageable.
- "The Level of Investment for the proposed output would not seem to represent good value for money". This is not a Commercial Investment; this is to keep a Community alive. How can one put a price on a Community who does not have any suitable facilities. This is what Social Inclusion is all about.

In light of all is said above, Ballysaggart Community Development Company Clg does not accept the initial Decision of the LAG as outlined in their correspondence of the above date, as the letter did not substantially provide any evidence for the reasons of the Decision of the LCDC, and therefore the Development Co is seeking a **Review** of the LAG Decision.

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Meanwhile, the Development Company request the following information supported with Documentary Evidence with respect to its Application process leading to the Decision of the LCDC non approval for Investment under the Leader Programme:

1. Waterford Leader Report as presented to the Board of Waterford Leader and its Recommendation.
2. The Minutes of the Board of Waterford Leader where the Application was discussed.
3. The Evaluation Committee Scoring Record Sheet and its Recommendation.
4. Minutes of the LCDC meeting of October 10th. the ensuing discussion and the salient aspects of its focus leading to its ultimate Decision of non Approval.
 - Such information will require the comments of the various members present at this meeting with respect to the Application and particularly the comments of the PPN/Community & Voluntary representatives at the LCDC Meeting.

Yours Sincerely,



Helen Brennan – Director & Company Secretary & on behalf of Ballysaggart Community Development Company CLG

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