



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT110720
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Restoration of Clonegam Church, Portlaw
Promoters Name:	Fiddown Union of Parishes
Address:	Clonegam, Portlaw, Co. Waterford
Description:	Preservation of Clonegam Church will ensure that the valuable relics contained within, will be protected from the elements and shared with visitors as part of Portlaw's heritage experience
Theme:	LO1 Rural Tourism
Sub-theme:	SA1.2 Culture & Heritage Product Development
Link to LDS	The project fits the Co Waterford Local Development Strategy for Cultural Tourism

Total Project Costs	€47,670		
Eligible Project Costs	€47,670		
Funding sought by promoter:	€35,752.50		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Project was approved with conditions but the promoter is requesting a change to one of those conditions.		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€35,752.50		
Details of private funding:	€11,917.50		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	To carry out essential weather proofing to the protected Clonegam Church in Portlaw in order to bring cultural visitors to view the relics contained within and add to the tourism offering in Portlaw		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75%
	Restoration work	€47,670	€35,752.50
Total Funding		€47,670	€35,752.50
Was an assessment completed?:	Yes		
Date: 27/08/19			
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the	Yes, direct tendering was used and the contractor chosen on the lowest value tender		

project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Not applicable. Five contractors submitted prices as per National procurement Guidelines
Innovative Element of the project:	The building contains some priceless relics that will hugely appeal to the culturally curious particularly one monument which dates from 1873 dedicated to Florence Grosvenor Rowley, wife of the fifth marquis of Waterford. The marchioness died in 1873 during childbirth and her grief-stricken husband commissioned the monument, designed by an eminent Austrian artist. The monument is in Kilkenny marble and sits cleverly in a wall niche, lit by a skylight in the roof above
Consideration of Deadweight:	Promoter would not be in a position to carry out this essential works without access to grant support
Consideration of Displacement:	Displacement is not an issue as the support of the church will add to the visitor experience in Portlaw
Economic justification for project:	The project will attract visitor groups by appointment and will add value to the existing visitor experience of Portlaw as a heritage village. The village has a small number of grocery shops, butchers and a café that will benefit greatly from the additional footfall.
Average Score for Project:	The project scored 75/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €35,752.50 or 75% 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 scored 75/100 2. The project fits the Co Waterford Local Development Strategy for Cultural Tourism. A maximum of €35,752.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure whichever is the lesser

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€11,917.50 in house	€0

Confirmation that agencies / communities are supportive of the proposed project.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Local Enterprise Office	5/9/19	Brid Kirby
Failete Ireland	12/9/19	Sarah Fitzpatrick

Previous Evaluation on the 11.10.19

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

- Ms Claire Connors advised that the promoters have reverted by email noting that they can see the Evaluation Committees point about being vested in the community. They are proposing that for phase two of the project a separate committee called Friends of Clonagam Committee will be set up consisting of two members from the church, two members from Curraghmore and two members from the Heritage Group.
- For phase one this application it is only about making the premises weather tight and secure the heritage contained within. The new arrangement will be put in place for phase two which will be about providing the services, lighting, heating, etc and opening as a tourist facility.
- For phase one this application it is only about making the premises weather tight and secure the heritage contained within. The new arrangement will be put in place for phase two which will be about providing the services, lighting, heating, etc and opening as a tourist facility.
- It was confirmed that the building belongs to the Church of Ireland and not Curraghmore.
- The Evaluation Committee noted that their concern was how to ensure that the community benefited from funding. Citing the Red Hall in Lismore as an example of where the premises were vested in the community and how successful this has been. It is currently being used for lots of different activities.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed the project has huge potential and is well worth preserving.
- A discussion ensued and it was agreed that a precedent has been set whereby all similar type projects had to be invested in the community and that they don't see how they could make an exception for this one. To date only projects invested in the community has been funded to ensure that they are open to all comers.

The Evaluation Committee agreed to defer this project to see if the promoters will accelerate the formation of the Friends of Clonagam Committee saying that funding can only go to non-denominational organisation that includes people from the Portlaw Heritage Group and the Local Community.

The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project on the 6.12.19: -

- Ms Claire Connors advised that the promoter's response was circulated by email to the Evaluation Committee.
- The Evaluation Committee noted that they still had doubts about the project as it has no lease in place and the committee membership is limited.
- Ms Claire Connors advised that the lease is in motion and will be in place shortly and that the promoters have widened the membership and included the Portlaw Heritage Group as requested. The new Committee will be called The Friends of Clonagam.
- The Committee said that they were not happy with the Committee as its mostly representatives of the Church body. It was noted that it does not look like a community group and that it should have a broader representation.
- Ms Connors advised that originally the promoters were asked to have representatives of the Portlaw Heritage Group on the Committee which they have now done. Both Mr Gerard Crotty and Mr Alan Walsh are members of the Portlaw Heritage. Mr Alan Walsh is a member of the elected committee and Mr Gerard Walsh will be a committee member.
- Ms Connor said that other groups are not there and that it is proving awfully difficult in Portlaw to get people involved in community projects. It is planned to hold capacity building training in the New Year.
- The Evaluation Committee stated that the memberships should be more weighted to the Portlaw Heritage Group rather than the Church representatives but agreed that the Committee as stated will be the main drivers of the project and responsible for getting it done.
- When responding to the Promoters, we must be clear about our requirements as they have already done as asked by adding members from the Portlaw Heritage group said Ms. Connors
- The Evaluation Committee expressed the opinion that it is a worthwhile project, and one they would like to support, but referenced other projects where they insisted on a community group being the promoters. The Red Hall in Lismore being a very successful example and it is being widely used.

- A general discussion ensued on committees and if they are considered a formal entity. It was confirmed that they are not but that the rules allow the funding of a formalised committee group.
- Given the lack of community groups in Portlaw the Committee queried if what they were looking for was attainable in this instance? Mr Jimmy Taaffe said that there is other groups such as the Tidy Towns and that other members could be obtained.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding the project with the following conditions: -
 - The Lease must be in place prior to payment.
 - A fairer balance of membership must be obtained by adding a minimum of two members from the Portlaw Heritage Group or from a local Community group.

A maximum of €35,752.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure whichever is the lesser for the following reasons: -

- The project scored 75/100
- The project fits the Co Waterford Local Development Strategy for Cultural Tourism.

The following were the main points raised in the discussion of the project on the 16.6.2020:

- The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding the project with the following conditions: -
 - The Lease must be in place prior to payment.
 - A fairer balance of membership must be obtained by adding a minimum of two members from the Portlaw Heritage Group or from a local Community group.

A maximum of €35,752.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure whichever is the lesser for the following reasons:

- The project scored 75/100
- The project fits the Co Waterford Local Development Strategy for Cultural Tourism.

Correspondence received from the promoters below requesting that they be allowed to revert to their original plan due to the extra costs involved.

"When we started out this project it was through Fiddown Union of Parishes. Following a request from Leader we formed the Friends of Clonagam of which members are made up of the church, the heritage and Curraghmore. However, we did not at the time realise the additional financial implications for the group and the project.

The following is a list of extra expenses we find ourselves now having to consider.

Additional Costs

<i>The license and RCB solicitors will cost approximately</i>	<i>€ 500</i>
<i>The license holds each one of us members severely and jointly liable</i>	
<i>This is not a safe or acceptable position to put members in.</i>	
<i>Therefore, we need to be a CLG Company Ltd by guarantee.</i>	
<i>This adds an additional set up cost</i>	<i>€500</i>
<i>Also 6 years of annual returns of €650 plus vat, approx €800 per annum</i>	<i>€4800</i>
<i>In addition, the RCB insist that the church would have to be insured for rebuild.</i>	
<i>This would be an extra financial cost of approx. 600 per annum to the group</i>	<i>€4200</i>
<i>In addition to paying the insurance for the parish 300 x 7 years</i>	<i>€2100</i>
<i>Approx Solicitor fees</i>	<i>€500</i>
<i>Total additional financial costs</i>	<i>€12,600</i>

These additional costs were never part of the original plan, as a union of parishes our normal cover of approx. €300 per annum would have covered us. We find ourselves in an untenable position, willing and able to renovate and save this heritage building with Leaders help, but unable to sustain a further very conservative €12,000-euro expense.

My husband and I were more than willing to bridge the loans and have no problem in waiting to collect the 25% which will have to be fundraised in the future. Our whole locality would benefit from this heritage and culturally significant project, located within the Comeragh uplands region. Our builder was ready to start on the first of May and we have the funds in place to start immediately. Rose Ryall, Heritage Officer for the County has also been in touch to see what progress has been made.

What we are asking is could we do this through our original plan as Fiddown union of Parishes, as it is financially far more viable and you are dealing with the very same group of people all of whom have ties to Clonagam, Heritage and development of the local area.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Corinne Power O'Mahony"

The Evaluation Committee considered the request discussing all aspects of the project again. The following is a summary of points raised:-

- Ms. Claire Connors advised that because of the Liability Insurance required by RCB the promoters have no option but to become a CLG. The costs involved in this are much greater than they anticipated, and they would like to revert to their original application under the Fiddown Union of Parishes.
- A Committee Member noted that the costs involved average out roughly at €2,600 pa. MS. Connors clarified that the promoters provided costs for 5 years to cover the lifespan of the LEADER programme.
- It was noted that in similar type projects, for example the Red Hall, Lismore, a separate community group was set up for them to obtain LEADER funding. The original application was more Church of Ireland focused and funding was not recommended until it was changed to community. The new community group had to get insurance to cover the build.
- Mr. Jimmy Taaffe clarified that to be eligible for funding the group must show that it genuinely open to the general public giving the examples of the Visitor Centre in Glencairn which is run by nuns but that anyone from the public can book to stay there.
- Ms. Connors clarified that the building will be open by appointment only because of the valuable relics housed within and that the doors will never be left fully open. The purpose of the application is to make the facility weather tight, with stage two opening for public visitors. This will be done by advance bookings through Portlaw Heritage Centre, Facebook, and the Fiddown Union of Parishes.
- A Committee Member queried if it should be funded as its more preservation rather than restoration at this point. Ms. Connors confirmed that it is being funded under the Cultural element of the Rural Development Programme and that stage 2 will be about opening it up to the public. Portlaw Heritage Group will have a key and can take bookings for tours, there is also a Facebook page and Fiddown Union of Parishes can take bookings.
- Mr. Jimmy Taaffe said that Ger Crotty from the Portlaw Heritage Group (PHG) was added to the Friends of Clonagam Committee (FofCC) noting that it would be good to have a second independent member nominated also. It was noted that Mr. Alan Walsh, a member of the Fiddown Union of Parishes, was also a member of the Portlaw Heritage Group. Ms Connors noted that the promoters are requesting not going with this model preferring to revert to their original application where the project application comes from the Fiddown Union of Parishes due to the costs involved with becoming a CLG.
- The Evaluation Committee all agreed that the core issue is how they will demonstrate that the facility will be open to the public and that having it run by a local community group is best.
- The Committee stated that they would like to support the project as they consider it very worthwhile but want to get the structure of it right as the second application will be for a far greater amount.
- Ms. Connors pointed out that the second application will be at 50% and not 75% as they will be charging fees for entry to cover running costs.
- Mr. Jimmy Taaffe advised that he did not think the Department would consider the project eligible under the Fiddown Union of Parishes.
- **The Evaluation Committee agreed that their original recommendations, review, and scoring shall remain in place.**
 - **The Lease must be in place prior to payment.**
 - **A fairer balance of membership must be obtained by adding a minimum of two members from the Portlaw Heritage Group or a local Community group.**

A maximum of €35,752.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure whichever is the lesser	
Amount Recommended: €35,752.50	75% of Eligible Project Funding: €47,670

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Committee Member

Date: _____ Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response

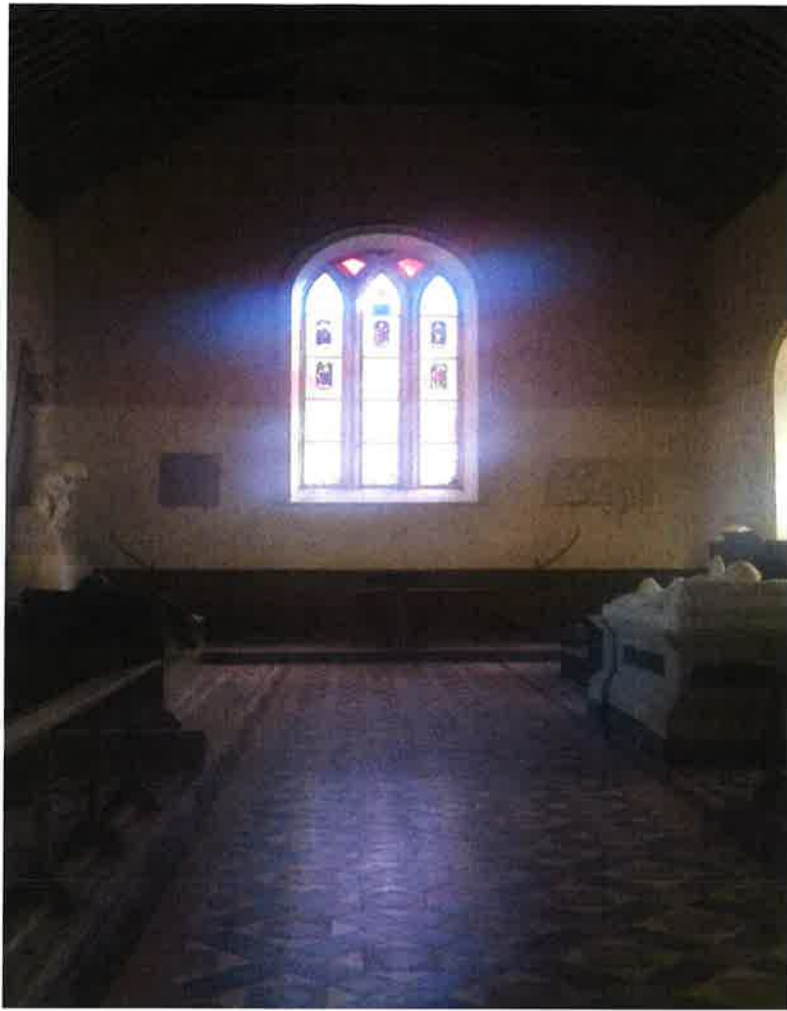
Signed: __ Claire Connors _____

Dated: ____ 12/12/19 _____

WLP Project Officer

Please insert photos below of reference purposes:





Denise Walsh

From: pclerkin@cablesurf.com
Sent: Saturday 20 June 2020 17:54
To: Denise Walsh
Subject: Draft minutes of Evaluation Committee meeting on 16th June 2020.

Dear Denise,

I have reviewed the draft minutes of above meeting and I am in agreement with them.

Regards,

Paul Clerkin

Overall Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: 6th December 2019

Time: 11.00 am

Project Title: **Clonegam Church**

Project Reference Number: **31LDRWAT110525**

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>5</u> - Displacement 5/19 <u>5</u> - Job Creation 5/19 <u>5</u>		19	15
Promoters experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver? - Standards of Operation 6/25 <u>5</u> - Track Record 6/25 <u>4</u> - Structure of Business 6/25 <u>4</u> - Necessary skills base 7/25 <u>5</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>5</u> - Co Funding 6/25 <u>5</u> - Financial Plan 6/25 <u>5</u>		25	20

	Deadweight	6/25 <u>5</u>		
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	12
Total			100	75

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 subject to conditions specified

Signature: 

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: 6. 12. 2018