

**Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting:
 Thursday September 10th 2020 meeting held via conference call at 11.00 a.m.**

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

1. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	1. Cllr. Damien Geoghegan Chair*	Mayor Public Rep
2. Richard Grant	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership	2. Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan	Elected representative
3. Jimmy Taaffe	CEO – WLP CLG	3. Cllr. Adam Wyse	Elected representative
4. Heather Kiely	PPN/ Community & Voluntary	4. Julie Somers	CYPSC Coordinator
5. Maggie Flanagan	PPN / Community & Voluntary	5. Brendan Lawton	Reg. Mgr. Dept Social Protection
6. Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	6. Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
7. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	7. Michael Walsh	CE, WC&CC
8. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	8. Derval Howley	Head of Wellbeing HSE
		9. Michael O’Brien	WWETB
Apologies:		Apologies:	
1. Gerald Hurley	CEO Waterford City Chamber		

Staff Present: D. Tuohy Chief Officer*, Ivan Grimes DoS, J. Codd A/SO, E. Smyth A/ASO, C. O’ Brien, SO (part of meeting)
 (* attendance in person)

Confirmation of Quorum:

1. Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer D. Tuohy confirmed that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 8 & Public 9, total 17 members attending. It was agreed that if needed, Derval Howley and Julie Somers would stand down from voting in order to balance the quorum in favour of the non public side.

2. Appointment of Chair:

The Chief Officer called for nominations for the position of Chair replacing Cllr. John Pratt. As there were no further nominations, the Chief Officer called for a proposer and seconder for Cllr Geoghegan to be appointed Chair:

Proposed: A. Wyse Seconded: L. O'Sullivan
Approved

Incoming Chair Mayor Damien Geoghegan opened the meeting.

3. Apologies:

As detailed above were noted by the Committee

4. Confirmation of Minutes of LCDC Meeting held on July 9th 2020

Proposed: G. Foley Seconded: A. Wyse
Approved

5. Matters arising:

Breda Fell - SER Family Support Network is the elected PPN Rep for the Social Inclusion vacancy on the LCDC and is to attend next meeting.

6. Community Enhancement Programme

a. Proposed allocations – approval

D. Tuohy thanked assessment board sub-committee members L. O'Sullivan and H. Kiely for their assistance assessing all applications.

Both H. Kiely and L. O'Sullivan acknowledged the work of C. O'Brien and mentioned that it is only after sitting on the assessment board that they now have an understanding of the amount of work involved in such grant schemes.

C. O'Brien joined the meeting to brief members. She confirmed that the Community Enhancement Programme funds projects that seek to enhance facilities and communities in disadvantaged areas. Waterford LCDC received €64,039 for 2020 which is a large reduction from previous years. The amount sought by applicants this year was €393,275.

- 156 applications were received
- 27 applications were not eligible due to insufficient / no quotations submitted with their application or the group had not submitted receipts from a previous grant issued.

A number of applications were also received from non disadvantaged areas (according to the Pobal Deprivation Index) and therefore could not be funded.

The allocations were divided among the Municipal Districts by percentage of applications received for each MD.

The Assessment Panel felt that a substantial number of applications would potentially be more suited to the Community Enhancement Programme Community Centre & Community Buildings 2020 and consideration will be given to the applicants under that scheme.

Assessment Group's recommendations had been uploaded to the extranet and approval was now being sought.

Proposed: J. Taaffe

Seconded: G. Foley

Approved

b. Community Centres & Community Buildings (scheme proposal, application form, guidelines on extranet)

Briefing giving by C. O'Brien as follows:

This is a new fund, which is being made available under the Government's July Stimulus package. It is targeted at measures that seek to stimulate local economies, while enhancing facilities in disadvantaged areas. Waterford LCDC has been allocated €165,006.

The Department is allowing each LCDC to set the closing date for applications, as long as it is before the 31st October.

Matters to be decided by LCDC before advertising the scheme:

- Main focus of scheme shall be on Community buildings/centres but allow for upgrade works outside of the building, e.g. carparks.
- Other than buildings, LCDC to decide if projects for sports pitches be eligible, e.g. dugouts or replacement of netting
- Set maximum amount applicant can apply for €5,000 / €8,000 / €10,000

Following proposal was made:

- 14th September - Advertise the Scheme on Council website, in local newspapers, via PPN and email 'grant notification list' (740 groups)
- 16th October @ 4pm – closing date, hardcopy applications to be submitted
- 2nd November (TBC) - Assessment Group meet to access applications
- 12th November - Assessment Group recommendations to be on LCDC agenda for approval
- 31st May 2021 - groups to submit their receipts and photographs.
- Only one application allowed per group / organisation
- The guidance from the Department is that the LCDC ring-fence 30% of the fund to grants of €1,000 or less but the LCDC can adjust this depending on need. It is proposed that the Assessment Group decide the percentage when all applications are received.

A discussion took place around the above proposal and it was agreed that Residents Associations cannot apply for this grant; funding could be sought for carparks and groundworks and the maximum allocation was set at €8,000.

Proposed: J. Taaffe

Seconded: G. Foley

Approved

c. HIF Community Mental Health Fund – Small Grant Scheme (scheme proposal, application form, guidelines on extranet)

The following briefing given by C. O'Brien:

This fund is being made available under Round 3 of Healthy Ireland Fund. The funding is for local community, voluntary and sporting organisations to deliver actions or projects which are in line with the Mental Health theme of Healthy Ireland. Waterford LCDC has been allocated €30,000. The Department is allowing each LCDC to set the closing date for applications.

Following proposal was made:

- 14th September - Advertise the Scheme on Council website, in local newspapers, via PPN and email 'grant notification list' (740 groups)
- 16th October @ 4pm - closing date, applications can be submitted by email or post
- 2nd November (TBC) - Assessment Group meet to assess applications
- 12th November - Assessment Group recommendations to be on LCDC agenda for approval
- Following the Department's guidance, successful applicants shall be paid in staged payments with payment of 90% up front and the remaining 10% upon completion of project and submission of relevant documents.
- 15th May 2021 - groups to submit their receipts, reports and photographs.
- Allocation has been set by the Department at €2,000 - €5000 per action, which will mean 6 – 15 groups shall be awarded funding.
- Only one application allowed per group/organisation

Application forms to be assessed by assessment board and Brianna Connaughton, the Healthy Waterford Coordinator.

Proposed: S. Cooke

Seconded: M. Flanagan

Approved

7. a. Report from SICAP Sub Committee

In advance of report from subcommittee, R. Grant (WAP) gave an update to members. He said Covid 19 has provided a major challenge in how WAP approaches their work. Engagement has taken place with the Community Response Forum, Waterford Food Bank, the Roma and Traveller Communities and other minorities.

With regard to KPI for Goal 1, the target for 2020 is 72 and currently there have been 43 actual interventions achieved (60%). 21 of the 42 from Community Groups in disadvantaged areas. WAP are confident of meeting their target by year end. They are engaging with BRILL re opening a

Community Hub in Manor St. John to reach out to people in the Lisduggan/Larchville area. Food Hampers have been distributed through Waterford Food Bank. Support has been given to 26 groups to assist with completing Risk Assessments re Covid 19 and WAP are continuing to work with Waterford Volunteer Centre.

With regard to Goal 2, the target is 867 and there have been 263 interventions to date (30%). WAP have been experiencing difficulties due to Covid 19 in relation to employment and providing training which is proven to be difficult as there is digital poverty in Waterford, as some people don't have access to technology, computers, laptops, etc. Currently WAP are developing a Language Training Course at Level 5 in conjunction with WWETB. Covid 19 has provided challenges in relation to Goals 1 and in particular, Goal 2 but WAP are applying some flexibility to help allow them to meet their targets. R. Grant stated that an increase in the grant aid allocation percentage from 7.5% would be welcome.

b. Approval for Community Arts Worker (Extranet)

R. Grant (WAP) gave a brief update to members. The key task of the Community Arts Worker is to coordinate and implement a SICAP Community Arts Project within identified communities. In working with local community groups, the worker will engage families in a collective community arts project to promote community 'togetherness' reflecting their experiences during Covid-19. The outcome of the project is to support eight local community groups/communities to engage in the arts project, promote progression and present final project.

Proposed: S. Cooke

Seconded: H. Kiely

Approved

c. Case Study 2020 – approval (Extranet)

R. Grant (WAP) gave a brief background of the proposal to the members and mentioned the following: Waterford Women's Creative Cocoon was established as a response to Covid 19. It is a social networking project which promotes social interaction, creativity, positive mental health & wellbeing and education. The project specifically targets women's groups across Waterford who are beneficiaries and LCGs of WAP and WWETB. The Cross Goal Actions are Action 1.1 Promote Community Engagement & Stronger Communities, Action 1.4 Collaborative Engagement, Action 2.1 Personal Development & Wellbeing. The objectives of the project are to provide creative activities & education programmes to individual beneficiaries and LCGs, increase positive mental health & wellbeing for clients through social interaction through COVID-19, and to build a women's network across WAP and WWETB target groups

In relation to the above proposal H. Kiely said that she was not taking from the work put in to this proposal already but that it was her understanding that the case study should engage new groups or individuals who are isolated and not established groups. In response to her query R. Grant said that he took on board H. Kiely's point and he clarified that this group did not exist in January that they were new and had to start from scratch.

Proposed: M. Flanagan

Seconded: S. Cooke

Approved

R. Grant left the meeting

In relation to item 7 a., D. Tuohy confirmed that himself and I. Grimes had a meeting recently with WAP, Pobal and the Department. The purpose of the meeting was to give consideration to supporting ongoing business and corporate governance improvements within WAP. The Department had agreed to provide the services of a consultant to WAP to review and improve governance, finance and audit issues. It was noted that WAP are continuing to work through ongoing issues.

D. Tuohy stated that the LCDC SICAP subcommittee which had met recently, were recommending that as the Council Executive, the Department and Pobal were satisfied that sufficient progress was being made by WAP on implementing the 2020 SICAP programme and in addressing governance and financial issues, the September payment should be approved. The subcommittee were also recommending that the power to continue to release SICAP funds monthly in arrears to WAP revert back to the LCDC. The Chief Officer stated that the Mid-Year Check had been completed and signed off by him and he recommended that the LCDC approve same.

Proposed: J. Taaffe

Seconded: M. Flanagan

Approved

R. Grant returned to the meeting.

8. Reports from subcommittees:

a. Skills:

No meeting has taken place since last update.

b. Healthy Waterford:

D. Tuohy issued the update. Due to the pandemic, some Healthy Ireland Fund actions have had to be postponed to Year 2 (July 2020 to June 2021) and a submission to the Department was made in relation to same. Progress and Financial reports have also been submitted. The signing of an addendum to the Funding Agreement was sought by the Chief Officer and was proposed by G. Foley, seconded by the Chair and agreed. The Chief Officer stated that #InThisTogether Community Response Survey recently issued to all groups registered with the Waterford Covid 19 Community Call and so far 44 responses had been received. The survey will help to capture the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of many groups who responded positively to the unprecedented circumstances arising from the emergence of Covid-19.

H. Kiely informed the members that Healthy Waterford received funding of €3000 for care packs. The Sacred Heart FRC took the lead on this initiative and 63 packs were distributed to different groups living in poverty and with health issues. H. Kiely also mentioned in relation to Social Prescribing that they met recently with Deputy Mary Butler; she also acknowledged the support of J. Taaffe and LEADER for their assistance with Social Prescribing in County Waterford.

D. Howley gave an update on Covid issues regionally noting an increase in cases over the last number of weeks but noted that Waterford was doing well.

9. Correspondence

- a. Literacy Awareness Webinars circulated on July 16th
- b. Dept. of Justice – LGBTI Community Services Funding Call circulated on July 24th

- c. €5m fund for Community Centres and Community Buildings under July Stimulus Package circulated on August 19th
- d. Public Consultation on EU citizenship rights (open to 1 October) circulated on September 8th

10. AOB

- H. Kiely mentioned that Hugh O'Brien (WC&CC) had updated the PPN on the Waterford City & County Development Plan and the PPN were very happy with how the planners have engaged. She expressed disappointment that to date, there were no proposals to include a specific Health and Wellbeing strategy in the Plan.
- D. Tuohy informed the members that the Migrant Integration Strategy was formally adopted by the Plenary Council on 29th July.

11. Date of next meeting: After 11.00am LAG meeting, Thursday October 8th by way of Zoom/Microsoft Teams

Meeting Closed

Signed:

Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date: _____