



Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 14th October 2021, teleconference via Zoom at 11.00 a.m.

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

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

Staff Present: D. Tuohy Chief Officer, J. Codd S.O, Kevin Moynihan S.O. Susan Whelan S.O.

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	14
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 74%
4. non-public/public ratio attendees % ratio non-public/public attendees	8 non-public : 6 public 57% non-public: 43% public

1. Appointment of temporary Chair:

A proposal to elect Eamonn Quinlan as the Deputy Chair was tabled.

Proposed: J. Beresford	Seconded by G. Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

In the absence of the Chair J Kelly Deputy Chair Eamonn Quinlan opened the meeting.

2. Introduction of New Member.

Chief Officer D. Tuohy informed the committee that Cllr. Pat Nugent is replacing Cllr. Lola O'Sullivan on the Local Action Group.

3. Confirmation of Quorum: Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer D. Tuohy confirmed that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 8; Public 6; 14 members in attendance.

4. Apologies.

As per table above apologies were noted.

5. Conflict of Interest:

- (i) No declarations submitted for this meeting
- (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum achieved 8:6 in favour of non-public sector.

6. Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on September 9th 2021.

At the meeting of 9th Sept 2021 further information was sought by Julie Somers on EURI funded supports for community projects affected by COVID 19. The minutes incorrectly stated that information on digital supports had been requested. Minutes of 9th Sept amended herewith to reflect this correction. WLP CEO Mr. J Taaffe to respond with the requested information.

Proposed: J. Somers	Seconded by D. Howley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

7. **Matters arising:** As per item 6.

8. **Circulars:**

- i) Circular 10-2021 Travel & Subsistence (extranet).
- ii) Update to circular 11-2021 Amendment to Circular 03 2021 (extranet).

Chief Officer D Tuohy outlined the provisions of Circular 10 2021 and the Amendment to Circular 03 2021.

9. **Rural Development Programme.**

(a) **Project approvals:**

31LDRWAT116126 Redevelopment of Ballyrafter Equestrian Centre

Project ID	31LDRWAT116126
Project Type:	L.O. 1 Rural Tourism, Strategic Action 1.1 Activity Tourism
Project Name:	Feasibility Study for the Redevelopment of Ballyrafter Equestrian Centre
Promoters Name:	Ballyrafter Equine Events Centre Ltd
Address:	Ballyrafter, Lismore, Co. Waterford, P51 AR22
Description:	The project involves a feasibility study to ascertain the best redevelopment strategy to be undertaken in the redevelopment of the damaged equestrian facility. The applicant has listed four potential options: 1. Equestrian Centre 2. Wellness and Yoga Centre 3. Activity Centre 4. Doggy Daycare Centre
Theme:	L.O. 1 Rural Tourism
Sub-theme:	Strategic Action 1.1 Activity Tourism / S2 Aims c)/S3 Priorities 1)
Link to LDS	Strategic Action 1.1 Activity Tourism

Total Project Costs	The cost of this project is €21,000.00
Eligible Project Costs	€21,000
Funding sought by promoter:	The cost of this project is €21,000.00 and the promoter has requested funding of €15,750.00 or 75 % of eligible costs

	whichever is the lesser.		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €10,500.00 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Details of private funding:	Cash/Money in account 5,250 25%		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	N/A		
Synopsis of project:	feasibility study to ascertain the best redevelopment strategy to be undertaken in the redevelopment of the damaged equestrian facility		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report) Total Funding	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 50 %
	Feasibility Study	€21,000	€10,500
		€21,000	€10,500
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the project assessment was completed on the 3/8/21		
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:	The Applicants went back again to seek additional quotations and the process they followed was subsequently approved by the Dept. of RCD		
Innovative Element of the project:	The feasibility study will identify the most viable option for the redevelopment of the Ballyrafter Equestrian Centre.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend reducing funding from 75% to 50% to address deadweight issues. They would like to see the centre being re-developed as it will create an amenity and provide jobs in a rural area.		
Consideration of Displacement:	The Feasibility Study will not cause displacement. It might avoid causing displacement at the capital stage of the project.		
Economic justification for project:	The project fits the Local Development Strategy plan for Rural Tourism Activities.		
Average Score for Project:	84/ 100 (1		

% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €10,500.00 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. A member of the Evaluation Committee noted that several years ago they decided to cap feasibility studies at 50% and possibly less if they felt appropriate. 2. It was pointed out that the amount recommended by the Project Officer is 50%. 3. The Evaluation Committee discussed deadweight saying that the promoter is very cash-rich at the moment but acknowledge that the amount of funding required to get the centre back in order is enormous. They agreed that they are happy to accept the Project Officer recommendation of 50% as funding this project will provide an amenity and create jobs in a rural area. Once viable again it will be a huge asset to the area. 4. It was agreed that the promoters have the skills and experience to implement the project successfully. 5. The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project at a reduced rate of 50%.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
N/A	N/A	Private	New Business

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Waterford Local Enterprise Office	16/08/2021	B. Kirby
Faillte Ireland	06/08/2021	Ivona Carr

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

- Ms Claire Connors noted that most would be familiar with Ballyrafter Equestrian Centre who has a very strong equine history and reputation in County Waterford for years. The centre was closed in 2017 due to very bad storm damage and was purchased by the promoter in 2020. The promoter Kenneally Steel set up the company Ballyrafter Equine Events Centre Ltd. The feasibility study will determine the most feasible option of re-opening the centre.

- The promoters invited 5 consultants to quote but received no response by the due date. The deadline was extended, and an updated tender was sent out to the 3 of the original 5 as the other two were not able to tender. The promoters received 1 quotation in the new timeframe from Tourism Development International.
- A member of the Evaluation Committee noted that several years ago they decided to cap feasibility studies at 50% and possibly less if they felt appropriate.
- It was pointed out that the amount recommended by the Project Officer is 50%.
- The Evaluation Committee discussed deadweight saying that the promoter is very cash-rich at the moment but acknowledge that the amount of funding required to get the centre back in order is enormous. They agreed that they are happy to accept the Project Officer recommendation of 50% as funding this project will provide an amenity and create jobs in a rural area. Once viable again it will be a huge asset to the area.
- It was agreed that the promoters have the skills and experience to implement the project successfully.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project at a reduced rate of 50%.

A maximum of €10,500.00 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Amount Recommended: €10,500.00 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser	50% of Eligible Project Funding:
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Proposed: G. Foley	Seconded by J. Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

31LDRWAT115884 Lismore Men's Shed.

Project ID	31LDRWAT115884
Project Type:	Capacity building training for Lismore Men's Shed
Project Name:	The Provision of Facilitation Support to Lismore Men's Shed
Promoters Name:	Waterford LEADER Partnership CLG
Address:	Mayfield Rd., Lismore, Co. Waterford
Description:	This Training initiative is unique because it will take a Group of Men who are no longer employed, bringing them through a Training Process where they will become the decision-makers and actors in the second phase where they will build a facility for the Men's Shed. This training initiative will assist the Men's Shed Group to apply on their initiative for a full LEADER Grant and it will equip them to go through the application and project implementation and completion process and even more importantly operate the new Men's Shed in a solid manner in line with Governance guidelines.
Theme:	LO 5 Underpinning Social Inclusion initiatives in Rural Areas through investment in Physical and Human Capital/ S2 Aims a) / S3

	Priorities 3)
Sub-theme:	(SA 5.2) Community Leadership Training for Established Voluntary Groups
Link to LDS	L O 5

Total Project Costs	The cost of this project is €7,000.00		
Eligible Project Costs	€7,000		
Funding sought by promoter:	The promoter has requested funding of €7,000.00 <i>or</i> 100% of eligible costs whichever is the lesser.		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Previously deferred		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €7,000.00 <i>or</i> 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Details of private funding:	N/A		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Capacity building training for Lismore Men's Shed		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report) Total Funding	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @100 %
	Provision of Facilitation Training to Lismore Men's Shed	€7,000	€7,000
		€7,000	€7,000
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the project assessment was completed on the 6 th August 2021		
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 1 – National Procurement Guidelines		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the	The necessary steps were taken through requesting further tenders and liaising with the Dept. RCD		

reasonableness of costs:	
Innovative Element of the project:	The training initiative is unique as it is training retired men to become decision-makers and actors for the second phase of Lismore Men's shed project where they will build a facility for the Men's Shed.
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that this project would not go ahead without Rural Development funding.
Consideration of Displacement:	Funding this project will not cause displacement as it's a training initiative.
Economic justification for project:	The project fits the Local Development Strategy plan for training initiatives
Average Score for Project:	74/ 100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €7,000.00 or 100% 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 fits the Local Development Strategy plan for training initiatives

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
N/A	N/A	N/A	None

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minibus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Waterford Area Partnership CLG (Under LEADER Rules, If Agency does not reply within the Two weeks, the query is resolved.	//	//

Detail of Discussion Meeting on the 6th September 2021:

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

- Ms Claire Connors advised that she was presenting this project on behalf of Mr. Jimmy Taaffe. She briefly outlined the project to the Evaluation Committee. The project was put out to tender with a budget of €7.000 and received one response. The company that responded is quite well known and has a strong CV in this type of training.

- The group are currently using a temporary building to meet but have identified a building that may be suitable going forward. They approached Mr. Taaffe, and it was agreed that the group needed mentoring and capacity building to try and formalise themselves somewhat. There are about 10 members, and they have no seed funding of their own.
- The Evaluation Committee discussed the project and agreed that the movement and concept of the organisation are very good. Training is valuable to any group of people and they would like to support but agreed to defer it for further clarification for several reasons:-
 - 1) Previously all groups seeking funding would be formalised to some degree and provide some of the seed capital themselves. There is no evidence of fundraising to show commitment. There should be enough capacity in a group to form a basic structure and the ability to drive projects forward.
 - 2) Clarification sought to see if funding and guidance are available from the national organisation Irish Men Shed Association (IMSA) as it seemed more appropriate that they deliver a training programme to its members.
 - 3) If no training is provided from IMSA then should the project be reconsidered to provide mentoring training to all the Men's Shed in the County?

Deferred

Detail of the discussion on the meeting held on the 20th Sept 2021:-

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

- Mr. Jimmy Taaffe said that the queries from the previous evaluation are reasonable and went on to explain that the group were given the building by Waterford City and County Council on a peppercorn rent basis. The building a large shed attached to the former workhouse is quite derelict and requires renovation to make it fit for purpose. A WC&CC engineer estimates that it will take roughly €130,000 to carry out the works on the building, which is listed.
- There are 12 members of the organisation and two to three of these are very capable but there are several concerns about the scale of the project given the fact that it's a listed building and all that it entails. The possibility of looking for another building was suggested but the group wished to proceed with this one. WLP suggested training to see if the group are up for the task. It may result in a full-scale application afterwards, but it may not. Putting in a full-scale application is quite costly as planning permission, etc all must be obtained in advance.
- The VEC donated the premises to the Men's Shed in Dungarvan and the Waterford Port Authority did the same in Passage East. Neither of these premises required work on the same scale as Lismore.
- Mr. Jimmy Taaffe offered the opinion that funding this project would not lead to a flood of similar type projects for other Men's Sheds as the situation is unique to the Lismore group.
- A Committee Member noted that he was very supportive of Men's/Women's Shed and any group engaging recently retired as it's a great outlet for them. It was noted, that previously, once the buildings were donated the group went about the renovation themselves as part of their group's activities. Mr. Jimmy Taaffe advised that the premise in Lismore is too derelict and not weatherproofed and would not be suitable for use in the winter months. It's a listed building and there are heritage rules

to follow. The group does have an electrician and a plumber and will be able to do inside jobs once the building works outside is done in a manner that will adhere to heritage guidelines.

- The Evaluation Committee noted that the CEO of the Men Shed's organisation was on the radio saying that he feared a lot of the groups won't reconvene after Covid.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that it would be beneficial for the Lismore group to talk with Mr. Michael Cass and Mr. Nicky Sheehan from Dungarvan.
- The Evaluation Committee expressed the opinion that training benefits everyone and that it is small funding to get the group going.
- The concern about setting a precedent for funding unorganised groups is valid but it is evident in this case that training is vital. The group should also reach out to the National Organisation and its members for information and details of their experiences.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project under the Rural Development 2014 -2022 Programme.

A maximum of €7,000.00 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Amount Recommended: A maximum of €7,000.00 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser	100% of Eligible Project Funding:€7,000
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Committee members noted that this project is a positive development particularly in terms of social inclusion. M O'Brien clarified the WWETB have provided the site for this project however ownership of land has not been transferred. H Kiely suggested a 'how to' workshop for other potential applicants, WLP CEO advised that groups must be competent and well organized in the first instance to express an interest for LEADER funding.

Proposed: J. Somers	Seconded by H. Kiely
Abstentions: J. Taaffe	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

31LDRWAT116145 Software to Improve Productivity

Project ID	31LDRWAT116145
Project Type:	L.O. 2 Enterprise
Project Name:	Software To Improve Productivity
Promoters Name:	Hickey Fabrication Services Ltd
Address:	Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford,X42 R220
Description:	This project will allow the full digitalisation and alignment of the product concept, its design and its manufacture under one electronic design system within the plant, i.e., in-house. The system will allow direct access of the customer to the design and setup of the product. The company already has a CAD Design Team, and this new system will enable an in-house design to completion, reducing waste and streamlining processes.
Theme:	L.O. 2 Enterprise / S2 Aim c) / S3 Priorities 1)
Sub-theme:	S.A. 2.1 Innovative Enterprises
Link to LDS	L.O. 2 Enterprise

Total Project Costs	€34,795.00
Eligible Project Costs	€34,795.00
Funding sought by promoter:	The cost of this project is €34,795.00 and the promoter has requested funding of €17,397.50 or 50% of eligible costs whichever is the lesser.
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Previously Deferred
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €17,397.50 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser
Details of private funding:	Cash/Money in account 17,397.50 50%
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No
Synopsis of project:	Purchase of new 3D drafting software to take on new projects and provide a better interface between clients, HFS design team and the completed product on the shop floor. This will improve quality, accuracy and reduce production-related waste.

Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 50 %
Total Funding	Software and Workstations	€34,795.00	€17,397.50
		€34,795.00	€17,397.50
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	The Evaluation Committee agreed that the project assessment was completed on the 6 th August 2021		
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:	This project will allow the full digitalisation and alignment of the product concept, its design and its manufacture under one electronic design system within the plant, i.e., in-house. This will create efficiencies and reduce waste.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight has been addressed as the applicant agreed to apply at 50% rather than 75% allowed. Funding supports employment in a rural area.		
Consideration of Displacement:	The applicant operates a niche business within the engineering sector, with several high-end Pharma and I.T. Customers. This investment in technology will not displace other engineering businesses in the area.		
Economic justification for project:	The project fits the Local Development Strategy plan for enterprise projects.		
Average Score for Project:	72/ 100 (1)		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €17,397.50 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:- 6. The project scored 72/100 7. The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) for supporting enterprise projects.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
	50	Yes	Three previous Grants • €10,000 • €47,500 • €24,875 Total €82,375.00

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Waterford LEO	16/08/2021	B.Kirby

Detail of discussion on the 6th Sept 2021 : -

- Ms Claire Connors advised that the Evaluation Committee are familiar with the promoters who have been funded previously. They are based in Kilmacthomas, Co Waterford and are seeking funding towards new 3D drafting software enabling them to take on new projects and to interface better with clients.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed to defer the project until clarification has been received on the following queries:-
 - Explain the projected losses from 2023 onwards. How does an established profitable company go to projecting several years of losses?
 - Submit Profit and Loss reports as they are normally provided with the Balance Sheet.
 - Based on the balance sheet it is very hard to justify additional funding.

Deferred

Details of discussion at the meeting on the 20th Sept 2021:-

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

- Mr. Jimmy Taaffe advised that the profit and loss were circulated as requested. Funding this application will put the promoter in a better position and enable him to expand keeping up to date with the latest technologies required to stay on top of his business. The promoter has received funding previously and has grown the business. He currently has 30 direct employees and 20 indirect.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that the project is good and that the promoter has the necessary skills to successfully implement it but questioned given the strength of the balance sheet should the project be funded. Mr. Jimmy Taaffe advised that this will be the last application from the promoter and that the balance sheet should be reviewed over several years rather than just the previous one. By funding this project rural development funds are going toward supporting a locally Irish owned company in a rural area.
- A Committee Member queried if the company could be offered a low-interest loan instead. Mr.

Jimmy Taaffe advised that this is not allowed under the rules of the programme. This is an option available to businesses in some EU countries through their banks but not here in Ireland. - Mr. Jimmy Taaffe advised that the promoter is entitled to apply for 75% under this programme but applied for 50% on his advice to address deadweight. - The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project under the Rural Development Programme 2014 -2022. A maximum of €17,397.50 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser	
Amount Recommended: A maximum of €17,397.50 or 50% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser	50% of Eligible Project Funding: €17,397.50

J Somers queried issues raised by the board around the promoters profit and loss sheet and financial projections. WLP CEO Mr. J Taaffe informed the committee that these issues were assessed and there are no lingering concerns.

Proposed: G. Foley	Seconded by J. Somers
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

31LDRWAT115768 Waterford Grid Capacity Study

Project ID	31LDRWAT115768
Project Type:	Analysis and Development
Project Name:	Waterford Grid Capacity Study and training for communities
Promoters Name:	3 Counties Energy Agency (3CEA)
Address:	Burrell's Hall, St. Kiernan's College, Kilkenny
Description:	Due to the installation of the recent Renewable Energy Support Scheme, communities across Ireland now have the opportunity to develop their own renewable energy scheme (wind or solar farm) to an installed capacity of between .5 and 5MW. As an organisation who works with communities in Waterford to create a more sustainable energy, the promoter would like to help communities in Waterford in their renewable energy ambitions but first the barriers must be identified through a detailed grid capacity study in County Waterford. This information will then be used to provide training to communities who would like to develop this own renewable energy study. The grid capacity study will look at the connection offer process, transmission and distribution infrastructure in Co. Waterford, existing and connected renewable generation in the county, transformer capacities and potential capacity for new renewable generation

	projects.
Theme:	LO9 Renewable Energy / S2 Aims d) / Section 3 Priorities 4)
Sub-theme:	SA9.1 Development of renewable energy
Link to LDS	Promoting and supporting renewable energy initiatives

Total Project Costs	€10,500		
Eligible Project Costs	€10,500		
Funding sought by promoter:	€9,450		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	Yes		
Details of private funding:	€1,050 own funds		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	To undertake a grid capacity study in County Waterford so as to be better able to inform and support communities develop their own solar and/or wind powered projects		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report) Total Funding	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 90 %
	Grid Study – Lot 1	4,500	4,050
	Guest speaker and materials preparation - Lot 2	6,000	5,400
	Total cost of project	€10,500	€9,450
Was an assessment completed?: Date: ____31/08/2021_____	Yes		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes for Lots 1 & 2. MEAT process used to select and score suppliers		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps	Evidence on file that 5 suppliers were invited to quote directly over email using the most economic advantageous selection process. The PR element had to be omitted due to the		

taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	procurement process not being completed correctly
Innovative Element of the project:	The requirement for the proposed study came about from enquiries from community groups about the new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) and how they can access the community element of the scheme
Consideration of Deadweight:	No as per the promoter's response to Q10 the project would not go ahead as the study is a key piece in helping communities develop their own energy project and without this intervention that would not be possible From my perspective, the promoter has the expertise and funding to offer this opportunity to local community groups to look at renewable energy projects and without this support would not happen
Consideration of Displacement:	This project will not impact any similar initiatives or ventures locally as they are none currently. All of the wind farm initiatives locally are driven by private interest for financial gain with very little impact on local communities
Economic justification for project:	This feasibility study funding will result in a grid capacity study being completed which will assist communities across County Waterford in accessing the required information and potentially developing their own renewable energy project. This area is one of the core thematic measures under the Environment of the next new RD programme
Average Score for Project:	72/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €9,450.00 or 90% 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:- 8. It will help communities to evaluate their project ideas and it will provide them with the information they need to develop their areas. 9. The project fits the Local Development Plan (LDS) for renewable energy type projects. 10. The project scored 72/100 A maximum of €9,450.00 or 90% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser with the following conditions:- ➤ The promoter must liaise with WLP in deciding what community groups are invited to attend. ➤ The physical delivery of the workshops is paramount rather than online, subject to

	government guidelines.
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Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€1,050	Grant assistance approved but not drawn down yet from Kilkenny LEADER for same study there
Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.			Signed By
Waterford Local Enterprise Office			8 th Sept
Failte Ireland			7 th Sept

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

- Ms Claire Connors advised that the costings were revised as Lot 3 for PR and Marketing should have been tendered out separately to the other Lots. Following the Department advice, it was removed from the application. Other elements such as refreshments and room hire were also removed to avoid any potential conflict with the Dept Inspector. This reduced the costs.
- Ms Connors briefly outlined the project to the Evaluation Committee noting that the promoters company was set up by Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council to provide expertise and support to the Local Authorities and communities in the areas of energy-efficient and renewable energy. It is not known if anyone from Waterford is sitting on its voluntary Board of Directors. It is a non-profit independent energy agency working primarily in Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford, and Wexford.
- The costs of the guest speaker were discussed, and it was confirmed that there will be three workshops in the East, West and North of Waterford. There may be a different speaker for different elements. While it is hoped to hold the workshops physically it is also being planned for online delivery if necessary. The Evaluation Committee agreed that if supporting that the physical delivery of these workshops is paramount.
- A discussion ensued on the promoter of the 3 Counties Energy Agency (3CEA) and if the communities should apply directly for funding themselves? Ms Connors responded that WLP does not have the skills necessary and would have to tender the contract out and it would probably result in the 3CEA being the company selected.
- It was confirmed that funding small initiatives such as this one is part of government policy. One of the aims of 3CEA is to offer support to all citizens, communities, and businesses so that they can become increasingly active participants in navigating the energy transition.
- The Committee noted that it would be better to give the funding directly to the communities rather than an agency of the County Council. Ms Connors advised that the promoters have the technical experience and its part of their role to disseminate information to communities.
- Ms Connors clarified that the communities have not yet been identified but expressed the

opinion that WLP should have a role to play in this. - A Committee Member queried if there should be some clarity on whom the community groups are before making their recommendation? Noting that it is strange to be asked to fund a specific project not knowing who was going to benefit. - A discussion ensued and it was pointed out that 75% of the application is technical going towards a detailed grid capacity study in County Waterford with the remaining 25% allocated towards the dissemination of the information gathered. Once the detailed grid study is available, they will invite the communities to come forward and outline what capacity is available in each area. - Evaluation Members agreed to recommend funding this project with the following conditions:- ➤ The promoter must liaise with WLP in deciding what community groups are invited to attend. ➤ The physical delivery of the workshops is paramount rather than online, subject to government guidelines. A maximum of €9,450 or 90% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser with the above conditions.	
Amount Recommended: €9,450	90% of Eligible Project Funding: €10,500

G Foley enquired if excess power from renewable energy could be transferred to the main grid. WLP CEO Mr. J Taaffe confirmed that this would be the case.

Proposed: G. Foley	Seconded by J. Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

CEO Mr. J Taaffe advised the committee that the 'Comeragh Pods' project would be presented at the November LAG meeting.

(b). Board Observations

The committee was advised that WLP the board observations were available on extranet.

(c). For Noting

The committee was advised that RDP 2014-2022 Administration funding as of 31/7/2021 was available on extranet.

(d). Approval Required for Amendment to LAG Minutes 10/9/2020

Summary templates from the evaluation committee were presented to the committee in September 2020. Full templates with further information including project type (Capital) and issues such as deadweight and displacement are presented herewith on the following four Projects:

31LDRWAT113649: Construction of two story office block at Lismore Business Park

31LDRWAT113546: Blackwater House Development

3 1LDRWAT113677: Villierstown Enterprise Centre

31LDRWAT113549: Tallow Community Enterprise Hub

Project ID	31LDRWAT113649
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Construction of two story office block at Lismore Business Park
Promoters Name:	Lismore Business Park CLG
Address:	Lismore Business Park, Mayfield, Lismore, Co. Waterford
Description:	The construction of a new two storey office building with 20-24 office spaces on a green field site owned by the promoter in Lismore Business Park aiming to attract and retain investment into the town of Lismore and create employment opportunities. The uniqueness of the project is the collaborative approach being adopted by Lismore and the other 3 West Waterford villages under the Blackwater Valley Enterprise Development zone to promote smart working in the region
Theme:	LO3
Sub-theme:	SA3.2
Link to LDS	This project fits under LO3 revitalisation of local villages through the development of human capital and capital investment

Total Project Costs	€585,954
Eligible Project Costs	€585,954
Funding sought by promoter:	€200,000
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€200,000
Details of private funding:	€92,977 loan/bridging €292,977 Tomar Trust
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No
Synopsis of project:	The project is promoted by Lismore Business Park CLG aiming to attract and retain investment in the town of Lismore and create

	employment opportunities within the town and surrounding areas.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 34.1324 %
Total Funding	Professional fees	€17,890	€6,106.28
	Works	€568,064	€193,893.88
		€585,954	€200,000
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	Yes, 29/07/2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, the project was advertised on the national procurement website to attract prices for both the works and associated professional fees and the lowest value tender was selected for the works element. The most economic advantageous tender selection was used for the selection of professional fees.		
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		
Innovative Element of the project:	It was agreed that the project is innovative as the aim of the Community Enterprise Hub is to build on existing social and economic capital of the area at a scale which is significant enough to address rural decline and act as a model for positive change in the locality.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight is not an issue as without funding this project will not proceed.		
Consideration of Displacement:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that displacement is not an issue as the nearest similar facility is in Dungarvan where office space is already limited.		
Economic justification for project:	The project will address the issue of rural decline and the lack of services by creating remote working opportunities and facilities to attract employees looking for a better work life balance.		
Average Score for Project:	The project scored 74/100		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €200,000 or 34.1324% 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.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€92,977 loan/bridging €292,977 Tomar Trust	€0

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Notification sent to Richie Walsh, Local Employment Service	4th Aug 2020	CC

Detail of Discussion:	
Amount Recommended: €200,000	34.1324 % of Eligible Project Funding: €585,954

Project ID	31LDRWAT113546
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Blackwater House Development
Promoters Name:	Cappoquin Regeneration Company CLG
Address:	Main Street, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford
Description:	The project involves the refurbishment of a vacant and semi derelict property which is a protected structure in the centre of Cappoquin town and conversion into a walk in ready to use office facility to accommodate up to 16 remote workers while also improving the street scape
Theme:	LO3
Sub-theme:	SA3.1
Link to LDS	This project fits under LO3 revitalisation of local villages through the development of human capital and capital investment

Total Project Costs	€596,888.38
Eligible Project Costs	€422,068.99
Funding sought by promoter:	€200,000
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Funding recommended by	€200,000

Evaluation Committee:			
Details of private funding:	€222,068.99 Own funds & Tomar Trust		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	The refurbishment of a vacant and semi derelict property which is a protected structure in the centre of Cappoquin town		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 47.3856%
	Professional Services	€25,684.99	€12,170.99
	Works	€396,384	€187,828.94
	Total Funding	€422,068.99	€200,000
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	Yes, 22 nd July 2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, the initial preparatory work on the project to include drawing up plans, etc was secured through a direct tender process with the contract awarded to dnb Architects who then carried out a full eTender process for pricing of the full restoration works on the building. As with all works projects, the lowest value tenderer was awarded the contract.		
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		
Innovative Element of the project:	This project will be the first Smart Office facility in Cappoquin. Hopefully attracting new families into the area thereby improving its viability.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that this project will not proceed without grant aid.		
Consideration of Displacement:	Displacement was not considered an issue as these projects are being marketed to companies that are looking for new remote working solutions.		
Economic justification for project:	Funding this project will improve the street scape and improve the towns viability		
Average Score for Project:	The project scored 74/100		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €200,000 or 47.3856% 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.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€222,068.99 Own funds & Tomar Trust	€0

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minibus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Local Employment Service	14th July 2020	Richie Walsh

Detail of Discussion:	
Amount Recommended: €200,000	47.3856% of Eligible Project Funding: €422,068.99

Project ID	31LDRWAT113677
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Villierstown Enterprise Centre – Part Development
Promoters Name:	Villierstown Community Development CLG
Address:	Villierstown, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford
Description:	Funding is sought for the renovation of a derelict building in the centre of Villierstown village. The renovation will provide an 1,800 ft square of remote working capable of accommodating 14-16 remote workers.
Theme:	LO3
Sub-theme:	SA3.1
Link to LDS	This project fits under LO3 revitalisation of local villages through the development of human capital and capital investment

Total Project Costs	€616,187.60
Eligible Project Costs	€616,187.60
Funding sought by promoter:	€200,000
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review

Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€200,000		
Details of private funding:	€200,000 Loan/bridging €216,187.60 Tomar Trust		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Funding is sought for the renovation of a derelict building in the centre of Villierstown village to provide remote working capable of accommodating 14-16 remote workers		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 32.45765%
	Professional Services	€59,802.60	€19,410.52
	Works	€556,385	€180,589.49
Total Funding		€616,187.60	€200,000
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	Yes, 6 th August 2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, the project was advertised on the national procurement website to attract prices for both the works and associated professional fees and the lowest value tender was selected for the works element. The most economic advantageous tender selection was used for the selection of professional fees.		
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		
Innovative Element of the project:	The project is part of a larger collaborative marketing strategy attracting remote working in the BVEDZ.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight is not an issue as without funding this project will not proceed.		
Consideration of Displacement:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that displacement is not an issue as all the facilities are being marketed collaboratively.		
Economic justification for project:	The project fits in with the Co Waterford LCDP Plan for Local Objective 3 Revitalisation of Local Villages through the development of human capital and capital investments.		
Average Score for Project:	The project scored 74/100		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €200,000 or 32.45765% 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.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	€200,000 Loan/bridging €216,187.60 Tomar Trust	€0

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Notification sent to Richie Walsh, Local Employment Service	6th Aug '20	CC

Detail of Discussion:	
Amount Recommended: €200,000	32.45765%% of Eligible Project Funding: €616,187.60

Project ID	31LDRWAT113549
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Tallow Community Enterprise Hub
Promoters Name:	Tallow Enterprise Group CLG
Address:	Tallow Enterprise Centre, Nora Herlihy House, West Street, Tallow, Co. Waterford
Description:	The proposal is to demolish an existing building except for the party wall and construct a new building in the same line in keeping with the street scape. Internally the office spaces will vary in size with the smallest on the ground floor with two larger spaces flanking a centra stair above. The space can be customized to either 3 units for 10 remote workers or 1 large space.
Theme:	LO3
Sub-theme:	SA3.1
Link to LDS	This project fits under LO3 revitalisation of local villages through the development of human capital and capital investment

Total Project Costs	€804,282.23
Eligible Project Costs	€804,282.23

Funding sought by promoter:	€200,000		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€200,000		
Details of private funding:	€108,000 own funds €96,282.23 bridging/loan		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	The project will promote enterprise an improve facilities for the economic and social development of the people in the community where no alternative remote working facilities exist. This development will enhance spend in the local economy and improve footfall.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 24.86689%
	Professional fees	€26,015	€6,469.12
	Works	€778,267.23	€193,530.87
		€804,282.23	€200,000
Total Funding			
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	Yes, 24 th July 2020		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was undertaken to secure the necessary expertise to carry out the preparatory work on the project, drafting up plans and securing planning permission and tendering for the successful contractor through eTenders. In the case of capital projects, the lowest value tender applies.		
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		
Innovative Element of the project:	It was agreed that the project is innovative as the aim of the Community Enterprise Hub is to build on existing social and economic capital of the area at a scale which is significant enough to address rural decline and act as a model for positive change in the locality.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that deadweight is not an issue		

	as without funding this project will not proceed.
Consideration of Displacement:	The Evaluation Committee agreed that displacement is not an issue as the nearest similar facility is in Dungarvan where office space is already limited.
Economic justification for project:	The project fits in with the Co Waterford LCDC Plan for Local Objective 3 Revitalisation of Local Villages through the development of human capital and capital investments.
Average Score for Project:	The project scored 74/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €200,000 or 24.86689% 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.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	6.5	€108,000 own funds	€0
		€96,282.23 bridging/loan	

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Local Employment Service	14th July '20	Richie Walsh

Detail of Discussion:	
Amount Recommended: €200,000	24.86689% of Eligible Project Funding: €804,282.23

Proposed: D. Howley	Seconded by J. Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

(e). Amendment to LAG Minutes 10/9/2020. Richie Walsh was incorrectly listed as a Local Employment Service representative, approval required to amend the minutes noting Richie Walsh as a representative of the Local Enterprise Office.

Proposed: H. Kiely	Seconded by D. Howley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

(f). Our Rural Future Presentation.

Head of LEO Richie Walsh gave a presentation on Our Rural Future. Committee members welcomed the comprehensive suite of commitments being made under the policy which seeks to address the various existing needs in rural areas. The presentation will be circulated to members and is available on extranet.

10. Correspondence.

One item of correspondence detailing a series of Rural Ideas Fora was noted by the committee.

11. A.O.B.: None

12. Date and venue of next LAG meeting: 11.00am Thursday 11th November 2021, via videoconference.

Meeting Closed

Signed _____
CHAIRPERSON DATE