



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	31LDRWAT117481
Project Type:	Training
Project Name:	EURI Training and mentoring on developing and managing biodiversity and environmental projects
Promoters Name:	Waterford For Nature
Address:	Kilmurray, Dungarvan, Waterford
Description:	This training and mentoring project will give the promoter the relevant skills and knowledge to both work as a cohesive group and also identify and undertake future biodiversity projects.
Theme:	LO7 Rural Environment
Sub-theme:	SA 7.2 Local Biodiversity
Link to Transitional Rural Development or EURI	Support for new and innovative projects in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and the green, bio and circular economy within the LAG area
Link to LDS	Supporting communities with local biodiversity actions

Total Project Costs	A maximum of €22,140 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Eligible Project Costs	A maximum of €22,140 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Funding sought by promoter:	A maximum of €22,140 or 100% of eligible expenditure, 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 €22,140 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Details of private funding:	Match funding will be secured via bank loan		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	This training project will enable the promoter to undertake successful biodiversity and environmental reports in the future.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 100 %
	Training	€22,140	100%
		€22,140	€22,140

Total Funding			
Was an assessment completed?: Date:	Yes 10/05/2022		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	In selecting a supplier, the promoter used the MEAT process in order to choose the most economic advantageous tender.		
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 training project will enable the promoter to identify and undertake successful projects in the future.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	The promoter would progress on a reduced basis		
Consideration of Displacement:	There are currently no known groups in Co. Waterford with similar aims and objectives as the promoter		
Economic justification for project:	This project will enable the promoter to undertake biodiversity projects in the future, which will in turn raise local awareness on the issue and bring visitors to the area to experience nature		
Average Score for Project:	79/100 (2)		
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €22,140 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 LCDC Local Development Plan for the promotion of greater environmental awareness through training and exemplar projects. 2. The project scored 79/100 A maximum of €22,140 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
N/A	N/A	(Awaiting final approval in order to secure a bank loan)	€0 (The promoter is a newly established community group)

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Waterford City and County Council have been contacted and have yet to respond	13/05/2022	Ten-day response time was given for feedback and no response has been received

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

- Mr Ciaran Coady outlined the project to the Evaluation Committee advising that the promoters Waterford for Nature (WFN) are a newly formed group based in Dungarvan. The purpose of the training and mentoring is to build capacity within the group so that they can apply for appropriate funding for future projects.
- It was confirmed that while they are no firm sites identified Mr John Power is discussing the landfill site in Dungarvan with the Local Authority as a possibility. This landfill which has a separate entrance could be turned into an area that the public can visit. There is an issue with the title that will have to be resolved first.
- Enviroguide was chosen as the successful tender as they included in their proposal visits to success stories one of which was a landfill site in Cork that was turned into a biodiversity park and therefore deemed more relevant to the promoters. The Chairperson noted that in general when the Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT) criteria option is not used then the promoters must justify why. It was agreed after reading both that this was the better tender in this instance.
- It was confirmed that the group are strictly dependent on public monies and doesn't have any type of income. They collect membership fees and hope to grow the membership going forward.
- The purpose of this application is to prepare promoters all of whom are volunteers to apply for funding from relevant programmes e.g. LIFE, Agriculture, LEADER, etc. Funding for these types of groups normally comes from grants, donations, and membership.
- The Evaluation Committee said that the application could have been expanded a bit more; explaining what was meant regarding the term wildlife and including a list of potential sites.
- The Committee queried the need for training and mentoring given the skill capacity of the members and questioned if they should be more developed as a group before applying for funding.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe advised that the purpose of the facilitation is less about training and more about structuring the group ensuring coordinated efforts with common goals.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe said that Biodiversity type projects will be a major factor in the next LEADER programme and by funding this facilitation there will be a group ready to plan and undertake projects in the Dungarvan and West Waterford area. Currently, the only element of biodiversity being undertaken is by Tidy Towns groups.
- A Committee Member queried if this group once trained would advise other groups? Mr Jimmy Taaffe said that Teagasc has some advisors but if the groups were willing to work together, they may.
- A Committee Member said that it would have been good to see an application for a feasibility study for a potential project from an established group with a small bit of seed money to show intent and a bit of cohesion.
- Mr Jimmy Taaffe replied that while they have been meeting quite regularly for the past year, they are not at this stage yet. The purpose of this application is to get them to work together as a single unit. Biodiversity of the environment is a very big area, and the members have their areas of interest. This facilitation is like the CEP modules LEADER ran for community groups in the past to build capacity and help establish good community groups throughout the County.
- It was noted that they did manage to put together the application which is no small task and requires some degree of corporation and ability.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that they are supportive of funding biodiversity projects and are therefore supportive of funding the setup of an organisation to facilitate that.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that funding this project is a good use of EURI funds and agreed to recommend funding to the LCDC.

The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-

1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan for the promotion of greater environmental awareness through training and exemplar projects.
2. The project scored 79/100

A maximum of €22,140 or 100% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Amount Recommended: €22,140

100% of Eligible Project Funding: €22,140

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Committee Member

Date: _____

Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response

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)

Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Date: 16/5/2022

Time: 1hr

Project Title: Eusei - Training & mentorship on developing and managing biodiversity & environmental projects

Project Reference Number: 31102WAT117481

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>5</u> - Structure of Business 6/25 <u>5</u> - Necessary skills base 7/25 <u>5</u>		25	20
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>4</u>		25	18

	Financial Plan	6/25 <u>4</u>			
	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		16
Total			100		79

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: [Signature]

Signature of Evaluation Committee Chair

Date: 16-05-2022

Denise Walsh

From: pclerkin@cablesurf.com
Sent: Wednesday 18 May 2022 21:29
To: Denise Walsh
Subject: Draft Minutes.

Dear Denise,

I have reviewed the draft minutes of the WLP Evaluation Committee meeting held on 16th May 2022 and I am in agreement with them.

Regards,

Paul Clerkin
Chairperson
WLP Evaluation Committee

