



Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 9th June 2022, teleconference via Zoom at 10.00 a.m.

Present: **Non Public Sector:** **Public Sector**

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

Staff Present: I. Grimes D.O.S. S Breathnach A/Chief Officer, J. Codd S.O., S. Whelan S.O., E. Smyth A.S.O. O Matiut S.S.O.

1. Total current Membership	19
2. Total attendees	15
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 79%
4. non-public/public ratio attendees % ratio non-public/public attendees	8 non-public : 7 public 53% non-public: 47% public

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record Acting Chief Officer Sinéad Breathnach informed the attendees that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 8: Public 7.

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

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Conflict of Interest:**

- (i) No declarations submitted for this meeting
- (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum achieved 8:7 in favour of non-public sector.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on 26th May 2022.**

Proposed: S. Cooke	Seconded by J. Beresford
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

5. **Matters arising:**

None.

6. **Rural Development Programme.**

a) **Projects for Approval**

31LDRWAT117481 EURI Training and mentoring on developing and managing biodiversity and environmental projects.

WLP S.E.O. Mr. J Taaffe outlined the merits of the project and explained that in order to optimize the outcomes for environment oriented activist groups training was required to help them manage their relationships with state agencies. Committee members noted that national biodiversity data centre is located in Waterford and that the experiences in Clare on a similar venture would be informative (Prof Brendan Dunford).

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 LCDL 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-Merit 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

Proposed: S. Cooke	Seconded by G. Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

b) **Co-op Budget Update:** Members were advised that an update on the Co-op Budget has been circulated and is available for perusal on extranet.

c) **31LDRWAT110525 Knockanore Farmhouse Cheese: Material Change**

WLP S.E.O. Mr. Jimmy Taaffe advised the committee that approval was required regarding the purchase of a pasteurizer as a material change, the original item was no longer available due to supply issues related to Covid_19.

Proposed: P. Nugent.	Seconded by G. Foley
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	APPROVED

7. **Correspondence.** Two items of correspondence were noted by the committee.

- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches new funding stream to support Local Authorities to purchase vacant & derelict buildings which can be converted for community use
- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces €700,000 to support the return of Agricultural Shows in 2022

8. **A.O.B.** None

9. **Date and venue of next LCDC meeting:** 10.00am Thursday 14th July 2022, via videoconference.

Meeting Closed

Signed _____
 CHAIRPERSON DATE