

Minutes of the Waterford LCDC Meeting:

Thursday 9th March 2023 meeting held via conference call at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

1. Maggie Flannagan	PPN/ Community & Voluntary	1. Mayor John O'Leary (Chair)	Elected representative
2. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A. CE, WC&CC	2. Cllr Eamon Quinlan	Elected representative (Deputy Chair)
3. Jimmy Taaffe	CEO – WLP CLG	3. Margaret Mary Collins	TUSLA
4. Liam Quinn	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership	4. Kate Cassidy	HSE
5. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	5. Cllr Pat Nugent	Elected Representative
6. Heather Kiley	PPN Community /Voluntary	6. Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
7. Breda Fell	PPN Community/Voluntary	Apologies:	
Apologies:			
8. Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	7. Kathryn Kiely	SETU
9. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	8. Michael O'Brien	WWETB
10. Gerald Hurley	CEO Waterford City Chamber	9. Michael Walsh	CE, WC&CC

Staff Present: J. Codd Staff Officer, S. Whelan Staff Officer, C. O'Brien Staff Officer, S. Breathnach Chief Officer, E Morrissey Healthy Waterford Co-ordinator, O. Matut Sláintecare LDO, Kieron Fitzpatrick Community Graduate, Ivan Grimes, Director of Services

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	13
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 68%
4. non-public/public ratio	7 non-public: 6 public

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record, Chief Officer, Sinéad Breathnach, confirmed that a quorum was achieved. Non-public 7 & Public 6, total 13 members attending. Cllr. O'Leary took the chair and opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Confirmation of Minutes**

- LCDC meeting held on the 9th February, 2023 (on extranet)

Proposed: Jimmy Taaffe	Seconded by: Heather Kiely
Abstentions: John O'Leary	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

4. **Matters arising**

No matters arising

5. **Community Support Fund Allocations – Colette O'Brien**

Following DRCD agreement of returned CEP 2020 funds to be added to Community Support Fund. The Assessment Group recommend the €1,650 to be allocated to Waterford for Nature for the purchase of a thermal imaging camera.

Cllr. John O'Leary gave parting words of thanks to Colette O'Brien for all her hard work through out the years in the Community section as she will be taking up a post in the Planning Section in April.

Proposed: Liam Quinn	Seconded by: Jenny Beresford
Abstentions: John O'Leary	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

6. **Migrant Integration Strategy – Review of Sub Group – Sinéad Breathnach**

A subgroup of the LCDC was originally set up to establish a Migrant Integration Forum and to draft a Migrant Integration Strategy. The Migrant Integration Strategy was launched in April 2021 and a part-time Coordinator was employed by Waterford Integration Services to drive and coordinate the implementation of the Strategy and a lot of the strategy has been progressed, but since the Co-ordinator post has been left empty, that progression has slowed considerably with most of the implementation burden falling on Waterford Integration Services.

Approval is being sought from the LCDC to review the subgroup Terms of Reference and membership to reflect the implementation and progression of the strategy stage. The MIS is an LCDC strategy and needs to be brought back on the LCDC Agenda for regular updates on progression and actions achieved. A case has been made for a full time Coordinator and this will be followed up on, but there are elements of the strategy that all of the LCDC organizations can implement, and the review of the sub-group will clarify everyone's role in the implementation of the Strategy.

Proposed: Heather Kiely	Seconded by: Margaret Collins
Abstentions: John O'Leary	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

7. LECP Update

Open Public meetings have taken place in Dungarvan, Waterford City, Cappoquin, Rathgormack and Dunhill to date. Signed-in attendees totalled 85 (12, 11, 28, 22 and 12 respectively); attendances being notably higher in areas distant from urban areas.

- Attendees tend to represent organisations and groups already actively engaged with WCCC and other local development agencies.
- Online engagement is strong with 76 questionnaires completed to date. My impression is that online is producing more considered and better quality input than the open public meetings. Although many responses are anonymised, I feel that this yielding perspectives and useful content for development that is not coming through the open public consultation. Active travel, community facilities, arts and cultural activities and age/demographic related issues are coming through strongly.
- A public reminder will be issued to state that the online survey will remain open until March 17th.
- Meetings have taken place with SETU and are scheduled with the Libraries service, the outcomes from which are expected to be valuable in shaping the strategy.
- There have been difficulties in engaging with traveller and migrant communities to date, but some progress on this is anticipated with meetings scheduled in Waterford City on March 14th. Difficulty in engaging both groups suggests the need for specific objectives and actions aimed at these demographics in the LECP.
- There is widespread agreement on the high level goals set out in the socio-economic statement however, the key will be to give these specific meaning through concrete objectives and actions, assigned to named enabling organisations and resources, who will be required to report progress and outcome on a timely basis.

- A consistent theme arises about the need for better communication and feedback and the need for progress on initiatives to be made known. There is frustration about ongoing consultations, subsequent to which there is little update or communication. This gives rise to a view that consultation is only a 'tick box' exercise and lacks meaning. I can suggest useful ways in which this issue can be addressed.
- People are confused about the number and purpose of past and current public consultations and have difficulty in discerning their value. This is likely to be exacerbated by forthcoming LEADER and SICAP public consultation.
- There is a clear desire for community interests to be involved in the design and implementation of initiatives and projects that they see as important. They feel disrespected and unheard. The issue of asylum seekers/Lismore Hotel crystallises this issue for many. In short, where communities are involved openly in the co-design of projects, better outcomes are achieved for all.
- A persistent issue around feedback and communication is resulting in poor awareness and knowledge in the community of the much good work being done by WCCC and other agencies.
- A process is required to animate and empower communities about the social, economic and environment possibilities and opportunities available to them. At the moment they appear unable to 'see the wood for the trees'. This issue can be addressed and elaborated upon as an objective/action.
- There is an imperative for review and reporting mechanisms of the LECP to be conducted on an agreed basis. This should give rise to a planned programme of communications to inform stakeholders and the general public of progress
- Overall, the inputs secured through the public consultation phase for the community element of the plan are considered to be comprehensive and robust and can be elaborated in line with all relevant national, regional and local policies and strategies.
- An ASG meeting will take place on March 27th
- A draft working document to develop and collate all inputs will be completed by the end of March. Subsequent to this the review, edit and alignment of the economic and community Goals, Objectives and Actions will take place on April 4th.

8. Outcome of Local Government Audit Services review of SICAP 2021 – briefing by Liam Quinn

Liam gave a briefing in relation to the outcomes of the Local Government Audit Services review and the steps taken by WAP to correct and put in place the correct procedures going forward to ensure that these issues do not arise again.

The main issues indicated in the report were on *2021 Financial Records, Programme Staff Timesheets, Errors in programme financial records, Apportionment Policy, Governance Code, Local Community Groups filing, Procurement of Goods and Services, Beneficiary Records, Travel and Sub Claims, Invoicing and clarification of programme payments, Sub-contractor listings.*

The Local Government Audit Services also identified incorrect apportionment of programme charges resulting in €15,150 in financial errors. Liam excused himself from the meeting while the LCDC members discussed same. Ivan Grimes suggested that no decision be made immediately in relation to the €15,150 and it would be more beneficial to discuss it at the next sub-committee meeting and come back with recommendations. It is an issue that the development companies are dealing with across the country, and that there has been a major amount of Governance reform within WAP in the last year. Heather Kiely suggested that if anyone that doesn't sit on the sub-group has any particular question on the matter could email same to Ivan and the sub group can consider their questions.

9. Reports from Sub-committees:

Skills: The Skills committee has not met since the last LCDC meeting. The committee will be meeting in a few weeks time and will have an update for the April LCDC meeting.

Healthy Waterford LCDC Update 9/3/2023

- The current application has received minor clarifications from Pobal. These were returned and a confirmation of contract/SLA is expected by mid-April.
- There is continuous engagement with partners and community groups to add initiatives to the Healthy Ireland funding for 2023 and beyond.
- Several smaller/starter initiatives have begun through collaboration with other agencies. One of which is Autism Friendly City
- Aim to have more actions for approval at the next meeting.

Waterford Ireland's first Autism Friendly City

A committee of the Autistic community of Waterford who are engaging in the AsIAM Autism Friendly Communities initiative to implement actions to make Waterford Ireland's first Autism Friendly City, where neurodiversity is welcomed and celebrated. Waterford has been voted the best place to live in Ireland. We want to make sure that this holds true for people of all abilities, creating a truly inclusive city and county.

- Autism Friendly Waterford – aims to be Ireland's first Autism Friendly City. Clonakilty is Ireland's First Town
- Autistic community of Waterford who are engaging in the AsIAM Autism Friendly Communities initiative. Launch to the community is planned to take place on April 16 at 15.00 hrs in the Tower Hotel
- Funding support required to set the foundations for the project with the aim to add further supports to maintain and keep it sustainable.
- Waterford County Council are keen on assisting in the start-up of the initiative. An investment of €3000 is being sought along with a collaboration to support potential future activities.
- Key Partnerships – As I am, Waterford Chambers other agencies as required, and project expands.

- Potential to expand to other area's towns of Waterford over the coming years.

Funding approval of €3,000 under the Healthy Ireland funding is sought from the LCDC.

Proposed: Pat Nugent	Seconded by: Catherine Quinlan
Abstentions: John O'Leary	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

Sláintecare Healthy Communities: - Ovi Matiut

- Consultation meeting with the Planning and Environment Departments have taken place regarding the Landscaping Master Plan for the Carrickpherish area. Next step is to tender or to invite a selected number of service providers to carry out the required work.
- Support was provided for the participation of the migrant community at the consultation for the LECP, over 15 representatives were in attendance.
- Worked with the Manor St John Active Retirement Group in securing funding from Active Cities for their fenders, small mats, walking sticks and score boards.
- Working with Healthy Ireland and Active Cities on the Playfull Street programme.
- Working with Healthy Ireland Coordinator in organising a networking event with council staff involved in wellbeing/community projects.
- Ongoing work to finalise the report on the 4 funded projects from the Enhancement Fund.
- Working with Waterford Area Partnership in organising a networking event with all organisations that provide direct support to migrant community in Waterford.
- Supporting a Rest Centre manager in finding volunteers to provide English Language training for Ukrainian adults and recreational activities for Ukrainian children.

SICAP/Social Inclusion

- The SICAP subcommittee, following a review and report by WCCC and Pobal, approved the Annual Performance Review 2022 and the Annual Plan 2023 on February 23rd (as per delegation at the February LCDC meeting)
- Targets for Goal 1 and Goal 2 as per recommendation from Pobal, have remained at the original 2022 levels of G1: 79 and G2: 953
- The March SICAP funds have been paid to WAP on March 2nd as per Funding agreement

10. Ukrainian Response update – S. Breathnach

To date over 76,800 temporary protections have been granted to Ukrainians arriving to Ireland, with over 2,070 of those registered here in Waterford.

Waterford Council have provided temporary accommodation to over 1,556 Ukrainian refugees in the Council run rest centers and have matched over 1,110 of those with pledged and Council sourced accommodation.

Waterford have received 81 offers under the 'Offer a Home' pledge call which is currently being promoted nationally and locally seeking offers of vacant accommodation.

Waterford were granted €1.4m under the Community Recognition Fund and a consultation survey was circulated to the communities on same. Deliberations are being made this week on identifying projects to proceed under the Recognition Fund.

WAP continue to provide supports to all Ukrainians on community integration. Our biggest challenge at present is accessing English language or conversational classes with those who arrived before Christmas having to wait until September to commence classes in the City. There is a waiting list for the WAP conversational English classes of over 150 at present.

11. Ukrainian Educational Update – M. O'Brien

No update.

12. Correspondence

- a. Minister Joe O'Brien urges community groups to join Public Participation Networks as national awareness campaign launched
- b. Waterford Anti-Racism Month

13. AOB – Sinéad thanked those who attended the training on inclusive community engagement in local planning and decision making and informed the members that further training will be available online for the LCDC members and advised all to make themselves familiar with this new guide.

14. Date and venue of next LAG/LCDC meeting: **Thursday 13th April at 10.a.m.**

Meeting Closed

Signed:

Chairperson Waterford LCDC

Date: _____