



Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 9th May 2024, teleconference via Zoom at 10.00 a.m.

Present:

Non Public Sector:

Public Sector

1. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	1. Mayor Joe Conway (Chair)	Elected representative
2. Csilla Czelvikker	PPN / Community & Voluntary	2. Cllr Eamon Quinlan	Elected representative
3. Senan Cooke	PPN / Community & Voluntary	3. Kate Cassidy	HSE
4. Ger Hurley	Waterford Chamber of Commerce	4. Richie Walsh	Head of LEO
5. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	5. Michael Walsh	CE, WC&CC
6. Heather Kiely	Social Inclusion	6. Michael O'Brien	WWETB
7. Christine Rossi	CEO – WLP CLG		
Apologies:		Apologies:	
8. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	7. Kathryn Kiely	SETU
9. Sinead Kilcawley	PPN / Community & Voluntary	8. Margaret Mary Collins	TUSLA
10. Liam Quinn	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership	9. Cllr Pat Nugent (Deputy Chair)	Elected Representative

Staff Present: J. Codd S.O., S. Whelan S.O., S Breathnach Community S.E.O. & Chief Officer, Orla Kelly A.O., E Smyth A.S.O., O Matiut S.S.O.

Apologies: E Morrissey S.S.O, I Grimes D.O.S.

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 54% non public: 46% public

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record Chief Officer S Breathnach informed the committee a quorum was achieved: 7 non-public : 6 public.

Chair J. Conway opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies.**

As per table above apologies were noted.

3. **Conflict of Interest:**

- (i) C.o.I. declarations: No declarations.
- (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum 7:6 in favour of non-public.
- (iii) J Codd requested of all members to please complete and return their 2024 Conflict of Interest Forms.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on 11th April 2024**

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

5. **Matters arising:**

None.

6. **Rural Development Programme.**

- i) Ciaran Lynch gave a comprehensive presentation reviewing the 2016-2023 LDS. The presentation will be circulated to the committee.
- ii) For Noting: RDP Returns, Income & Expenditure Q1 2024 were noted by the committee.

iii) Project for rejection.

- SE Farm Building IE31WAT100002

The Independent Evaluation Committee does not recommend this project for funding. W.L.P. S.E.O. Christine Rossi explained that “deadweight” was the reason for this decision.

Project ID	31WAT100002
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	SE Farm Buildings
Promoters Name:	South East Farm Buildings Ltd
Address:	Ballynoe, Lismore, Co. Waterford. P51C2W6
Description:	The promoter is looking to purchase a CNC plasma table to increase production and manufacturing efficiency which will also reduce carbon omissions.
Theme:	Theme 1 Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub theme 1a Green Economy
Link to LDS	Supporting new technology and improve efficiency to reduce carbon output

Total Project Costs	€48,750		
Eligible Project Costs	€48,750		
Funding sought by promoter:	€36,562.50		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€0		
Details of private funding:	€12,187.50		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	Investment in new equipment to improve efficiencies.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 0 %
	Plasma CNC machine	€48,750	€0
	Total	€48,750	€0
Total Funding			

Was an assessment completed?: Date:	Yes, 19 th of March '24
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was use and functionality and price was the selecting criteria
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:	The promoter is looking to invest in a CNC plasma machine to increase production and manufacturing efficiency and reduce carbon output
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	Reduction in carbon emission in the investment in new and greener technology that will greatly improve the manufacturing process as the elimination of travel to and from sub-contractors/providers
Consideration of Deadweight:	The project would go ahead without LEADER funding.
Consideration of Displacement:	Three competitors have been identified – Mulcahy Steel, Nelgara Steel and O'Dwyer Steel but the promoter provides a full package, from excavation of the site, to ground and concrete works, to the steel shed erection unlike the other companies who just provide the erection service
Economic justification for project:	Increase in employment – one full time and one part time position
Average Score for Project:	N/A Project refused based on deadweight.
% level of aid & ceiling:	N/A Project refused based on deadweight.
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed not to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. It would proceed without funding.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
1.5	7	€12,187.50	Never received grant aid in the past

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Local Enterprise Office	21st of March '24	Brid Kirby
Detail of Discussion: - Ms Connors advised that the very glaring component here is deadweight. The promoter has worked in the UK and Australia and learned his trade there. He incorporated the business in 2015. He builds farms sheds for the dairy sector. He is trying to futureproof his business. Farm vat rules are going to change this year, impacting the amount of money that farmers will have to spend. He did some work for Meadowfresh Cold Storage business and will be looking more towards markets like this. - The Committee asked if he would be in competition with Norris Bros and Kenneally Steel, - Ms. Connors advised that he would, but they all have their own customer base. - The Committee suggested funding the project at a reduced rate, given the cash reserves in the business. - Ms Connors read a letter from the company accountant advising the reasons why he was seeking funding. - Ms Drennan advised that the Leader rules state, in reference to Deadweight, 'LAGs must not grant-aid projects that are capable of proceeding without LEADER funding'. - The Committee commented that the promoter has very healthy financial projections and a healthy bank balance. - This programme has a reduced level of funding, and it may be better to keep it available for more needy projects. - They agreed that the project would score very highly but fails on deadweight.		
Amount Recommended: €0	0% of Eligible Project Funding: €0	

Proposed: M Walsh	Seconded by: H Kiely
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

iv) Projects for approval

Blackwater Distillery IE31WAT100004

Project ID	IE31WAT100004
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Blackwater Distillery
Promoters Name:	Blackwater Distillery
Address:	Church Road, Ballyduff Upper, Co Waterford

Description:	Retrofitting of brewery equipment to better meet environmental standards, reduce wastewater handling on site, reduce the time animal feed byproducts are stored on site, and improve operational efficiencies.
Theme:	Theme 1: Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub-theme 1a: The Green Economy
Link to LDS	Local objective 1: Investment in indigenous rural enterprises to maximise efficiencies and competitiveness, increase the offering for visitors whilst supporting a greener sustainable environment. Strategic Action 1.1 1a: Green Economy: Capital investment in existing and start up technology that embraces greater efficiency and supports the environment.

Total Project Costs	€25,491.71 (incl VAT); €21,269.96 (excl. VAT)		
Eligible Project Costs	€21,269.96 (excl. VAT)		
Funding sought by promoter:	€15,952.47		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€15,952.47		
Details of private funding:	Cash in bank on 12/03/2024 = €60,210.98		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	The innovative character of this project is linked to its adaptive nature: the idea is to start from the current set of machinery, retrofit them and add some equipment to make the wastewater handling project viable. Blackwater Distillery wants to use their existing and new technology to environmentally optimise their processes and continue operating in their whisky facility in Ballyduff Upper. An operational distillery will be a significant plus to tourists to the area, bringing visitors to the village and the local area thus supporting economic development locally.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75%
	Wastewater Pump	€2,914.36	€ 2,185.77
	Pipework retrofitting	€955.60	€ 716.70
	ATEX Walkie Stackler	€14,500.00	€10,875.00

Total Funding	ATEX rated scales	€2,900.00	€ 2,175.00
		€21,269.96	€15,952.47
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	Yes. 15 March 2024		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was used and the MEAT process to score tenders.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	In all instances three quote were requested but not all were received within the RFT timeline.		
Innovative Element of the project:	The innovative character of this project is linked to its adaptive nature: the idea is to start from the current set of machinery, retrofit them and add some equipment to make the wastewater handling project viable. Blackwater Distillery wants to use their existing and new technology to environmentally optimise their processes and continue operating in their whisky facility in Ballyduff Upper. An operational distillery will be a significant plus to tourists to the area, bringing visitors to the village and the local area thus supporting economic development locally.		
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	This project will ensure that the Blackwater Distillery in Ballyduff Upper meets its environmental criteria and can restart its operations, bringing economic activity and tourism activity back to the site and the town.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	Consideration was given to deadweight and the promoter provided the following feedback on 22/03/2024: “To confirm, Blackwater Distillery has significant monthly outgoings, including wages of €25K, overheads including insurance and rates of €14K and bank loans of €32K. Additionally, when we make a duty paid sale, typically to ALDI Ireland, we must pay the duty plus VAT to Revenue by the third week of the following month. We produce a number of products for ALDI, but our most regularly ordered product is Boyle’s Gin 700ml 40% alc/vol: one pallet of this is 115 cases/690 bottles. The duty plus VAT element for this pallet is calculated as follows: $\text{€42.57 (rate of duty per litre of pure alcohol)} \times 0.7 \text{ (700ml bottle)} \times 0.4 \text{ (alc/vol Boyle’s Gin)} \times 1.23 \text{ (VAT)} = \text{€14.66 per bottle, €10,166 per pallet (Ireland has one of the highest rates of duty in the EU!).}$ This means that any pallet of Boyle’s Gin that is ordered today 22 Mar 24 will attract a duty payment of just over €10k which will have to be paid to Revenue by us prior to payment by ALDI being		

	received. This duty payment cannot be deferred and so we must retain sufficient cash in our bank account to meet this demand prior to payment by our customer. It can be quite a challenge to retain sufficient cash to ensure that this payment can be made successfully. We always have duty payments in every month, with peak payments being in the last quarter of any year."
Consideration of Displacement:	Consideration was given to displacement, but Blackwater Distillery is already in existence. The project itself is addressing an environmental issue (water quality).
Economic justification for project:	This project will bring Blackwater Distillery back into operation.
Average Score for Project:	80/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €15,952.47 or 75% 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 to support County Waterford's rural enterprises under Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation. 2. Funding will make the process more environmentally friendly. 3. The project scored 80/100. A maximum of €15,952.47 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser, with the following condition; - Confirmation in writing that the work will solve the requirements of the EPA.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
1	7.3	25% = €5,317.49	LEADER = €200,000 (2017)

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Confirmation was received from LEO. De-Minimis of €6,968.	19 March 2024	Brid Kirby

Detail of Discussion:

- Ms Rossi advised that the distillery has ceased production until they have a solution to their current problem, which was identified by Irish water. This equipment will solve the problem. This year they are starting to sell Blackwater Whisky and have a good customer base in Aldi. The issue of deadweight was raised with them, and they provided a detailed response explaining their significant monthly outgoings including duty and vat to Revenue, which must be paid when they make the sale rather than when they receive payment from the customer.
- The Evaluation Committee asked if the EPA/Irish Water have indicated their satisfaction with what has been proposed? They also commented that there was a substantial sum received from Enterprise Ireland, in last year's accounts, and queried what that was in relation to?
- Ms Rossi advised that she would need to check those details with the promoter.

Amount Recommended: €15,952.47**75 % of Eligible Project Funding: €15,952.47**

Proposed: G Hurley	Seconded by: M O'Brien
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

Billy Moore Metal Works Equipment IE31WAT100009

Project ID	IE31WAT100009
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Billy Moore Metal Works Equipment
Promoters Name:	Billy Moore Metal Works
Address:	Ballysaggart, Lismore, Co Waterford
Description:	The promoter wishes to improve the efficiency of his business and increase his production by purchasing: • A new metal cutting bandsaw. • A new MIG welding plant • A new TIG welding plant
Theme:	Theme 1: Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub-theme 1a: The Green Economy
Link to LDS	Local objective 1: Investment in indigenous rural enterprises to maximise efficiencies and competitiveness, increase the offering for visitors whilst supporting a greener sustainable environment. Strategic Action 1.1 1a: Green Economy: Capital investment in

	existing and start up technology that embraces greater efficiency and supports the environment.
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Total Project Costs	€20,191.48 (incl VAT); €16,415.84 (excl VAT)		
Eligible Project Costs	€16,415.84		
Funding sought by promoter:	€12,311.88		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Previously deferred		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €12,311.88 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.		
Details of private funding:	€4,103.96 (approved for a Credit Union Business Loan Facility)		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	By upgrading the business with new equipment, the promoter will be able to provide a more efficient service to both customers in the locality and further afield. Therefore, keeping business in Waterford with the possibility of creating employment going forward. The proposed equipment is powered by inverter technology which operates on a much lower electrical requirement than older technology, thus lowering the carbon footprint.		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure excluding VAT)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75 %
	Metal Bandsaw	€5,400.00	€4,050.00
	MIG Welder	€6,904.95	€5,178.71
	TIG Welder	€4,110.89	€3,083.17
Total Funding		€16,415.84	€12,311.88
Was an assessment completed?: Date: <u>21 March 2024</u>	Yes. 21 March 2024.		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was used and the MEAT process to score the quotes.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the	In all instances three quotes were requested but not all were received within the RFT timeline. All quotes were requested from suppliers in Ireland. Considering		

reasonableness of costs:	the importance of the functionality of the equipment the preferred quotes are considered reasonable.
Innovative Element of the project:	The proposed equipment is powered by inverter technology which operates on a much lower electrical requirement than older technology, this lowering the carbon footprint.
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	This project will ensure that Billy Moore Metal Works can increase his production of bespoke items resulting in increased sale and the possibility of creating additional employment.
Consideration of Deadweight:	Yes. This project will not go head without LEADER funding as the promoter can only proceed with borrowed capital.
Consideration of Displacement:	The project is not likely to compete with other local businesses. There are engineering businesses in the area, but they all focus on structural steel engineering. These include Kenneally Steel and others. Billy Moore Metal Works manufactures lighting, furniture and sculptural metal work and will not cause displacement.
Economic justification for project:	A local rural business will be able to expand, increase production and create employment through the increased efficiency of new equipment.
Average Score for Project:	80/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €12,311.88 or 75% 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: - 2. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan to support County Waterford's rural enterprises under the Green Economy. 3. Funding will enable the promoter to increase efficiencies and lower his carbon footprint. 4. The project scored 80/100.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
Could create 1 full-time and 2 part-time jobs	1	€4,103.96	No aid from LEADER
			Received a grant from the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 = €18,500

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and	Date of	Signed By
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double from the relevant agencies.	Confirmation	
Local Enterprise Office	22 March 2024	Brid Kirby

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

-Ms Rossi advised that this project was deferred due to issues with the procurement process. The promoter re-did the procurement as per requirements and re-submitted his application, and the costs have remained the same.

-The promoter is purchasing two welding machines and a metal cutting bandsaw.

-The Evaluation Committee agreed that overall, they are very supportive of the project proposal as upgrading the equipment will allow the promoter increase production and potentially create employment going forward.

Amount Recommended: €12,311.88	75% of Eligible Project Funding: €12,311.88
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Proposed: H Kiely	Seconded by: R Walsh
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

Equipment for Dungarvan Agricultural Show IEWAT100006

Project ID	IE31WAT100006
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Equipment for Dungarvan Agricultural Show
Promoters Name:	Dungarvan Agricultural Show Clg
Address:	Ballygagin, Dungarvan, Co Waterford, X35XD25
Description:	Purchase additional cross-country jumps, standards, safety inserts and cups for these jumps, timber signage identifying the location of the various exhibitions going on throughout the day. These signage fingerposts will be erected on a temporary basis on the site. Also required are chairs for distribution around the rings and storage container to store the equipment from year to year.
Theme:	1. Economic Development and Job Creation
Sub-theme:	1c. Rural Tourism and Recreation 1.5 Culture and Heritage Product Development
Link to LDS	Local objective: Investment in indigenous rural enterprises to maximise efficiencies and competitiveness, increase the offering for visitors whilst supporting a greener sustainable environment.

	Strategic action 1.5: Invest in developing the rich cultural and heritage base in Co Waterford to ensure the natural product is accessible, preserved and enjoyed by the visiting public and supporting the SMART Village concept of creating and appreciating sense of place.
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Total Project Costs	€19,624
Eligible Project Costs	€19,624
Funding sought by promoter:	€14,718
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€14,718
Details of private funding:	Cash in bank on 01/03/2024: €39,321.30
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No
Synopsis of project:	Dungarvan Agricultural Show is the only agricultural show held in Co Waterford. They would like to purchase additional cross-country jumps, standards, safety inserts and cups for these jumps, timber signage identifying the location of the various exhibitions going on throughout the day. These signage fingerposts will be erected on a temporary basis on the site. Also required are chairs for distribution around the rings and storage container to store the equipment from year to year. The jumps and associated equipment will attract more entries. At most shows, rustic fences are provided for working hunter classes whereas the investment in cross county jumps provides for a more challenging, enjoyable experience for the competitor and indeed the spectator to watch. The safety equipment is paramount to meet standards and avoid any potential accident. In 2023 one of the judges recommended that the organisers improve the fences in the Pony Working Hunter Arenas. He recommended the replacement of some fences, safety standards and specific safety cups. As crowds increase each year adequate signage is important. The additional seating will enhance the experience for visitors, especially the elderly and families with young children. Storing all the items requires a suitable container.

Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75 %
	Finger Posts	€1,057.80	€ 793.35
	Stacking chairs	€1,798.50	€1,348.88
	Container	€8,967.00	€6,725.25
	Fences Fillers	€6,675.00	€5,006.25
	Cups	€1,125.00	€ 843.75
		€19,624.00	€14,717.48 (€14,718)
Total Funding			
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _____	Yes. 27/03/2024		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes. Yes.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	In all instances three quotes were requested.		
Innovative Element of the project:	The jumps and associated equipment will attract more entries. At most shows, rustic fences are provided for working hunter classes whereas the investment in cross county jumps provides for a more challenging, enjoyable experience for the competitor and indeed the spectator to watch. The safety equipment is paramount to meet standards and avoid any potential accident.		
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	The quality of the show will be improved with a better experience for participants and visitors.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	Yes. The promoter advised that in 2022 and 2023 the Show was ran in conjunction with the Waterford Truck Show which brought in additional revenue due to increased attendance and larger numbers of Trade stands. The Show has always tried to retain funds in the account. There is always the possibility that the Show will be cancelled on the day before due to inclement weather conditions whereby the organisers will still incur the costs with running the show.		
Consideration of Displacement:	Yes. Dungarvan Agricultural Show is the only show held in Co Waterford. Equivalent events are held in Midleton, Co Cork and Clonmel, Co Tipperary and Bansha Show, Co Tipperary.		
Economic justification for project:	The project will enhance the experience of participants and visitors. This will attract greater numbers and bring benefit to Dungarvan and surrounds.		
Average Score for Project:	79/100		

% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €14,718.00 or 75% 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:- 5. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan to support County Waterford's rural enterprises under Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation. 6. The promoters have shown innovation by combining with the truck show and thus increasing their footfall. 7. The project scored 79/100. A maximum of € 14,718 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser, with the following condition; - Proof of a TRN and TCAN must be provided before sending to the LAG for consideration.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
0	0	25% = €4,906.00	No

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Response was received from LEO Waterford	16.03.2024	Brid Kirby
Response was received from Failte Ireland	21.03.2024	Ivona Carr

Detail of Discussion:
- Ms Rossi advised that the promoter would like to buy some fences/jumps/etc, based on a recommendation by the judges last year. As well as finger posts and stacking chairs. Currently they don't have written permission for the show to be held and they have been asked to obtain same. They also don't currently have a TRN (tax registration number) or a TCAN (tax clearance access number) but they are working on that. They have done a good job on their tenders. However, the chosen container quote did arrive after their tender deadline. This is the only agricultural show in County Waterford. A letter was read, from the organisers, regarding any concerns about deadweight. - The Evaluation Committee commented that the show has previously moved venues a number of times, but they seem to be more settled in their current location. They have found it difficult to get volunteers. Combining the show with a truck festival was very innovative of them. Seating is a good idea for people with mobility issues.

- An Evaluation Committee member asked where the container will be kept? - Ms Rossi advised that it would be kept on the site of the show.	
Amount Recommended:€14,717.48	% of Eligible Project Funding:75%

Proposed: G Foley	Seconded by: M O'Brien
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

Blackwater Valley Opera Festival IE31WAT100005

Project ID	IE31WAT100005
Project Type:	Marketing
Project Name:	Blackwater Valley Opera Festival
Promoters Name:	Blackwater Valley Opera Festival Clg
Address:	8 Main Street, Lismore, Co Waterford
Description:	Provide description of project: The Blackwater Valley Opera Festival is the pre-eminent summer music festival in Ireland's Ancient East. This festival runs for a week during late May and early June. The heart of the festival is the opera production at Lismore Castle sculpture garden. The opera nights also offer a gastronomic experience with pop up restaurants and picnic boxes. The recitals strand of the festival brings music to the historic houses, churches and other buildings of the Blackwater Valley, including Chamber Music in these original settings offering visitors a unique experience. The festival brings both international and Irish talent onto the stage, with many young artists giving an opportunity to showcase their talent at Ireland's Most Beautiful Summer Music Festival. The festival is a musical and cultural highlight but also accessible offering the opera and recitals at various price points. The festival also focuses on education enabling younger children to understand and explore music. Master classes see the festival artists and alumni working together. Children's performances are developed in the "Storytelling Through Song" strand. Partnering with local hospitality and accommodation providers, the

	festival is a chance to enjoy a magical musical break, enjoy fine food, picnic on riverbanks, explore castles, discover gorgeous gardens while enjoying Irish and international music. The festival also links with sister festivals, international organisations, and international tour companies.
Theme:	Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub-Theme 1c: Rural Tourism and Recreation
Link to LDS	Strategic Action: 1.5 Culture and Heritage Project Development

Total Project Costs	€85,206.00		
Eligible Project Costs	€81,942.00		
Funding sought by promoter:	€61,456.00		
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	Deferred to allow time to receive official clarity on De Minimis and the 2023 Account		
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	A maximum of €61,456.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser		
Details of private funding:	€20,485.50		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Synopsis of project:	The Blackwater Valley Opera Festival is the pre-eminent summer music festival in Ireland's Ancient East. The festival runs for a week during late May and early June. The proposed project request grant aid for: • Venue hire • Piano hire • Marquee hire • Seating hire		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75%
	Venue Hire	€22,907	€17,180.25
	Venue Hire	€5,000	€ 3,750.00
	Piano Hire	€5,950	€ 4,462.50
	Marquee hire + seating	€28,085	€21,063.75
	Seating hire	€20,000	€15,000.00
		€81,942.00	€61,456.50
Total Funding			

Was an assessment completed?: Date: <u>20.03.2024</u>	Yes. 20 March 2024
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes. Yes
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 items required are very specific and the options to obtain quotes are limited and, in some cases, not available.
Innovative Element of the project:	The Blackwater Valley Opera Festival is the pre-eminent summer music festival in Ireland's Ancient East. Partnering with local hospitality and accommodation providers, the festival is a chance to enjoy a magical musical break, enjoy fine food, picnic on riverbanks, explore castles, discover gorgeous gardens while enjoying Irish and international music.
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	The LEADER funding will contribute to the success of the event which will contribute to educational, economic and tourism benefits for West Waterford.
Consideration of Deadweight:	Deadweight does not apply. The project could only proceed on a reduced basis, without the support of LEADER funding.
Consideration of Displacement:	Wexford Opera Festival is the only other opera festival in the Southeast. This is approximately 127km from Lismore and takes place in September which compliments the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival rather than competing with it.
Economic justification for project:	The LEADER funding will contribute to the success of the event which will contribute to educational, economic and tourism benefits for West Waterford.
Average Score for Project:	81/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €61,456.50.00 or 75% 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. This project fits the Local Development Plan for Rural Tourism and Cultural and Heritage Product Development. 2. The festival highlights West Waterford as a cultural destination and attracts a large footfall into the area. 3. The promoters have the skills and expertise to implement the project successfully. 4. The project scored 81/100. A maximum of €61,456.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received (2022-2024)
2	2		The Arts Council €493,777
			WC&CC €67,000
			Failte Ireland €20,750

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
The Arts Council	16 & 19.04.2024	Niall Doyle
Waterford City & County Council	02.04.2024	Margaret Organ
Failte Ireland	19.03.2024	Ivona Carr
Local Enterprise Office	19.03.2024	Brid Kirby
State Aid Unit	23.04.2024	David Coombes

Detail of Discussion:

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

- Mr John Harnedy (Chair) noted that this project was deferred, awaiting further clarification on State Aid/De Minimis and the Accounts for 2023, and asked Ms Christine Rossi for an update.
- Ms Rossi advised that she had obtained a very comprehensive response from State Aid Ireland, which is under the Department of Enterprise, that gave enough guidance to determine that the funding received is not considered State Aid / De Minimis.
- Ms Rossi advised that the promoters clarified that the ticket sales cover 25% of cost across the board. This is the trend as the norm is 26% for similar events.
- Ms Rossi advised that she shared the response with the LAG and they were happy with the clarification.
- The Evaluation Committee noted that the response will serve as a reference going forward.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that they were happy with the 2023 accounts presented.
- The Evaluation Committee agreed that funding this project is a good use of LEADER funds and agreed to recommend funding to the LCDC.

Amount Recommended: A maximum of €61,456.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser	75% of Eligible Project Funding: A maximum of €61,456.50 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser
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Proposed: G Hurley	Seconded by: G Foley
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	Approved

7. A.O.B.

Committee membership and representation is currently being reviewed due to retirements and PPN representatives whose term times have expired. An update will be given the next meeting.

- 8. Date and venue of next LAG meeting:** Due to the upcoming local elections there will no meeting in June. The committee will next meet in July and meeting administrators will be in touch to confirm date and time.

Meeting Closed

Signed _____
CHAIRPERSON

DATE