Minutes of the Waterford LAG Meeting
Thursday 11th June 2026, Dungarvan Council Chamber, 11.00 a.m.

Present: Non-Public Sector: Public Sector

1. Gabriel Foley	PPN / Environment	1. Mayor Seamus Ryan (Chair)	Elected representative
2. Jenny Beresford	CEO Dungarvan & West Waterford Chamber	2. Sean McKeown	CE, WC&CC
3. Jane Fraher	PPN / Community & Voluntary	3. Cllr. Liam Brazil	Elected representative
4. Christine Rossi	CEO – WLP CLG	4. Derval Howley	HSE
5. Ger Hurley	Waterford Chamber of Commerce	5. Cllr. Damien Geoghegan (Deputy Chair)	Elected Representative
Apologies:		6. Gareth Evans	Head of LEO
6. Ian O'Brien	PPN / Community &Voluntary	7. Kathryn Kiely	SETU
7. Liam Quinn	CEO – Waterford Area Partnership		
8. Csilla Czelvikker	PPN / Community & Voluntary	**Apologies:**	
9. Catherine Quinlan	I.C.M.S.A.	8. Karina Daly	WWETB
10. Mary Ray	Social Inclusion	9. Margaret Mary Collins	TUSLA

Staff Present: J. Codd S.O., N Spendlove A.O., N. Osborne LAIT Coordinator., E Morrissey A.O., Muriel Tobin PPN, A. Maher Deputy Chief Officer & A.O., C. Flavin S.O., S. Whelan S.O. E Smyth C.O., Y. Dam A.S.O.

Apologies: M. McKnight C.O., Chief Officer S Breathnach Community S.E.O., G. Mulhall S.O., S. DeFaoite D.O.S.

1.Total current Membership	19
2.Total attendees	12
3. Quorum % required (50% of 1 above)	Achieved – 63%

1. **Confirmation of Quorum:** Having reviewed the attendance record, Deputy Chief Officer Anita Maher informed the Committee a quorum was achieved. Chair Seamus Ryan opened the meeting.

2. **Apologies.**
As per table above, apologies were noted.

3. **Conflict of Interest:**
   (i) C.O.I. declarations: Jenny Beresford declared a conflict of Interest on item 6 ii) IE31WAT104153 Blackwater Valley Opera Festival
   (ii) Review of Quorum: Quorum achieved.

4. **Confirmation of Minutes of LAG Meeting held on 14th May 2026**

Proposed: L Brazil	**Seconded by: D Geoghegan**
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

5. **Matters arising:**
None.

6. **Rural Development Programme.**

   i) LEADER Monthly Update: WLP C.E.O. Christine Rossi gave an update on the progress of the LEADER 2327 Programme.

   Six projects will be considered for approval at the June meeting as part of the final stages of the 4th LEADER Targeted Call.

   The current status of projects approved under the first three targeted calls are:
   26 projects approved
   10 projects completed
   7 projects at final claim stage
   4 projects at non-final claim stage
   5 projects ongoing with no claims submitted to date.

   The 5th LEADER targeted Call will be advertised on the 30th of June 2026. Information sessions will be held on 14, 15 and 16 July 2026. All the relevant information will be in the advertisement.

ii) Projects for Approval:

IE31WAT104161 Tallow Crematorium

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project Code:	IE31WAT104161
Project Type:	Investment & Other Supports
Project Promoters Name:	Aidan Patrick Walsh & Sons Ltd
Project Name:	Tallow Crematorium
Address:	Link Road, Michael Prendergast Road, Tallow, Co Waterford
Description:	Purchasing, installing and commissioning the Cremator for the new Tallow Crematorium.
Total Project Costs	€925,500
Theme:	Theme 1. Economic Development and Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub-Theme 1a. Green Economy
Eligible Project Costs	€925,500
Funding sought by promoter:	€200,000
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Outline the Evaluation Committee's consideration on each of the following:-	
Deadweight:	Promoter: Project will not go ahead. While the promoter has a strong level of cash reserves, it is not sufficient to meet the required level needed to undertake the project. Project Officer: Considering the scale of the project and the financial outlay, funding support will be essential to ensure the success of the project. With LEADER funding, the promoter's cash reserves and the bank loan the project can be successfully implemented.
Displacement:	The Island Crematorium in Ringaskiddy, Co Cork is the closest crematorium to Tallow. At over 80km away in distance, it is not at risk of displacement. Considering the demand for cremations in Ringaskiddy exceeds supply and that the volume of cremations is growing each year, then the risk of impact on the crematorium is eliminated.
Innovative:	Areas of Innovation: There are only seven (7) crematoria in the Republic of Ireland with four (4) in Dublin which means that those in Waterford and its wider catchment who wish to have the remains of their loved ones cremated are faced with long driving distances to one of

	these crematoria. This project seeks to make the cremation experience more accessible, more affordable and ultimately helps bring families and friends together in a way which fittingly commemorates the lives of their loved ones. This project will help build a new community network, it will increase awareness of rural Tallow and West Waterford, it will increase footfall in the area and will ultimately create a special connection between this area, and the memories people will hold of their loved ones into the future. The project will also be unique in that it will be a crematorium run by a funeral director. There are only two such crematoria in Ireland being Lakelands in Cavan and Mount Jerome in Dublin. Crematoria run by funeral directors have additional services which can be offered (transportation and storage of remains etc) and the funeral directors themselves work seven days a week, vs commercial crematoria that are staffed to only work specific hours five days per week.
Reasonableness of Costs:	This project was directly tendered with suppliers/contractors invited via email and the lowest value tender meeting the specifications was chosen.
In-house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	Not applicable.
Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:	**The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:-** 1. The project represents a significant rural investment and will provide a new service in West Waterford, improving local access to cremation services and reducing the need for families to travel elsewhere. 2. This project aligns with the Local Development Plan under Theme 1 Green Economy for Capital Investment in Existing and Start-up Technology. 3. The project scored 80/100. **A maximum of €200,000.00 €or 21.60994% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser**
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	This project will support economic development and job creation. It will also benefit other businesses in Tallow and surrounds.
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	Increasingly people are opting for cremation over burial and the trend appears to be accelerating. In 2024 60% of all funerals in Dublin were cremations, a 30% increase on the previous year (Source: Funeral Times). While burial remains a common choice for the majority of people

	across Ireland, more and more are choosing cremation. This, in part, is because of changing social dynamics, including people moving away from localised, centralised communities, and loosening community networks in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. People also want to have ashes scattered in a meaningful location as a way of memorialising and celebrating their lives. Cost is an additional factor in the growth of cremations. The average cost of a burial plot in County Waterford in 2026 is €2,500. A headstone costs in the region of a further €3,500 and a further €800 is spent to dig and fill a grave. Burial is now considerably more expensive than cremation, which costs less than €1,000. Cremations now account for 20% of the funeral business for Aidan Walsh & Sons but it is an increasingly pressurised 20%. All cremations in West Waterford are directed to the crematorium at The Island, Ringaskiddy, which is seeing a huge increase in demand, putting pressure on undertakers and families to meet tight timelines. It can take a funeral cortege over one and a half hours to reach Ringaskiddy from County Waterford. The promoter and his team have seen situations where cremation services must be shortened to meet tight timelines, or where allocated slots are missed completely due to traffic delays placing incredible pressure both on his team and on the families whom they are supporting through the cremation process. The Tallow Crematorium will be in a rural setting, it will be more accessible and will be a better experience both for funeral directors and the families, as the promoter and his team will be well equipped to deal with their needs and requirements.
Economic Justification for Project:	This project will contribute to economic development and job creation. It will also benefit other businesses in the town of Tallow.
Average Score for Project and Ranking:	80/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €200,000.00 or 21.60994% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Is the project at Stage 10 on the IT System Y/N	Yes
Details of private funding:	€125,500 of private funds Loan approval from Bank of Ireland is €1m, with €0.6m of this being used to finance the cremation unit. €0.4m will finance the building of the cremation room. The loan documentation says the

	loan will 'part fund the installation of a cremator in Tallow' which implies funding both the cremator and related building works on the project.		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	**Detail**	**Total Cost (Expenditure)**	**Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 21.60994%**
	DFW6000 Single End Cremator	910,000	
	DFW 6000 Secondary Heat Exchanger of 300 kW	15,500	
Total Funding			
		€925,500	**Total funding: €200,000 which is 21.60994% of the total amount**
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _________________	21/04/26		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes Yes. This is a unique project and it is not possible to measure it against a similar facility as that information is not available. The cost is reasonable when considering the detail of the quotes.		
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.		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
2 FTE	**5 FTE**	**€725,500**	**€0**

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Mininus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Not applicable		

Amount Recommended: A maximum of €200,000.00 or 21.60994% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser	**% of Eligible Project Funding:** 21.60994%

Proposed: J Beresford	**Seconded by: L Brazil**
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

IE31WAT104150 Dungarvan Youth Sail Training

Project Code:	IE31WAT104150
Project Type:	Investment and other supports
Project Promoters Name:	Dungarvan Harbour Sailing Club
Project Name:	Dungarvan Youth Sail Training
Address:	Davitt's Quay, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Description:	The Dungarvan Harbour Sailing Club are seeking funding towards the upgrade and investment in new equipment for their youth sail training programme. The new equipment comprising of 2 fully equipped Topaz dinghies plus 6 sailing rigs to replace older rigs, 2 advanced sailing dinghies which will allow training up to ISA level 5 certification and 1 fully equipped boat with an engine for powerboat training, a requirement for sailing instructors.
Total Project Costs	€51,224
Theme:	Theme 2 – Rural infrastructure and social inclusion
Sub-theme:	2.2 Support for rural youth facilities, 2d Rural Youth & 07 Support for rural youth facilities
Eligible Project Costs	€51,224
Funding sought by promoter:	€38,418
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Outline the Evaluation Committee's consideration on each of the following:-	
Deadweight:	The project would proceed on a reduced basis with investment prioritised to replace possibly 2 of the less expensive boats and rigs and resources would not stretch to cover the powerboat or the advanced sail training boats. From my perspective, funding is essential to enable the programme to provide more advanced accredited training and also powerboat training which is currently outsourced. Resources are always needed to cover repairs etc reducing the ability to invest in new equipment.
Displacement:	The closest sail training programmes are in Dunmore East and

	Oysterhaven in Cork. Both programmes are well outside the catchment area and already cater for the immediate demand in their area.
Innovative:	The youth sail training caters for youth aged from 10 to 18 years, in a safe harbour. The programme promoter self-development and instils confidence through teamwork and decision making. Sailing is a great activity for youths not interested in field sports and who live close to the water, also learning essential sea safety skills.
Reasonableness of Costs:	Direct tendering was used to invite suppliers and the most economic advantageous tender process used to select the chosen suppliers
In-house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	N/A
Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding for this project for the following reasons: 1. It will strengthen the club's capacity to deliver youth-focused training on an ongoing basis. 2. This project aligns with the Local Development Plan under Theme 2 Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion. 2.2 Support for Rural Youth Facilities 3. The project scored 80/100. **A maximum of €38,418.00 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser**
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	The project is a good use of LEADER funding particularly towards rural youth who are not interested in field sports.
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	Leader funding will enable the purchase of new equipment which will provide for more advanced sail training accreditation and powerboat training – a requirement for sail instructors, avoiding the reliance on external instructors
Economic Justification for Project:	The funding whilst supporting much needed equipment for the youth sail training programme, attracts repeat visiting families and local families who also buy other services and products in the area
Average Score for Project and Ranking:	80/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	**A maximum of €38,418.00 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser**

Is the project at Stage 10 on the IT System Y/N	Y
Details of private funding:	€12,806 in own funds
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes	No

provide detail)			
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 %**
	Powerboat	15,000	€11,250
	2 standard dinghies	9,963	€7,472.25
	2 advanced dinghies	19,988	€14,991
Total Funding	6 sailing rigs	6,273	€4,704.75
		€51,224	**€38,418**
Was an assessment completed?: Date: __5th May 2026______________	Yes		
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 most economic advantageous tender process used to select suppliers		
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 promoter sought the required number of quotations from suppliers and evidence of same is provided		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
.6	1.6	€12,806	€0

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Mininus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
No longer required – working in collaboration with the local authority who provide a lease for the storage of the equipment		

Amount Recommended: €38,418	75% of Eligible Project Funding: €51,224

With regard to the social inclusion element of this project committee members agreed that a discount be given to social inclusion groups that avail of the services provided.

Proposed: D Geoghegan	**Seconded by: G Foley**
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

IE31WAT104152 Comeragh Pods Expansion

Project Code:	IE31WAT104152
Project Type:	Investment and other supports
Project Promoters Name:	P.T. Quinlan Ltd t/a Comeragh Pods
Project Name:	Comeragh Pods Expansion
Address:	Gortnalacht, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford
Description:	Funding is sought for the expansion of Comeragh Pods glamping site to add a shared purpose timber/barn shed and storage area to facilitate laundry and an indoor/outdoor space for guests to enjoy, 3 x 6m deluxe glamping pods, associated ground works and works related services, furniture, commercial iron, TV supply, hot tub, utility vehicle, autonomous lawnmower, commercial iron, and CCTV
Total Project Costs	€195,309.63
Theme:	Theme 1 Economic development and job creation, 1C Rural Tourism & Recreation
Sub-theme:	04/1.4 Community hostels, RV's and glamping
Eligible Project Costs	€195,309.63
Funding sought by promoter:	€146,482.22
State one of the following: - **First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend**	First review
Outline the Evaluation Committee's consideration on each of the following:-	
Deadweight:	The promoter would not go ahead with the project if

	funding were not accessible. The business has developed from 'breaking even' to profitable but would require stronger revenue streams to further develop the business. There are still current borrowing commitments from their previous LEADER application and also expansion of site amenities. From my perspective, funding is paramount for the expansion of the business and particularly with the wish list of items sought by the promoter.
Displacement:	There are very few similar accommodation options to facilitate visitors in the Comeragh area. There is a campervan/glamping facility – the Getaway, closer to the Pike, Dungarvan which caters toward RV's/campervans and particularly families and dogs both of which Comeragh Pods does not support. Comeragh pods caters for couples only. Other similar facilities are located 35k away namely Ardmore Pods, Blackwater Eco Pods, Nire Valley Eco Pods and Ravens Rock Glamping in Rathgormack. There is only self catering and one bed and breakfast offering in neighbouring Kilmacthomas. Each facility offers varying experiences, differing to Comeragh Pods specific to their location.
Innovative:	The project supports environmentally sustainable tourism, repurposing former agricultural land, offering quiet rural escapism, close to nature whilst complimenting nearby hospitality offerings and incorporating their menus and points of interest into the tourism package
Reasonableness of Costs:	Etendering was used to select the chosen suppliers/contractors using the etender platform and the most economic advantageous tender process/lowest value price
In-house projects: are there other providers that can deliver	N/A

the project more cost effectively?	
Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding for this project for the following reasons: 1. The project is considered to be in accordance with the objectives of the Local Development Plan under Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation, Sub-theme 1c: Rural Tourism and Recreation, specifically Strategic Action 04/1.4: Community Hostels, RVs and Glamping. 2. The project will enhance the quality and capacity of rural tourism accommodation in the Comeragh area, thereby strengthening the visitor offering and supporting increased economic activity locally. 3. The project attained an evaluation score of 76/100. **A maximum of €97,667.80 or 60% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser with the following condition: -** - **Before a Letter of Offer is issued, clarification is required on whether a camping and caravan licence must be obtained as stated in the original planning permission. If so, a copy of the licence must be provided. If not, a letter from the Planning Department confirming that it is no longer required must be submitted.**
Reason for reduced funding compared with the promoter's request:	Certain items contained within the application were excluded such as the utility vehicle, autonomous lawnmower, commercial iron, CCTV supply and installation, and TV supply, as these items were considered routine operational or ancillary costs that do not demonstrate sufficient added value in the context of LEADER funding. The overall percentage of the remaining items were reduced from the 75% to 60%.

Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	The promoters have very successfully developed their glamping site over the years with previous LEADER funding and the project fits under the LDS local objective of supporting community hostels, RV's and glamping as much needed alternative visitor accommodation
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	Increase in the number of glamping pods and enhancement of amenities should increase the number of visitors, sustaining staff and increasing staffing opportunities
Economic Justification for Project:	The project addresses a deficit in visitor accommodation in the Comeragh area and also compliments existing offerings such as Crough Café and Cooney's Yard located close to the Mahon Falls. Employment is also sustained and further jobs created
Average Score for Project and Ranking:	76/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	**A maximum of €97,667.80 or 60% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser**

Is the project at Stage 10 on the IT System Y/N	Y		
Details of private funding:	€65,111.87 loan finance & own funds		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	**Detail**	**Total Cost (Expenditure)**	**Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 60%**
	Groundworks	25,000	15,000

	Electrical work	10,850	6,510
	Plumbing	16,000	9,600
	ESB supply	2,820.67	1,692.40
	Glamping pods & delivery	59,320	35,592
	Furniture supply & fit	8,380	5,028
	Hot tub supply & fit	8,909	5,345.40
	Store & changing buildings	31,500	18,900
Total Funding		**€162,779.67**	**€97,667.80**
Was an assessment completed?: Date: ____27th April 2026____________	Yes		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, Etendering was used to select the chosen suppliers/contractors using the etender platform and the most economic advantageous tender process/lowest value price		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Etendering used opening up to a wide marketplace		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
1.5	3.16	€65,111.87 loan finance & own funds	€185,260.81 Leader Transitional funding (2021-2022)

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Mininus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Not required		

Amount Recommended: €97,667.80	60% of Eligible Project Funding: €162,779.67

Proposed: D Geoghegan	Seconded by: L Brazil
Abstentions: None	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

IE31WAT104153 Blackwater Valley Opera Festival

Project Code:	IE31WAT104153
Project Type:	Investment and other supports
Project Promoters Name:	Blackwater Valley Opera Festival Clg
Project Name:	Blackwater Valley Opera Festival
Address:	BLUE HOUSE, Main Street, Lismore Co Waterford
Description:	This project is for supplies and services supporting the Blackwater Valley Opera Festival. The services will be for the summer opera festival of 2027. It includes venue hire at Lismore castle and Dromore Yard, piano hire, marquee hire

	and seating hire.
Total Project Costs	€92,175
Theme:	Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub-theme 1c: Rural Tourism and Recreation
Eligible Project Costs	€87,175
Funding sought by promoter:	€65,444.25
State one of the following: - **First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend**	First review
Outline the Evaluation Committee's consideration on each of the following:-	
Deadweight:	The project will go ahead but cutbacks to the number of events and duration of festival will need to be considered. The promoter also advised the following regarding the current available bank balance: "The funds on account as at April 2026 are income generated in relation to the 2026 festival which doesn't happen until June 2026. All tickets sale income and sponsorship income have been collected at this point. Please also note that all would need to be refunded if event cancelled. On the other hand we don't make payments to suppliers until after the event has happened. The payments will not commence until June 2026. All of these funds currently on deposit are required to meet these payments." Project Officer – The project will proceed on a reduced basis and funding for other aspects will need to be reallocated as

	was done for the 2025 and 2026 festivals when there was no LEADER budget.
Displacement:	Wexford Opera Festival is the only other Opera festival in the region. This is based approx. 127km from Lismore and takes place in September which in fact compliments our festival as opposed to competing with it.
Innovative:	The Festival presents an ambitious opera and classical music programmes in the Blackwater Valley while supporting emerging Irish talent alongside leading international artists. Entering a new strategic phase (2026–2030), the Festival is deepening artistic ambition and building toward a sustainable expanded operatic model, strengthening talent pathways, audience access and regional cultural leadership through high-quality, distinctive artistic experiences.
Reasonableness of Costs:	The promoter sought quotes for all the services. Some of the services are unique in nature such as the venues, the custom marquee and the seating. The options for these services are limited in some instances to sole service providers. The promoter did, where possible, seek other quotes and used the most economic advantageous process to select the suppliers
In-house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	N/A
Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons: - 1. The project aligns with the LCDC Local Development Plan to support County Waterford's cultural tourism activities. 2. The project supports a distinctive cultural tourism event that enhances the visitors offer in West Waterford and delivers wider economic and

	community benefits to the area. 3. The project scored 78/100 A maximum of €61,894.00 or 71% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser
Reason for reduced funding compared with the promoter's request:	At the applicant's request, the hire of Dromore Yard was removed from the application as there was no longer a valid lease in place.
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	The project fits under objective 05: Culture and Heritage Product Development of the LDS
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.
Economic Justification for Project:	The Festival is a flagship cultural event which creates opportunities to develop local talent, introduce existing and new audiences to the opera and promote West Waterford to visitors and audiences. The Festival provides an economic boost to the area benefitting local service providers.
Average Score for Project and Ranking:	78/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €61,894.00 or 71% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Is the project at Stage 10 on the IT System Y/N	Y
Details of private funding:	€25,280.75 own funds

Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	**Detail**	**Total Cost (Expenditure)**	**Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 71%**
	Hire of Stable Yard and castle grounds	€27,916	€19,820.36
	Marquee Hire	€30,235	€21,466.85
	Piano Hire	€6,920	€4,913.20
	Seating hire	€22,104	€15,693.84
Total Funding		**€87,175**	**€61,894.25**
Was an assessment completed?: Date: _30th May 2026________________	**Yes**		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, the promoter sought quotes for all the services. Some of the services are unique in nature such as the venues, the custom marquee and the seating. The options for these services are limited in some instances to sole service providers. The promoter did, where possible, seek other quotes and used the most economic advantageous process to select chosen suppliers		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Due to the uniqueness of the services required, there were limited suppliers to seek quotations from		

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
1	1	€25,280.75 own funds	€61,006.50 LEADER funding 2025

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Mininus and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Not applicable anymore as per OR's. De minimus and double funding declarations completed by promoter as part of application form		

Amount Recommended: €61,894.25	71% of Eligible Project Funding: €87,175

With regard to social inclusion it was noted that free pre-performances were available to the public.

Proposed: D Geoghegan	Seconded by: L Brazil
Abstentions: J Beresford	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

IE31WAT104157 Lismore Cathedral West Porch

Project Code:	IE31WAT1014157
Project Type:	Investment and other supports
Project Promoters Name:	Lismore Cathedral CLG
Project Name:	Lismore Cathedral West Porch
Address:	North Mall, Lismore, Co. Waterford

Description:	Restore the West Porch to full use as a proper and attractive entrance with associated lighting. The works include a visitor WC and a relocated stairs to the upper levels.
Total Project Costs	€141,732.42
Theme:	(1) Economic Development and Job Creation & (1c) Rural Tourism and Recreation
Sub-theme:	(05) Culture and Heritage Product Development
Eligible Project Costs	€141,732.42
Funding sought by promoter:	€106,299.31
State one of the following: - **First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend**	First review
Outline the Evaluation Committee's consideration on each of the following:-	
Deadweight:	The promoter referred in their application that the project will not go ahead without access to LEADER funding which is verified by the Project Officer
Displacement:	Blackwater Community School, GAA Sports Hall, Lismore Heritage Centre are other venues in the area, but the Cathedral is complementary to other venues of similar size. The uniqueness of the Cathedral creates a very different venue and atmosphere, especially for acoustics for concerts. The impact on other venues is minimal.
Innovative:	The aim of the project is to restore character and dignity to the West Porch. This should act as the honorific entrance to the Cathedral. It has degenerated into a rarely used cold,

	dark space, mainly used for storage and containing an obtrusive access stair to the upper levels of the tower. It is intended to use the Cathedral Nave for cultural and community events, so it is essential to bring the West Porch into full use as a proper and attractive entrance with associated lighting. The works include a visitor WC and a relocated stairs to the upper levels. Reinstating a fitting entrance to the west end of the Cathedral which is a unique building and one classified as of national importance. St Carthage's Cathedral is a popular venue for musical events and performing arts due to the wonderful acoustics. With anticipated increase in booked events an improved entrance along with additional toilet is essential.
Reasonableness of Costs:	The promoter followed the eTender process and allocated the quote to the lowest bidder.
In-house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	N/A
Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons: - 1. The project aligns with the objectives of the Local Development Strategy under Culture and Heritage Product Development. 2. The project will support the continued delivery of a cultural tourism events in West Waterford, enhancing the area's cultural profile and visitor offering. 3. The project scored 78/100

	A maximum of €106,299.31 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser with the following condition: - - Before a Letter of Offer is issued, written confirmation from the Conservation Officer that planning condition 4c no longer applies must be on file.
Rationale for grant aid, having regard to the LDS:	The project is in line with the objectives and actions identified in the LAG's Local Development Strategy under 05 Culture & heritage product development
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER **funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?**	Provision of WC will enable the promoter to accommodate more cultural events (without the need for Portaloos). This will contribute to increased visitor numbers to the heritage town of Lismore.
Economic Justification for Project:	With this investment in the west porch, the cathedral can attract more visitors to attend cultural and musical events and boost revenue which will also compliment local eateries etc
Average Score for Project and Ranking:	78/100 (1)
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €106,299.31 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser

Is the project at Stage 10 on the IT System Y/N	Y
Details of private funding:	€35,433.11 own funds

<table>
<tr><td>Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)</td><td colspan="3">No</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)

Total Funding</td><td>Detail</td><td>Total Cost (Expenditure)</td><td>Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Building works</td><td>€141,732.42</td><td>€106,299.31</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>€141,732.42</td><td>€106,299.31</td></tr>
<tr><td>Was an assessment completed?: Date: _30th April 2026______________</td><td colspan="3">Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?</td><td colspan="3">Yes, the costs were etendered and the lowest value tender chosen</td></tr>
<tr><td>Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:</td><td colspan="3">N/A as etendering was used which opens up a bigger marketplace</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3"></td></tr>
</table>

Jobs Created	**Jobs Sustained**	**Match Funding**	**Previous Grant Aid Received**
0	0	€35,433.11 own funds	€0 LEADER funding €18,400 Waterford City & County Council

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Mininus and double from the relevant agencies.	**Date of Confirmation**	**Signed By**
Working in collaboration with the local authority		

Amount Recommended: €106,299.31	**75% of Eligible Project Funding: €141,732.42**

The committee asked for a list of the funding contributions and contributors to be given at the next meeting.

Proposed: D Geoghegan	**Seconded by: J Beresford**
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

IE31WAT104159 The Getaway

Project Code:	IE31WAT104159
Project Type:	Investment and other supports
Project Promoters Name:	Comeragh Wellness Centre Ltd T/A The Getaway
Project Name:	The Getaway
Address:	The Getaway, Kilnafrehan East, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford
Description:	The project involves the development of additional onsite infrastructure at the eco focused glamping site near Dungavan. Funding is sought for the construction of a purpose built, single storey communal building to serve guests at the camp and the addition of one new glamping

	pod to the existing accommodation offering. This will increase overnight capacity, support business growth and enable The Getway to meet increasing demand for high quality, environmentally responsible tourism experiences.
Total Project Costs	€95,771.91
Theme:	Theme 1 Economic development and job creation, 1C Rural Tourism & Recreation
Sub-theme:	04/1.4 Community hostels, RV's and glamping
Eligible Project Costs	€95,771.91
Funding sought by promoter:	€71,828.93
State one of the following: - **First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend**	First Review
Outline the Evaluation Committee's consideration on each of the following:-	
Deadweight:	The project would not go ahead without LEADER funding. The proposed development requires a level of investment that exceeds the borrowing capacity of the business for a business still in its infancy and struggling to maintain cashflow for financial resilience. In my assessment, the promoter is heavily dependent on funding to enhance facilities and would not be in a position to self-fund the proposed costs.
Displacement:	There are a few local facilities/amenities similar to The Getaway, including Bay view which offers campsite facilities and accommodation at a seaside location. Comeragh Pods offer a rural glamping experience with hot tubs but are not focused on a wellness space. Dungarvan Alternative Health Clinic offers a hub for practitioners but it does not offer a rural environment or indeed accommodation.

Innovative:	The Getaway is promoted as a rural hub for practitioners to work from and 'escape' from the busy challenges of life, particularly for those suffering from mental health and in need of 'wellness'. This is in addition to the RV/glamping accommodation on offer, nestled in the mountains, in the rural countryside.
Reasonableness of Costs:	The project was directly tendered with suppliers/contractors invited via email and the lowest value tender used to select the chosen suppliers/contractors
In-house projects: are there other providers that can deliver the project more cost effectively?	N/A
Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding for this project for the following reasons: 1. The project is considered to be in accordance with the objectives of the Local Development Plan under Theme 1: Economic Development and Job Creation, Sub-theme 1c: Rural Tourism and Recreation, specifically Strategic Action 04/1.4: Community Hostels, RVs and Glamping. 2. The project will build on the promoter's significant investment to date and support the continued development of a distinctive rural tourism experience in the Comeragh area. 3. The project attained an evaluation score of 73/100. A maximum of €71,828.93 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser
Rationale for grant aid, having	The project comes under the local objective 1.4 of the LDS to support community hostels, rv's and glamping in light of

regard to the LDS:	limited visitor accommodation in the county
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER **funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?**	Addition of increased overnight accommodation capacity and enhancement of the visitor experience
Economic Justification for Project:	Sustaining of one full time job and creation of a further full time position whilst providing footfall to local eateries etc
Average Score for Project and Ranking:	73/100 (2)
% level of aid & ceiling:	**A maximum of €71,828.93 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser**

Is the project at Stage 10 on the IT System Y/N	Y		
Details of private funding:	€23,942.93 loan finance		
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No		
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 %**
	Studio building & ancillary works	€58,546.26	€43,909.69
	Cabin supply	£32,460/€37,225.65	€27,919.24

Total Funding	& delivery		
		€95,771.91	**€71,828.93**
Was an assessment completed?: Date: __________________	Yes		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	The project was directly tendered with suppliers/contractors invited via email and the lowest value tender used to select the chosen suppliers/contractors		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	Evidence of the promoters effort to seek the required number of quotes is on file		

Jobs Created	**Jobs Sustained**	**Match Funding**	**Previous Grant Aid Received**
1	1	€23,942.93 loan finance	€0

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Mininus and double from the relevant agencies.	**Date of Confirmation**	**Signed By**

Not relevant as per the OR's anymore		

Amount Recommended: €71,828.93	**75% of Eligible Project Funding: €95,771.91**

Proposed: D Geoghegan	**Seconded by: L Brazil**
Abstentions:	
Quorum achieved: Yes	**Approved**

IE31WAT104163 Kilmacthomas Railway Station Renovation and Repurposing: This project is deferred to July at which point the administration checks will be complete.

7. **Circulars:** Circular 03 2026 Smart Villages Monitoring and Reporting.

   An update on the Smart Village initiative will be given at the July meeting.

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

9. **Date and venue of next LAG meeting:** 11.00am Thursday 9th July, City Hall Council Chamber, Waterford.

Signed_________________________   ___________________________

CHAIRPERSON   DATE