



## **Linkage Group Report**

### **LCDC & SE FLAG Linkage Group**

*Report compiled by Annette Dupuy, PPN Support Officer*

*7.30pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017*  
*Castlebridge Community Centre*

#### ***LCDC & SE FLAG Reps in Attendance***

*Mary Hamilton – Community & Voluntary Rep, LCDC*

*Pat Rath – Community & Voluntary Rep, LCDC*

*Sean Quirke – Community & Voluntary Rep, LCDC*

*Brian Toomey – Social Inclusion Rep, LCDC*

***Meeting Chaired by John Carr, Wexford District Rep, PPN Secretariat***

#### ***Groups Represented at the meeting;***

- *Bunclody & District Active Retired Association*
- *Castlebridge House & Conservatory Restoration Committee*
- *Castlebridge Community Development Co-op*
- *Castlebridge Community Garden*
- *Coastwatch Wexford*
- *Coolgreany Community Alert*
- *Oylegate Community Centre Committee*
- *Wexford Football Academy*

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- John Carr welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the agenda and meeting structure. He then introduced Ger Mackey, Chief Officer of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) to give an introduction to the LCDC.
  - Mr Mackey spoke about the LCDC including;
    - Introduction of the LCDC Members
    - Explanation of the Structure
    - Explanation of some of the key programmes and activities of the committee including SICAP, LEADER, & LECP.
  - Mr Mackey also advised the meeting of a new Community Facilities Scheme recently announced which will mean funding of up to €1,000 will be available for small capital projects. A fund of €64,000 will be available under this scheme in Wexford. Mr Mackey also mentioned possible additional funding under RAPID, but this is not yet confirmed.
  - In addition, Mr Mackey advised the meeting that with the level of Community Facilities applications received under LEADER (77 applications received) it has been recognized that there may be a need for further funding for developments of this type. As such WCC is currently drafting a Community Facilities Scheme, to be funded from Planning Levies, which it is hoped will roll out in May.

- A question was raised by Dan Kennedy regarding possible support for local Community Text Alert groups. Mr Mackey agreed to investigate and revert through the PPN SO.
- John Carr thanked Mr Mackey for his attendance and introduced the second speaker – John Hickey, Co-ordinator for South East Fisheries Local Action Group ( SE FLAG)
- Mr Hickey provided overview details of the FLAG programme nationally;
  - 7 FLAGs across the country
  - Current programme runs to 2020, with €12m available nationally
  - €1.68m will be available to SE FLAG over 6 years, with €300,000 available in 2017
- He went on to give an overview of who can apply;
  - Those within a 10km strip along the coast – however the area can be slightly further if the benefits will be felt within the 10km boundary
  - A focus on aquaculture and maritime communities – but projects can be outside of the aquaculture and maritime theme as long as they are of benefit to the communities in these areas.
  - Individuals and groups can apply
  - 15<sup>th</sup> March was the first evaluation date but applications are being accepted all the time. From evaluation there is an expectation of a timeframe of 4-6weeks from evaluation date to cheque
  - In a key difference to LEADER spend after acknowledgement letter can be funded if the project is approved.
  - He provided documentation re SE FLAG to those in attendance with all details available on [www.bim.ie](http://www.bim.ie).
- Mr Hickey provided example of previous projects that had been funded previously:
  - Harbour infrastructure
  - Security Cameras for Harbour areas
  - Access for Disability
  - Seafood Gastronomy
  - Feasibility Study for Replica Ship Project
- Mr Hickey also provided details of a website which could be reference for examples of projects from other countries – [farnet.eu](http://farnet.eu) while also encouraging groups to get in touch with him if they were considering a project application.
- John Carr thanked Mr Hickey for his attendance. He then opened the floor to general issue discussion for the two committees and identification of any issues to be brought forward to the relevant committees.
- Annette Dupuy, PPN SO raised the concern she had received from PPN members regarding the short timeframe for LEADER calls. She asked that the Reps raise the issue of the short timeframe for Community Groups and if this timeframe could not be extended that Community Groups be provided with an updated indicative timing & broad details for the planned calls currently scheduled. She also asked that the LCDC Reps request that the PPN are advised as soon as a Targeted Call is announced to maximize the time for community groups to prepare EOIs. Mary Hamilton agreed to raise these issues on behalf of the PPN at the next LCDC meeting.
- No other items discussed were to be brought forward to the committees and with that the meeting closed.