

Report on:	LCDC and LAG Meeting 24th September 2018
To:	PPN Members – Community & Voluntary Sector
cc:	Annette Dupuy
Date:	22nd October 2018
Authors:	Lucy Medlycott, Pat Rath, Peter O’Connor

By way of introduction we would like to explain briefly what the LCDC, LAG and PPN are:

1. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

Wexford LCDC comprises 19 representatives of the Local Authority, state agencies, community and voluntary sector and social partners. The LCDC is independent of the Local Authority in the discharge of its functions and has a majority of voluntary/private sector members.

The LCDC:

- has responsibility for local and community development funding;
- wishes to promote a more-joined up approach to community development;
- wants to increase community engagement;
- seeks to increase cost efficiency and value for money;
- provides a mechanism for learning and feedback;
- pursues opportunities for additional funding.

2. The Local Action Group (LAG)

Decisions on LEADER funding are made at a local level by the LAG. The LAG in Wexford is comprised of the members of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

3. The Public Participation Network (PPN)

Wexford (PPN) is a network of voluntary groups across Co Wexford. The network is involved in informing, developing, and representing its members and employs a full time Support Officer, Annette Dupuy.

The PPN has 312 approved members of which 235 belong to the Community & Voluntary sector.

The PPN can be a powerful force for communicating grass roots opinion on Community Development to the Council and State Agencies, **but only with the active participation of you, the members**. We are here to represent your views - please feel free to contact us if you have any comments, queries or suggestion.

The current representatives of the Community & Voluntary sector on the LCDC are:

Lucy Medlycott info@isacs.ie

Pat Rath patrickrath@gmail.com

Peter O’Connor poconchubhair@gmail.com

4. LCDC Meeting 24th September 2018

The above meeting was attended by all three PPN Community & Voluntary representatives. Among the items discussed were:

i. Community Enhancement Program 2018

Wexford LCDC was allocated €150,065 under the Scheme for 2018, This has been allocated as follows:

€22,000 to Wexford Working Men's Shed for accommodation, €23,188 to Wexford Men's Sheds groups across 14 projects.

€11,252 across 13 projects in Enniscorthy District, €11,252 across 12 projects in New Ross District, €11,252 across 18 projects in Wexford District. Gorey allocation yet to be finalised.

€65,000 to WWETB for the establishment of an additional Fab Lab in New Ross.

€20,045 to WLD to support 10 projects identified through SICAP.

Chief Officer Ger Mackey also reported that an additional €320,000 had also recently been made available for distribution.

ii. Wexford Taskforce on Future Skills & Education Needs LCDC Sub-Committee Meeting 19th June 2018 Report

This group reported on a recent Working Group showcase event, a Careers Promotion Pilot, and on Recognition of craft-worker service & experience.

iii. Joint meeting of Wexford County Council Healthy County Sub-Committee and the LCDC Healthy Ireland Sub-Committee 7th June 2018

The draft Wexford Healthy County Plan 2018-2020 was adopted. The Plan does not have a dedicated funding stream. Progression of the actions contained in the Plan will be the responsibility of a dedicated Healthy County Co-ordinator. Funding for this position has been applied for under the Healthy Ireland Fund 2018. It is expected that the Plan will be officially launched in September.

iv. LCDC Sub-Committee on Tackling Isolation and Loneliness among Older People in County Wexford 11th June 2018

A report on the visit to Friendly Call Cork was given and all who visited agreed it was a great model for calling older people who are isolated. The main issue is funding the service and the cost was estimated at €25,000 to €50,000 which mainly covers the wages of a Co-Ordinator to run the service. Only €5,000 was available from Council resources.

v. Chief Officer's Report

The local Government Audit Service (LGAS) undertook an Audit of the SICAP programme in Wexford in 2017.

a) Healthy Ireland

The LCDC have received confirmation from Health Ireland that the following programme of projects submitted under the 2018 application have been approved by Healthy Ireland.

2018 HEALTHY IRELAND FUND APPLICATION		
Action Number	Action Description	Action Estimated Cost €
1	Regional Health and Wellbeing Training and Awareness Programme	5,000.00
2	Healthy Woodlands and Men's Shed Project - Sports Active	8,400.00
3	Increase opportunity for schools to access swimming lessons	8,000.00
4	FAI Summer Soccer Schools Free Places	7,800.00
5	Training Programme for Kayak and Sailing - Southend FRC	12,355.00
6	Healthy Wexford Coordinator	28,445.00
7	Age Friendly Befriending Pilot Scheme	5,000.00
		0.00
		75,000.00

b) Loneliness Map

One of the projects approved under the 2017 HI programme was the development of a mapping tool that would indicate those areas most vulnerable to Loneliness. The results are interesting as those areas most vulnerable to loneliness are also those communities that are most marginalised.

c) Celtic Routes

A partner meeting took place in Wexford on the 18th & 19th September at which all the partners attended. It was agreed by the partners that disability tourism would be a key theme to the programme. The first marketing material expected to be available early in 2019.

d) Disability Tourism

It is proposed to arrange a tourism Stakeholder event on the Week beginning the 3rd December in Wexford. This event will coincide with the Celtic Routes Stakeholder event for the Counties of Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow.

e) Community Resilience Workshops

It is proposed to arrange 4 Community Resilience workshops during October/November with one in each Municipal District. The focus of the workshops will be to get communities thinking about responding to major weather events and will also seek to address other unexpected adverse events e.g. flu pandemic etc.

vi. Local Economic and Community Plan update

Wexford County Council, Community Development, Libraries and Arts and the Environment Sections have been awarded a research grant of €35,000 from Science Foundation Ireland to deliver the WexSci Science Festival from 11th to 18th November 2018.

WexSci will offer a broad STEM subject range, targeting and matching specific ages, abilities, knowledge and sectoral interests, and will be encouraging participation from harder to reach members of our community.

This new science festival will have some of the best national and international scientists, researchers and speakers.

vii. AOB

Lucy Medlycott called for the LCDC to submit a letter to Minister D’Arcy congratulating him on the recent publication of the PIC report and calling for its swift and immediate implementation in relation to securing meaningful Insurance reform for the benefit of our wider communities.

Under the agenda item ‘additions to LCDC membership of SICAP sub-committee’ Pat Rath and Brian Twomey (Social Inclusion Rep.) were appointed to the SICAP sub-committee.

5. LAG Meeting 24th September 2018

The above meeting was attended by all three PPN Community & Voluntary representatives. Among the items discussed were:

i. LEADER Program Reports:

a) Programme progress report and budget update

The current status (24/09/2018) of the LEADER program spend is as follows:

Budget	Allocation to Date	Drawdown to Date	% Allocated	Remaining Budget to Allocate	% Drawdown
€7,580,105.00	€2,357,877.46	€75,856.33	31.11%	€5,222,227.55	1.00%

b) Expressions of Interest update and review

The number of Expressions of Interest (EOI) received to date and the number converted into approved projects is shown below:

EOI's Received	% Conversion from EOI to approval
339.00	21.53%

Possible reasons for the low rate of conversion from EOI to approved projects were queried by the PPN reps. including the level of detail required during the application process, the requirement for upfront spending prior to payment and the lack of capacity of some communities to progress applications. It was acknowledged that WLD provide as much assistance as possible to applicants within the constraints of their role.

c) Project extensions

A number of project extensions and a change of supplier were approved.

d) Evaluation Committee project recommendations for consideration

Under Theme 2 (Social Inclusion) a total of €379,718.79 was approved across 13 projects to support the development of community playgrounds and adult outdoor gyms.

e) Reallocation of budgets

The launch of the National Food Initiative earlier this year with a budget of €10m for 2018-19 means that many but not all Food & Beverage applications will be processed from this additional fund rather than from our existing LEADER “Food” budget. Approval was given to transfer €200,000 from Food & Beverage to New & Existing enterprise dev., creative industries.

Theme 1 – Economic Development, Enterprise Development & Job Creation/Sub Themes:
Enterprise & Rural Tourism.

The total budget is €4,172,000 of which €1,131,250 is allocated to date. A further €800,000 (approx.) in grant applications is currently being prepared for evaluation. Greater flexibility regarding action budgets is required ensure that the overall budget is fully allocated by the end of 2020. This means the amalgamation of actions to facilitate a greater number of applications.

ii. Chief Officer’s Report

a) 3 Counties Blueway

The draft 3 Counties Blue Way Feasibility Study has been completed.

b) LAG Corporate Governance Training.

It is proposed to undertake this training by the end of 2019.

c) LEADER Forum

The second LEADER Forum took place in Tullamore on the 13th of September with Minister Michael Ring addressing the Meeting. Some 31 changes have been made to the existing program.

The Chief Officer also stressed that the LAG is not merely a grant awarding body but a is community development body. The next LEADER program in 2020 will be more people focused. He also mentioned the concept of the ‘smart village’ with integrated facilities.

Lucy Medlycott

Pat Rath

Peter O’Connor
