

**Minutes of Meeting: Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)**

**Louth Local Action Group (LAG)**

**Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 at 4.00pm**

**Location: Via Video Conference**

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- In attendance:** Ms. Joan Martin Chairperson, CE of LCC  
Cllr. Liam Reilly,  
Cllr. Dolores Minogue,  
Cllr. Eileen Tully,  
Ms. Sadie Ward-McDermott, LMETB  
Mr. Thomas McEvoy, LEO  
Mr. Kevin Moran, PPN  
Ms. Gráinne Berrill, Louth Volunteer Centre  
Ms. Alison Quail, PPN  
Ms. Elizabeth O' Reilly, PPN  
Ms. Joanne Finnegan, PPN,  
Mr. John Carroll, IFA  
Mr. Sean Farrell, Chamber of Commerce Dundalk  
Mr. Breanndán Casey, Chamber of Commerce Drogheda  
Mr. Ciaran Reid, LLP
- Officials:** Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Chief Officer  
Mr. John Lawrence, Senior Executive Officer  
Ms. Mary Deery, Administrative Officer,  
Ms. Miriam Roe, Senior Staff Officer  
Mr. Gerard Judge, Staff Officer
- Apologies:** Mr. Geordie McAteer, PPN  
Ms. Martina Ralph, HSE  
Cllr. Kevin Meenan,  
Ms. Anne Keeley, DEASP
- Guests:** Ms. Mary O' Neill, LLP
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**LCDC MATTERS:**

**LCDC Minute No. 47/2020**

**1. Minutes of LCDC meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020:**

On the proposal of Mr. Kevin Moran seconded by Mr. Ciaran Reid and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were adopted.

**LCDC Minute No. 48/2020**

**2. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising

**LCDC Minute No. 49/2020**

**3. Correspondence:**

Members noted correspondence from the Peace IV programme.

**LCDC Minute No. 50/2020**

**4. Date of the next LCDC-LAG Meeting:**

Members agreed to change the date of the December LCDC-LAG meeting from 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, at the earlier time of 3.00pm, to allow the maximum time for LEADER projects applications to be assessed and presented to committee.

**The business of the LCDC meeting concluded.**

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**LAG MATTERS:**

**LAG Minute No. 147/2020**

**1. Minutes of LAG meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020:**

On the proposal of Ms. Alison Quail seconded by Ms. Gráinne Berrill and unanimously agreed by the members the minutes of the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 were adopted.

**LAG Minute No. 148/2020**

**2. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**LAG Minute No 149/2020**

**3. LEADER Monthly Financial Reports:**

Mr. John Lawrence advised that the two number financial reports, circulated to members detailed financial information up to 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

Mr. John Lawrence referred to financial reports numbers 1 and 2, both reports were raised on the LCC accounting system detailing payments issued under the administration job code and the projects job code.

**Recommendation:** Approval of financial reports numbers 1 and 2

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Gráinne Berrill, seconded by Ms. Alison Quail financial reports 1 and 2 were approved.

**LAG Minute No 150/2020**

**4. Administration Reports:**

Mr. John Lawrence referred members to financial report number 3 which provides details of the named administration costs incurred by LLP for the months of October 2020 in the amount of €32,905.97.

**Recommendation:** Approval of financial report number 3 with an expenditure of €32,905.97 for the month of October, 2020.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Gráinne Berrill, seconded by Ms. Alison Quail financial report number 3 with an expenditure of €32,905.97 for the month of October, 2020 was approved.

**LAG Minute No 151/2020**

**5. LEADER Monthly Project Update Reports:**

Ms. Mary O'Neill informed members present that Financial Reports no.'s 4 and 5 are generated by Louth Leader Partnership

a) Report 4 provides a summary listing all of the projects that have been issued letters of offers to date. It also provides a breakdown of the value of contracts issued, budget remaining, all projects paid and amount de-committed as at 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020 totalling €3,902,071.17.

b) Report 5 provides a breakdown of progress under each of the three themes of the LDS with a further breakdown per sub theme and local objective as at 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

Both reports number 4 and 5 are for information purposes only.

**LAG Minute No. 152/2020**

**6. EOI's Rolling:**

Members were advised of the EOI's received during the month of October, 2020. Ms. Mary O'Neill advised members that the list of EOI's were for noting only, as there were no EOI's deemed ineligible.

**LAG Minute No.153/2020**

**7. Notes requiring LAG approval:**

The notes requiring LAG approval, which listed 2 projects that required proposed project extensions as per Operating Rules 8.4, change of supplier and de-commitment of funding, as per Operating Rules 8.3:

**1. Project Extension of less than 6 months:**

- a) Project Ref. 112634 to 31/03/2021

**Decision:** On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue, seconded by Mr. Kevin Moran the LAG notes for all projects were approved.

**LAG Minute No. 154/2020**

**8. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality:**

Members were reminded by Mr. John Lawrence to declare any conflict of interest based on the agenda and meeting documents. Members were also reminded on the need to ensure confidentiality around matters discussed generally at the LCDC/LAG meetings and in particular for LEADER projects.

**LAG Minute No. 155/2020**

**9. LEADER Projects – 21LDRLOU112417**

Project Code:	21LDRLOU112417
Promoter Code:	4654
Absenters:	Conflicts of Interest: Ciarán Reid (LLP – Community) For Quorum Requirements: None
Agreed by LAG:	To fully approve the project with funding at a rate of 100% up to a maximum of €19,510.28 of eligible cost. No additional conditions apply.
Has Quorum Requirements been met:	Yes

**Decision:** On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue seconded by Ms. Alison Quail, the above project was approved

**LAG Minute No. 156/2020**

**10. LEADER Projects – 21LDRLOU113952**

Project Code:	<b>21LDRLOU113952</b>
Promoter Code:	9265
Absenters:	Conflicts of Interest: None For Quorum Requirements: None
Agreed by LAG:	To fully approve the project with funding at a rate of 75% up to a maximum of €16,003.50 of eligible cost. No additional conditions apply.
Has Quorum Requirements been met:	Yes

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott seconded by Cllr. Liam Reilly, the above project was approved.

**LAG Minute No. 157/2020**

**11. LEADER Projects – 21LDRLOU114025**

Project Code:	<b>21LDRLOU114025</b>
Promoter Code:	10272
Absenters:	Conflicts of Interest: Mr. Thomas McEvoy (Louth LEO – Public); Mr. Sean Farrell (Dundalk Chamber of Commerce – Community) For Quorum Requirements: None
Agreed by LAG:	To fully approve the project with funding at a rate of 50% up to a maximum of €10,578.00 of eligible cost. No additional conditions apply.
Has Quorum Requirements been met:	Yes

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Kevin Moran seconded by Ms. Gráinne Berrill, the above project was approved

**LAG Minute No. 158/2020**

**12. LEADER Projects – 21LDRLOU114033**

Project Code:	<b>21LDRLOU114033</b>
Promoter Code:	5141
Absenters:	Conflicts of Interest: None For Quorum Requirements: None
Agreed by LAG:	To fully approve the project with funding at a rate of 50% up to a maximum of €8,243.75 of eligible cost. No additional conditions apply.
Has Quorum Requirements been met:	Yes

**Decision:** On the proposal of Cllr. Dolores Minogue, seconded by Ms. Alison Quail, the above project was approved.

**LAG Minute No. 159/2020**

**13. LEADER Projects – 21LDRLOU1140080**

Project Code:	21LDRLOU114080
Promoter Code:	4045
Absenters:	Conflicts of Interest: None For Quorum Requirements: None
Agreed by LAG:	To fully approve the project with funding at a rate of 90% up to a maximum of €32,381.55 of eligible cost. No additional conditions apply.
Has Quorum Requirements been met:	Yes

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Alison Quail, seconded by Cllr. Dolores Minogue, the above project was approved.

**LAG Minute No. 160/2020**

**14. RDP Sub Group:**

**a) DRCD Request – Avant Garde Project Ref: 21LDRLOU110826**

The RDP Sub Group were requested, by the LAG, to consider the recommendation made by Mr. Tim Daly, DRCD Inspector, in his report of 23rd September, 2020.

All documentation pertaining to this review was circulated to the RDP subgroup members for consideration, prior to their meeting on 14th November, 2020.

Cllr. Liam Reilly, RDP Sub Group Chairman, read the notes from this meeting of 14th November, 2020 to the members.

The RDP Sub-group, having considered the documentation submitted to the DRCD on appeal on 4th September, 2020 find that it does not materially alter the information provided with the original project application of 9th September, 2019, or new information which was submitted for review at the RDP Sub Group meeting, held on 16th June, 2020. Therefore, the decision of the LAG to refuse funding for the project made on 20th July, 2020 and for the reasons set out in that decision, should remain and the project should not be supported.

Having considered all of the aforementioned the following is the unanimous recommendation of the RDP Sub-group:

**Recommendation:** The RDP Sub Group consider that the information submitted on appeal to the DRCD, together with the documentation submitted as part of their review held on 16th June, 2020, does not provide sufficient reason to overturn the decision of the LAG, which was to refuse funding to project no: 21LDRLOU110826, made on 20th July, 2020. Therefore, it is recommended to the LAG that the project not be supported.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Ms. Joan Martin, seconded by Ms. Sadie Ward McDermott, it was agreed that project no: 21LDRLOU110826 – Avant Garde not be supported

**b) Re-allocation of Funding:**

Cllr. Liam Reilly advised the members that, as we approach the end of this LEADER Programme, it is necessary to consider the re-allocation of funding to facilitate projects which will be brought before the LAG meeting in December, 2020.

1. **Recommendation to the LAG:** To move funding, totalling €81,611.61, from the following SAs to SA.3: Activity & Adventure Tourism Product Development (€62,529.29) and SA.4: Alternative Accommodation Facilities Provision (€19,082.32)
  - Move € 53.82 from SA1: Visitor Destination Promotion & Marketing
  - Move € 7,480.51 from SA2: Cultural & Heritage Tourism Product Development
  - Move €20,052.46 from SA5: Rural Tourism Capacity Building & Training
  - Move €14,000.00 from SA6: Rural Tourism: Signs & Signposting
  - Move €10,942.50 from SA7: Rural Tourism: New Technologies
  - Move €16,017.49 from SA8: Support & Development of Rural Micro Enterprise Sector
  - Move €11,402.40 from SA14: Broadband Skills Development
  - Move € 1,662.43 from SA15: Broadband Capital Supports

**TOTAL: €81,611.61**

**Rationale:** Advertising campaigns for SA's 1,2,5,6,7,8,14 & 15 held in November 2019, March 2020, July 2020, September 2020, October 2020 and Targeted Calls in February 2017 for SA2 and in November 2019 for SA15. Despite these ongoing animation efforts no more projects have been forthcoming. The amounts listed below would be better utilised if moved to SA.3: Activity & Adventure Tourism Product Development (€62,529.29) and SA.4: Alternative Accommodation Facilities Provision (€19,082.32)

2. **Recommendation to the LAG:** To move funding of €36,298.41 from SA12: Support & Development of Tidy Towns Initiatives to SA.13: Amenity & Leisure Facilities Enhancement.

**Rationale:** Advertising Campaigns held in November 2019 and September 2020 for SA12. Despite these ongoing animation efforts no projects have been forthcoming. It is felt that the funding outlined above would be better utilised if moved to SA12: Support & Development of Tidy Towns Initiatives to SA.13: Amenity & Leisure Facilities Enhancement.

3. **Recommendation to the LAG:** To move funding, totalling €46,011.70, from the following SAs to SA.13: Amenity & Leisure Facilities Enhancement (€13,616.62) and SA.20: Youth Activity, Arts & Recreation Initiatives (€32,395.08)
  - Move €42,954.82 from SA16: Community Facilities
  - Move € 427.88 from SA18: Youth Animation Facilities
  - Move € 2,629.00 from SA19: Rural Youth Entrepreneurship Supports

**TOTAL: €46,011.70**

**Rationale:** Targeted Calls in February 2017 and January 2020 for SA16 and a Targeted Call in April 2017 for SA 18 and an Advertising Campaign in June 2020 for

SA19 have yielded no further projects. It is considered that the funding outlined above would be better utilised in SA.13: Amenity & Leisure Facilities Enhancement (€13,616.62) and SA.20: Youth Activity, Arts & Recreation Initiatives (€32,395.08).

**4. Recommendation to the LAG:** To move funding of €6,592.34 from SA21: Awareness Building: Water Management Initiatives to SA.22: Water Management Capital Support.

**Rationale:** A Targeted Call was held in February 2017 and an Advertising Campaign November 2019 for SA21. However despite these efforts no further projects have been forthcoming. Therefore it was considered that this funding, as outlined above, would be better utilised in SA 22: Water Management Support

**5. Recommendation to the LAG:** To move funding, totalling €80,806.37, from the following SAs to SA26: Renewable Energy Capital Supports

- Move € 293.06 from SA23: Biodiversity Animation
- Move €33,930.84 from SA24: Biodiversity Initiatives Capital Support
- Move €46,582.47 from SA25: Renewable Energy Awareness

**TOTAL €80,806.37**

**Rationale:** Advertising Campaigns held in December 2019 for SA23 & SA24, in November 2019 and October 2020 for SA25 and Targeted Calls in February 2017 & May 2019 for SA24 and February 2017 for SA25. Despite these efforts no further projects have come on stream. Therefore it is considered that this funding, as outlined above, would be better utilised in SA 26: Renewable Energy Capital Supports.

In addition to the specific animation campaigns outlined above, Louth LEADER Partnership staff have attended numerous promotional events throughout the County from 2017 to date and have an active social media presence and all adverts are circulated through the PPN.

**Decision:** On the proposal of Cllr Dolores Minogue, seconded by Ms. Joan Martin, the above recommendations to re-allocate funding was agreed.

### LAG Minute No. 161/2020

#### **15. LAG Correspondence:**

- Circular 12/2020 – GDPR & Brexit:

Following the end of the transition phase of the UK's exit from the European Union on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, co-operation between LAGs in Ireland and LAGs in the UK including Northern Ireland will still be permissible for Co-operation projects approved before 31 December 2020. After this date, the UK including Northern Ireland will become a 'third country' for the purposes of data protection law





- Circular 13/2020 – VAT Status Verification:

Owing to the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 virus in receiving confirmation from Revenue of the project promoters VAT status, and until further notice, the LAG/Implementing Partner may avail of either: a Revenue e-mail Verification or an ROS VAT Number Validation Application.

**LAG Minute No. 162/2020**

**16. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the LCDC/LAG will take place on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2020 at the earlier time of 3.00pm via Video Conferencing.

**The business of the LAG meeting concluded**

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Minutes confirmed at meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Chairperson AMW