



Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú
Louth Local Community Development
Committee

Annual Report 2019

Mr. Liam Reilly, MCC, Chairperson, Louth Local Community Development Committee

Mr. Paddy Donnelly, Chief Officer, Louth Local Community Development Committee

Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2019

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr. Liam Reilly
Louth County Council	Cllr. Colm Markey replaced by Cllr. Ruairi O' Murchú ratified by LCC June 2019
Louth County Council	Cllr Pearse McGeough replaced by Cllr. Oliver Tully ratified by LCC June 2019 Cllr. Oliver Tully replaced by Cllr. Eileen Tully ratified by LCC September 2019
Louth County Council	Cllr. Dolores Minogue
Louth County Council Official	Joan Martin
Louth County Council Official	Thomas Mc Evoy
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Anne Keeley
HSE	Annette McDonnell
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciaran Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Larry Magnier replaced by Alison Quail ratified by LCC May 2019
Community & Voluntary Interests	Joanne Finnegan
Social Inclusion	Kevin Moran
Social Inclusion	Geordie McAteer
Environment	Breffni Martin replaced by Elizabeth O' Reilly ratified by LCC May 2019
Farming	Matthew McGreehan
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Pat McCormick
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Breannán Casey
Louth Volunteer Centre	Gráinne Berrill

A Message from the Chairperson



Welcome to the 2019 Annual Report of the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The LCDC has primary responsibility for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding and the preparation and review of elements of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). The LCDC provides oversight and coordination of a number of programmes and funds including the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), the Communities Enhancement Programme (CEP) and the Healthy Ireland initiative. Louth LCDC is also central to the LEADER and the rural development programme. Oversight and co-ordination of the various programmes is supported and augmented by Louth County Council, Pobal, and the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). This year saw the second year of the implementation of SICAP 2 (2018 – 2022) and sees continuity in the delivery of this programme by Louth Leader Partnership Company. SICAP facilitates communities to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders using a broad range of supports and interventions. Louth Leader Partnership Company has continued to support disadvantaged communities and individuals throughout the county through targeted programmes focusing on individuals and groups. Rural development funding for County is administered by Louth Leader Partnership and overseen by the LEADER Local Action Group (LAG). Funding for projects escalated during 2019 and the challenge is to implement the funding over the course of the programme to 2020. Another cornerstone of the LCDC is the input from the Public Participation Network (PPN), through the five PPN representatives on the committee and the link they make to the PPN. This link is vital to the relevance of the LCDC for our communities and the valuable and positive contribution they make to civic life in Louth. The work of the LCDC is supported by the staff in the Community section of Louth County Council. The success and relevance of the LCDC is heavily dependent on the commitment and expertise of this staff. I would like to commend the Director of Services and Chief Officer, Paddy Donnelly and all the staff in the Community section for their work in developing and enhancing structures in the LCDC and partnerships with communities, government agencies, the business community and stakeholder groups.

Liam Reilly, MCC, Chairperson Louth LCDC

Introduction

Local Community Development Committees (LCDC's) are required, under the provisions of Section 128B of the Local Government Act 2001, to prepare, adopt and submit an annual report to the local authority, no later than the 31st March each year, in respect of the performance of its functions in the previous calendar year. The annual report should be coordinated with the preparation of the local authority's annual report and include an outline of Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) activities in the relevant period. At a minimum the report should cover each of the LCDC functions, as outlined in the Act, but also other areas of activity such as development, review or implementation of community elements of the plan and contributing to the economic objectives of the Plan, both in its development and implementation.

Purpose and Function of Louth LCDC

The committee is made up of representatives from the local government and local development sectors, public bodies and representatives of social, economic, environmental and community interests.

Specifically the LCDC is responsible for the strategic coordination, governance, planning and oversight of local development expenditure by local authorities on behalf of the state or by other local development agencies and structures.

The functions of the LCDC are set out in Section 128A of Local Government 2001 (as inserted by section 36 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014). They are as follows:-

- Prepare and adopt the community elements of the 6 year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).
- Implement or arrange for the implementation of the community elements of the LECP.
- Review the 'community elements' of the plan at least once over the six year period and amend as considered necessary.
- Monitor and review implementation of the community elements and revise actions and strategies as appropriate.
- Coordinate the management and oversee the implementation of the programmes that have been approved either by the local authority or by agreement between the LCDC and other public bodies.
- Ensure effectiveness, coordination, consistency and the avoidance of duplication between publicly funded local and community development programmes.
- Optimise resources for the benefit of local communities and improve the efficiency with which publicly funded local and community development resources are used.
- Consider and adopt a statement in respect of the economic elements of the Plan to be prepared by the local authorities.
- Prepare and submit an annual report on the performance of its duties no later than the 31st March each year in relation to the performance of its functions for the preceding year.

Meetings Held in 2019

Louth LCDC meetings were held on the following dates during 2019:-

- 21st January 2019
- 18th February 2019
- 25th March 2019
- 15th April 2019
- 20th May 2019
- 17th June 2019
- 15th July 2019
- 16th September 2019
- 21st October 2019
- 18th November 2019
- 16th December, 2019

Following a survey of all members regarding the timing of LCDC meetings the members unanimously agreed at the November meeting of the LCDC that the day of the meeting will remain unchanged (third Monday of each month, except August) but the time of meetings will change from 3.00pm to 4.00pm.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) - Community Goals

Notable achievements in 2019 include:-

- Development of a Joint Louth Meath Migrant Integration Strategy
- Development of a Mid Louth Youth Action Plan
- Supporting volunteering for the Fleadh in Drogheda
- Purchase of two community buses
- PPN membership rose to 320 registered groups
- Development of a Social Enterprise Strategy for County Louth
- Traveller Accommodation Programme adopted in July 2019
- Louth Age Friendly hosted three housing workshops on the principles of Universal Design
- 395 children's events hosted in Louth libraries
- Community park completed at Coláiste Chú Chulainn.



PPN meeting in mid Louth

During 2019 the LCDC provided oversight in the allocation of funding across various funding programmes.

Health Ireland Fund 2019 - Strand 1 Round 3

Project Lead	Project Title	Allocation
Louth County Council	Tobacco Free Playgrounds	€7,500
Dundalk Youth Services	Sexual Health Programme	€15,000
ALONE	Independent Living and Care for Older People in Their homes and Communities	€28,000
Social Farming Ireland and Louth Leader Partnership	Social Farming	€12,000
North Regional Drugs Task Force	Louth Young People's Peer Health and Wellbeing Programme	€15,000
Healthy Ireland Co-ordinator		€75,000
Louth County Council	Community Mental Health Fund Action: Small Grants	€30,000
Louth Leader Partnership	Community Mental Health Fund Action: Wellness Programme	€32,050
Louth County Council in partnership with North Leinster Citizens Information Services	Community Engagement	€30,000
		Total €244,550.00

Community Enhancement Programme 2019

Area	No of Applications	Allocation
County	8	€30,142.00
Dundalk	27	€65,200.00
Drogheda	15	€50,200.00
Total	65	€145,542.00

Community Enhancement Programme 2019: Ring-Fenced Fund for Men's Shed

Name of Shed	Allocation
Tullyallen Men's Shed	€1,582.60
Mid-Louth Men's Shed	€1,582.60
Cooley Peninsula Men's Shed	€1,582.60
Drogheda Men's Shed	€1,582.60
Dundalk Men's Shed	€1,582.60
Dunleer Men's Shed	€1,249.00
	Total
	€9,162.00

National Community Weekend - The Big Hello 2019

Name of Group	Allocation
Connect Family Resource Centre,	€800.00
Claddagh's Treasure Pre-School	€300.00
Holy Family Community Crèche CLG	€400.00
Mid Louth Men's Shed	€300.00
Haggarstown & Blackrock Community Centre	€400.00
Monasterboice Tourism & Tidy Towns	€400.00
Grange & District Residents Assoc.	€300.00
Omeath Tidy Towns	€400.00
Castleguard Residents Assoc	€300.00
Meadebawn Residents	€299.75
North Louth Dementia Café	€400.00
St Patrick's Scout Group	€300.00
Omeath District Development	€400.00
Phase Innovate	€600.00
Carlingford Community & Tidy Towns Association	€254.37
Ashfield Drogheda Residents Association	€300.00
Dundalk Men's Sheds	€200.00
Carlingford Community Development	€287.88
Co Louth Beekeepers Association	€300.00
Cúchulainn Celtic Strings	€300.00
Baltray Residents & District Association	€300.00
disABILITY Louth	€300.00
Dundalk Youth Centre	€270.00
Artisans	€274.15
Russian Bridge	€340.00
DeeHub	€560.00
	Total
	€9,286.15

Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP 2018 - 2022)

Following a public tendering process for the delivery of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2022 in late 2017, Louth LCDC awarded the contract to Louth LEADER Partnership Company.

In 2019 SICAP supported 66 community groups and registered 1043 individuals:-

- 66 community developed community plans
- 15 groups received small grants
- 1018 individuals engaged in lifelong learning labour market supports
- 63 individuals were supported into employment
- 99 individuals referred by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection were supported to establish their own businesses through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
- 52 individuals received education grants
- 28 individuals received enterprise grants
- 1 Social Enterprise received a social enterprise grant

LEADER

The LEADER Programme 2014-2020 was launched in Co. Louth in February 2017 with a project budget of €4.5million to be allocated to projects under three measures:-

- Economic and Enterprise Development and Job Creation
- Social Inclusion
- Rural Environment

Notable Achievements in 2019 included:

- 2019 saw the Local Action Group (LAG) approve funding of €1.26 million to projects across all three measures.
- 50 contracts were issued to project promoters across the County.
- Biodiversity Training and Water Resources Management Training was rolled out in two locations across the County with 50 participants taking part in the training.
- Comhaltas Ceoltóirí na hÉireann was awarded grant aid of €85,727 towards the infrastructural costs of the Fleadh.
- Funding was granted to Carol Leavy Joyce under the Enterprise Development measure towards the production costs of 'Mná na hÉireann'.
- The LAG also awarded grant aid to a number of community projects including the upgrading of community centres/facilities.
- Redeemer Centre was allocated €198,822 for the upgrade of the Centre in Cox's Demesne.
- 142 Expressions of Interest for Funding were received in 2019 by the implementing partner, Louth Leader Partnership. Louth County Council is the lead financial partner for the LEADER Programme in Co. Louth.
- From 01/02/2019, local authorities in their role as lead financial partner in each LCDC area were tasked with undertaking Article 48 checks on projects and claims.



Bio Diversity Training Day



St. Fechin's Centre, Termonfeckin

LEADER Programme in numbers:

	TOTAL	2017	2018	2019
Expressions of Interest (EOI) Received	428	159	127	142
EOI eligible for Funding	95.10%	94.97%	95.28%	97.88%
Ineligible for Funding	4.90%	5.03%	4.72%	2.11%
Contracts Issued	103	19	34	50
Initial Project Meetings	719	141	267	311
Site Visits	281	41	104	136
Website Visits	9588	3612	2453	3523
LAG funding approval 2019	€2,448,744	€220,775	€962,758	€1,265,211
Provisional Approval			€257,459	€222,101
Total			€1,220,217	€1,487,312

Peace IV Programme

The PEACE IV Programme is a unique cross border initiative, financed through the European Regional Development fund (ERDF) of the European Union and managed by the Special EU Programme Body (SEUPB). It has been designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.

The programme in Co Louth targets those groups particularly impacted by the legacy of the troubles/conflict e.g. young and older people, women, the faith community, victims and survivors, those suffering from physical or mental disability arising from the legacy of violence, political ex-prisoners and displaced persons.

Implementation has been progressing satisfactorily on the live projects throughout 2019 and a positive impact is being evidenced, particularly in relation to youth projects.

Some highlights for 2019 include:-

- *Muirhevnamor Peace Programme* – Targeting 200 young people through Youth Leadership and Active Citizenship programmes that focus on personal and communal capacity-building. This project is progressing well and will be completed in April 2020.

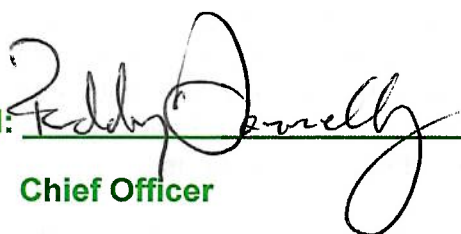
- *Anti-Clockwise* – is a large-scale cross-border community outreach project that aims to empower and enrich the lives of children in Louth and South Armagh by bringing young people between the ages of 7 and 16 together, from different schools and neighbourhoods, to participate in a large-scale production of musical excellence. This project is progressing and is due to be completed in June 2020.
- *The Cross Border Youth Council Networking Project* - The Cross Border Youth Council Networking Project brings young people together from both sides of the border to open dialogue around common issues and to develop initiatives to raise awareness, influence policy and to bring young people's unique perspective to decision making. This project is unique, as it will develop a network between Youth Councils in Louth, Cavan, Monaghan, Dungannon, Armagh and Newry and Mourne. This project is ongoing and is due to be completed in December 2020.
- *Small Grants Programme* - To provide a small grants programme, this will be delivered via an open Public Call. The contract to administer the project was awarded in the last quarter of 2019 and the project will continue until the end of 2020. The budget is €435,082.20.



Cross border



Muirhevnamor Peace Programme

Signed: 
 Chief Officer

Date: 20th February 2020