



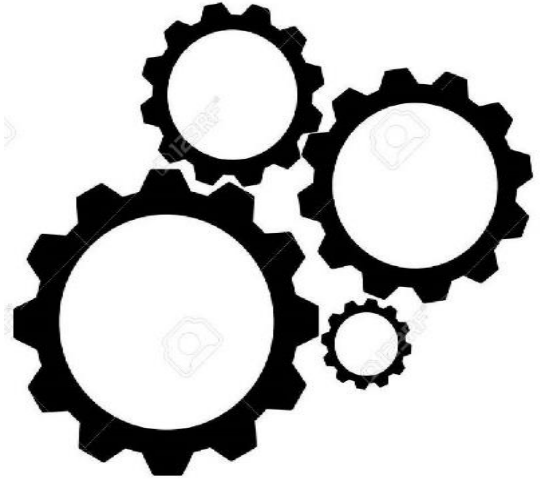
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú
Louth Local Community Development
Committee

Annual Report 2021

**Ms. Joan Martin, Chairperson, Louth Local Community Development
Committee**

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

LOUTH LCDC 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



**€366K AWARDED TO LEADER
PROJECTS IN THE TRANSITIONAL
PROGRAMME**



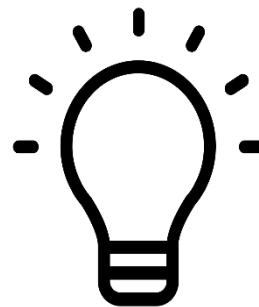
**32 INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED
ENTERPRISE
GRANTS**



2 FUNDS ADOPTED



**71 COMMUNITY
GROUPS RECEIVED
DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORTS**



**909 INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED
THROUGH LIFELONG
LEARNING**



**€145K AWARDED
UNDER COMMUNITY
ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAMME**



Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2021

Public Sector	
Louth County Council	Cllr. Liam Reilly
Louth County Council	Cllr. Kevin Meenan
Louth County Council	Cllr. Eileen Tully
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	Martina Ralph replaced by Bridie Pepper ratified by LCC October 2021
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciarán Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Alison Quail
Community & Voluntary Interests	Joanne Finnegan
Social Inclusion	Kevin Moran replaced by Bernardine Quinn ratified by LCC July 2021
Social Inclusion	Geordie McAteer replaced by Carol Murphy ratified by LCC July 2021
Environment	Elizabeth O'Reilly
Farming	John Carroll
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Sean Farrell
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Breandán Casey replaced by Steven Rice ratified by LCC June 2021
Louth Volunteer Centre	Gráinne Berrill

A Message from the Chairperson



Welcome to the 2021 Annual Report of the Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC).

The LCDC is required to prepare and submit a report to the Local Authority on its activities during the last year. The LCDC provides strategic leadership at a local level and is responsible for the planning and oversight of a community funds at local development. The LCDC is also responsible for the delivery of the Local Economic Community Plan using a collaborative approach across the membership.

Although Louth LCDC continued to hold its meetings on a virtual platform we have successfully achieved all proceedings in a professional and businesslike manner. I thank the members for their continued support in attending the meetings and effectively getting through the work in a timely manner.

The promotion of funding programmes is a central motivational factor of the LCDC. Despite the COVID 19 restrictions during 2021 the LCDC continued to distribute funding programmes including SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme), the CEP (Communities Enhancement Programme), CEF-R2 (Covid 19 Emergency Fund – Round 2), and the latest iteration of the Healthy Ireland initiative.

Louth LCDC is also central to the Rural Development and Transitional LEADER programme 2021-23, and 2021 saw the Local Action Group (LAG) approve funding of €366,000.00 to projects throughout the county.

This year saw the fourth year of the implementation of SICAP 2 (2018 – 2022) and ensures continuity in the delivery of this programme by Louth Leader Partnership Company. SICAP provides funding to tackle poverty and social exclusion at a local level through local engagement and partnership between disadvantaged individuals, community organisations and public sector agencies.

Input from the Public Participation Network (PPN), through the five PPN representatives on the LCDC committee and the link they make to the PPN is invaluable. 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.

Joan Martin, 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.

Meetings Held in 2021

Louth LCDC meetings were held on the following dates during 2021:-

- 18th January 2021
- 15th February 2021
- 15th March 2021
- 20th April 2021
- 18th May 2021
- 15th June 2021
- 20th July 2021
- 21st September 2021
- 19th October 2021
- 16th November 2021
- 21st December 2021

Due to COVID-19 and continued restrictions and in consultation with the members all meetings in 2021 were held via correspondence utilising Zoom video conferencing.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) - Community Goals

The Louth LCDC has prepared a six year local community plan which includes actions to tackle poverty and disadvantage, support enterprise, employment and training, develop community infrastructure and the promotion of economic development. The actions (183 in number) are contained within eight overarching goals as follows:

Notable achievements in 2021 include:-

- LCDC Meetings remain on a virtual platform ensuring business continuity.
- Approved funding towards the purchase of one community bus.
- €366K in LEADER Funding approved for economic, social and rural projects.
- PPN membership rose by 20% to 484 registered groups
- Continued communication to community groups through the newly developed PPN website and the Friday Communiqué
- The new Louth Volunteering Framework 2020-2023 was approved.

During 2021 the LCDC provided oversight in the allocation of funding across various funding programmes:

Community Enhancement Fund Round 2 CEF-R2 (Covid – 19 Emergency Fund Round-2)

The LCDC at its meeting on the 15th March 2021 approved funding, under the CEF-R2, in the amount of €55,193.00. Funding was allocated across each Municipal District Area. The Dundalk District received €27,426.00, Drogheda District received funding of €21,097.00 and Ardee District receiving €6,670.00. In total 25 different projects were awarded funding from a total of 32 applications.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total CEF-R2 of €55,193.00 was allocated throughout the county:

Area	No of Applications	Allocation
Ardee	3	€6,670.00
Dundalk	15	€27,426.00
Drogheda	14	€21,097.00
Total	32	€55,193.00

Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2021

The LCDC at its meeting on the 20th September 2021 approved funding, under the CEP, in the amount of €145,542.00. Funding was allocated across each Municipal District Area. The Dundalk District received €74,664.00, Drogheda District received funding of €57,480.00 and Ardee District receiving €13,398.00. In total 47 different projects were awarded funding from a total of 61 applications.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total CEP 2021 of €145,542.00 was allocated throughout the county:

Area	No of Applications	Allocation
Ardee	7	€13,398.00
Dundalk	37	€74,664.00
Drogheda	17	€57,480.00
Total	61	€145,542.00

Healthy Ireland Fund R3: Community Mental Health Fund (CMHF)

The LCDC at its meeting on the 20th September 2021 approved funding, under the Healthy Ireland Fund Round 3: CMHF Small Grants Scheme, in the amount of €30,000.00. In total 8 different projects were awarded funding.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total CMHF- Small Grants Scheme of €30,000.00 was allocated throughout the county:

Name Of Group	Grant Amount Approved
Autism Support Louth and Meath	€4,680.00
Cooley Connect Well	€4,000.00
New Leaf	€5,000.00
Omeath District Development	€4,000.00
Youth Work Ireland- Louth- Craobh Rua	€2,121.00
Roche Emmets All-Star Inclusion Group	€2,326.00
SNAIL- Special Needs Assistants	€2,873.00
Turas	€5,000.00
TOTAL	€30,000.00

mPower Community Grant

The LCDC at its meeting on the 20th September 2021 approved funding, under the mPower Community Grant programme, in the amount of €20,000.00. The Community Grants were advertised through the Louth and Monaghan Public Participation Networks and also a targeted call to older people’s services in both counties.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total mPower Community Grant fund of €20,000.00 was allocated throughout the county:

Name of Group	Grant Amount Approved
Siel Bleu	€5000.00
Drogheda & District Support 4 Older People	€5000.00
Connect Family Resource Centre	€5000.00
Haggardstown & Blackrock Community Centre	€5000.00
TOTAL	€20,000.00

Social Enterprise Small Capital Grants Scheme (SESCGS) 2021:

The LCDC at its meeting on the 20th December 2021 approved funding, under the SESC GS, in the amount of €32,631.25. In total 7 different projects were awarded funding.

The Social Enterprise Small Capital Grants Scheme 2021 will provide funding for the purchase of equipment, the carrying out of repairs and refurbishment to enable social enterprises to improve their service delivery.

The scheme supports one of the key commitments in the National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022 – “Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprises”.

The table below sets out a summary of how the total SESC GS of €32,631.35 was allocated throughout the county:

Social Enterprise Small Capital Grants Scheme 2021			
Application Social Enterprise	Name of Social Enterprise	Amount Requested	Grant Amount Approved
1	An Tain Arts Centre	€2,062.20	€2,062.20
2	The Cottage Market Drogheda	€3,500.00	€3,500.00
3	Moneymore Childcare Centre	€8,000.00	€8,000.00
4	Culture Connect	€5,000.00	€4,000.00
5	Dundalk Media Centre CLG	€1,000.00	€1,000.00
6	Habitat Re-Store	€7,500.00	€4,069.15
7	Tredagh Lodge Day Care Centre	€15,000.00	€10,000.00
TOTAL		€42,062.20	€32,631.35

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



In 2021 SICAP supported 71 community groups and registered 909 individuals.

- 71 community groups received developmental supports
- 13 Local Community Groups received small grants
- 909 individuals engaged in lifelong learning labour market supports
- 61 individuals were supported into employment
- 114 individuals referred by the Department of Social Protection were supported to establish their own businesses through the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance
- 54 individuals received education grants
- 32 individuals received enterprise grants
- 7 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

In 2021, Minister Heather Humphries announced a Transitional LEADER Programme, which resulted in an allocation of €1.8m for County Louth.

This funding was to deliver support for rural development projects, initiated at a local level, in order to re-vitalise rural areas and create jobs. A particular focus was on the following high-level priorities:

High Level Priority 1	Work closely with communities, particularly new applicants building their capacity in preparation for the next programme period
High Level Priority 2	Promote projects which support communities in a post-COVID environment
High Level Priority 3	Support job creation, entrepreneurship, enterprise development and innovation in a post-COVID and/or post Brexit environment
High Level Priority 4	Explore and develop projects for funding in thematic areas which are likely to feature strongly in the next EU – funded programme

- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €342,448.89 in 2021. Grant aid awarded ranged in size from €5,074.15 to €99,750.00 €199,701.70.
- In addition, Grant aid of €23,561.25 was secured for County Louth under the LEADER Food initiative.
- 9 contracts were issued to project promoters throughout the County.
- A number of training programmes were rolled out in 2021 including Introduction to Composting, Appreciation of the Hills, River Invasive Species Training with approximately 40 participants taking part in training
- Drummond House Garlic Limited was awarded grant aid of €18,712.50 towards the purchase of processing equipment for the garlic growing business at Baltray in County Louth.
- Funding of €197,887.50 was granted to two businesses in County Louth to purchase specialised equipment to assist their business expansion plans.
- The LAG awarded, under the Activity/Adventure Tourism measure, a grant of €5,074.16 to Dundalk Chamber of Commerce which will enable them to host the Cross Border Tourism Conference in 2022.
- Grant aid was awarded to a number of wide-ranging community projects including the upgrading of a community centre/facility and a training programme which the DeeHub in Ardee will deliver.
- 88 Expressions of Interest for Funding were received in 2021 by the implementing partner, Louth LEADER Partnership. Louth County Council is the lead financial partner for the LEADER Programme in Co. Louth.
- A total of 9 contracts were issued to promoters in 2021
- The Local Authority, in their role as lead financial partner, continued to carry out Article 48 checks on all project application and claims.

LEADER:

Transitional LEADER Programme in numbers:

	TOTAL	2021
Expressions of Interest (EOI) Received	88	88
EOI eligible for Funding	86	86
Ineligible for Funding	2	2
Contracts Issued	7	7
Food Contracts Issued	2	2
Claims Processed	86	86
Initial Project Meetings	88	88
Site Visits	108	108
Website Visits	2972	2972
Transitional Funding Projects	€342,448.89	€342,448.89
LEADER Food Initiative	€23,561.25	€23,561.25
Total	€366,010.14	€366,010.14

The European & Cross Border Office



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. Most of the programme delivery in 2021 took place online, with some live content happening when restriction levels permitted. 11 out of the 17 projects reach conclusion in 2021 and closing events were held to showcase achievements and demonstrate positive impacts. The PEACE IV Programme will complete all remaining projects by September 2022. To date 2896 participants have taken part in Louth PEACE IV Projects.

Peace Plus Programme 2021 - 2027

PEACE PLUS is a new funding programme, building on the work of the previous PEACE and INTERREG Programmes. The programme reflects the importance of peace-building activity, but will also focus on the importance of actions that will contribute positively to the economy, building prosperity and adjusting to the new environment and challenges we face. A public consultation for the new programme started on **10 March 2021 and closed on 12 May 2021**. There are 6 thematic areas and the proposed budget allocation for this programme is €1.1b. The PEACE PLUS Programme was approved in 2021 by the Irish Government, the NI Executive and the North South Ministerial Council. It is hoped that the programme will be approved by the European Commission in early 2022. Some preliminary work took place in 2021 with the 13 participating Local Councils and a consortium of consultants were put in place to assist. A pre-development online workshop took place in December to provide guidance and support for the Area 3.2 Youth Programme. SEUPB upgraded their website and included a PEACE Programme Learning Platform. This platform is an online, publicly available archive, detailing over 22,500 Peace projects.

PEACE IV Highlights from 2021:

We were delighted when Louth PEACE IV's Dundalk Outcomers 'Open Dialogue' project was selected to be showcased in the Autumn 2021 edition of the **SEUPB Corporate Magazine - Your EU**. Dundalk Outcomers LGBT Support Service and CaraFriend LGBT+ Youth Service in Belfast, came together to take part in a six-month cross-border project, which concluded in August 2021. Project Manager Bernadine Quinn in the article commented 'After only two meetings the young people are making new friends and sharing their experience and showing that all of us have more similarities than differences and share anxieties around our sexuality and gender identity. As we look to the future, we see that the Open Dialogue Project will create long lasting friendships and more informed opinions and great memories for all involved'.

New Projects Commenced in 2021

Four new projects were tendered and commenced development in 2021 including Community Capacity Building (BPR); Adapting Aftermath Archives (CYP); Peter's Hill (SSS) and Dundalk World War 1 Memorial (SSS); Decisions to appoint programme delivery partners were approved for the following projects, but did not commence in 2021: The Crossing Field, Drogheda (SSS) and Muirhevnamór Community Centre Extension, Dundalk (SSS).

Publications

Outputs from three of the PEACE IV projects in 2021 resulted in the publication of the following:

- 'In My Own Write' a book of poetry and prose – from 'From Oriel to Brexit' project.
- 'Ardee and the Irish Revolution' – from Small Grant Programme's 'Ardee Heritage' Project.
- 'Aftermath, the legacy of conflict' a resource manual – from 'Adapting Aftermath Archive' project.

Signed: 
Chief Officer

Date: 21st February 2022