



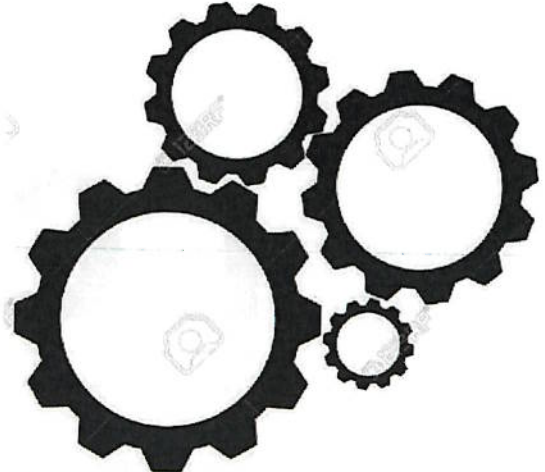
Coiste um Fhorbairt Pobail Áitiúil Lú
Louth Local Community Development
Committee

Annual Report 2022

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

**Mr. Joe McGuinness, Chief Officer, Louth Local Community Development
Committee**

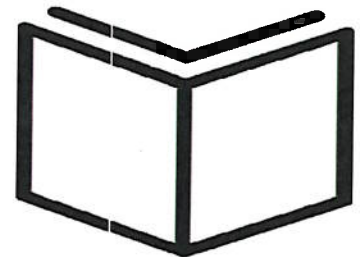
**LOUTH LCDC
2022
HIGHLIGHTS**



**€1,466,598 AWARDED TO LEADER
PROJECTS IN THE TRANSITIONAL
PROGRAMME**



**28 INDIVIDUALS
RECEIVED
ENTERPRISE
GRANTS**



**1,045 INDIVIDUALS
SUPPORTED
THROUGH LIFELONG
LEARNING**



**75 COMMUNITY
GROUPS RECEIVED
DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORTS**



**The Super Connectors
Project shortlisted for Age
Friendly Ireland Recognition
& Achievement Awards
2022**



**€291,084 AWARDED
UNDER COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES FUND**



Membership of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) in 2022

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	Riona McCoy replaced Thomas Mc Evoy ratified by LCC September 2022
Louth Meath ETB	Sadie Ward McDermott
DSP	Anne Keeley
HSE	Bridie Pepper
Private Sector	
Louth Leader Partnership	Ciarán Reid
Community & Voluntary Interests	Alison Quail
Community & Voluntary Interests	Joanne Finnegan
Social Inclusion	Bernardine Quinn
Social Inclusion	Carol Murphy
Environment	Lisa Doyle replaced Elizabeth O'Reilly ratified by LCC April 2022
Farming	John Carroll
Chamber of Commerce Dundalk	Una McGoey replaced Sean Farrell ratified by LCC October 2022
Chamber of Commerce Drogheda	Steven Rice

A Message from the Chairperson



Welcome to the 2022 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 community funds for local development. The LCDC is also responsible for the delivery of the Local Economic Community Plan using a collaborative approach across the membership.

I thank the members for their continued support in attending the LCDC meetings which continued to be mostly held online.

The promotion of funding programmes is a central motivational factor for the LCDC. As the world emerged from a global pandemic the LCDC continued to distribute funding programmes including SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) and the Community Activities Fund.

Louth LCDC is also central to Rural Development and LEADER Programmes. In 2022 the Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €1,466,597.84 to projects county wide, under the Transitional LEADER Programme 2021-2022

Promotion of health and well being in Louth is also a key function for the LCDC. 2022 saw the completion of the Healthy Ireland Round 3 programme which helped organisations throughout the county promote health and wellbeing as well addressing issues during the Covid 19 pandemic.

This year saw the fifth year of the implementation of SICAP (2018–2023). SICAP facilitates communities to work collaboratively with relevant stakeholders using a broad range of supports and interventions. Louth Local Development CLG has continued to support disadvantaged communities and individuals throughout the county through targeted programmes focusing on individuals and groups.

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 success and relevance of the LCDC is heavily dependent on the commitment and expertise of the Community Section staff. I would like to commend the Director of Services and Chief Officer, Joe McGuinness and all the staff for their work in developing and enhancing structures in the LCDC and partnerships with communities, government agencies, the business community and stakeholder groups.

2023 will see the first year of the new Healthy Ireland 4 and PEACEPLUS programmes. New LEADER and SICAP programmes will be developed in consultation with our partners in the community. The new Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2023-2029 will be developed and rolled out, which will be at the centre of all the LCDC activities for the next six years.

I look forward to working with the LCDC members and support staff to continue the support it gives to community in Louth over the coming year.

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 2022

Louth LCDC meetings were held on the following dates during 2022:-

- 17th January 2022
- 21st February 2022
- 21st March 2022
- 25th April 2022
- 20th June 2022
- 18th July 2022
- 19st September 2022
- 17th October 2022
- 22nd November 2022
- 19th December 2022

In consultation with the members all meetings in 2022 were held via correspondence utilising Zoom video conferencing, with the exception of the December meeting which was held in person.

Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) - Community Goals

The Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) was adopted in 2016 and implementation of the plan commenced thereafter. The LCDC has provided statutory oversight of the community element of this plan thus far. A final review of the LECP has commenced. The lead partners on all 183 community actions have been contacted and have been requested to provide an update on each action. This update will form part of the overall review of the LECP 2016-2022 and will help inform the preparation of the new LECP in 2023.

The delivery of the community actions contained in the LECP has been supported by a number of strategies, initiatives and events and with the continued support of the LCDC and lead partners.

Notable achievements in 2022 include:

- Treadagh Lodge New Alzheimer’s Day Care Centre in Drogheda was opened officially in 2022. The facility is for those suffering from Alzheimer’s disease where they can get supports and activities during the day. The centre was built with support from LEADER and LCDC grant aid
- Community Activities Fund Louth received €291,084 from the Department of Rural and Community Development under the Community Activity Fund. A total of 87 applications were received, of which 85 were valid. The small grant scheme allocated funding for the first time to non-pay running costs.
- The Super Connectors Project was shortlisted for the Age Friendly Ireland Recognition and Achievement Awards 2022 under the communications category. The project was rolled out during the pandemic and the initial concept involved providing and gifting/regifting smart devices to older family members, friends or neighbours as Christmas gifts and showing them how to use them. This developed into a transferable model of assistance, facilitating older people to use online tools for personal, health and social reasons. The initiative eventually grew to assist residents of nursing homes, day care service users, informal carers, Men’s Sheds active retirement groups, older farmers and new migrant residents to connect with loved ones during the pandemic.

Community Activities Fund under the Community Enhancement Programme

The LCDC at its meeting on the 25th April approved funding, under the CEP, in the amount of €291,084.00. Funding was allocated across each Municipal District Area. The Dundalk District received €127,262.96; Drogheda District received funding of €103,625.34 and Ardee District receiving €60,195.70. 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 2022 of €291,084.00 was allocated throughout the county:

Area	No of Applications	Allocation
Ardee	19	€60,195.70
Dundalk	44	€127,262.96
Drogheda	22	€103,625.34
Total	85	€291,084

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



In 2022 SICAP supported 75 community groups and registered 1,045 individuals.

- 75 community groups received developmental supports
- 21 Local Community Groups received small grants
- 1,045 individuals engaged in lifelong learning and labour market supports
- 5 individuals were supported into employment
- 100 individuals referred by the Department of Social Protection were supported to establish their own business through the Back to work Enterprise Allowance
- 64 individuals received education grants
- 28 individuals received enterprise grants
- 4 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

- Louth Local Development is the Implementing Partner and Louth County Council is the Lead Financial Partner for the LEADER Programme in Co. Louth.
- The Local Action Group (LAG) approved funding of €1,466,597.84 in 2022. Grant aid awarded ranged in size from €5,031.75 to €99,900.00.
- 38 contracts were issued to project promoters throughout the County.
- A number of training programmes were rolled out in 2022 including Appreciation of the Hills, River Invasive Species Training and Plastics Recycling with over 200 participants taking part in training courses.
- In May 2022 a Climate Awareness Training Day took place with over 70 in attendance.
- Funding of €838,697 was granted to Enterprise Development projects in County Louth.
- The LAG awarded, under the Activity/Adventure Tourism measure, a grant of €5,031.75 to Dundalk Chamber of Commerce which will enable them to host the Cross Border Tourism Conference in 2023.
- Grant aid was awarded to a number of wide-ranging community projects including the upgrading works at Lannleire Pavillion in Dunleer and the 5th Louth Buíon Setanta Scout Hall in Dundalk.
- A total of 58 Expressions of Interest for Funding were received in 2022
- The number of contracts issued in the LEADER Programme since it commenced in 2017 is 216.
- The Innovating Communities Co-Operation project with Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim, Cavan, Monaghan and Louth continues to be rolled out in the six counties.
- The Local Authority, in their role as lead financial partner, continued to carry out Article 48 checks on all project application and claims.



Official Opening of the Cara Cancer Centre at Williamsons Place, Dundalk in October 2022. Joe McGuinness - Chief Officer, Louth LCDC, Ciaran Reid- Chief Executive, Louth Local Development and Mary O'Neill- Rural Development Programme Manager pictured with the Cara Cancer Centre Committee. The project received LEADER funding of €197,816.



An aerial view of the Biodiversity Sensory Garden at the Abacus School in Drogheda. The project received funding of €32,381 from the LEADER programme.



Climate Awareness Training Day in the Fairways Hotel in May 2022. Rory Sheehan, Fiona Lennon and Jamie Nolan from the Climate Action Unit at Louth County Council pictured with Mary O'Neill, Rural Development Programme Manager



Miriam Roe – Article 48 Manager and Mary O'Neill, Rural Development Programme Manager with members of the Ardee Traders Association at the Launch of the Ardee Illumination Project in December 2022.

LEADER Programme in numbers:

	TOTAL
Expressions of Interest (EOI) Received	58
EOI eligible for Funding	56
Ineligible for Funding	2
Contracts Issued	38
Food Contracts Issued	0
Claims Processed	54
Website Visits	2585
LEADER Funded Projects	€1,063,095.74
EURI Funded Projects	€403,502.10
Total	€1,466,597.84

The European & Cross Border Office



Peace IV Programme



Peace IV projects have been supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special European Programmes Body (SEUPB) and supported locally by Louth County Council and Louth Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). Match-funding has been provided by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department for Rural and Community Development in Ireland.



Building Positive Relations &



Children & Young People

Closing events for outstanding projects held online due to Covid restrictions.



Participants at Striving Toward A Restorative Society (STARS Training)

These closed off the remaining projects in the Building Positive Relations & Children & Young People themes.

These themes produced far-reaching and robust projects that positively impacted on the lives and shared experiences of all participants. They left a legacy of increased community capacity, leadership skills in society, greater understanding of the experiences of others and an integration of communities that may not have mixed together without these interventions.



Participants at Leadership & Management Training

Participants were

- Given an insight into peace & reconciliation
- Given an opportunity to meet
- Encouraged to build positive & effective relationships

The projects encouraged

- Greater participation in society
- Partnership between sectoral groups
- Reconciliation
- Cultural diversity
- Conflict transformation & Equality

Louth County Council thank all who were involved.

Go Raibh Maith Agat!



Shared Spaces

Construction completed at the WWI Memorial at the Crescent Dundalk.

A public lecture in County Museum took place in May at the Dundalk Grammar School and included a lecture from local historian Dr Donal Hall, and a talk from guest speaker Myles Dungan.



Myles Dungan, Colette Moss LCC and Local Historian Dr Donal Hall at the school history lecture, Dundalk Grammar School.

The successful launch of a World War I (WWI) Memorial at The Crescent, Dundalk occurred in October. The memorial was funded as a permanent commemoration of those from Dundalk, Co Louth who lost their lives in WWI.

Speakers at the launch event included Chief Executive Joan Martin, Cathaoirleach Councillor Conor Keelan and historian Dr. Donal Hall.

Chief Executive Joan Martin spoke about the importance of the EU Peace programmes and their role in building a more integrated, peaceful society.

Dr Hall spoke on the names engraved on the memorial and how in the future, more information may become available to add to those already listed there.

Cathaoirleach Councillor Conor Keelan thanked the Dundalk World War I Committee for their efforts to have a World War I memorial in Dundalk realised.



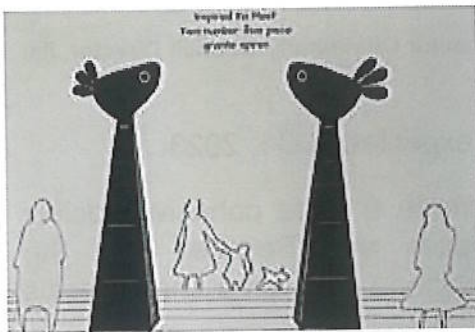
Chief Executive Joan Martin at the launch of a World War I memorial at The Crescent, Dundalk.

It is envisaged that this memorial will act as a cross community and cross-border shared space, permanently commemorating the link between Dundalk and Armagh City which was the historic home of the Fusiliers.

Peters Hill, Drogheda

Construction started on the rejuvenation of the Peters Hill space in Drogheda.

The artwork contract for Peters Hill was awarded to Michael Disley for his design 'Inspired to Meet'.



Artist mock-up of 'Inspired to Meet'.



Chief Executive Joan Martin, Senior Executive Officer Colette Moss and Glas representative at Peters Hill, Drogheda.

Substantial completion of works at site concluded in December. Installation of the artwork is to follow in Q1 2023.

Muirhevnamór Community Centre Extension, Dundalk

Construction started on the building of an extension to the Muirhevnamór Community Centre Extension.

The Chief Executive and Chair of Louth Peace IV Partnership visited the Muirhevnamór Community Centre to see the progress of the building works. The CE was impressed with the projects advancement and with the excellent work being done in the Community Centre.



Louth County Council Chief Executive Joan Martin and Muirhevnamór Community Council Director Jim O'Neill

Completion of works and opening of the extension is expected in Q1, 2023.

The aim of the Shared Spaces Programme is to create a more cohesive society through the increased provision of Shared Spaces and Services and the development of local initiatives that facilitate the sustained usage on a shared basis of public areas / buildings.

Signed:

Chief Officer

Date:

20/2/2023